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Our ref: FOI2019/00685
27 February 2019

Dear

Request for information: Fisheries White Paper Responses

Thank you for your request for information on 11 January 2019 regarding responses to the Fisheries White Paper consultation. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your request was as follows:

I would like to see copies of the full consultation responses of all of those fishing industry respondents referred to in the summary who expressed concern that the CFP target to achieve MSY for all stocks by 2020 was unachievable and/or who suggested that a more general commitment to work towards achieving MSY would be preferable.

The Government published our vision for UK fisheries in our White Paper: *Sustainable fisheries for future generations*, which was followed by a consultation. The consultation ran for ten weeks and was open to the public.

There were several consultation channels: We received responses through an online portal, email, post and in person through stakeholder visits. Overall we received 34,667 responses, 227 of which were individual. These individual responses came from a wide section of the UK, but the best represented single sector was Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), with 35 responses. The next largest responder groups were the catching sector with 21 organisations, then government bodies and local councils with 10,

and producer organisations (POs) with 9. For more details, please see our *Summary of consultation responses and government response*.¹

Of the responses we received from industry, there were 17 responses who “expressed concern that the CFP target to achieve Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) for all stocks by 2020 was unachievable and/or who suggested that a more general commitment to work towards achieving MSY would be preferable”. The full responses are attached.

MSY was a common theme throughout the consultation responses, picked up by various individuals and stakeholder groups. Through the White Paper and the 25 Year Environment Plan we made clear that our commitment to MSY remains unchanged and as strong as ever. The Fisheries Bill confirms this commitment

Finally, we have also decided to withhold through redaction some of the information under regulation 12(3) read in conjunction with regulations 13(1) and 13(2)(a)(i) of the EIRs, as the information constitutes personal data relating to persons other than you. These regulations provide that personal data relating to other persons is exempt information if disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle as contained in the DPA, which relates to the fair and lawful processing of personal data. Disclosure would not constitute ‘fair’ processing of the personal data because the information relates to members of staff who would not reasonably have expected their names to be made public.

Information disclosed in response to this EIRs request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs and the government’s Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

We attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

We also attach Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Team

InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk

¹ Online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fisheries-white-paper-sustainable-fisheries-for-future-generations>

Annex A

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Annex B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Nick Teall, Head of Information Rights, Area 4A, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF