

Labour Party

Fishing Consultation

DEFRA estimates that approximately 1,200 EU laws, a quarter of the total, relate to its remit.

The fishing industry is essential to both UK food supply and the UK economy, and has the potential to see a significant amount of change as we leave the European Union and either adopt or review those laws.

It cannot be emphasised enough just how much is at stake for the future of British fishing.

We are keen to see the future of the UK food and fishing sectors at the top of the agenda in negotiations, not reduced to a bargaining chip to be traded away for other gains.

With the Fisheries Bill on the horizon, the Labour Party is taking the opportunity to gauge priorities for Brexit and beyond from consumers, Fishermen and women, traders, NGOs and industry experts.

We invite you to submit evidence to this consultation and to share it widely among your contacts so that we can incorporate the widest range of feedback into our response to the government's legislative and negotiating agenda at this crucial time.

The survey will invite you to answer a series of questions in different areas, however you can also submit your own submissions covering any or all of the topics within the survey.

This consultation process will also take into account a number of visits, roundtable discussions and other information gathering exercises in order to ensure that we are arriving at informed positions ahead of the Fisheries bill, and Brexit negotiations.

With thanks,

Holly Lynch MP

Shadow Minister

(Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Flooding and Coastal Communities.)

You can complete this consultation on a computer and email it to fishing_consultation@labour.org.uk. Alternatively complete it by hand and post it to Fishing Consultation, The Labour Party, Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QT



About you (These questions are optional)

Gender:	
Age:	
Ethnicity:	
Location:	

Are you a member of
the Labour Party?

Please tick statements that apply to you:

I am a member of the public with an interest in the future of sea food and fishing policy	
I work in fishing	
I work in food manufacturing or distribution	
I have professional or academic expertise on fishing policy	
I represent a charity or organisation (please give details)	

The role of fishing

Please state whether you agree or disagree with the statements below:

The British public currently understands and appreciates the role of British fishing	
The Conservative Party currently understands and appreciates the role of British fishing	
The Labour Party currently understands and appreciates the role of British fishing	
Fishing and the sea food industry are sufficiently high up the political agenda	
Fishing and the sea food industry are sufficiently high up the agenda in terms of the Brexit negotiations	
Fishing needs to be regarded as a national, public resource	

Most people know where sea food comes from and how it is produced	
More people should be given the opportunity to see commercial fishing and processing taking place	

Brexit

Please state whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Overall, fishing stands to gain more than it stands to lose from Brexit	
The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is equipped to step up to the challenge of Brexit	
My top three priorities for fishing and the sea food industry during the Brexit negotiations are:	
Continued access to free, or preferential, trade in fish and seafood with the EU is crucial for the seafood industry and UK consumers	
The current EU subsidy system for fishermen is working well	
Fishing subsidies should continue after Brexit	
What should be the key principles in working across the devolved nations post Brexit?	

Enforcement and scrutiny

The current fishing enforcement resource in the UK is adequate (currently three vessels)	AGREE/ DISAGREE
How could fisheries enforcement be improved?	

Scrutiny of new fishing systems post Brexit will be essential	
Setting up a Fishing Advisory Council would be a positive first step in creating scrutiny and oversight	

Trade

New international trade deals present more opportunity than risk for fishing		
The UK should focus on trading with EU member states after Brexit		
My top three priorities for any new trade deals the UK establishes after Brexit are:		
The UK should compete in the global market by (select three of the following):		
Relaxing our food standards to encourage more trade		
Driving down our prices		
Increasing quantities		
Becoming more industrialised and efficient		
Maintaining high quality produce		
Leading on technology and innovation		
Diversifying our sea food produce		
Further specialising in our sea food produce		
Other (please give details)		

Fisheries Bill

My main hopes for the upcoming Fisheries Bill are:	
My main concerns with regard to the upcoming Fisheries Bill are:	
How long do you think the consultation on the Fisheries Bill needs to be and what format should it take?	
The upcoming Fisheries Bill should seek to address the following three failings in current policy:	
Flexibility to respond in a timely way to shifting circumstances should be a key feature of the upcoming Fisheries Bill	
The Fisheries Bill, should consider and review the health and safety of fishing vessels and working conditions for those working aboard	
We should remain a member of the independent International Council on the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) after Brexit	

The fisheries bill should seek to address the skills gap and lack of young people going into the fishing industry	
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Quota Management and access

As a result of Brexit, I would expect the quotas for UK vessels to increase A/D	
The three main principles for quota management with the EU and other countries going forward should be:	
In principle, I would prefer:	
"Days at Sea" model	
Quota system	
Reducing overcapacity in the sector (i.e. limiting or reducing the number of overall vessels) must be a key option post Brexit	
New quota systems must be driven by scientific evidence rather than political or industry interests	
Limited access for UK vessels into EU waters after Brexit is a significant concern.	
On what basis should foreign vessels be granted access to UK waters for fishing after Brexit?	

The three main principles for a fisheries management regime after Brexit should be:	
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Future of British fishing

My top three priorities for fishing over the next 10-20 years are:	
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The three biggest obstacles to the future success of the industry are: Tick the boxes that apply	
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Being undercut by new trade deals	
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Future subsidy arrangements	
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Workforce issues	
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Lack of investment in technology	
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Quota management	
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Ecosystem management	
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Continued international fishing access to UK waters	
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Lack of strategy and direction from central government	
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Lack of new talent coming through the industry	
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Pressures to keep costs low	
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Current supply chain and supermarket practices	
Tariff barriers	
Other barriers, time delays in customs, increased paperwork	
The impact of climate change	
Lack of fishing infrastructure ie Fish markets	
Other (please state)	

In what three ways should the government be investing in the fishing sector, including the processing industry?	
There is a lack of training and educational opportunities in fishing and the sea food industry	
Fishing as a profession, is accessible to everyone	
The UK should be more self-sufficient in producing its own food	
British fishing has a bright future	

If I could implement one policy in relation to British fishing, it would be:	
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Additional comments:	
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Alternatively you can save your completed document and email it to fishing_consultation@labour.org.uk

By filling in your personal details and providing us with information about your views, you are opting in to allowing the Labour Party and its representatives to use these, as well as other information to which we are entitled, to contact you by email, text, phone, websites and apps even though you may be registered with the Telephone Preference Service. You may opt out of being contacted at any time. Your personal information may be used to help us provide you with information to match your interests and / or to alert you of campaigns or events in which you may be interested. For the Labour Party's full privacy policy and how we use your data please see: labour.org.uk/pages/privacy

Questions for wider submissions

We welcome more substantial submissions to the consultation. Some questions you may wish to consider as part of any written submission are:

- What will be the best way of maintaining sustainable and healthy fish stocks post Brexit?
- What should the remit of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs look like post-Brexit?
- What are the long-term, strategic aims for British Fishing after Brexit?
- How should the Government be looking to bridge the skills gap and train the next generation of men and women working in the fishing industry?
- What infrastructure around the fishing industry will we need to scale-up in the UK to facilitate an increase in quota? Fish markets etc.
- What should the main principles for quota management be with the EU and other countries going forward and who should be involved in that process?
- What are the biggest obstacles to the success of British fishing after Brexit?
- What should the upcoming Fishing Bill seek to achieve?
- Should the UK seek, as part of the Article 50 negotiations, to inherit part of the EU's total allowable catches for species in its waters, or should seek to establish and introduce its own limits unilaterally? How would we set those limits?
- Many of the species caught in British waters are not consumed by UK consumers. How should the Government seek to negotiate market access in order to allow exports to the continent, and what powers should the Fisheries Bill include for implementing such measures?

- We need a new mechanism to enable the UK to negotiate and agree annual fishing quotas with the EU and other countries. What should be the key principles of such a mechanism and who should be represented within that mechanism.
- What is the future role of the fishing industry in investing in coastal communities?

Please send more detailed submissions to fishing_consultation@labour.org.uk

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