



## PREFACE

**A new Fisheries Act and Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) are in place.** An opportunity now exists to step away from the justified frustration at the outcome of the TCA, and to approach the policy and political sphere – and our members – with a concrete, five-year plan to build, and showcase, the resilience and proactive approach of the fishing industry.

**As the CFPO, our day-to-day operation in responding to the members needs won't change.** But now alongside this, we must ensure that our position ahead of the 2026 expiration date of the current agreement, as it pertains to fisheries, reflects our core value of a positive, sustainable, profitable and diverse fishing industry that is at the very heart of coastal communities.

**This statement of our policies and aims will be subject to formal yearly updates.** In a clear Action Plan, it will set out how the CFPO intends to respond to the development of fisheries management under the Fisheries Act, how it will identify opportunities under the marginal quota uplift secured under the TCA, how it will overcome the barriers and challenges that the Trade Agreement has left in place, or created, and how the PO will continue to support and promote sustainable Cornish fish, and our fishing businesses, in new ways.

**The next five years is a crucial period for UK fishing.** Many of the actions included here are inherent to how the CFPO operates, and will continue to operate well beyond 2026. Drawn together in this way, and with yearly updates, this statement simply and clearly sets out how we will hold ourselves and government actors to account during this initial period of the TCA for fisheries. Actions will adapt and evolve in line with policy and PO priorities.

Across the five years of this Action Plan our central demands to the UK Government remain the same as before the TCA:

- 1. Exclusive access for UK fishing within the UK Territorial waters (0-12nm limit). No ongoing access within this zone for EU flagged vessels.**
- 2. Fishing opportunities for UK fishermen that are based on a system of Zonal Attachment.**
- 3. Full and absolute control of UK EEZ (out to 200nm limit or median line where applicable).**

These are the pillars of ambition that will drive our engagement through to 2026.

## ACTION PLAN: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our guiding principles will remain the same across the next five years. The CFPO will commit to:

- Fully interpreting and **understanding legislative, policy and trade developments** that affect members' interests – and supply relevant and accessible information, or digests, in a timely manner. **In all actions, be conscious of implications as related to the terms of the Trade Agreement.**
- Any and all actions possible to support **better fisheries management**: that respects and protects the diversity of the Cornish fleet, from small to large vessels, mobile and static gear, and individual-owned through to corporate fishing businesses.
- Working to continually improve **marketing and prominence of Cornish fish and shellfish**, and looking for new ways to do this. Raising awareness of the diverse range and sustainable provenance of the fish and shellfish landed by our members, to stimulate demand and consumption

- Respecting and maintaining the PO's **strong roots in our diverse inshore fishing fleets and communities**, ensuring these remain core to the ethos and operation of the CFPO.
- Supporting **access to fishing opportunities**: always emphasising the importance of fishing and related businesses to our local communities.
- Supporting **data collection and active involvement in science** to inform how our fisheries are managed.
- Continuing to **voice the views of our membership** to policy-makers, the media, political figures and others, never shying away from highlighting where specific actions or promises were broken, but also working to forge new relationships and generate a pathway to the deal that the industry deserves in 2026.

## **ACTION AGENDA: YEAR ONE – 2021**

2021 is a key year: the industry must respond to the deal, continue to respond to the impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and work to 'shade in the detail' of the framework Fisheries Act to ensure that industry voices are central to the development of specific management tools across the country, through genuine co-management.

In 2021, the CFPO will:

- **Fully digest and interpret the implications of the Trade Agreement for our membership** – and communicate this clearly, both internally – to members – and externally, across all of our communications channels.
- **Identify the best way forward under the Trade Agreement** – finding ways to maximise value wherever possible.
  - Monitor the establishment of the '**Specialised Fisheries Committee**' provided for within the Agreement, and understand how best to engage in this important new stakeholder forum.
- **Remain on the front-foot with key consultations run by Government in the areas of quota distribution and economic link conditions** – follow-up CFPO submissions with advocacy, coordinating with national bodies, such as the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, where appropriate to ensure that policy outcomes linked to the consultations reflect the needs of the industry under the new Trade Agreement.
  - Work to secure **equitable access** to quota opportunities for all working fishermen.
- **Continue to track all other aspects of the development and implementation of Fisheries Act-relevant policies** – including through ongoing liaison with DEFRA and MPs, sharing the CFPO position on national fisheries management proactively wherever possible.
  - We will be a voice for **co-management** of UK fisheries, engaging proactively with the development of Fisheries Management Plans.
  - We will work to ensure **sustainable management of non-TAC** species.
- **Continue to find ways to promote Cornish seafood in a range of modern, dynamic ways** – through the Seafood Cornwall initiative delivering in-person and online engagement, recipe and product development, and securing additional funding to continue this work well into the future.
  - Explore avenues for Seafood Cornwall to engage with **high-profile local and national events**, such as the G7 meeting – being hosted in Cornwall in June 2021.
  - Ensure promotion and increasing demand of domestically caught and landed seafood at a national level is a priority for Government and DEFRA.
  - Identify actions to **protect existing export markets** and **develop new markets, at home and abroad**.
- **Continue to be a national leader in promoting fishing careers** – through our dedicated Cornish fishing apprenticeship scheme.
  - Build on the recently established CFPO Youth Board to ensure the voice of the next generation of fishermen have a platform through which to share their ambitions, concerns and ideas.
- **Engage with Cornwall Council** – building on engagement in 2020, to highlight the value of the fishing industry to Cornwall and its coastal communities, and advocate for greater recognition and understanding of this from the Council, including the development of a Cornwall-specific fishing strategy for the seafood industry (along the whole supply chain) in Cornwall.

- **Keep holding political figures, managers and others to account** – making sure we get answers to members' questions, and advocating for the Cornish fishing industry through ongoing dialogue with the authorities.
  - Including through our Fathom podcast, where we will respond rapidly with new episode content to any developments, of any kind, that affect fishing in Cornwall.
- **Always have its doors open to members** – any question or concern, the team will be available to support you.

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Paul Trebilcock, CEO, CFPO  
*February 2021*