



NEWSLETTER

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Winter 2010

CHAIRMAN'S REFLECTIONS



In 2009 our Association was represented at a great deal of meetings. As members you have the right to question what has been achieved through our presence.

Progress has been slow. However, we continue to forge relationships with other Associations e.g. Orkney Fishermen's Association and Shetland Fishermen's Association with whom we hold common bond.

The recent end of year agreement which will not be fully ratified until after 18 January 2010 when the EU/Norway talks resume, is already causing problems — Cuts of 10 % in days North Sea and 25 % West Coast.

Forecast cuts in North Sea TACs of 15 % haddock, 15 % saithe and 61% whiting (the amounts will depend on the Norway /EU agreement to be finalised in January and will also be subject to the exercise of Hague Preference for haddock and whiting) bring with them an even more difficult year than last with which to manage ever smaller quotas. The West Coast is in an even worse position with 25 % cuts in haddock and whiting TACs.

There are little significant plus signs apart from the ability to transfer 5 % North Sea monk to West Coast which will hopefully distribute a more even catch of Northern Shelf monk.

Quotas Comparison: It is interesting to look at allocations from the Scottish Fishermen's Organisation (SFO) for the years 1994 and 2008.

In 1994 the SFO had an allocation of 10,688 tonnes North Sea cod and on the West Coast 3,453 tonnes.

In 2008 the North Sea allocation was 1,662 tonnes while West Coast was 104 tonnes.

Bearing in mind that our fleet is cut in half is it any wonder that the North Sea and the northern part of the West Coast is teeming with cod? Quotas are being set too low in relation to what the fishermen acknowledge to be on the grounds.

CCTV Coverage: This Association is totally opposed to such an intrusion in an industry which is already over the head with regulation. Mike Park in his recent article in Fishing News 8.1.10 refers to "the price takers to price makers".

How can this be achieved with increases in the Barents Sea cod and haddock fisheries by some 40 per cent or indeed the Icelandic situation with the virtual collapse of their economy when they upped their cod and haddock TACs? He also states that "the industry needs to take a view on whether change is required and what that change should be."

The only answer to this should be:

"Let's get out of the CFP before there are no boats left to be represented."

**THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S GREEN PAPER ON
"REFORM" OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY
Response by The Fishermen's Association Limited**

INTRODUCTION

The CFP is the overarching policy that has caused 'Sea Clearances' for Scotland and other parts of the UK.

What is the real CFP? -- Equal Access to the Common Resource.

The European Court of Justice has recognised that the Community system of national quotas (based on Relative Stability as included in the 1983 Agreement) is a derogation from the general rule of equal conditions of access to fishery resources and the principle of non discrimination laid down in Article 40 of the Treaty of Rome.

The CFP is not the 1983 Agreement nor is the revised CFP of 2002.

The real CFP is equal access to the resource. Access to fishing grounds and the living resources within them, has been granted by Treaty to every member state in the EU.

ILLUSION OF STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

The Green Paper gives the illusion of stakeholder involvement, "empowering the regional and local dimensions", decentralisation and involving fishermen directly in policy-making so that decisions are made closer to the people they affect.

AMSTERDAM, MAASTRICHT AND LISBON TREATIES

The Amsterdam Treaty explicitly rules out any decentralisation of power to Member States. The principle of subsidiarity, introduced by the Maastricht Treaty, is an illusion. *Notes 1 and 2*

It might be argued that fisheries fall within the policies the responsibility for which is shared between the EU and the Member States (shared competence) and whereas the Lisbon Treaty affirms this position as it enumerates fisheries among the shared competences between the Union and the Member States (Art. 4 par. 2 d TFEU) **an exception is, however, made for the conservation of marine biological resources, which is an exclusive EU competence** (Art. 3 TFEU par. 1)

With exclusive competence for all marine living resources residing in Brussels how are you going to legally achieve decentralisation?

At best it will be a refinement of the current situation whereby the Member States act as Agents for the EU retaining certain responsibilities in the fields of implementation, application and control of the CFP, with the Commission being responsible for ensuring that there exists consistency in the Member States' actions in implementing the strategic decisions of the Council of Ministers, the Commission and the European Parliament (post Lisbon).

The CFP in practice has developed into a centralised common policy, and as a result, most of the decisions are taken on a Community level (by the Council acting by qualified majority), leaving little scope of manoeuvre to the Member States to act individually.

INTENTION OF CFP

The EU's strategic aim for the fishing industries of the relevant individual Member States is the creation of a European Union fleet and the elimination of those of the Nation States. The grandiose vision in the Green Paper is nothing more than a smokescreen for an ever developing EU which wishes to control every aspect of fishing activity.

Extract from FALs response —"SOME AREAS OF CONCERN IN THE GREEN PAPER"

⇒ **Proposed Revision of the principle of 'relative stability'**, "as it has led fisheries ministers to focus on "their" immediate share rather than on the common good..... the present system of quotas is not carved in stone and solutions should be explored to make it more flexible and more tailored to the actual needs of national industries and markets."

The EU's objective is to remove discrimination (the principle of Relative Stability introduced in the allocation of fish quotas to Member States in 1983 is a prime example) and to create an EU fleet operating in EU waters controlled by the EU.

The Green Paper advocates a Rights Based Management (RBM) approach to fisheries with the objective of reducing fleet capacity.

RBM is being developed in many of the world's fisheries, and can be an excellent tool to ensure some justice and equity in the allocation of resources or in ensuring continuing access for vulnerable groups. Several governments have allocated **rights-based access** to fish resources, in perpetuity, to indigenous groups that would be vulnerable if their rights were to be made a marketable entity. So community quotas and other special arrangements have been organized in the USA for native Americans, and in New Zealand for Maori peoples.

However the main danger facing the UK is that EU / CFP interpretation of rights-based management lies in the assumption that these very rights might be bought and sold on an open market. Once that is permitted the system ceases to be rights-based and becomes market-based, with fishery sector jobs and communities' economic futures being traded like any other commodity.

That is exactly what will happen if ITQ arrangements are developed to their ultimate end.

ITQs concentrate access to and control of national fish resources in the hands of big business and speculators. Its introduction (in whole or in part) was a major cause of the cod stock destruction of Canada, the huge fall in orange roughy and hoki stocks in New Zealand, and the destruction of scores of small scale fishing ports in Newfoundland, Iceland, and New Zealand. ITQs are environmentally risky at best and socially destructive at least. The only beneficiaries are a few fishing corporations and speculators, and that just in the short term.

A RBM system as interpreted and promoted by the Commission would be hindered by Relative Stability, which would return quota rights to each Member State each year. That is the reason the Commission advocates its removal.

"The Green Paper identifies Relative Stability as a brake on far reaching reform" *Interim Report of Scottish Government's Inquiry into Future Fisheries Management September 2009*

That reform despite the window dressing in the Green paper is the attainment of the EU's ultimate objective for the fishing industries of all the maritime Member States - the creation of a European Union fleet and the elimination of those of the Nation States

NOTE FAL is still waiting for an answer from Messrs Lochhead and Irranca Davies on how it is legally possible to devolve power to Member States for a regionalised EU fisheries policy that provides meaningful control and management of the resource

MISCELLANEOUS FAL ISSUES

Revised Memorandum & Articles of Association

At the EGM of members held on 4 December 2009 a revised **Memorandum and Articles of Association** was adopted. There is no longer reference to

- (1) Branches of the company
- (2) The making of Bye laws, rules and regulations governing the organisation and conduct of the Branches of the company and
- (3) The promotion in the United Kingdom and abroad the interests UK Fishermen and owners of fishing vessels.

In the latter connection the new wording is:-

To promote in the United Kingdom the interests of its members

as the company has onshore interests as members namely the Scottish Ship Chandlers Association.

The **Articles** were completely redrawn so that they reflect the rules that the Board considers appropriate to manage the affairs of the company following the decision to dispense with Branches.

In particular they make provision for:

The Board of Directors to be elected by members at the AGM rather than the Board confirming the directors nominated by Branches.

Filling casual vacancies and for Directors to be co-opted who are not members.

The new Articles also enable the Directors to appoint as Honorary Chairman any person who in their opinion has made an outstanding contribution through their skills, time and talent in the advancement of the Company's aims and objectives. The first such appointment was the former Chairman Tom Hay.

A General Meeting of members will be held on 26 March when it is hoped that as many members as possible will be able to attend particularly as **Richard Lochhead Fisheries Secretary has been invited to attend**. This will give members the opportunity to air any points they wish the Association to pursue.

New directors

Peter Smith and John Smith from Buckie and Willie Reid from Avoch have been appointed as Directors and also Stuart Keyte formerly fishery officer at Fraserburgh.

Visit to the NE by shadow fisheries minister Richard Benyon MP

At the invitation of Jimmy Buchan the Candidate for Banff and Buchan Conservative Party the Chairman will be attending a meeting on 21 January with Richard Benyon MP the Shadow Fisheries Minister for the Conservative and Unionist Party.

West Coast Gadoid Meeting Inverness 23 November 2009

£140,000 has been made available by Marine Scotland for a trawl survey to be undertaken in targeted areas in the north and south Minches to further the science of these stocks. It will be out for tender soon. The survey is likely to begin at the end of February beginning of March. It is hoped that monies will continue to be provided to enable the work to continue for another 2-3 years.

Gear conflict meeting

It is expected that Stuart Keyte will chair two meetings to be held in the first quarter of 2010 between mobile and static gear operators in the Moray Firth to resolve gear conflict issues - Squid/static gear and scallop/static gear interaction.

CCTV Meeting Edinburgh 27 October. James Brown representing the SFF gave an eloquent address urging caution about the introduction of CCTV which FAL fully backed.

To paraphrase his comments — To use such a tool in a mixed fishery requires caution. Time should be given to what is a pilot project before jumping to conclusions which would adversely affect men's livelihoods.

Sandy Patience FALs Chairman asked Mike Nielsen Director of the Scottish Marine Directorate why the Industry was not properly consulted before signing up to a deal with the Danes and the Germans. He is still waiting for an answer!!

MARINE BILL — “Healthier Seas” Article SCOTSMAN 22/12/09**Comments by Dr James Wilkie Vienna**

The disaster started on 1 January 1973, when control of Scotland's territorial waters was transferred to Brussels by Edward Heath's Conservative government, without as much as inviting Scottish opinion on such a fundamental issue of Scots law

This Marine Bill does not provide for genuine Scottish control of Scotland's seas, because the EU's Lisbon Treaty vests total control of all "marine biological resources" in Brussels.

The exploitation or otherwise of these resources (which by definition range from whales and basking sharks to the last frond of seaweed) is also vested in Brussels, so that all that the Marine Bill can achieve is dependent on permission from Brussels being granted at every stage.

No doubt Westminster and Whitehall would never have cleared the way for it had it awarded the Scottish Parliament and Government any genuine power over the marine environment.

The whole point about the CFP is that it effectively puts the strategic management of fisheries into the hands of large commercial and multinational organisations for whom the CFP is merely their entry ticket to waters they would otherwise be unable to exploit.

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They are not going to give that up as long as they can exert sufficient pressure in Brussels to maintain the *status quo*, and governments like those of France and Spain, under intense domestic political pressure, have no option but to back them up. That was the situation from the very beginning of EEC negotiations in 1970; the CFP never at any time had anything to do with management or conservation.

No doubt Scottish fishermen have to be subjected to discipline, as they were before 1973, and will be after independence. The Scottish-registered offshore fishing fleet has been reduced to a third of its pre-CFP size, and half of the remaining third is now foreign-owned, largely foreign-crewed, and lands its catch elsewhere, to the detriment of the Scottish economy. Effectively, the Scottish waters, under Scottish management, were kept in ecological balance with a fleet six times the size of the present one.

You don't need to have a degree in logic to work out where the blame for the present disaster lies, and what the remedy must be.

There is no hope of reforming the CFP from within the European Union.

Any proposed change will be vetoed by those countries that are gaining from the present setup.

The one and only answer is to get out of the EU side of the European Economic Area, transfer to the EFTA side of the EEA, and regain Scottish control of fisheries and agriculture. Thereafter, the north-east Atlantic and northern North Sea can be managed by a partnership of Scotland, the Faeroes, Iceland, Norway and Russia.

Moray Firth Inshore Fisheries Group

contributed by Nick Lake MIFG Co-ordinator

The Moray Firth Fisheries Group on which FAL is represented by its Chairman Sandy Patience, appointed a Co-ordinator during September 2009.

Nick Lake who will be known to some of you following his time as Fisheries Development Manager with Highland Council in the 1990's, has had a long involvement with the inshore sector. He recently completed work on the UK shellfish strategy which is being implemented by the Shellfish Association of Great Britain.

In addition to the co-ordinator the Chairman of the MFIFG is also now in place. Councillor John B. Cox from Aberdeenshire was appointed by Marine Scotland to lead the Group based on his experience both within the fish processing sector and as a local government representative on the North East Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership.

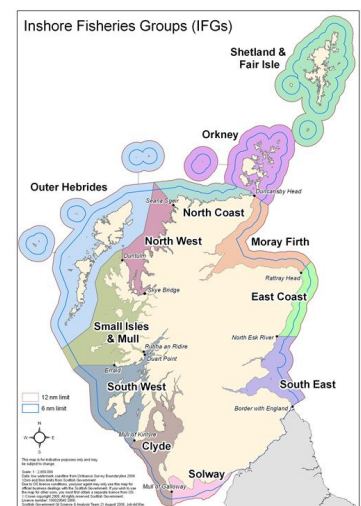
The Executive Committee of the MFIFG consists of representatives from a range of fishermen's organisations with fishing interests in the waters from Duncansby Head to Rattray Head out to 6nm. Together with FAL these include Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association represented by Jay MacKay (also MFIFG Deputy Chairman), Scallop Association, Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association, Scottish White Fish Producer's Association, Anglo-Scottish Fishermen's Association, Caithness Static Gear Fishermen's Association, and the East Coast Licensed Small Boat Association. Independent fishermen have a representative who sits on the Executive Committee namely Jimmy Mitchell from Portmahomack.

There are now six such Inshore Fisheries Groups established by the Scottish Government — three on the West Coast, one in the Outer Hebrides and one in the Firth of Forth together with the MFIFG. The aim of the groups is to develop fisheries management proposals based on the requirements of the fishing industry operating in the areas. The MFIFG having met twice since the recruitment of a Chairman and co-ordinator are in the process of determining the priorities for local management options. These are being considered in the knowledge that working groups set up under the Scottish Fisheries Council are discussing national management measures for a range of species including Nephrops, Brown Crab, Lobster, and Scallop.

While the issues of fisheries management are key to the Groups activities there is also a far wider role of ensuring the fishing industry is kept advised of marine developments in the Moray Firth area. The impact of the marine renewable energy sector in the future could be considerable and the MFIFG have already engaged with the developers of the proposed Beatrice wind farm. In addition Sandy Patience has been instrumental in establishing links with the Cromarty Firth Port Authority to try to secure improved fishing vessel safety provisions in the light of regular oil tanker anchoring in the inner Moray Firth. The danger posed to the mobile fishing gear sector by such activities has been pursued with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency by the MFIFG co-ordinator. Other roles that have been taken on by the MFIFG are representation on the SEPA Water Framework Directive advisory group for North Scotland and input of fishing interests to the Management Scheme for the Special Area of Conservation for Dolphins and Sandbanks in the Moray Firth.

The MFIFG Executive Committee has also considered the potential implications of the introduction of a Scottish Marine Bill and the associated requirement for Marine Protection Areas (MPAs). The Marine Bill identifies the role of the Inshore Fisheries Groups within the Scottish Marine Regions and the requirement for them to be represented on the Scottish Marine Region Boards. It is considered to be extremely important that if the fishing industry is to be adequately represented within the new marine planning system proposed, that the industry becomes actively involved in and steers the work of the Inshore Fisheries Groups.

MFIFG Minutes of Executive Committee meetings can be found on the Scottish Government Website under Inshore Fisheries and Inshore Fisheries Groups. The co-ordinator Nick Lake can be contacted by e-mail (nick@scotlandifg.co.uk) or phone 01381 622412 (mobile 07984 565347)



Non EEA Migrant workers in fishing industry -- Interim Solution for vessels operating within 12 nautical miles



UK industry representatives met UKBA officials in Glasgow on 14 January to discuss the way forward for non EEA Migrant workers in fishing industry.

The following contains the highlights of what turned out to be a productive meeting which has produced a interim workable solution to a potentially difficult manning problem. However the UKBA will be issuing a letter setting out precisely the terms of the Interim Solution so this note should not be taken as definitive.

1. The Interim Solution applies to vessels fishing within the 12 nm and carrying non EEA crew members. A concessionary visa will be provided.
2. It will last for up to 18 months from commencement which is expected to be from mid February 2010.
3. After that a long term solution should have been worked up and then implemented that will apply to vessels operating both within and outwith the 12 nm. In other words the transit visa will go and the distinction will be between International seafarers and UK based seafarers. Clearly a lot of work is still required to ensure that long term solution meets the needs of the UK catching sector
4. Certain conditions will have to be observed by vessels owners e.g. fair pay and accommodation. UKBA will audit both but they will attempt to keep the paperwork to a minimum. The fair pay relates to the minimum wage to be paid of £5.68 per hour.

NOTE Ministers have made it clear that once the concession is introduced and there are any breaches of the rules then the “civil penalty” law will be applied. In such an event any one found guilty of breaching the rules could face a £10k penalty per “employee” “Ducking and diving” to get round the rules will result in serious penalties.

6. The cost of a visa application will be £465 per applicant.
7. There will be a time limit on applications for the concessionary visa of 3 months from the commencement date of the scheme
8. **Applicants will be restricted to those currently working on vessels “wholly or mainly” (roughly 70% of the time) operating in the UK 12 nm and those who have worked on board such vessels in the last 12 months.** A request was made to extend that to 18 months. Exceptional cases may be considered on provision of a documented case

The quota of non EEA crew members allowed to work on “inshore” boats under this scheme will be 1500. There will be no new applicants.

A point was raised as to whether Filipinos sent home through no fault of theirs would be included in the quota. This will be considered on provision of documentary evidence.

10. **NOTE Mention was made of Commonwealth citizens – Ghanaians and other – working as crew members. There are no special provisions for them. They are non EEA workers and as such they will need prior entry clearance (Visa) to work.**

The blockage on accreditation of vessels’ owners by POLO should now be removed.

If there any difficulties then contact Victoria Bowman 0141 555 1226 07919 560665
victoria.bowman@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

She is Deputy Director Devolution, Policy and Corporate Services in UKBA's Glasgow office.

Barbecued Herring <http://www.seafish.org/plate/recipes.asp>

Ingredients

8 herring, cleaned
 30g (1oz) butter or margarine
 2 small onion, finely chopped
 900g (2lb) fresh rhubarb sticks
 300g (10 and a half oz) long grain rice, cooked
 grated rind and juice of 2 oranges
 sprigs of fresh rosemary
 salt and black pepper
 sunflower oil
 300ml (10fl oz) water
 2 x 15ml spoon (2 tablespoons) brown sugar
 (optional)

Serves 8
NUTRITIONAL VALUES PER PORTION (APPROX)

585 Kilocalories;

34g Protein; 34g Fat; 40g Carbohydrate; 2g Fibre

Tip: A large tin of drained rhubarb may be used if fresh is unavailable.

Method

Preheat the barbecue

Melt the butter in a saucepan and cook the onion until transparent.

Chop 2 sticks rhubarb into small pieces and add to the onion with the cooked rice, orange rind, and a little chopped rosemary. Season to taste.

Divide the stuffing between the herring. Make 3 cuts across the flesh and brush with oil.

Lay the sprigs of rosemary across the barbecue and cook the fish on top for about 8-10 minutes, turning once. (Alternatively use a fish clamp or foil).

Meanwhile, slice the remaining rhubarb and cook with the water and orange juice until soft.

Sweeten if necessary and serve with the barbecued herring.

**Sustainable Seafood
 Serving the Seafood Industry 2010-2013**

Seafish has recently published a detailed three-year plan that outlines how Seafish will work with the seafood industry from 2010-13

Seafish's remit is to support the seafood industry for a sustainable profitable future. As part of this process, they continuously consult with industry to ensure that their activities are focused on the industry's needs and represent a sound investment of the levy they receive.

The Seafish consultation document sets out how they intend to serve industry over the next three years and is part of a year-long consultation process, including the Industry Business Conference held on September 2009.

The ninety-day period began on 10 November

Seafish Chief Executive John Rutherford to retire - 15/12/2009

Seafish announced today that its Chief Executive John Rutherford would be retiring by the end of June 2010.

Recruitment consultants have been appointed to find his successor and the successful candidate will begin work in March 2010, with Mr Rutherford leaving the organisation by the end of June 2010.

John Rutherford said, "I have had the privilege of serving the seafood industry in what must rank as one of the industry's best jobs for the past eight years. In that time we have redefined Seafish's role and made great progress to improve the value for money our organisation delivers to industry."

Charles Howeson, Chairman of Seafish, said: "John leaves behind him a legacy of performance improvement and accountability, and our heartfelt thanks go to him on behalf of industry for the vigour and intelligence he has brought to this important role. We are now actively seeking a successor for John to continue developing focused, value-for-money services for the seafood industry."



John Rutherford

RESUMPTION OF FUNDING FOR TRAINING

15 December 2009



I am pleased to announce we have now accepted EFF offer letters from Marine Scotland for our Fishermen's Training application. Delivery in Scotland can now commence.

The funding covers delivery of the following Seafish-approved courses:

Bridge Watchkeeping 2-day and 5-day

Engineering 1-day, 2-day and 5-day

Intermediate Stability Awareness 1-day

GMDSS Short Range Certificate 1-day

Damage Control 1/2-day

All courses will be funded at the rate of £100 per person per day, with the exception of Damage Control which will be funded at £50 per person.

In addition, grants of up to £1,000 are available for fishermen undertaking Class 1 and Class 2 Deck Officer Certificates of Competency and Class 1 Engineer Officer Certificates of Competency. Grants of up to £250 are available for fishermen undertaking Class 2 Engineer Officer Certificates of Competency.

Only courses delivered and expenditure incurred, after the date of this email will be eligible for funding.

All being well, we should have sufficient funding in place now to continue supporting delivery of these courses in Scotland until 31 March 2011.

Detailed guidance for Approved Training Providers on the procedures for administering this training will be sent separately, but the following basic principles apply:

- providers must register courses in advance with Seafish
- to be eligible for funding, beneficiaries must prove their eligibility to work in the UK and be experienced commercial fishermen; records of their basic safety training (Sea Survival, Fire Fighting, First Aid and Safety Awareness) must have been checked and verified and details held on Seafish's database
- all beneficiaries must provide the personal information on the required registration form, including National Insurance number

records of all training completed must be submitted using the new Seafish Excel forms

Simon Potten, Training & Accreditation Manager Seafish

www.seafish.org

Contact Lachie Paterson FITAs Training Manager for details of courses

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EU Fisheries governance: Is a regional model appropriate?



David Thomson

FAL is indebted to David Thomson for the following observations that were contained in his submission to the House of Lords Inquiry in to the CFP in 2008. They have been incorporated in to FALs response to the CFP Green Paper on the so called Reform of the CFP

David Thomson is a consultant to the United Nations and the development banks on fishing. He has led numerous UN fisheries development projects in Africa, Asia and the Pacific. He is the author of several fisheries textbooks and of *The Sea Clearances*, a socio-economic study of the rundown of the Scottish fishing industry.

"It could be, but only within strict limitations. Fisheries governance above all should be transparent, based on clearly stated objectives, and be participative, involving fully the fishing communities and the fishing industry stakeholders. Too often, consultations have been empty PR gestures with no genuine attempt to listen to those affected. Fisheries governance should also be open to review and critique by competent, independent bodies.

There are a number of international examples. These include the SADC and ASEAN countries which have agreed regional fishery management policies. The USA has similar arrangements with Canada, Mexico, and the small states of the Caribbean and the Pacific. None of these countries have yielded their EEZs to any central management like the EU CFP. There are also the 3 main regional Tuna Commissions of the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic Oceans, plus 2 in the Americas. (see www.tuna-org.org).

In each of those cases, the participating governments retain full control over their 200 mile EEZs and their own fleets and their national fishery management systems. But they meet annually to agree on common approaches to the management of shared stocks. That works very well, guaranteeing cooperative management but preserving sovereign rights.

In contrast the EC / EU, under the Lisbon treaty will have unlimited control over all "marine biological resources" (the part referring to joint EU/national control of fishing does not reflect the reality). Marine biological resources extend by definition from whales and basking sharks to the last frond of seaweed. This control, to be exercised from the desk of the Fisheries Commissioner in Brussels, will extend from the Baltic through the north-eastern Atlantic, North Sea, Mediterranean, Aegean and Adriatic seas to the Black Sea. It takes no account of the vast differences in regional fish species, different fishing methods, local consumption patterns, local fisheries culture and local social and employment structures. That kind of regional model is a recipe for continued central control that is insensitive to local needs and local situations requiring tailored responses to particular issues.

The best fishery management system by far is one that is locally based and which the local stakeholders largely operate themselves with government taking only a supervisory role and providing the overall policy. Some examples can be found in the USA and Japan, where specific fisheries form their own rules and enforce their own members. The UN Agencies and several bilateral organizations and NGOs assist a number of developing countries to adopt this model."

Editor's observations

Where else in the world has any group of fishing states considered or adopted a centrist EU type model that requires them to give up their sovereign rights over their national fisheries. The direct management of an individual industry is not a legitimate function of the EU.

The real reform that requires to be considered and implemented is a scrapping of the EU fisheries policy and returning to national Governments control of fishing in national waters up to the limits of the 200 mile exclusive economic zones or median lines.

NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD

<http://www.nlb.org.uk/historical/historical.htm>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where was the first Scottish Lighthouse?

The earliest mention of a lighthouse in Scotland is in 1635, when Charles I granted a patent to James Maxwell of Innerwick and John Cunninghame of Barnes to erect a lighthouse on the Isle of May, at the mouth of the Firth of Forth, and collect, at the rate of 1½d. per ton for Scotch vessels and double that rate for foreigners, duties from shipping for its maintenance. This patent was ratified by the Scots Parliament in 1641. The method of lighting was by a coal fire. (In 1814 the Commissioners purchased the Isle of May with the lighthouse thereon and all interests in light dues for the sum of £60,000).

The Board established a new lighthouse on the Isle of May in 1816, which was engineered by Robert Stevenson. It was automated in 1989 and it now remotely monitored by the Board's Headquarters in George Street, Edinburgh. It has a character of flashing (2) White every 15 seconds and a range of 22 miles.



Which is the tallest Scottish Lighthouse?

Skerryvore Lighthouse which marks a very extensive and treacherous reef of rocks lying in the sea off the Hebrides some 10 or 11 miles south west of Tiree. It was built of granite quarried on the Island of Mull during the six years from 1838 to 1844, to the design of Alan Stevenson, Engineer and constitutes an outstanding example of lighthouse engineering. The beautiful symmetry of the outline of the tower, the proportions of which are a height of 156ft (48 metres) with diameter of 42ft at the base tapering to 16ft at the top, ranks it amongst the most graceful of all lighthouse towers; it is even asserted by some that it is the worlds

most graceful lighthouse.

How many ships does the Board operate?

For the delivery of stores and supplies, buoy working and the statutory inspection of the navigation aids on oil rigs in the Scottish sector, the Northern Lighthouse Board has two ships. NLV PHAROS and NLV POLE STAR (1174 gross tons, commissioned 2000) based at Oban.

NLV POLE STAR was built in 2000 and incorporates the latest thinking in propulsion, navigational and buoy-handling technologies. Diesel-electric power, through two azimuthing thrusters and two tunnel bow-thrusters, combined with GPS and DGPS, enable Dynamic Positioning to be achieved for safe working in otherwise marginal conditions. Hydraulic cable-stoppers and a new design of cable winch enable swift and safe buoy-handling

POLE STAR



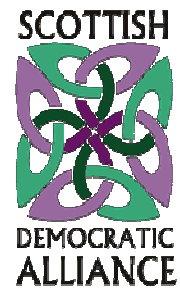
Which was the last manned lighthouse in Scotland?

The Board's automation programme was completed on 31 March 1998. Fair Isle South Lighthouse in Shetland was Scotland's last manned lighthouse.

How is the Board funded?

The Northern Lighthouse Board, together with Trinity House (England, Wales and the Channel Isles) and the Commissioners of Irish Lights (Eire and Northern Ireland) are the General Lighthouse Authorities for the United Kingdom and Ireland. Running costs are met from a "General Lighthouse Fund", financed by the collection of Light Dues paid by commercial ships calling at British and Irish ports, and by fishing vessels over 10 metres in length. The fund, although administered by the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions, is entirely self-financing, and receives no grant from the Exchequer. The powers and duties of the General Lighthouse Authorities are laid down in the Merchant Shipping Act of 1995.

Scotland is approaching one of the major turning points in its long and colourful history. An old order is coming to an end with the impending break-up of the United Kingdom, and the world around us is changing at a rate that has never been seen in human history. Scotland needs a better quality of government to enable it to cope with this new situation



The Scottish Democratic Alliance (SDA) was formed by a group of Scots with extensive experience in management and international affairs. The SDA believes that radical ideas are necessary to resolve the problems facing our political system, and that these can emerge only from a fresh and truly Scottish party – one that has loyalties only to Scotland.

The **SDA** believes that these goals, and the development of Scotland's full potential, can be achieved only through the restoration of our national independence, which we regard as inevitable in any event.

We envisage that the new Scotland will play a full and vigorous role in international affairs at global and European level.

The **SDA** advocates Scottish membership of all the major European organisations with the exception of the undemocratic European Union, which in its present form is inimical to Scottish interests.

SDA FISHING POLICY **Executive Summary** Updated 10-06-2009

Fishing has been a key sector of the Scottish economy for many centuries, even for thousands of years. It is therefore a lifeblood political issue that the Scottish Enterprise Party regards with appropriate seriousness. During those centuries the Scottish fishing industry harvested the seas while maintaining healthy fish stocks in balance with the rate of exploitation. In 1970 this all changed with the advent of control from Brussels, a move that resulted in an economic, environmental, ecological, social and cultural disaster.

The direct results for Scotland have included almost 100,000 job losses in the marine and downstream sectors of the industry, and an annual loss of wealth creation of the order of £1,500 million every single year. The fleet of offshore boats has been reduced by two thirds. In the pelagic sector alone, where in earlier years 1,000 herring boats employed 10,000 seamen, the present fleet consists of three dozen large mid-water boats crewed by 360 men. The larger demersal white fish fleet has been even harder hit by the EU intervention.

The **SDA** cannot conceive of any calculable benefits to Scotland of EU membership that could possibly compensate for this haemorrhage of Scotland's economic wealth. The appalling figures of lost value creation and the loss of jobs from the Scottish employment market are nothing less than a national disaster – brought about for no better reason than the crazed EU ideology of "sharing the common resource" with other EU member countries.

What the figures cannot reveal is the amount of personal tragedy and communal disruption that lie behind them: bankruptcies, the uprooting of individuals and families, the destruction of thriving communities with centuries-old cultural traditions and communal lives. Major harbours, like Lossiemouth, that were the focus of social and economic life twelve months in the year, are now marinas for a handful of yachts. One can imagine the reaction if Brussels had reduced the Spanish or French fishing fleets by almost two thirds simply to make way for incomers. And fishing is by no means as important to those countries as it is to Scotland.

The **Scottish Democratic Alliance** therefore has a number of minimum demands on the reform of the fishing industry, while recognising that many of the detailed measures will require close consultation with the fishing community itself. Some of these proposed measures could be implemented under the EU common fisheries policy as currently administered. However, we see no genuine prospects of success in this direction, since other governments would certainly veto any such moves that acted against their interests. If an independent Scotland were to remain inside the EU, then CFP problems would continue to bedevil the industry. And so most or all of these measures will have to await Scotland's independence before they can be enacted.

1. With the exception of distant-water vessels not fishing the waters of EU members, there is no justification whatsoever for any member country retaining a fishing fleet with a catching capacity larger than can be maintained by the sustainable resources of its own national waters. Any excess is merely a means of preying on the livelihoods of other peoples. A country's catching capacity must also be related to the length of its coastline, which has a bearing on the number of communities dependent on fishing. The present EU aggregate capacity is grossly out of balance in both these respects, with Spain's long-distance fleet as the principal beneficiary.

2. One overriding and absolutely non-negotiable principle is that local fishing interests must have priority of access to marine resources, with outsiders being admitted only where resources surplus to local catching capacity are available, and when the local fishers agree.

3. There must be decentralisation to national and regional fishing councils, which must be responsible only to the national authorities whose waters they cover. Fishing in Scotland's national waters must be regulated only in agreement with the governments of immediately contiguous states. There can be no question of any further centralized administration from Brussels.

4. No state claims to "own" migratory species, but it has a right to the exclusive exploitation of such species within its sovereign territory, with due regard to the rights of neighbouring states. This principle must be entrenched in European and international law for migratory marine species, like all other resources on land and sea.

5. Management must be exclusively in the hands of states with fishing industries. Landlocked states with no access to the sea must be excluded from this process, thereby departing from the present monolithic EU structure. Management should be under the oversight of joint fishery sector / government groups. The industry must have a full say in all decisions.

6. Since no treaty empowers the European Union to reduce employment in one member country in order to benefit employment in another, the systematic reduction of the Scottish fishing industry must be not only halted, but reversed. The goal must be a planned restoration to its previous status as regards catching capacity and employment prospects, without regard to integrationist ideology.

7. All direct industrial fishing must cease. Fish should be caught only for human consumption and only that part of landings unsuitable for or unacceptable to the market may be reduced to meal and oil.

8. The 'designated ports' rule that prohibits Scots fishers from landing at smaller ports, must be scrapped, and small fishing harbours encouraged to develop local fish businesses.

9. Scottish fishers and government acting together should explore ways of replacing the quota system with one based on fishing effort, as the Faeroe Isles have done. This would operate under a TAC (total allowable catch) limit for each species set by the Scottish government in full consultation with the fishing sector. The persons, companies and banks presently holding quota entitlement would be allocated equivalent fishing rights, but ultimately the goal should be to restrict fishing access to active fishers. These issues should be fully debated at meetings with representatives of fishermen, fish merchants, coastal communities, local and national government and the scientific community.

The **SDA** recognises that the situation is extremely complex, and that some Scots fishers have gained from the present setup. Their interests have to be protected just as much as those of the considerably more numerous losers. The transition to a more economically and ecologically sustainable and socially just management system in an independent Scotland will not be completed overnight, but a start must be made. Fishing must be in the hands of people who are personally involved and personally motivated to take the strategic, long-term view of the protection of their livelihood, and that of their children. It is high time for Scotland to take the initiative towards that end.

For further information of the Scottish Democratic Alliance's more detailed analysis of the fisheries, contact

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Extract from
"The Longliner" Issue 4

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By joining the EU and adopting the Common Fisheries Policy, Iceland would lose control of one of its most important natural resources. As a result, legislative powers over Iceland's fisheries jurisdiction would shift from the Icelandic parliament to the European Union.

If a member state, the EU would negotiate on Iceland's behalf on management and fishing rights for straddling stocks.

Around 30% of the Icelandic fishing industry's income comes from harvesting these stocks. It has repeatedly proved vital for Iceland to be in control of its own interests regarding straddling stocks as well as various issues on Law of the Sea.

History tells us that permanent exemptions from the CFP are not an option. Despite the best of efforts during negotiations in 1994, Norway could not even get exemptions from rules that would have forced its fishermen to discard fish.

The Icelandic government has put special emphasis on the management of resources being in the hands of those states closest to the resource and who have a direct interest in the responsible use of the resource. A clear right to use of resources is an incentive for sustainable use and preservation of ocean health and resources.

Iceland's economy is heavily reliant upon the fishing industry, currently accountable for more than one third of the country's exported goods value. Operated with the objectives of profitability and sustainability, the fishing industry does not see why Iceland should join the EU and adopt a fisheries policy that has proved such a failure