

Agenda Item B5

Success Criteria 2, 4 & 6

By: Assistant Chief IFCO

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority –
20 May 2014

Subject: **Common Fisheries Policy Reform**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To discuss the forthcoming implementation of CFP reform

Defra are currently running a consultation of the 'Implementation of the pelagic landing obligation in England' (Appendix 1). The landing obligation is a ban on discarding fish which are subject to catch limits, so that all catches must be brought ashore, except where they are subject to specific exemptions. This means that quotas will now control what is caught at sea, rather than what is landed onshore. This landing obligation is being conducted in a phased approach with pelagic species being first, with the obligation being in place for all quota species by 1st January 2019.

A vessel is covered by the pelagic landing obligation from 1 January 2015 if it is targeting any pelagic species, including quota and non quota species, and using any of the following pelagic gears:

- Towed nets with a mesh size range <70mm;
- Purse seines and ring nets;
- Fixed nets and drift nets; or
- Hand lines, trolling lines and drifting lines.

Vessels which target non quota pelagic species are covered by the pelagic landing obligation. These vessels will continue to have the choice to land or discard catches of any non-quota pelagic species, but they must land any by-catch of quota species.

Those vessels which alternate between pelagic and demersal operations will be covered by the pelagic landing obligation when they are deploying pelagic gears.

The landing obligation will not apply to quota pelagic species caught when using demersal gears.

There will be three rounds of consultation, with this being the first. Officers would suggest that a response to this first stage of consultation would include comments related to:

- Switching of quota – how this would practically be introduced
- Training of KEIFCA officers to enforce new legislation
- Request a meeting with MMO and defra to discuss the impact of 'no discards' on the KEIFCA herring byelaw, the whole byelaw review process, existing KEIFCA minimum size byelaws and the impact on recreational sea angling.
- Facilities to dispose of landed over quota and unwanted fish in ports
- Amount of knowledge and data around current catches vs current landings
- How catch composition which relates to net mesh size will be work alongside the CFP reforms.

The Authority is asked to **DISCUSS** the matter and provide **INSTRUCTION** on how to proceed.