

The UK Fisheries Bill & sustainable fisheries – what hope for delivering world class fisheries management?

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What happened in 2018 relating to Brexit fisheries?



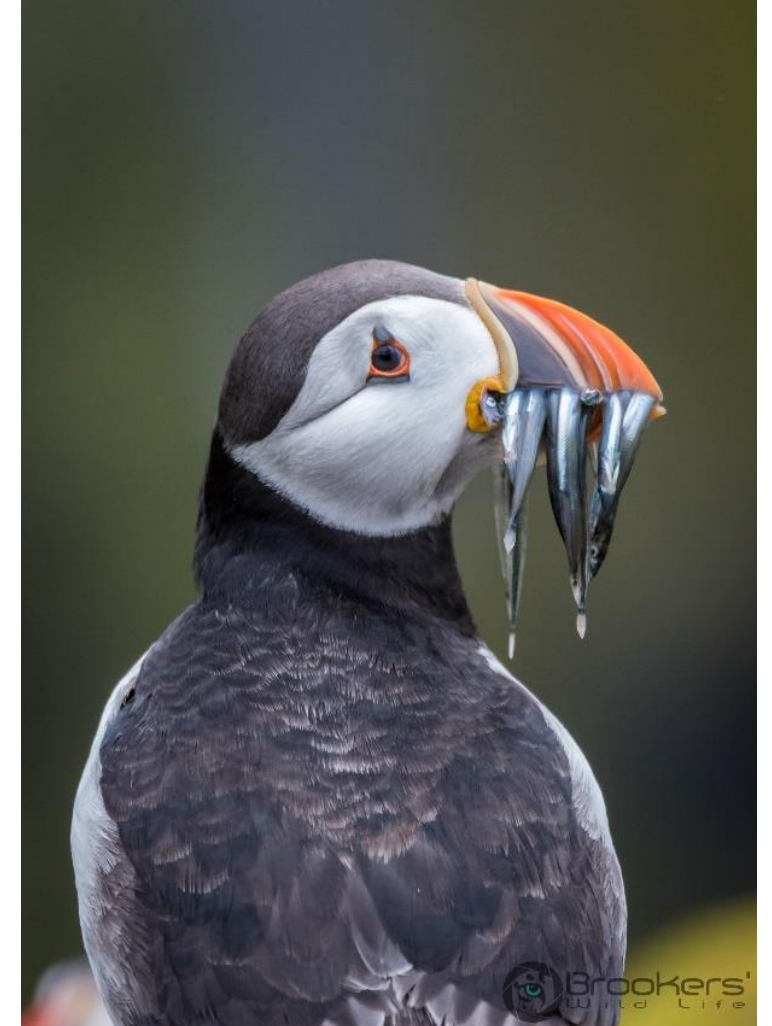
- January – **25 year plan for the Environment**
- May – **EU (Withdrawal) Bill** completed passage through Parliament
- July – **White paper on ‘Sustainable fisheries for future generations’**
- October – **UK Fisheries Bill** introduced to Parliament
- December – **Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill**
 - **CFP Statutory instruments** making EU retained law functional

How does the Fisheries Bill address our key asks?



The ask: Commitment to manage fisheries sustainably as part of wider marine management

What Bill delivers: Sets out fisheries objectives but no binding duty on national authorities to deliver

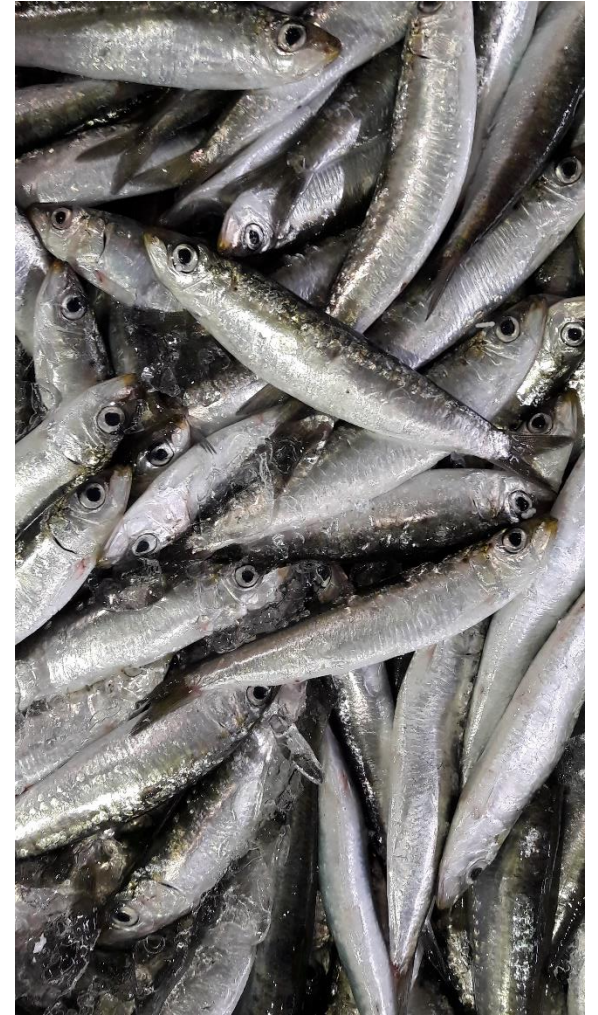


How does the Fisheries Bill address our key asks?



The ask: Commitment to setting sustainable fishing levels

What Bill delivers: Repeals CFP commitment to set fishing mortality at sustainable levels by 2020. Does not replace



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The ask: Commitment to using clear and transparent criteria to allocate fishing opportunities

What Bill delivers: Merely transcribes CFP language - not strong enough



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The ask: Commitment to verifiable Fully Documented Fisheries

What Bill delivers: No provisions in the Bill



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The ask: Delivery of Effective monitoring and control

What Bill delivers: No provisions in the Bill



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The ask: Application to all vessels

What Bill delivers: No provisions but potential to address through more explicit licensing requirements



What about watchdog(s)?



Environment (Principles and Governance) Bill - introduces the Office for Environmental Protection

Environment Bill – England only



Fisheries are a devolved management responsibility



Sustainable management and effective implementation is important up and down the supply chain



DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE UK SEAFOOD

For many years, the government, fishermen, processors and retailers have worked together to improve the sustainability of UK seafood. Exiting the EU potentially marks a step change for the UK seafood sector. As new regulations are developed, all concerned need to consider how to deliver sustainable fisheries management and high quality, sustainable UK seafood, now and for the years to come.

We (the undersigned) believe it is important that the government and industry continue to support the adoption of policies and actions that maximise the environmental and social benefits of fisheries and minimise the risks. It is clear that whatever legislation is adopted as the UK exits the EU it must deliver confidence that UK seafood remains legally and sustainably sourced, and fisheries must operate in accordance with the existing regulations until such time as it is replaced by new fisheries legislation. This includes the continued implementation of the landing obligation which requires fishing vessels to land all catches of specified fish so that they count against quota (where quotas apply) and to be fully documented.

With these obligations come clear opportunities, the most obvious of which is healthier fish stocks and a more resilient, profitable industry alongside greater food security. But if implemented poorly the result will be unaccounted for mortality, which undermines fishery science and could lead to overfishing. It could also constitute illegal activity which poses a significant reputational risk for the industry supply chain both at sea and on land.

The current outlook for assessed Northeast Atlantic stocks is positive with trends for mortality decreasing and for biomass increasing. We are proud of these achievements and need these positive trends to continue and not be undermined as a result of poor implementation. The UK seafood industry believes that:

1. Effective implementation of current legislation, and in time equivalent new UK and devolved law, is essential to ensure the continued biological and economic sustainability of European fisheries including those MSC certified fisheries
2. Fully documenting fisheries is an essential tool for successful fisheries management and the attainment of healthy fish stocks
3. Properly documenting and accounting for catches should not be sacrificed because there are implementation challenges in some fleet sectors

In order to address this we are willing to support initiatives that will be necessary to support this outcome. These include:

- Increased selectivity in fishing activities both in terms of fishing practice and gear development
- Comprehensive and cost-effective monitoring and enforcement of measures for example the use of remote electronic monitoring
- Innovation in access to quota
- Incentivising changes in fishing practices to address potential choke situations



This statement was convened by WWF as part of our programme to achieve sustainable fisheries in the UK.

Conclusions

The Fisheries Bill provides helpful starting point as framework

As currently drafted it will not deliver sustainable fisheries

Must address key deficiencies if we are to achieve truly world-leading sustainable fisheries and marine management



WWF chairs the Greener UK marine and fisheries work pillar. Greener UK is a coalition of 14 major environmental organisations united in the belief that leaving the EU is a pivotal moment to restore and enhance the UK's environment. Greener UK is working in partnership with the New Economics Foundation, Oceana and EDF. Main documents published to date have also had the support of Environment LINKs UK and Sustain.

GREENER UK



Working with



Thank you



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