

**NORTH EAST SCOTLAND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP –  
22 JUNE 2018**

**BULLETIN REPORT: GOVERNING UK FISHERIES AFTER BREXIT – LESSONS  
FROM ICELAND, NORWAY AND THE FAROE ISLANDS**

**1 Recommendation**

**The Group is recommended to:**

**1.1 Note the content of this Bulletin Report.**

**2 Discussion**

2.1 The Economic and Social Research Council set up the UK in a Changing Europe programme in 2015. As part of this work the University of the West of Scotland published the above report on fisheries governance in late April 2018 to help inform policy makers in the UK. The report is based on an analysis of the fishing industry within the UK and its devolved administrations along with an assessment of how independent coastal states outside the EU - Iceland, Norway and the Faroe Islands - regulate their fisheries. The report goes on to make fifteen policy recommendations and is available at <http://ukandeu.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Governing-UK-fisheries-after-Brexit-Lessons-from-iceland-Norway-and-the-Faroe-Islands.pdf>

2.2 Key recommendations include:

- Enshrining key principles of fisheries management in law - for example incorporating fisheries management into a wider environmental strategy; ensuring the take up and utilisation of quotas in order to minimise speculative quota buying or holding; ensuring that there is a minimum level of adherence to these principles across the devolved and UK jurisdictions, and creating a common framework for fisheries management between the UK and devolved governments
- The creation of an effective and enduring institutional structure comprising the government ministry/department, scientific institute and a directorate which conducts and oversees the day-to-day management of UK fisheries. Such arrangements would need to 'appreciate the contours' of devolution in the UK when considering where such structures should be located.
- Scientific advice should be enshrined in law to ensure that sustainability of fish stocks is a key consideration in the decision-making process.
- That decision-making on day-to-day management, future reforms and negotiations with other coastal states should include industry and other relevant stakeholders in both a consultative and advisory role in order to ensure transparency and the fostering of a culture of trust, cooperation and consensus.

- Fisheries policy in a post-Brexit UK should ensure that any economic benefits accruing from leaving the CFP should also benefit fishing-dependent communities. A detailed assessment of how these communities would be affected by Brexit and proposed changes to fisheries management ahead of the UK becoming an independent coastal state ought to be undertaken to initiate effective policy responses.

2.3 Running to just nineteen pages, the report is a succinct, informative and timely source of information on future fisheries management post-Brexit.

### **3 Scheme of Governance**

North East Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership is able to consider this item in terms of its remit to provide a North East Scotland focus to enable issues and concerns across the fisheries and related sectors to be addressed. This includes strengthening economic development links between fisheries science, catching and processing sectors and the wider seafood industry, contributing to regional and local priorities for the fisheries sector, improving links between marine environment and biodiversity and contributing to policy development and consultations.

### **4 Implications and Risk**

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because there are no differential equalities impacts arising from this bulletin.
- 4.2 There are no staffing and financial implications for the council arising from this report.
- 4.3 No risks arising from this report have been identified for the council at Corporate Level
- 4.4 No issues have been identified in relation to the Town Centre First Principle

**Stephen Archer, Director of Infrastructure Services**

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