



EU and Fisheries Briefing

- What are the impacts of EU fishing quotas on local fishermen?
- What are the impacts of the EU Fisheries policy more broadly on the industry and on the marine environment?
- Why is EU policy on fisheries a good reason to remain?

Key line: Fish don't respect borders. Managing fish stocks requires preventing overfishing, so must be done jointly. Norway also has to negotiate its quotas with the EU. We've come a long way since the old days of overfishing and illegal fishing, and UK quotas are on the up thanks to rebounding fish stocks, why abandon that now?

Point 1

All agree that EU fisheries policy was very negative to sustainability and local and small fisheries prior to extensive reform in 2013. The region has 2 of the 3 [biggest fishery ports](#) in England and Wales (Newlyn, Cornwall and Plymouth), which landed over 22,000 tonnes between them in 2014.

How CFP works:

Quotas are agreed annually by national ministers (i.e. Eustice), determining how much of each species can be caught in a certain area. The quotas are based around the scientifically agreed total fish available under what's called TACs (Total Allowable Catch), though as NEF explained in recent report, we know some MS push over the limit.

Each country is then responsible for how it fills that quota. Member states choose how to divvy up their quota. UK government has taken the controversial approach of giving a tiny percentage (~6%) of that quota to small inshore fishing boats that make up the majority of the fishing fleet in the SW (and whole of the UK). Some MS [already even use](#) the allocation method Brexiteers want for the UK.

Point 2

CFP bases policy on scientific data that shows maximum sustainable yields.

The Habitats Directive protects key habitats and species such as reefs and Atlantic salmon, while the Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive commit EU members to restore and protect the marine environment.

These, along with policies such as the discard ban (which UK fought for), is an important step in protecting our marine environment and will in turn lead to higher allowable National quotas, as we're seeing now. These all ensure the sustainability both in terms of jobs and biodiversity, of the industry as a whole.

Point 3



It's fundamentally a good thing because it ensures the long term stability of fish stocks that local fishermen depend upon.

But that aside, England will receive 92 million EUR from the EMFF by 2020 through Horizon Programme (can't find specific amount for SW). This money goes towards modernising the fishing industry, from improving aquaculture, enhancing fishing vessel health and safety, developing new and old fishing ports etc.

This is part of a range of funding that includes projects that benefit fisheries, there's also LIFE that funds projects to restore, protect and enhance the environment. For example this Somerset LIFE project:

[Reedbed creation for water quality, nature conservation and fishery management](#) is using tactical planting of reedbeds to filter agricultural pollution from the downstream marine environment.

Pro EU quote from George Eustice (after the last quotas negotiations)

"By fighting for the fishing industry, and making a clear case for the need for more sustainable fishing, we have got a good deal and shown we can get what we need in Europe."

Possible other questions

But CFP has decimated fish stocks

A [recent analysis of 118 years of statistics](#) revealed the vast majority of the decline occurred prior to the Common Fisheries Policy's implementation in 1983. In fact, the policy is now overall [helping, not harming](#) UK fisheries and would be doing even better if member states didn't repeatedly ignore scientific advice when allocating TACs, with the [UK being one of the worst](#).

But with Brexit we can stop other vessels fishing in our waters

20% of fish landed by UK fishermen come from other places in the EU too. Bodies such as the Marine Management Organisation that would be responsible for policing this are currently being cut by the government. A large proportion of the fish we catch (some figures stand at 80%) are exported too, so this kind of policy may have implications for this.

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