

# All Party Parliamentary Fisheries Group



## **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th June, 4pm, Room Q, Portcullis House.**

Attendance: David Duguid MP (chairing), Peter Aldous MP, Scott Mann MP, Sheryll Murray MP.

Guest: Steven (“Steve”) Walker, Protest for Fishing Rights (PfFR).

### 1. Apologies for absence

Melanie Onn MP, Baroness Wilcox.

### 2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matter arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and approved. There were no matters arising.

### 3. Presentation by Steven Walker, Protest for Fishing Rights

Steve is part of the under 15 metre registered length fleet. PfFR has 10,000 members from across the UK, many of which are working fishermen. Their goal is to enable the public to better understand the UK fishing industry, “from sea to plate”, and to build support for UK fishermen.

Steve gave an overview of the challenges facing UK fishermen, particularly in the context of the discard ban and proposed Brexit transition period. As a Plymouth-based fisherman, he highlighted that the lack of quota for haddock (only 10%) in ICES Area VII and his belief that there is an uneven playing field with EU counterparts. He outlined why the discard ban is very serious, particularly in the South West, and that together with any transition deal, could sound the death knell for the industry. He also expressed a view that better science is needed to ensure that species data is better informed with a more local focus, perhaps through the use of fishermen’s catching data from their log books. A discussion took place around all the issues raised.

It was agreed by Members present that the APPG would write to the Defra Secretary of State about the impact of the discard ban to enable UK fishermen to avoid being “tied up” and to keep fishing.

### 4. Any other business

None.

### 5. Future meeting

**Tuesday 3rd July, 4pm, Room O, Portcullis House (room subject to change):**