



Shellfish
Association of Great Britain



Marine Environmental Legislation Newsletter

Delivered on behalf of Seafish by SAGB

Update November 2017

Consultations

Scotland – Review of Inshore Mackerel Fishery Trial

Since 2014 Scotland has been conducting a trial which has expanded the inshore mackerel fisheries. This was in order to provide more opportunities for inshore fishermen, to try to recruit new entrants to the industry and to examine the potential for more low impact fisheries whilst maximising the benefit to local communities.

The four year trial is almost complete and Scottish Government is seeking views on the impacts of the trial and the future direction of the inshore mackerel industry.

Responses are required by 13th December, and the consultation can be found here;

https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/inshore-mackerel-fishery-trial/user_uploads/sct1017230678-1_marine_mackerel_p3-1.pdf

EU – Consultation on the Environment and Pesticides

This consultation has been launched as part of the better regulation agenda and looks at the effect of pesticides and pesticide residues on human and animal health and the environment. These chemicals have implications for the aquatic environment.

The consultation is open for public comment via an online questionnaire and closes on 12th February 2018.

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EU – Consultation on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment

The EU has launched a consultation which runs until 21st February 2018. This consultation is to inform the EU's strategic approach on the effect of pharmaceuticals on the environment, including the water environment. It can be found here;

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-pharmaceuticals-environment_en

News

EU – Import of Far Eastern Shrimp and the Environment

A question was put to the Commission this month on the importation of large quantities of shrimp which are being farmed in the far east. The question raised points about the damage caused to the environment and in particular the destruction of mangrove swamps in order to provide areas for the cultivation of shrimp for export. It asked whether these destructive practices, which cause shrimp to be produced and exported to Europe at artificially low prices, should be subject to some environmental standard by the EU.

The answer is available and if you would like to see the text, please email me at s_horsfall@seafish.co.uk

EU – Project Primefish

The EU is funding a project to explore the European fish market from production to consumption. The EU area is the largest fish market in the world but its own fisheries and aquaculture industries are losing market share to competition from outside the Union. The consumption is increasing from inside the EU but imports are accounting for much of this and are now taking 64% of the market.

Project Primefish is going to try and discover the reasons behind this and why the industry is unable to meet the rising demand. The details of the project can be found here;

http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/193349_en.html

EU Parliament – Research Paper on Recreational and Semi-Subsistence Fishing

A research paper requested by the EU parliament has been published. This study assesses the value and impact on fish stocks of marine recreational and semi-subsistence fisheries in Europe. Total economic impact of marine recreational fishing amounts to 10.5 billion euro, supporting almost 100,000 jobs. The impact varies

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between fish stocks, representing 2-72% of total catch. The paper says that marine recreational fisheries are biologically and economically important, so should be included in stock assessment to ensure sustainability, and considered a sector for development alongside commercial fisheries and aquaculture under the Common Fisheries Policy. T

The paper can be found here;

<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/b9765e11-c5c9-11e7-9b01-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF>

EU – New Aquatic Animal Health Legislation

DG Mare has announced that delegated and implementing acts transposing a complete set of current aquatic animal health legislation will be developed in 2018. Some of the rules will be adopted in 2018, while the others (vast majority), will be adopted by April 2019. These rules include a list of aquatic animal diseases relevant for the EU intervention, any specific surveillance, eradication and disease free states for certain animal diseases, all requirements for the registration and approval of aquaculture establishments (including in particular better biosecurity and surveillance in the establishments), animal health requirements for movements in the EU of aquatic animals and products of aquatic animal origin, their entry into the EU, as well as disease prevention and control measures in case of disease outbreaks.

Stakeholders will be fully involved in the process via consultation and the EU has specifically asked the shellfish industry to address the issue of biosecurity in the sector, so the Aquaculture Advisory Council will be working on this issue throughout. More information to follow when available.

England – Announcement on New Environmental Body

The government in England has announced it will consult on proposals for a new environmental body which will be independent and hold the government to account on environmental standards. Currently, the UK is held to account on environmental standards by the EU but following Brexit this will no longer apply and this could lead to standards which have been in place being eroded. The consultation on the new body is expected in early 2018 and more information can be found here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-environmental-protections-to-deliver-a-green-brex>

EU – Changes to the EURL for Molluscs following Brexit

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In the summary report of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed held in Brussels on 18 October 2017 it was reported that due to UK's notification in accordance with Article 50 of the Treaty on the EU, the current EU Reference Laboratory (EURL) for monitoring viral and bacteriological contamination of bivalve molluscs which is located in the UK will be discontinued on 31 December 2018. The activities of the UK EURL will be taken over by the EURL for the analysis and testing of zoonoses (salmonella), the EURL for Escherichia coli, including Verotoxigenic E. coli (VTEC) and the EURL for foodborne viruses, as regards the analytical tests for salmonella, E. coli and viruses respectively. The EURL for the monitoring of marine biotoxins will take over the activities related to the classification and monitoring of production areas for bivalve molluscs. There is great concern in the industry in the EU that this fragmentation will cause problems.