



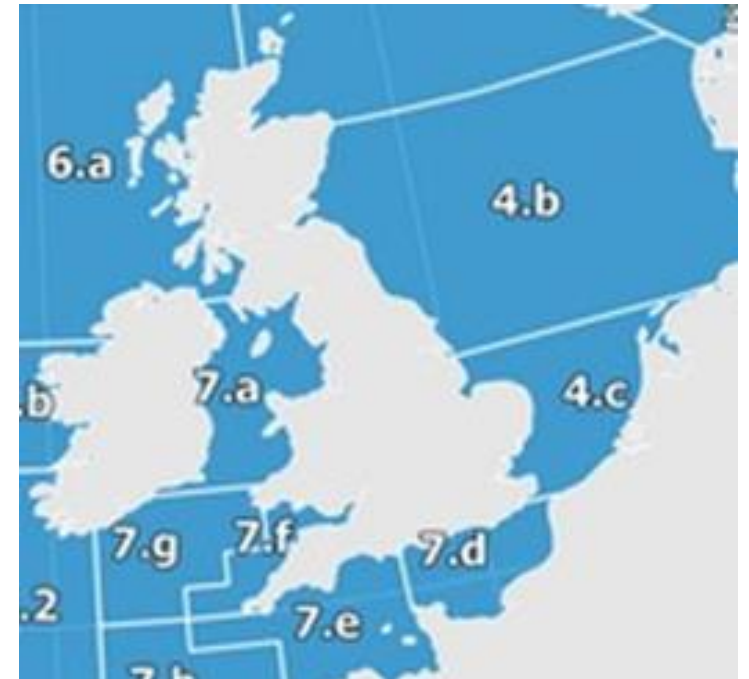
Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel Mixed Flatfish FMP Engagement

Fisheries Management and Innovation  
Group – 17/01/2022

# FMP Scope

- Defra-led FMP being developed by the EU negotiations and policy team.
- Covers ICES areas 4b, 4c and 7d. This FMP only applies to stock in English waters.
- The stocks within scope of the FMP are plaice, common sole, turbot, brill, lemon sole, witch, dab, flounder and Atlantic halibut (quota and non-quota).
- Timeline currently for this FMP takes us to publication in early 2024.



# Engagement Method

- Initially a list of stakeholders and existing networks and forums was gathered. However, we have recognised from the beginning that this list would evolve over time when new opportunities present themselves.
- We have been using existing forums that we have, and we have been holding bespoke meetings and/or emails when we receive new data/information to gather feedback on any FMP developments.
- This is outside the scope of a working group.
- As we are Defra's EU negotiations team, we led on the TAC setting for some stocks included in the plan.

# Engagement Method

- Less resource pressure for stakeholders. As there can be high resource demand onto stakeholders from government and we wish to reduce this as much as possible
- When we receive new data/information we arrange meetings to discuss and receive feedback from stakeholders.
- Stakeholder engagement will take place throughout the development of the FMP to inform of any updates to the FMP and to collect feedback.

# Engagement so far and going forward

- We held initial engagement meetings through these existing forums to gain initial views/concerns during August and September 2022 for the stocks within the FMP scope. For example, the North Sea Advisory Group, who we engaged with for negotiations.
- Continue with approach we have been taking and the engagement will be to inform and collate feedback throughout this drafting period.
- Going forward throughout this drafting period we will be using the Finfish Industry Advisory Group (FIAG) to test ideas and review sections of the FMP.
- FIAG is a good opportunity for us to use as it has membership from a variety of areas:
  - Fishermen's Associations
  - Producer Organisations
  - Processors
  - Researchers
  - Regulators
- We will also hold meetings with stakeholders who do not hold membership with FIAG.
- We are currently reviewing our engagement opportunities for 2023 and the list of engagement remains fluid as we develop and learn from our own engagement so far and other FMPs.

# Brief Update on Development

- Work starting up again after break due to EU negotiations.
- So far we have conducted desktop research and initial engagement to gain views and concerns for the stocks and fisheries in the plan. Used this, to inform our first set of evidence questions.
- Currently reviewing the environmental evidence that we received during our break.
- Will be receiving evidence and data from MMO, Cefas and Seafish this month.
- Currently developing draft vision and goals, which will be tested during engagement once drafted.

# Brief Update on Development

- We have heard the concerns around sole in both 4c and 7d. We recognise the importance around developing some actions to address this in the FMP.
- Through the Specialised Committee on Fisheries with the EU we are currently considering lemon sole, witch, turbot and brill. Where we have an ambition to split into single TACs instead of being jointly managed and expanding the quota area to match the ICES advice area.
- Recognise that we need to look into our to address data gaps for halibut
- Dab's high discard rates have been raised as a concern and we considering if any measures are required.
- Currently considering any appropriate actions needed for 7d plaice as concerns have been raised on the discard rates in this stock as well.



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