

Conservatives Must Exorcise the Betrayal of Britain's Fishing

Press release from Fishing for Leave

Fishermen's organisation Fishing for Leave have questioned the government's electoral resolve on repatriating Britain's fishing waters and resources that were so shamefully surrendered by Edward Heath as "expendable" in the rush to join the EEC.

They cite that the government's continued failure to rescind the London Fisheries Convention 1964 is a tangible example that there is no commitment or resolve in government to take back national control of one of Britain's greatest national resources.

Fishing for Leave spokesman Alan Hastings said "By failing to serve the 2 years notice it the London Convention requires at the same time as Article 50, EU vessels will still have unfettered access to fish in UK waters between 6 and 12 nautical miles after UK withdrawal from the EU".

"By continuing to prevaricate on scrapping this Convention the government has squandered the opportunity to take back control of all our fishing waters as per international law and in doing so secure the strongest diplomatic hand of controlling all access".

"Reclaiming our fishing waters and resources can give more sustainable management and would be worth £6.3 billion and which will rejuvenate coastal communities by creating tens of thousands of jobs".

"A Conservative government must exorcise the abject betrayal

of Britain's fishing and coastal communities and correct the past injustices inflicted on them as they were sacrificed to the EU by politicians complicit in the EU's agenda".

"A Conservative government must categorically commit to reclaiming all sovereignty and control over UK waters. To scrapping the London Convention, to not adopting the CFP with the Great Repeal Bill for political convenience and to commit to implementing an entirely new, uniform UK policy that will rejuvenate the industry across the whole UK and end the shameful rules that force fishermen to discard up to 50% of their catch".

"All it would take is for Mrs May, Conservative MPs and party to show political will and determination by giving a cast iron manifesto commitment on fishing which can be a beacon of success and one of the "acid tests" for the government on Brexit".

MIKE HOOKEM

EU Fisheries Committee MEP Mike Hookem joined in the criticism of the government's inaction and commitment on Fishing saying "I am yet to be convinced that Theresa May's government has any intention of repatriating UK fishing to our sovereignty".

"Time and again in the EU parliament we see British MEPs voting down amendments that aim to repatriate sovereignty to this country. The fact is the political establishment are so intertwined with the EU that they cannot see the wood from the trees and understand what is best for Britain".

"Look at towns like Grimsby, Lowestoft, Whitby, Fleetwood and any of the other traditional ports that have had their livelihoods decimated and their communities destroyed through the political establishment sell out to the CFP".

"We now have an opportunity to regenerate and reinvest in these fishing communities and make them the thriving hubs of

industry once more. All it would take is the political will and determination to rebuild the ports and towns that have suffered at politicians hands in the past”