

A present from CIB to our MPs

Like all campaign organisations, things changed significantly for the Campaign for an Independent Britain after 23rd June last year. Our target up to this point had been the general public. We produced pamphlets and leaflets aimed at ordinary people which set out the case for independence.

Since the vote to leave the EU, it is our MPs who need to be targeted – to ensure that they deliver the best Brexit deal possible. Obviously, lengthy face-to-face meetings with individual Ministers and Civil Servants is a task for specialists with detailed knowledge of their particular area, but there is still a place for easy-to-read literature which explains the essentials of a given Brexit topic.

So last week, all MPs were sent a copy of our recent fisheries booklet *Seizing the Moment*. Written by John Ashworth of Fishing for Leave, it sets out the options for the UK fishing industry after Brexit, explaining which, in the author's widely-respected opinion, is the best way forward.

The booklet was accompanied by a covering letter written by Rev Philip Foster, one of our vice-chairmen, which reads as follows:-

Dear MP,

NEW BRITISH FISHERIES POLICY

When Britain was negotiating to join the EEC, just before completion, they sprang the demand that our waters should become "a common resource" for all EEC states to share. P.M. Edward Heath caved in and misled Parliament, claiming that he had provided safeguards for British fishermen. The result has been an ecological disaster for our unique marine resource and economic disaster for our decimated fishing communities.

The government, in "repatriating" fishing policy, must not just transfer the existing regime to the British statute book,

allowing the environmental catastrophe of the unworkable Common Fisheries Policy quota regime to continue.

WHAT IS OURS?

🇬🇧 **Our territorial waters up to 12 miles from the coast.**

Under the London Fishery Convention of 1964 the UK gave fishing rights to France and four other

countries within our 6-12 mile territorial limit. This can be renounced by giving two years notice. The government has announced it will do this; an excellent start.

🇬🇧 **Our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) which stretches for 200 miles from our coast or to the median line when neighbouring countries are nearer than 400 miles from us.**

All living marine species within this zone belong to us. (Fishery Limits Act 1976). Control should be asserted as soon as we leave the EU and no permanent fishing rights should be accorded to any foreign vessels.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

The notorious CFP EU quota system, which causes massive amounts of fish to be thrown back dead into the sea, should be scrapped. It has built-in incentives to cheat. Our expert friends in 'Fishing for Leave' have studied fishery management systems worldwide and believe that the control of days at sea by trawlers (as used in the Faeroe Islands) is far more practicable. Combined with local ecological controls for the very different fishing grounds in our waters, it can easily be policed with satellite assistance.

Fishing rights should not be sold as individual property but remain under public control, inalienably for the nation.

The enclosed booklet is a readable, non-technical distillation of a lifetime's fishery experience by the author, John Ashworth; more are available on request.

As Parliament is the steward of this great natural resource, we hope you will find it useful in urging a truly British policy on the government.