



What is the draft Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS)?

- It sets the direction of fisheries management in the UK. Required by the Fisheries Act 2020, it is a key part of the framework that is replacing the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).
- The JFS sets out the high-level policies or 'rules' that will guide fisheries management over the next 6 years.
- The JFS has been developed jointly by all four Fisheries Administrations in the UK, and sets out how the 8 objectives [see page 3] in the Fisheries Act will be achieved to deliver sustainable fisheries – environmentally, economically, and socially.
- Our vision – the JFS sets out the policies the UK Fisheries Authorities will follow to achieve our ambition to deliver world class, sustainable management of our sea fisheries and marine aquaculture across the UK, and to play our part in supporting delivery of this globally.
- We aim to deliver this ambition through three main areas:
 - Protecting and, where necessary, recovering our fish stocks.
 - Reducing the effects of fishing on the marine and coastal environment.
 - Supporting a modern, resilient, and environmentally responsible fishing industry
- The JFS applies to the seafood sector in the UK including catching (commercial and recreational sea fishing), marine aquaculture, processing and marketing.

Timeline

- Public consultation is now open until 12th April seeking your views on the draft JFS. Responses can be made through Citizen Space (<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/sustainability-devolution-and-legislation-team/jfs>) or offline forms can be requested.
- Parliamentary scrutiny of the JFS also lasts until 12th April (25th March in Northern Ireland).
- Defra are planning a series of regional visits during March to talk to you about the JFS.
- The final JFS will be published in November 2022.
- We will be starting work on FMPs this year. All FMPs will be published by 2025 with some being published each year.



What will the JFS mean in practice?

- **Working together with industry to achieve all the fisheries objectives** – working more collaboratively to develop practical solutions to the challenging issues facing fisheries, and the marine environment.
- **Stressing the important role played by the fishing industry in supporting food security**, and the need to ensure a thriving industry delivering high quality, sustainable UK seafood into the future.
- **Real commitment to sustainable fishing and an ecosystem-based approach to management** - rebuilding stocks over time and protecting the ecosystem on which all fisheries rely.
- **Resources and evidence will be focused on the Fisheries Management Plans** and issues they raise – clearer, more coherent management and action plans.
- **Commitment to develop FMPs in partnership with industry.**
- **Providing funding for new equipment, skills and training, and the promotion of seafood products.** Future funding schemes will be wrapped around the delivery of the JFS.
- Policies include:
 - Developing and strengthening arrangements for co-management of our fisheries.
 - Applying an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, and considering measures such as protecting key forage species, spawning areas and blue carbon habitats to ensure healthy stocks and a healthy marine environment.
 - FMPs that will set out policies and measures, tailored to specific fisheries, to manage fishing activity to restore and/or maintain fish stocks to sustainable levels, working in partnership with fishers and other stakeholders.
 - Applying the fisheries objectives to our fisheries consultations, including seeking to increase the overall number of stocks fished at Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) or equivalent, and seeking to establish Total Allowable Catches (TAC) sharing underpinned by zonal attachment.
 - Prioritising the development of management approaches for Non-Quota Stocks (NQS).
 - Exploring the use of technologies such as vessel monitoring systems and Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM).
 - Working together with industry to develop a range of management measures to support fishers, to avoid unwanted catches of quota species and to reduce discarding of fish.
 - Developing a UK Bycatch Mitigation Initiative that will set out actions to reduce bycatch of sensitive species.
 - Working with sea users to identify and address issues of displacement, and ensuring Marine Plans include policies that consider fisheries.
 - Working with industry to seek innovative solutions to contribute to climate change/net zero carbon targets, including engine upgrades, alternative fuels, gear choices, green technology, and approaches to reducing seabed abrasion.
 - Working with the seafood sector to encourage entry to the industry at all stages of career, with certifiable training, succession planning and standards to support an attractive career path.
 - Seeking to build the resilience of the supply chain by encouraging collaboration and innovation, highlighting the benefits of eating domestic seafood, and encouraging transparency and traceability to market distinctive fisheries and their products.
 - Promoting locally sourced seafood, from both wild-capture and aquaculture, as a healthy and sustainable protein source.

Acronyms

FMPs – Fisheries Management Plans
MSY- Maximum Sustainable Yield
NQS - Non-Quota Stocks

REM – Remote Electronic Monitoring
TAC – Total Allowable Catches

The fisheries objectives (Fisheries Act 2020)

(1) The ‘sustainability objective’ is that:

- (a) fish and aquaculture activities are—
 - (i) environmentally sustainable in the long term, and (ii) managed so as to achieve economic, social and employment benefits and contribute to the availability of food supplies, and
- (b) the fishing capacity of fleets is such that fleets are economically viable but do not overexploit marine stocks.

(2) The ‘precautionary objective’ is that—

- (a) the precautionary approach to fisheries management is applied, and
- (b) exploitation of marine stocks restores and maintains populations of harvested species above biomass levels capable of producing Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY).

(3) The ‘ecosystem objective’ is that—

- (a) fish and aquaculture activities are managed using an ecosystem-based approach so as to ensure that any negative impacts on marine ecosystems are minimised and, where possible, reversed, and
- (b) incidental catches of sensitive species are minimised and, where possible, eliminated.

(4) The ‘scientific evidence objective’ is that—

- (a) scientific data relevant to the management of fish and aquaculture activities is collected,
- (b) where appropriate, the fisheries policy authorities work together on the collection of, and share, such scientific data, and
- (c) the management of fish and aquaculture activities is based on the best available scientific advice.

(5) The ‘bycatch objective’ is that—

- (a) the catching of fish that are below minimum conservation reference size, and other unwanted bycatch, is avoided or reduced,
- (b) catches are recorded and accounted for, and
- (c) bycatch that is fish is landed, but only where this is appropriate and (in particular) does not create an incentive to catch fish that are below minimum conservation reference size.

(6) The ‘equal access objective’ is that the access of UK fishing boats to any area within British fishery limits is not affected by—

- (a) the location of the fishing boat’s home port, or
- (b) any other connection of the fishing boat, or any of its owners, to any place in the United Kingdom.

(7) The ‘national benefit objective’ is that fishing activities of UK fishing boats bring social or economic benefits to the United Kingdom or any part of the United Kingdom.

(8) The ‘climate change objective’ is that—

- (a) the adverse effect of fish and aquaculture activities on climate change is minimised, and
- (b) fish and aquaculture activities adapt to climate change.