

DEFRA Collusion With Dutch Pulse Fishers

Press release by Fishing for Leave

Row over the highly controversial technique escalated following a meeting held in DEFRA's London headquarters Nobel House between the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) and Dutch VisNed representatives to agree voluntary areas closed to pulse trawlers off South Eastern England.

Local fishermen accuse DEFRA of colluding with pulse trawler owners by acquiescing & hosting a 'rigged' meeting that the government now touts as being a solution.

Local East Anglia fishermen say the agreement has no legitimacy, citing that the NFFO far from representing "British" fishermen is actually majority controlled by EU owned but UK resisted "Flagship" Companies.

Local fishermen's representative Paul Lines of the East Anglia Fishermen's Alliance blasted;

"Mr. Eustice recently refers to a completely illegitimate "voluntary agreement" between the Dutch fishing industry and UK "fishing interest representatives", namely the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO)".

"This agreement was secretly drafted by the NFFO with the Dutch fishing industry during the Christmas period and without consulting British fishermen" denounced Paul Lines.

"This deal is a complete fraud. It has no standing," Paul Lines added. "This 'British' federations membership is mostly large-scale EU "flagship" interests.

"There is a direct conflict of interests where the NFFO is

brokering agreements which involves a form of fishing highly detrimental to east coast fisheries and environment which is pursued by Dutch companies that fund the NFFO!"

"That the government knows the NFFO is flagship controlled and touts it as an authority to speak on an issue whilst concocting agreements in government offices makes DEFRA culpable in this too."

"The vast majority of British fishing professionals are not members of the NFFO and are vocally in support of a complete ban of electric pulse fishing whilst the NFFO is not."

"The NFFO had no mandate to negotiate a scandalous deal that did not reflect the will of fishermen: the NFFO manoeuvre to secure the future of the Dutch fishing industry in British waters, and to lock a DEFRA position touted by the fisheries Minister in favour of the Dutch, is damned disgraceful".

"George Eustice has to defend British fishermen from destructive fishing practices by foreign vessels, full stop, taking an organisation that is Dutch funded as the voice of British fishermen is untenable." concluded Paul Lines.