

All Party Parliamentary Fisheries Group



Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24th April, 16:00, Committee Room 20.

Attendance: Melanie Onn MP (chairing), Peter Aldous MP, David Duguid MP.

Guest: Aaron Brown, Fishing for Leave.

1. Apologies for absence

Sheryll Murray MP, Liz Saville-Roberts MP, Lord Tebbit.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and were approved.

3. Presentation by Aaron Brown, Fishing for Leave

Aaron gave a presentation on Fishing for Leave's (FFL) views on the risks and opportunities for the catching sector of the Brexit transition period and options for future management of the UK's fisheries. He expressed concern about being "defacto bound" to the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) during the transition period and suggested it would bring the UK under the Vienna Convention.

He suggested that the consequences of staying in the CFP during transition would mean that "choke" species would be included in the discard ban (which becomes fully enforced in 2019 meaning everything caught has to be landed and counted against quota). He also referred to possible abolition of 12 mile limit (which protects the inshore fishing fleet and nursery grounds) and explained that the EU Commission has sole right—see Article 122 of the Treaty of the EU—to adjust relative stability quota share outs and the UK would have no say.

He believed that the UK fishing fleet needs nursing through the transition period and that there should not be a complete ban on discards.

Aaron outlined FFL's flexible "hybrid" quota system proposal based on fishing by effort control per days fishing. Everyone is able to land what they catch. Value of time would be equivalent to fish caught. The current system doesn't recognise that the sea is a mixed fishery but works on individual species assessment with poor data.

Questions and answers took place during the presentation.

4. Any other business

The RSPB have made contact with Melanie Onn MP and it was agreed that the Group should invite them to a future meeting.

5. Future meeting

Tuesday 5th June, 4pm, Room Q, Portcullis House (room subject to change):