



# Next steps for UK fisheries - trade, opportunities, policy, sustainability and support

20 January 2021



## Institute of Fisheries Management

*Dedicated to professional and sustainable fisheries management*

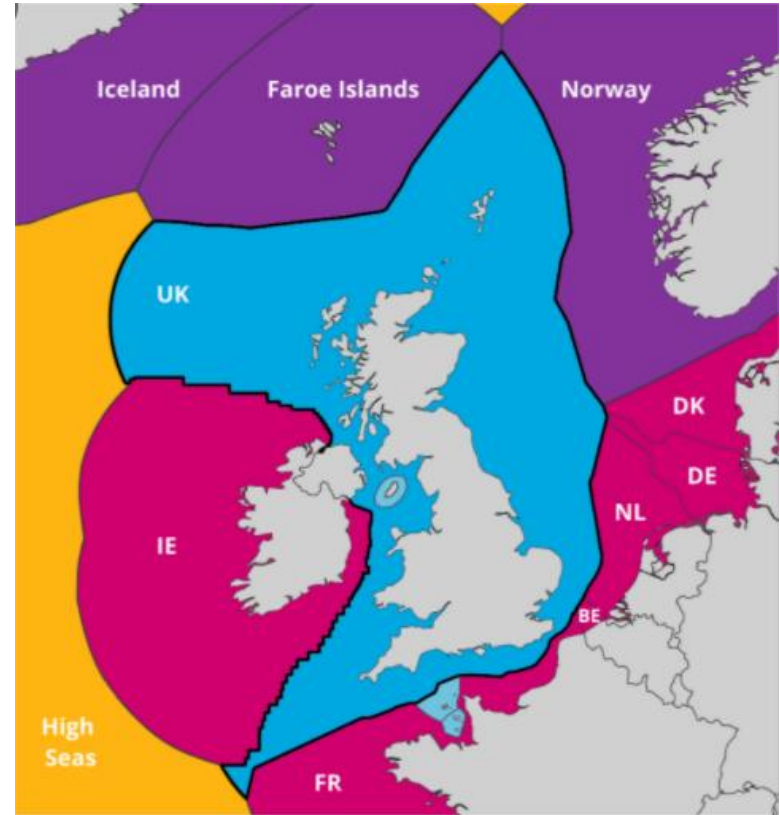
**David Bunt**  
**Chairman**

[www.ifm.org.uk](http://www.ifm.org.uk)

[chairman@ifm.org.uk](mailto:chairman@ifm.org.uk)

# Next steps for UK fisheries

- Time of change and opportunity
  - Importance of the fishery sector
  - Opportunities
  - Fisheries management plans
  - Stock assessment
  - Transboundary stocks
  - New UK sea fisheries management policy
  - Aquaculture
  - Freshwater fisheries
- 
- **Aim: scientific, evidence based, politics-free sustainable fisheries management**



# Importance of the fisheries sector

## Participation and value

Sector	Participation	Key Facts	Value	
<b>Sea fishing *1</b>	12,000 fishers 5911 vessels [+ Processing]	Landings 622,000 t Exports 452,000 t [Imports 721,000 t]	£990M £2004M [£3457M]	
<b>Sea Angling *2</b>	823,000 anglers 16,300 jobs	10 million fish kept	£1936M	
<b>Aquaculture *3</b>	Salmon Other	1898 jobs 1333 jobs	175,000 t 31,000 t	£550M £49M
<b>Freshwater fishing</b>	600 fishers	Mostly eels 400 t	£5M	
<b>Freshwater angling *4</b>	1.2 million anglers	35,000 jobs	£2000M	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,600 fishers</b> <b>2 million anglers</b>	<b>828,400 tonnes</b> <b>66,500 jobs</b>	<b>£7,534 M</b> <b>50% angling</b>	

### Sources

1. [Marine Management Organisation 2019](#)
2. [Cefas 2020](#)
3. [Cefas 2012](#)
4. Extrapolated from [Environment Agency 2018](#)

# Opportunities - Sea Fisheries

- Fisheries Act 2020: first domestic marine fisheries legislation for over 40 years
- Following EU trade deal, Defra considering how additional opportunities from UK's control of domestic waters.
- Defra to start consultation with stakeholders to allocate these on a different basis, including the potential use of alternative methodologies such as zonal attachment.
- Real opportunity to allocate these opportunities based on objective led criteria as to who, in societal interest, the beneficiaries should be.
- UK and ICES MoU: International scientific advice free from political influence



# Fisheries Management Plans

- Fisheries Act 2020 to be realised in part through fisheries management plans.
- IFM supports this: necessary to achieve a world class system of fisheries management.
- Establish harvest control rules and allocate harvest to different types of fishing.
- Policy can establish its societal choice to these opportunities – a key component of good fisheries management.
- Choice can be informed by social, economic and environmental criteria.
- Domestic conversation which has been lacking, and has led to certain tensions.



**Managing our marine resources: the Marine Management Organisation**



# Stock assessment

- Good fisheries management plans require good science – needs good stock assessment (monitoring)
- Currently lacking in most commercially and recreationally important stocks
- Example: Bass fishery
- Emerged due to collapse of important stock and no management plan
- Investment needed.
- Remote Electronic Monitoring
- Citizen science

Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

**NEW EUROPEAN REGULATIONS  
FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERS FOR SEA BASS**



**FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY TO 29<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 INCLUSIVE & 1<sup>ST</sup> TO 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2020:  
CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY IS PERMITTED FOR RECREATIONAL FISHERS FOR SEA BASS**

**FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH TO 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 INCLUSIVE:  
NO MORE THAN TWO BASS EQUAL TO OR ABOVE THE MINIMUM CONSERVATION REFERENCE SIZE OF 42CM MAY BE RETAINED PER PERSON PER DAY**

**THIS APPLIES WHETHER YOU ARE FISHING FROM A VESSEL OR FROM THE SHORE**

The European Commission has determined that bass stocks remain under pressure despite the measures taken in previous years. It has placed restrictions on the commercial and recreational fishing sectors in order to address this.

Southern IFCA is working with DEFRA and the Marine Management Organisation to raise awareness of these regulations. These international measures form part of the package of EU regulations to rebuild the fishery.

For more information:  
Tel: 01203 721373  
Email: [enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@southern-ifca.gov.uk)  
[www.southern-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk)  
Find us on Twitter @SouthernIFCA and on Facebook



# Transboundary stocks

- Bass example of importance of transboundary cooperation.
- Fish don't recognise administrative boundaries!
- Cod, plaice, herring, mackerel, bass, salmon, sea trout, eels
- Require joined up management. Between countries and in-country
- IFM advocates partnerships with UK's academic institutions
- To be truly world class significant investment is required
- Cost to be shared – smallest scale operators not to be priced out

FISH SPAWNING GROUNDS



# New UK Sea Fisheries management policy

- **Allocation:** Leaving EU - opportunity for objective allocation of fishing opportunities.
- **Access:** 0-6nm reserved for British vessels; most of fishing effort in the 6-12nm zone on south coast has been associated with foreign access. In particular with forms of trawling activity, reducing the opportunity for inshore vessels
- **Integration:** although smallest vessels, inshore boats often subject to greater levels of management control. Recreational access rarely considered.
- **Fisheries management plans** allows the fisheries to be effectively integrated.



**SEA ANGLERS**

**DO YOU WANT TO HAVE A SAY IN THE MANAGEMENT OF YOUR LOCAL INSHORE FISHERIES?**

The Marine Management Organisation is consulting new members for the 17 Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities around the country.

These local committees deal with the management of our inshore waters and their decisions affect how inshore policy is created and applied.

Each IFCA needs a balance of experience, knowledge and expertise from people who use the inshore waters, either for pleasure or profit, and that applies to recreational sea anglers.

If you think you could contribute to the management of our waters in your locality then contact your local IFCA, and apply.

To apply to your local IFCA go to:

- [www.south-eastern-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.south-eastern-ifca.gov.uk)
- [www.south-western-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.south-western-ifca.gov.uk)
- [www.southern-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.southern-ifca.gov.uk)
- [www.dorset-and-west-of-somerset-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.dorset-and-west-of-somerset-ifca.gov.uk)
- [www.south-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.south-ifca.gov.uk)
- [www.ifca.gov.uk](http://www.ifca.gov.uk)
- [www.northern-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.northern-ifca.gov.uk)

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON JANUARY 4TH

Association of  
**IFCA**

**ANGLING TRUST**



# Aquaculture

- Standards such as the Aquaculture Stewardship Council to be reviewed to present highest standards for fish farming for the UK
- Salmon farming sector in particular to transition to those standards over the next 5 years due minimise impacts of eutrophication of Scottish lochs, escapees and manifestation of sea lice



# Freshwater fisheries

- **Commercial salmon & sea trout:** heritage only – no take. Greater value ecologically and economically. More critical for salmon due to climate change and current state of stocks
- **Eel fishing and trade:** UK govt and EU to work harder to reinstate trade between EU and UK for joined up Europe wide policies for protection for sustainable use of this protected Europe-wide stock
- **Angling:** re-instate marketing of rod licences; to include recreational, health and economic value.



# Summary & proposals

- Fisheries important for food production, economy, recreation and mental health
- EU exit provides opportunity for world class fisheries management
- Govt. rhetoric: ambition to be equal to or better than EU legislation – all to hold govt. to account
- Cooperation on transboundary stocks for stock management – international and inter-agency
- Rationalise roles of management agencies; e.g. EA, Cefas, IFCAs, MMO, Defra
- Aim: scientific, evidence based, politics-free sustainable fisheries management
- Experience shows: **best fisheries & environmental management = best outcomes for fish, wildlife, people and economy**





**Thank you for listening**



**Institute of Fisheries  
Management**

*Dedicated to professional and sustainable fisheries management*