

Brexit and the Fishing Industry

Brexit automatically ends EU access to British waters & repatriates a £6-8bn industry under international law and the principle of Zonal Attachment – where a nation has a share of internationally agreed catch limits based on the predominance of species in its waters.

If the Government exercises exclusive sovereignty over our waters and resources, the British industry can boom under bespoke, discard free, independent UK management.

To end the reprehensible practice of discarding mixed fish caused by the EU's arbitrary individual species quota limits, Britain can set limits on a vessels fishing time at sea without bankrupting the British fleet with early tie ups. It limits fishing to sustainable levels of hours fishing time needed to catch a particular sustainable biomass.

Fishermen will be allowed to keep and record all catches, in sharp contrast to having to either discard or stop fishing for the year if their smallest arbitrary quota is reached..

To discourage any economic incentive to `race-to-fish` for high value species, vessels can keep any `wrong` species caught in exchange for a loss of valuable time at sea, an amount equivalent to the value of the `wrong` species. So, there is no economic incentive to `race-to-fish` nor to discard as the retention of `wrong` species pays for the loss of time.

This allows all catches to be landed, having the safeguard of curbing overall effort and catches at sea should vessels not stick to a mix of species deemed sustainable.

Because all catches are landed, scientists have a huge level of information provided by catch data allowing accurate reflections of natural abundance. With fishing limits brought into line with nature, after a few years fishermen would rarely incur time penalties as limits would begin to reflect stocks.

This is the complete opposite of the current failed system where arbitrary quota targets based on limited data are imposed on nature and the fishing industry bludgeoned with rules to try to make catches match theoretical targets.

The new system preserves significant business investment and the greater fishing potential for particular high value species. Giving all vessels an equal time limit from this national pool, all vessels large or small have a shot at making a living.

For small inshore vessels with much smaller catching capacity, time penalties would not apply given their catching capacity and range limiting their ability to `race to fish`.

Brexit, and the new management of this system, means not only a multi-billion pound boost of national resources but is the final solution to the abhorrent discarding of fish as fishermen struggle to match mixed fishery catches to strict quotas.

The new system won't tie up and bankrupt the British fleet as enforced discard bans do. It's a system preserving the current investments in fishing entitlement.

The biggest interests in the industry are desperate to preserve the dysfunctional status quo. So It's time to get out and get on with a brighter future and not hang onto dysfunctional EU systems for vested interests and political convenience.

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