

What a Sustainable Fisheries Bill could look like



Fishing communities have been promised a better deal from Brexit. This is a golden opportunity to create a bold and aspirational Fisheries Bill to ensure fishing livelihoods and the marine environment are better when we leave the EU:

1. The UK must continue to collaborate with the EU Common Fisheries Policy on the following:

- All states fishing within scientifically-established catch limits, to ensure all shared stocks are above sustainable levels (Maximum Sustainable Yield) by 2020.
- Sharing catch data and other scientific information with other states.

2. Protect the following EU legislation after 2019:

- The discarding ban, as well as provisions for implementation.
- Ban on deep-sea (over 800m) bottom trawling and assurance of sustainable fishing by UK boats in international waters.
- Fish packaging labelling regulations.
- Maintaining or increasing funding for sustainable fishing.

3. A commitment to better support the small-scale inshore UK fleet by:

- Setting out clear environmental and social criteria for allocating shares of fishing rights (quota). Award more quotas for boats that adopt sustainable fishing gear, avoid sensitive zones, take part in scientific monitoring and achieve certified sustainable status.
- Get a solid understanding of the stock status for the commercially-fished UK species that aren't covered by the EU. Ensure these local depleted stocks rebuild – if Brexit doesn't guarantee a greater share of EU quota, we can guarantee that our own stocks improve.

4. A commitment to supporting the industry by:

- Supporting fisheries financially through certification (other countries do this, and would help the industry achieve greater prices for catches).
- Encouraging sustainability with a legally-binding commitment to buying fish from healthy and verifiably sustainable UK stocks for food in the public sector.
- Encouraging sustainability with a legally-binding requirement for large food buyers – supermarkets and large foodservice companies – to report transparently on the quantity, source and sustainability status of all the fish and seafood they buy