



Agenda item B5

By: Chief IFC Officer
To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – 15 September 2017
Subject: Brexit update
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

To update the Authority as to the process and progress of the UK leaving the EU, and the changes and opportunities this creates for English fisheries and marine environment management.

Recommendation:

For noting only

Introduction

Since the last Brexit update in the May quarterly authority meeting a general election has been held and the new government has published the Queen's speech that contained the following bills (from gov.uk website).

Repeal Bill

This Bill will allow for a smooth and orderly transition as the UK leaves the EU, ensuring that, wherever practical, the same rules and laws apply after exit and therefore maximising certainty for individuals and businesses.

Fisheries Bill

As the UK leaves the EU, the Bill will enable the UK to exercise responsibility for access to fisheries and management of its waters.

Following the Queens speech both negotiations with the EU and development of the fisheries bill has continued, with a significant indication of the Government's approach being the notice of its intention to withdraw from the London Fisheries Convention given on 3 July 2017. Parties are required to give two years notice prior to withdrawal meaning that the UK is scheduled to withdraw from the Convention on 4 July 2019. It is likely that as we progress into the autumn and winter the high-level direction of the UK's new relationship with the EU regarding fisheries will start to emerge, however a very useful background briefing paper has been developed by the Commons Library (Appendix 1).

Future working with the MMO

As the framework of fisheries management is going to change there has been a push from both IFCAs and the MMO to discuss current and future possible working arrangements. An initial meeting was held in London on the 5 June including the Chairmen and Chief Officers from each IFCA as well as senior MMO managers and MMO board members. The meeting discussed a range of future possible conceptual fisheries management structures. Discussions are at a very early stage as any management will need to fit the future UK-EU fisheries framework. Following initial proposals from the meeting on the 5th June the Association of IFCAs held an extraordinary meeting to develop potential ideas further and a second joint meeting is in the process of being planned in October 2017.

Recommendation:

For noting only