

**Sustainable Fisheries –
Domestic Fisheries Management Reform Team**
Area 2C Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London. SW1P 3JR

To: All respondents to the consultation on domestic fisheries management reform in England. **Date:** 2 November 2011

Domestic Fisheries Management Reform in England

I am writing to let you know that we have today published a summary of responses to the consultation on reform of the fisheries management arrangements in England, along with details of our intended next steps. This document can be found on the Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/04/05/fisheries-1104/>.

We have considered carefully all the views expressed during the consultation period. The clear, consistent message to slow down and test options before making any big changes has been reflected in the decision to take forward pilots next year to trial alternative management approaches for the under-10m fleet. We will also be working with NUTFA to explore their proposal for an inshore Producer Organisation.

Further details of the next steps, including the allocation of quota to the pilots, can be found in the summary at **Annex A** of this letter. We have also published a Question and Answer document which can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/manage/saif/>. Copies can also be obtained through your local Marine Management Organisation office.

We are now seeking expressions of interest from groups of fishermen that are interested in being involved in the pilot schemes. There needs to be a reasonable level of support from fishermen in the local area for the pilot to operate successfully. By expressing an interest, you are not committing yourself to participate at this stage. Further information on the potential quota allocations to pilot groups will follow once we have identified who is interested.

Expressions of interest should be sent in writing (including the names of the fishermen interested, and the RSS and PLN numbers and names of their vessels) to the address at the top of this letter, or by email to fisheriesreform@defra.gsi.gov.uk by **close Friday 18 November 2011**.

We would like to thank you for taking part in the consultation. Your views are important to us, and we hope you will continue to engage as we take forward this work.

Yours sincerely

Nathalie Simon
Domestic Fisheries Management Reform Team

Annex A

Summary of next steps for Domestic Fisheries Management Reform

We will:

- Look to establish voluntary pilot schemes to test alternative regional/local management approaches to managing quota;
- Work with NUTFA to explore their proposal for an inshore Producer Organisation;
- Recruit a number of Coastal Liaison Officers to support establishment and running of the pilots, which we will fund through the European Fisheries Fund;
- Allocate to pilots a share of the under-10m pool based on track record of participating vessels in pilots, supplemented by additional quota obtained through agreement with local POs, and where this is not possible, we will undertake a temporary “top-slice” of quota for relevant species for which the TAC increases next year;
- Undertake a permanent realignment of FQAs associated with consistently underutilised quota from 2012 to increase the under-10m pool, consulting with industry to finalise the methodology;
- Explore further with industry how to deal with increasing pressures on shellfish stocks;
- Re-consider the need for, and options to, change the management arrangements for non-sector vessels;
- Undertake further work to address the issues of latent/dormant capacity within the fleet;
- Develop an FQA register to increase the transparency of FQA holdings, in co-ordination with DAs.