



OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT UK GOVERNMENT

Home to one of the most diverse, sustainable fleets in Europe, Cornwall lands over fifty different species every year – a first sale value of £50 million.

Fishing remains the lifeblood of our coastal communities. It serves as a vital source of this nation's food security, is intrinsically linked to tourism and hospitality and makes up one of the most significant industries in the county.

KNOW THIS..

20,000 tonnes of seafood landed in Cornwall in 2022 - that equates to 40 million protein portions

For every fisherman at sea in Cornish waters there are 15 more jobs on shore

The fishing and seafood sector in Cornwall employs around 8,000 people

The sector contributes £174 million pounds to Cornwall's total GVA

Cornwall is home to the most economically significant fishing fleet in England



The next UK government has the power to ensure the longevity of our fishing fleet and seafood sector. They can do so by following our five point plan below.

FIVE-POINT PLAN FOR FISHING

1 Exclusive access to the 6-12 mile limit

The 2020 TCA Brexit negotiations failed the fishing sector. There must be recognition of this unfinished business. The Cornish fishing industry requires progress towards access arrangements and quota shares more consistent with the UK's status as an independent coastal state.

2 Co-operation between marine and fisheries managers, scientists & the fishing sector

Co-design and co-management of marine and fisheries resources has been demonstrated to be the only effective way to develop and apply sustainable ways of fishing – in other words, co-management. Top-down blundering (e.g. Highly Protected Marine Areas policy and the Marine and Coastguard Agency medical certificates) must be avoided.

3 Formal recognition of the fishing and seafood industry as part of national food security

With ever increasing demands on the marine space to achieve net zero, as well as nature recovery, the fishing industry must be equally recognised as a critical sector in sustaining national food security. A request to become a statutory consultee in all areas of marine planning would be a welcome start towards ensuring key fishing grounds are safeguarded.

4 Fleet diversity acknowledged as an important component of sustainability

Recognition of the importance of both inshore and offshore vessels in providing the social, economic and environmental sustainability as recognised in the UK Fisheries Act.

5 £100m national fisheries fund

Public funding is critical to evolve the sector. It will enable the development of necessary; science and data sets to underpin sustainable fisheries, training and skills opportunities for our current and future crew and skippers, and harbour, market and processing infrastructure to enhance the supply chain. As set out in the Cornish Fishing Strategy, these are the key areas of focus to sustain the fishing and seafood sector.

The Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation (CFPO) is a membership body representing the diverse and sustainable fishing fleet across Cornwall and further afield. Providing advice, advocacy and support for over 170 vessels, inshore and offshore, the CFPO has a proud tradition of being the voice for large and small-scale fishing in the South West.

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*Pg 2 2022. Seafish Fleet Enquiry Tool

*Pg 1- 2 2024. Value of Seafood to Cornwall Report: <https://cfpo.org.uk/true-value-of-seafood-report/>

