

From: Will Wright, Chief Officer

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority – 30 January 2019

Subject: **Brexit update**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

**Summary:** An update on the international and national progress on fisheries matters concerning the UK exit of the EU.

**Recommendations:** Members are asked to **DISCUSS** and **NOTE** the report.

### **Sea Fisheries Bill Update**

The bill has passed through the first and second reading in the house as well as through the committee stage, and is currently at the reporting stage, although the date is yet to be announced as to when this next stage will begin. Progress of the Bill can be easily followed on the [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) with useful links to the debate and evidence supporting the Bill. On the 5 December Cllr Lamb gave evidence to the efra committee that can be seen on: <https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/2088ae0a-ba31-4fa0-b4ee-12d2be570239>



## **Brexit update**

The vote in parliament on the 15th January on the government's EU withdrawal package has led to the rollout of the next stage of the Government's no-deal Brexit plans. In the light of this, the government has produced additional information to the fisheries specific guidance package (15 October – Nov Agenda item B3), and released the 'Partnership pack: preparing for changes at the UK border after a 'no deal' EU Exit'. Defra are also developing specific communications for the fishing industry regarding the need for catch certificates and veterinary certificates for fish and some shellfish exported to Europe. Officers are working closely with Defra and feeding local knowledge into the national planning and implementation process.

At a regional level, KCC have produced a Brexit preparedness paper (13 December) which outlines how KCC is preparing for a number of outcomes to the UK-EU negotiations, including a potential no-deal scenario. The main planning for this focuses on traffic management contingency plans if delays occur at Dover. KEIFCA officers have stressed the perishable nature of the fish that is exported from our district and given feedback into the specific needs of our local fishing industry.

As part of the Brexit implementation process the MMO have been recruiting new staff and KEIFCA were asked whether there was an opportunity to host two new officers in our Ramsgate office. Co-locating officers not only gives the MMO more capability in Kent, but it also provides a potential resource of MMO officers that could accompany KEIFCA officers at sea if KEIFCA patrol vessels were required in the case of a no-deal scenario. To take advantage of this opportunity the layout of the Ramsgate offices has been modified and minor building work has been undertaken to create space for the new officers. In addition, KEIFCA officers have been working with the MMO training team to help train MMO officers in inspections at sea (see Kent vessel report).

### **Recommendations:**

Members are asked to **DISCUSS** and **NOTE** the report