

Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum Keynote Seminar: Fishing and the marine environment

Timing: Morning, 10th November 2010

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET

Agenda subject to change

- 8.45 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
William Bain MP, Shadow Minister for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Fishing and the marine environment – setting the context**
What is the current state of global fish stocks and marine ecosystems and what are the future trends? What is the state of the UK's waters and fish stocks? How does the fishing industry contribute to the UK economy? Is commercial fishing operating within safe ecological limits, and how does this differ across the world? Is there adequate evidence to support policy making to protect the marine environment, and is this evidence being heard? What more needs to be done to protect the marine environment for the future?
Philip MacMullen, Head of Environmental Responsibility, Seafish
Professor Callum Roberts, Marine Conservation Biologist, Environment Department, University of York
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.20 **Modernised management of marine resources**
What more could be done to promote a healthy marine ecosystem? What are the roles of Marine Protected Areas and Marine Conservation Zones as approaches to fisheries management and conservation of biodiversity? Is fish farming a more sustainable option than sea fishing? How does taking an ecosystems approach to conservation compare to trade and marketplace measures? Looking to the future, how should decommissioning of offshore oil and gas infrastructure be carried out without impacting on the marine environment or fishing activity? Do calls to develop the renewable energy potential of the UK put the future of the fishing fleet at risk? What more could be done to develop sustainable energy alongside sustainable fishing?
Mike Park, Executive Chairman, Scottish White Fish Producers Association
Peter Hajjipieris, Chief Technical, Sustainability & External Affairs Officer, Birds Eye Iglo Group
Dr Peter Jones, Senior Lecturer, Department of Geography, University College London
Colin Warwick, National Fisheries Liaison Officer, The Crown Estate
James Marsden, Director Marine, Natural England
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 - 10.50 **Moving forward on marine policy in the UK**
What are the next steps for taking forward the Marine Act and implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive? What are the Government's priorities for fishing and conservation of the marine environment, particularly looking towards reform of the Common Fisheries Policy?
David Dawson, Director, Marine Environment and Fisheries, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.50 - 10.55 **Chairman's closing remarks**
William Bain MP, Shadow Minister for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- 10.55 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Roger Williams MP, Member, Science and Technology Select Committee
- 11.20 - 12.10 **Sustainable seafood as part of a healthy diet**
Are recommendations that a healthy diet should include two portions of fish a week realistic in the light of concerns about sustainability and levels of global fish stocks? Is there enough practical guidance available to consumers on healthy, sustainable and ethical seafood? Is there a role for further labelling of fish and seafood, to include information on provenance and sustainability? How would eating different types of fish help to protect marine ecosystems? Given that 50% of fish consumed in the UK is eaten outside the home, how could catering providers and distributors be involved in providing more consumer information and promoting a sustainable fishing industry?
Rupert Howes, Chief Executive, Marine Stewardship Council
Paul Willgoss, Head of Technology, Food Division, Marks & Spencer
Adam Swan, Commercial Director, Fish and Seafood, Brake Group
Dr Eric Brunner, Reader in Epidemiology & Public Health, University College London
Mette Kahlin, Advocacy Advisor, Which?
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.10 - 12.55 **Governance and sustainability – towards a new politics of the sea**
Looking towards the future of the Common Fisheries Policy, what should be the priorities for maintaining an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable fishing industry? How might proposals for International Transferable Rights (ITRs) affect the UK? Is there a divergence between European policy, the demands of consumers, and the needs of UK fishermen and coastal communities? Is there a need for a more decentralised approach to European fishing policy? What are the challenges and benefits associated with different methods of limiting catch? Are UK quotas appropriate, and are EU conservation measures being compromised by the actions of countries outside the EU? Would greater monitoring, for example using CCTV, help to reduce discards and improve profitability? How does Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) compromise the sustainable management of fish stocks?
Bertie Armstrong, Chief Executive Officer, Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Sally Bailey, Head of Fisheries and Seafood, WWF-UK
Stephen Parry, Seafood Group, Food and Drink Federation
Jerry Percy, Committee Member, New Under Ten Fishermen's Association
Franz Lamplmair, Advisor for Fisheries Policy, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs & Fisheries, European Commission
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's closing remarks and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks**
Roger Williams MP, Member, Science and Technology Select Committee
Michael Ryan, Senior Producer, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum