



HM Government

BREXIT

31 OCTOBER



FISHERMEN

Check what you need to do to prepare for Brexit

Find out more at [gov.uk/brexit-fisheries](https://www.gov.uk/brexit-fisheries)

Get **ready** for Brexit

Rules

If you have a UK-registered vessel you must continue to comply with the law and the conditions of your licence, including current reporting requirements (e.g. logbooks), the economic link criteria and the discard ban.

Fishing opportunities

The current quota allocations and effort limits will be honoured for the remainder of 2019. Quota for 2020 will be negotiated at the end of 2019.

International swaps for quota and effort will stop when we leave the EU. There will be no cross-year swaps.

Access arrangements

You will not be able to fish outside of UK waters unless an agreement is reached with the EU and/or other coastal States. Non-UK boats will not be able to fish in UK waters, unless an access agreement is in place and they are appropriately licensed.

The right to transit through the waters of another coastal State will continue to apply allowing UK vessels to sail through (but not fish in) EU waters or those of other countries, such as Norway.

After Brexit, you can only land fish into an EU port that is designated under NEAFC regulations. Access to other EU ports will only be allowed in cases of distress or emergency.

You must ensure all forms of fishing gear in non-UK waters (including static gear) are lashed and stowed by 23.00 on 31 October. Any fishing activity outside of UK waters will be considered Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU).

Licensing arrangements

The MMO and Devolved Administrations will vary licences to restrict UK fishing vessels to fishing in UK waters only. This will take effect from the day we leave the EU.

If an agreement on access is reached, UK vessels will need a licence to fish in other countries' waters. This will be issued by the newly established Single Issuing Authority (SIA), set up by the UK Fisheries Authorities. The SIA will also license foreign vessels to fish in UK waters, if access is agreed.

Fishers in the over 12m fleet must ensure their vessel has an IMO number to fish outside of UK waters. IMO numbers need to be sent to the SIA at UKSIA@marinemanagement.org.uk along with your Port Letter and Number (PLN) and Registry of Shipping and Seamen (RSS) number.

Landing fish into the EU

The majority of fish and fish products (including fresh and processed fish) landed into the EU will need a catch certificate. Landing documents will also need to be completed prior to landing in EU ports. You can create UK catch certificates using the Fish Exports Service at gov.uk/brexit-export-fish.

Fresh fish landings from vessels which are not approved establishments (i.e. vessels which don't carry out processing/freezing) will not need an Export Health Certificate.

You will only be able to land your catch in designated NEAFC ports in the EU. If you are landing in an EU designated port, you'll need to register with the NEAFC's electronic Port State Control system and complete Port State Control forms (PSC1 or PSC2) before landing at <https://www.neafc.org/mcs/psc>. Check with the NEAFC to find out how much notice you need to give. This will vary depending on the country you're landing into and if the fish is fresh or frozen.

Control and enforcement

UK Fisheries Authorities currently monitor, control, and enforce fishing regulations across UK waters – taking robust intelligence-led enforcement action against illegal fishing. This will continue when we leave the EU.

In preparation for Brexit, we have increased our control and enforcement capability and fishers can expect to see a greater presence and deterrence on the water, in the sky and in port.

Fishermen should contact their local Fisheries Authority coastal office if they suspect they have witnessed illegal fishing activity.

Fisheries Funding

All European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) projects approved before 31 December 2020 will be fully funded by the UK government. In addition, the four UK nations will invest an additional £37.2 million of extra funding to boost the fishing, aquaculture and marine sectors over the next 3 years.

Where you can find more information

Go to gov.uk/brexit-fisheries for further guidance on how to prepare for Brexit.

The UK Fisheries Authorities are:

- Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in England
- Marine Scotland
- The Department of Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland
- Welsh Government



Find out more at
gov.uk/brexit-fisheries