

By: Chief IFCO

To: Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority –
30 November 2020

Subject: EU Exit update

Classification Unrestricted

Summary:

This report provides members with an update on EU Exit preparations related to fisheries

Recommendations:

This report is for **NOTING** and **COMMENT** only.

Introduction

As the 1st January 2021 draws closer, plans are being stepped up for the new UK-EU relationship and preparations are being made on a number of fronts. As at the time of writing, negotiations are still ongoing plans and outcomes can still change. However, a swath of guidance has been given by the government and we are working with all stakeholders to make sure people and business know what to do and expect and quickly feedback any issues if they arise. The Covid 19 pandemic adds an extra factor to consider in any planning, although much of the health and safety measures are now well understood.

KEIFCA helping national fisheries enforcement provision

KEIFCA is working through national maritime coordination groups (JMOCC and NIMEG) as well as with the MMO planning, to feed local knowledge and expertise into strategic and operational planning as well as provide Fisheries Patrol Vessels for patrols before and after the 1st January 2021. Based on previous 'Day 1' operations in 2019 KEIFCA officers will work closely with DEFRA and MMO officers, dialling-in to regular planning and intel meetings and providing our patrol vessels for MMO tasks and patrols. All officers will be working over the period end December/ beginning January to provide presence and support as we move from one regulatory system to another.

New export arrangement for fish being sold to the EU

The MMO have produced a straightforward guide - Getting ready for 1 January 2021 (Support for commercial fishers, merchants and exporters), which outlines the process for transporting and exporting catch or fisheries products to the EU, managing customs and VAT declarations as well as control and enforcement plans.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-published-to-support-commercial-fishers-merchants-and-exporters-from-1-january-2021>

Seafish has also released comprehensive guidance on how to keep exports moving, from avoiding delays at the border and new import border controls, how to export live aquatic animals, and how to package and label your shipments to the right standards.

<https://www.seafish.org/trade-and-regulation/international-trade/exporting-seafood-from-the-uk/>

Officers feedback regularly to DEFRA about EU exit matters and if there are any problems or issues then we can easily feed them back to senior DEFRA officials.

The Fisheries Bill

The Fisheries Bill is continuing its progress through Parliament and is entering the final stages before is ready for Royal Assent and become an Act. The Bill outlines key approaches to the UKs future fisheries policy, with fisheries statements and fisheries management plans seen as important mechanisms for developing and implementing UK and English fisheries policy from 2021 onwards. IFCA's are starting to engage with DEFRA over the development of these documents and it is these documents that will replace CFP and create the new policy structure that IFCA's will work within in the future.

Recommendations:

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