

Fishing:- Template letter to MPs

A number of our members and supporters have been in touch after signing the petition to stop the Common Fisheries Policy being adopted into UK law post-Brexit.

They have received a reply from the government e-petitions site which includes the following:-

A group of MPs called the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee are investigating how possible changes to the fisheries and seafood trading arrangements between the UK and the EU will affect fishers, seafood processors, consumers, coastal communities and the environment.

To help them with their investigation, they'd like to hear from you.

The Committee are particularly interested in these questions:

- 1. What are the most important things that the Government need to look at when thinking about UK fisheries?*
- 2. What are the challenges and opportunities that UK fisheries will face after the UK leaves the European Union, Common Fisheries Policy and London Fisheries Convention?*
- 3. What stock management objectives should the Government establish in order to achieve the right balance between the interests of seafood consumers, fishers, seafood processors and the environment?*
- 4. What trade policy objectives should the Government establish in order to achieve the right balance between the interests of consumers, fishers, seafood processors, and the environment?*

5. How effective are the Government's arrangements for representing the interests of the UK's constituent nations within the UK's negotiations for fisheries?

Please see this attachment which we believe provides a suitable template for your reply. In our opinion, these five questions raised above do not get to the core of one important issue – that UK authorities alone must determine who fish in our waters. This letter does make that point and strongly endorses the “Faeroe-Islands-Plus-Plus” model advocated by Fishing for Leave.

We would strongly recommend not sending it verbatim as politicians are more likely to ignore large numbers of identically-worded e-mails or letters, but on the other hand, we also suggest that you largely stick to the subjects covered in the template, as much of the content originates with Fishing for Leave, which includes the most experienced fisheries campaigners in the country.

As a post script, if you would prefer to stick more closely to the five questions, John Ashworth of Fishing for Leave has provided the following suggestions:-

1) What are the most important things that the Government need to look at when thinking about UK fisheries?

- That the UK becomes a world leader in fisheries management
- Do not copy the Common Fisheries Policy
- Re-establish our coastal communities
- Address the issue of discarding of dead fish
- The Nation's resource must not end up in the hands of a few

2) What are the challenges and opportunities that UK fisheries will face after the UK leaves the European Union, Common

Fisheries Policy and London Fisheries Convention?

- Establish the UK as a maritime nation again
- Create a multi billion pound industry, plus ancillary, including recreation and tourism
- Get rid of the quota system
- Abide by international law
- Work with nature, not against
- Create a policy that unites fishermen, fishery officers, and scientists

3) What stock management objectives should the Government establish in order to achieve the right balance between the interests of seafood consumers, fishers, seafood processors and the environment?

- Use sea-time limit, not quota allocation, as that causes dumping
- Maintain a balance between small, medium and large vessels
- All marine resource caught in the UK's EEZ must be landed in UK, unless individual permission is given by the UK government

4) What trade policy objectives should the Government establish in order to achieve the right balance between the interests of consumers, fishers, seafood processors, and the environment?

- Trade deals should not be linked to access to UK fishing waters. Keep trade/access separate
- What marine resource the EU buys from UK cannot be readily obtained from elsewhere.
- Must abide by international law
- You have to catch marine resource before you can process or sell it

5) How effective are the Government's arrangements for representing the interests of the UK's constituent nations

within the UK's negotiations for fisheries?

- We don't know as to date we have heard very little. I suspect the department would prefer the UK territorial waters out to 12 nautical.miles to continue to be devolved but the EEZ of 12 to 200n. Mile/median line as one unit.
- Four separate EEZs would be a nightmare as international reciprocal arrangements have to be agreed.

□