

# Sustainable Fisheries Programme

## ISSUES PAPER Reforming the CFP

AUGUST 2004



# **Sustainable Fisheries Programme Issues Paper: Reforming the CFP**

August 2004

## **Introduction**

The fishing industries are an important part of the UK economy and the lifeblood of many coastal communities. But, over recent years, there has been tremendous concern about the future. To address these concerns, the Prime Minister's strategy Unit in March published "Net Benefits", which makes thirty three recommendations to enhance the long-term profitability and sustainable of this vital industry.

The challenge we now face is turning these recommendations into detailed and practical proposals. To do this we need your help. The attached discussion document has been prepared to help shape a debate between the fisheries departments, stakeholder organisations and interested individuals.

This document is not a policy statement. It takes a group of recommendations in the report, puts them in context and then asks a series of questions. Ideas and questions will have been missed in this paper. Please challenge them, add questions, and propose new solutions. Without your active participation no realistic solutions can be reached.

Over the next four weeks we will welcome any feedback, written, electronic or face-to-face. Contact details are included in this paper. At the end of that period the departments will consolidate your ideas and present them to four specially formed stakeholder working groups. Their role will be to ensure that tangible and realistic solutions are being advanced.

You will have a number of further opportunities to comment on evolving documents throughout October, November and December. In addition to this written exercise we will be organising a number of discussion groups, seminars and face-to-face meeting throughout the UK.

The process of active dialogue is not fixed, broad timelines have been agreed but our greater concern must be to ensure tangible benefits. Any suggestions you may have to enhance this dialogue will be welcomed.

The first key deadline, for this initial stage is 24<sup>th</sup> September 2004, with a second document being produced, for your comments, in November 2004.

My colleagues and I look forward to speaking to you throughout this process and would urge you to actively participate in shaping this vital strategy.

### **Chris Ryder**

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London  
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## Sustainable Fisheries Programme Issues Paper: Reforming the CFP

1. Summary .....	4
2. Recommendations 21, 22, 23 and 24.....	4
3. The Strategy Unit rationale for Recommendations 21, 22, 23 and 24 .....	4
4. Issues and questions relating to Recommendations 21, 22, 23 and 24.....	4
5. Questions summary.....	5
6. Distribution list .....	6

### IMPORTANT NOTE

In line with policies of openness, at the end of the discussion period copies of the responses we receive may be made publicly available.

The information they contain may also be published in a summary of responses. If you do not consent to this, you must clearly request that your response be treated confidentially.

Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request. You should also be aware, that there may be circumstances in which we will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and the Environmental Information Regulations. The Sustainable Fisheries Programme Management Office will supply copies of consultation responses to personal callers or in response to telephone or e-mail requests (tel: 020 7270 8137, e-mail: [sus.fish@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sus.fish@defra.gsi.gov.uk)).

An administrative charge will be made to cover photocopying and postage costs.

## **Sustainable Fisheries Programme Issues Paper: Reforming the CFP**

### **1. Summary**

<b>Issue Paper:</b>	Reforming the CFP
<b>Recommendations:</b>	21, 22, 23, 24
<b>Policy lead:</b>	
Defra:	Ed Dyson – 020 7270 8528
DARD NI:	Eileen Sung – 02890 522 385
SEERAD:	Barbara Strathern - 0131 244 4982
SEERAD:	Donald Carmichael – 0131 244 6430
WAG:	Glyn Perryman – 029 2082 3591
<b>Responses to:</b>	Email: sus.fish@defra.gsi.gov.uk
<b>Please respond by:</b>	Friday, 24th September 2004

### **2. Recommendations 21, 22, 23 and 24**

Recommendation 21: The UK should adopt an aim of progressively regionalising the management functions of the CFP, while strengthening Commission oversight on audit, sustainability goals, compliance and enforcement and environmental issues.

Recommendation 22: Fisheries departments should begin to build the basis for regional management by increasing informal management co-operation with key EU partners, especially on scientific, technical and enforcement issues.

Recommendation 23: Fisheries departments and stakeholders should work together to strongly facilitate and support the development of Regional Advisory Councils.

Recommendation 24: Fisheries departments should improve problem-solving and innovation capacity by proposing shared solution forums at EU level; for example, on ecosystem-based management, marine science, and the impacts of climate change on fisheries.

### **3. The Strategy Unit rationale for Recommendations 21, 22, 23 and 24**

The report benchmarks the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and concludes that it offers stakeholders both an effective framework of legal institutions with the systems for taking timely decisions and an agreed allocation method (thereby avoiding the 'tragedy of the commons'). But the report also concludes that the CFP fails to deliver a sophisticated, responsible fisheries management system. The report highlights the progressively greater regionalisation of management functions under the CFP as a necessary component of continuing CFP reform, in order to make it more innovative, flexible and industry driven. The report also recommends informal co-operation and shared forums as tools to underpin the case for regionalisation.

### **4. Issues and questions relating to Recommendations 21, 22, 23 and 24**

- i. Does the legal framework need to be developed further to permit regional management authorities under either the current Treaty arrangements or the proposed new arrangements? Fisheries management is a shared competence between EU and Member States; conservation of marine biological resources is

## **Sustainable Fisheries Programme Issues Paper: Reforming the CFP**

an exclusive competence of EU. Most decisions made under the exercise of EU competence are currently made by the Council of Ministers, acting on a proposal from the Commission, but some are made jointly by Council and the European Parliament; under the new proposals for a Treaty on the European Constitution, more joint decisions will be made. What new mechanisms or institutions still need to be developed within the existing legal framework, in order to enable the development of effective regional management?

- ii. In what additional ways should the UK support the development of regional advisory councils?
- iii. How will additional shared solution forums at the EU level complement existing regional forums available through established organisations like the North Sea Fisheries Commission; OSPAR; ICES; and the existing EU fora like Council, ACFA, RACs and STECF?
- iv. In what ways could informal regional co-operation in science and enforcement be improved? Does it need to be improved? On what basis would we best select the Member States to build regional links with? Enthusiasm for regionalisation? Common approach to EU fisheries policies – environmental, commercial, social or biological? Shared fishing interests? Coastal proximity? Established networks?
- v. Are there tools other than shared solution fora, RACs and informal co-operation that would underpin the development of regionalisation?
- vi. Are there opportunities to progress or cement regional management before 2012 review of CFP framework regulation?

### **5. Questions summary**

- i. Does the legal framework need to be developed further to permit regional management authorities under either the current Treaty arrangements or the proposed new arrangements? Fisheries management is a shared competence between EU and Member States; conservation of marine biological resources is an exclusive competence of EU. Most decisions made under the exercise of EU competence are currently made by the Council of Ministers, acting on a proposal from the Commission, but some are made jointly by Council and the European Parliament; under the new proposals for a Treaty on the European Constitution, more joint decisions will be made. What new mechanisms or institutions still need to be developed within the existing legal framework, in order to enable the development of effective regional management?
- ii. In what additional ways should the UK support the development of regional advisory councils?
- iii. How will additional shared solution forums at the EU level complement existing regional forums available through established organisations like the North Sea Fisheries Commission; OSPAR; ICES; and the existing EU fora like Council, ACFA, RACs and STECF?

## **Sustainable Fisheries Programme Issues Paper: Reforming the CFP**

- iv. In what ways could informal regional co-operation in science and enforcement be improved? Does it need to be improved? On what basis would we best select the Member States to build regional links with? Enthusiasm for regionalisation? Common approach to EU fisheries policies – environmental, commercial, social or biological? Shared fishing interests? Coastal proximity? Established networks?
- v. Are there tools other than shared solution fora, RACs and informal co-operation that would underpin the development of regionalisation?
- vi. Are there opportunities to progress or cement regional management before 2012 review of CFP framework regulation?

### **6. Distribution list**

Alliance Party

ANIFPO - Anglo-North Irish Fish Producers Organisation

Ards Borough Council

ASFC - Association of Sea Fisheries Committees

BASS - Bass Anglers' Sportfishing Society

Cabinet Office

Cardigan Bay Fishermen's Association Ltd

Cefas - Centre for ecology, fishing and aquaculture science

CEMARE - Centre for Economics and Management of Aquatic Resources

Coleraine Borough Council

Council for Nature Conservation and Countryside

Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)

EHS - Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland

English Nature

FAL - Fishermen's Association Ltd

FCILC - Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission

FCO

FRS - Fisheries Research Service (Marine Laboratory)

IEEP

Invest in Fish

JNCC - Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Larne Borough Council

Llyn Fishermen's Association

Mallaig & North-West Fishermen's Association

MCA - Marine and Coastguard Agency

## **Sustainable Fisheries Programme Issues Paper: Reforming the CFP**

Moyle District Council  
MSC - Marine Stewardship Council  
National Trust - Northern Ireland  
NERC - Natural Environment Research Council  
Newry & Mourne District Council  
NFFO - National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations  
NFSA - National Federation of Sea Anglers  
NIFHA - Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority  
NIFPO - Northern Ireland Fish Producer Organisation  
NIS - Northern Ireland Seafood  
North Coast Lobster Fishermen's Association  
North Down District Council  
North East Coast Lobster Fishermen's Association  
North Sea Commission Fisheries Partnership  
Northern Ireland Fish Conservation Assoc  
Northern Ireland Fish Producers Organisation  
Northern Ireland Fish Salesmen Association  
Northern Ireland Scallop Fishermen's Association  
Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution  
RSPB - Northern Ireland  
RSPB - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
SACN - Sea Angling Conservation Network  
SAGB - Shellfish Association of Great Britain  
Scottish Enterprise  
Scottish Environment Link  
Scottish Fish Merchants' Federation  
Sea Fish Industry Authority  
SFF - Scottish Fishermen's Federation  
SFPA - Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency  
SNH - Scottish Natural Heritage  
Socialist Democratic Labour Party (SDLP)  
South & West Wales Fishing Communities Ltd  
Strangford Lough Management Committee  
The Federation of Scottish Aquaculture Producers

## **Sustainable Fisheries Programme Issues Paper: Reforming the CFP**

UKAFFP - UK Assoc of Frozen Food Producers

Ulster Shellfish Association

Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)

Wales & West Coast Producer Organisation

Welsh Assembly Government

Welsh Recreational Strategy

Western Isles Fishermen's Association

Wildlife and Countryside Link

Wildlife Trusts/Marine Link

WWF - World Wildlife Fund

Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers