

EU Turns Up The Heat: Threatens to 'Punish' British Fishermen

Press release from Fishing for Leave

Fishing for Leave lambasted comments made in the Danish Media following the visit of EU Chief negotiator Michel Barnier to Denmark's main fishing port Thyboron, saying; "You can keep your "Harshness!! – International law confers Britain full sovereignty and control over all our waters and resources!"

– EU Fishermen say; *"Brexit has incredibly big impact on our company and all of Denmark's fisheries. We rely on getting into British waters, he says, saying that 85 percent of the catch of the species of sand eel caught in Thyborøn takes place in British waters".*

Fishing for Leave spokesman Alan Hastings said; "As much as no British fishermen wishes personal ill on other fishermen, where were the EU tears when our resources robbed and communities decimated?"

"Does no one in the EU feel guilty that you built a future for the EU industry on robbing UK coastal communities of theirs?"

"Time for Michael Gove robustly to defend UK interests so we can rejuvenate our communities that were sacrificed with a detrimental deal that benefited the EU".

Britain has the formal opportunity under international law to stop fishermen from Denmark and other EU countries fishing in British waters post-Brexit.

But fishermen in the EU, along with Michel Barnier, say such a decision could also have a negative impact on British fishing.

They say the EU would look to close EU markets to force Britain to continue current shares and access that see's EU vessels catch EIGHT times more fish in UK waters as UK vessels do in EU waters 780,000 tons vs 90,000 tons.

"When it comes to fishing, we will talk about the topics that are directly related. Our access to British waters and their access to our market", said the EU's Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier aboard the fisherman Meilsø when he visited fishermen in Thyborøn today (3rd March 18).

"Monsier Barnier made it clear that there will be a negotiation with EU fishermen's access to fishing in British waters and allowing British fishermen to sell their products on the EU's internal market" says DR's correspondent Ole Ryborg.

At this point, according to Ryborg's Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen the Danish government; *"will help Barnier to be harsh in negotiations with Britain in the fishing industry"*.

Fishing for Leave responded to the threat by pointing out that the EU markets dependency on UK fish exports combined with EU losing the ability to catch 60% of the fish in UK waters would only increase EU markets necessity on UK fish.

Alan Hastings from FFL said "What the EU thinks is a position of strength is actually a weakness and that is their dependency on our resources as a critical part of their food supply".

"This is no different from the cod wars when British vessels lost access to Norwegian and Icelandic grounds but almost immediately UK processors on Humberside started to import fish direct from Norway".

"Remainers and the EU cite tariffs but when the cost of tariffs is weighed against the £3-4bn worth of resources which we can repatriate this offsets tariffs by a huge margin as UK

fishermen will be able to land more of what they are otherwise forced to discard”

Alan concluded “Michel Barnier’s comments are a shot across the bow and the battle to restore our sovereignty & governance of UK waters is very much alive!

“Will the government capitulate to EU demands or stand up for British coastal communities and not use them as an ‘expendable’ bargaining chip for 2nd time in the face of EU belligerence?

“The big question for Michel Barnier is, why should the EU get continued access? The UK provides 50% of waters but EU relative stability only gives us 25% of our fish”.

“Fishing is massively important to UK communities too and the CFP has been an economic, social & environmental disaster. Brexit also allows environmentally and economically decent UK policy where we become equal of Norway & Iceland.”

“Taking back control is an “acid test” Michael Gove for this government in coastal constituencies. Will the government hold fast or face electoral oblivion in areas like Cornwall, Kent, East Anglia, Yorkshire and the NE of Scotland?”