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TO ALL MEMBERS

31 October 2018

Dear Member,

Having just returned from an extended October break, much of which, to my annoyance, was spent horizontally recovering from an unplanned 'arthroscopic meniscectomy' of the knee, I thought I might struggle to find something to write about in the monthly epistle, however it appears there has in fact been several recent developments worthy of mention.

Last week saw the publication of the Fisheries Bill, the much-anticipated piece of legislation that effectively lays the foundations that provides the UK Government and Devolved Administrations with the necessary powers to manage fisheries within UK waters after Brexit. Having skimmed through the document a few times, I wouldn't recommend adding it to your bedtime reading list. Key points to note are the revocation of the common access and relative stability principles, two things we have been pushing for since the outcome of our hokey-cokey vote, so that's positive. And it would appear we had better get used to the acronyms 'JFS' and 'SSFS'; under the new regime a 'JFS' will be a 'Joint Fisheries Statement' and refers to "*a document in which the (UK) fisheries policy authorities state their policies...*". An 'SSFS' on the other hand will be a 'Secretary of State Fisheries Statement' and refers to "*a document in which the Secretary of State states policies of the Secretary of State...*". I must admit after trying to digest this a third time a very similar acronym beginning with the letter F sprang to mind, but I digress. Basically, it appears that the 'SSFS' will become the UK's equivalent of the CFP's basic regulation which sets high level principles and objectives e.g. sustainable harvesting, fair standards of living etc, while various JFS's will be drawn up to cover everything else e.g. discards policy, management plans etc. Let's just hope the UK's fisheries policy decision making process is more flexible, adaptable and inclusive of industry than what we have experienced under the CFP.

This week started off with the autumn budget – the last before the UK's scheduled departure from the EU, with all the headlines focusing on the Chancellor's proclamation that we had reached the end of austerity (even though the size of the deficit would increase). He also announced that an extra £500 million had been allocated to prepare for what happens if there is no deal with the EU – doesn't seem much when you consider that the EU fleet catches fish worth more than that each year from the UK EEZ alone. And at a meeting with Defra last week in London, the possible implications of no-deal on fishing were illuminated by senior civil servants. There are broadly 3 options currently under consideration:

- Option 1 - The EU TAC and Quota Regulation (TQR) and agreements with Norway and Faroes cease to apply on 29th March 2019 and as a result there is no access to each other's waters. The UK unilaterally sets its own quotas for the remainder of 2019.
- Option 2 - Like option 1, all the agreements cease to apply but instead of setting TACs unilaterally, the UK starts (presumably very quickly) to negotiate new agreements with the EU, Norway and Faroes that include shares, access arrangements, exchanges and TACs. While that is being negotiated, there would be no access to each other's waters and no agreed TACs.
- Option 3 - The UK seeks to implement a 'continuity agreement' with the EU, Norway and Faroes from 29th March which honours the outcome of the December 2018 quota negotiations and maintains existing quota sharing and access arrangements for the remainder of 2019. The UK would seek agreement with the EU to maintain the existing quota swapping mechanism to ensure we are no worse off in terms of fishing opportunities. Under this option, the UK would commence detailed negotiations in late 2019 as a Coastal State.

I know which option I prefer – feel free to get in touch and let me know yours. And talking of the International Quota Swapping (IQS) mechanism, recent research commissioned by ourselves and the Shetland Fish PO has demonstrated that it would not be in the interests of the Scottish industry to maintain IQS with the EU after we leave. Assuming of course that the Scottish and UK Governments aren't hatching plans to keep any additional quota achieved through a shift towards Zonal Attachment all to themselves, the Scottish sector would be saving somewhere in the region of £3.5-£4 million per annum in quota leasing costs.

Uptakes are looking about right for this time of year and so there is no change to this month's direction. There will be more on discards in next month's newsletter, but in the meantime, as always, if you do not have it in place before the start of your voyage, do not land it, and if it's under the Landings Obligation, try your best to avoid it in the first place otherwise disciplinary action may be necessary.

November's direction is enclosed.

Yours sincerely



JOHN ANDERSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Encl: Direction No. 15/2018

**Scottish Fishermen's Organisation Limited
Braehead
601 Queensferry Road
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Direction No 15/2018

The Board of the Organisation of the above named Company by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Company's Rules hereby makes the following Direction which revokes all previous whitefish Directions:

Whitefish Quota Option:

No boat entered in the Company by a member who decides to opt for the whitefish quota option and who fishes in ICES Statistical Areas IIa (EEC Zone) (Norwegian Sea), IV (North Sea), Vb (EEC Zone) (Faroes Grounds), VI (West of Scotland and Rockall) and VII (Irish Sea, West of Ireland and Porcupine Bank) shall during the period commencing midnight Wednesday 31 October 2018 and ending midnight Friday 30 November 2018, catch, land, tranship, transfer, offer for sale, barter, deal in or retain on board more than the amount shown below per vessel:

Cod: 500 kgs, of which not more than 100 kgs can be caught in, landed from or reported from ICES Area VII. Catches of cod in ICES Area VI are limited to a by catch via a licence variation. The percentage by catch can vary so if unsure please contact Marine Scotland.

Haddock: 2 tonnes and 7 tonnes from ICES Area VIb (Rockall).

Whiting: 2 tonnes, of which not more than 500 kgs can be caught in, landed from or reported from ICES Area VII, but no landings are permitted from ICES Areas VIIa, VIIb-k. Catches of whiting in ICES Area VI are limited to a by catch via a licence variation. The percentage by catch can vary so if unsure please contact Marine Scotland.

Saithe: **2.5 tonnes for vessels subject to the saithe landings obligation**
2 tonnes for vessels not subject to the saithe landings obligation

Shellfish Quota Option:

No boat entered in the Company by a member who decides to opt for the shellfish quota option and who fishes in ICES Statistical Areas IIa (EEC Zone) (Norwegian Sea), IV (North Sea), Vb (EEC Zone) (Faroes Grounds), VI (West of Scotland and Rockall) and VII (Irish Sea, West of Ireland and Porcupine Bank) shall during the period commencing midnight Wednesday 31 October 2018 and ending midnight Friday 30 November 2018, catch, land, tranship, transfer, offer for sale, barter, deal in or retain on board more than the amount shown below per vessel:

- Cod: 250 kgs, of which not more than 50 kgs can be caught in, landed from or reported from ICES Area VII. Catches of cod in ICES Area VI are limited to a by catch via a licence variation. The percentage by catch can vary so if unsure please contact Marine Scotland.
- Haddock: 1 tonne and 7 tonnes from ICES Area VIb (Rockall).
- Whiting: 1 tonne, of which not more than 250 kgs can be caught in, landed from or reported from ICES Area VII, but no landings are permitted from ICES Areas VIIa, VIIb-k. Catches of whiting in ICES Area VI are limited to a by catch via a licence variation. The percentage by catch can vary so if unsure please contact Marine Scotland.
- Saithe: **1.25 tonnes for vessels subject to the saithe landings obligation.**
1 tonne for vessels not subject to the saithe landings obligation.
- Nephrops: 15 tonnes of which not more than 2 tonnes can be caught from or reported from ICES Area VII (Irish Sea, West of Ireland and Porcupine Bank) and 500 kgs from ICES Area IV (Norwegian Sector)

To be taken in conjunction with either quota option:

No boat entered in the Company by a member and fishing in ICES Statistical Areas IIa (EEC Zone) (Norwegian Sea), IV (North Sea), Vb (EEC Zone) (Faroes Grounds), VI (West of Scotland and Rockall) and VII (Irish Sea, West of Ireland and Porcupine Bank) shall during the period commencing midnight Wednesday 31 October 2018 and ending midnight Friday 30 November 2018, catch, land, tranship, transfer, offer for sale, barter, deal in or retain on board more than the amount shown below per vessel:

- Plaice: 5 tonnes, but no landings are permitted from ICES Areas VII de, VII fg and VII hjk
- Hake: 500 kgs, of which not more than 100 kgs can be caught in, landed from or reported from ICES Areas IIa (EEC Zone) (Norwegian Sea) and IV.
- Megrims: 5 tonnes.
- Ling: 500 kgs, of which not more than 100 kgs can be caught in, landed from or reported from ICES Area IV (Norwegian Sector).
- Monkfish: 5 tonnes of which not more than 3 tonnes can be caught in, landed from or reported from ICES Areas VI, 125 kgs from ICES Area VII and 100 kgs ICES Area IV (Norwegian Sector).
- Tusk: 1 tonne of which not more than 250 kgs can be caught in, landed from or reported from ICES Area VI and VII and 100 kgs from ICES Area IV (Norwegian Sector).
- Sole: 250 Kgs but no landings are permitted from ICES Area VII.
- Skate 250 Kgs.

To be taken in conjunction with either quota option:

No boat entered in the Company by a member and fishing in ICES Statistical Areas Vb (EEC Zone) (Faroes Grounds), VI (West of Scotland and Rockall) and VII (Irish Sea, West of Ireland and Porcupine Bank) shall during the period commencing midnight Wednesday 31 October 2018 and ending midnight Friday 30 November 2018, catch, land, tranship, transfer, offer for sale, barter, deal in or retain on board more than the amount shown below per vessel:

Pollack: 2 tonnes.

To be taken in conjunction with either quota option:

No boat entered in the Company by a member and fishing in the Norwegian Zone of ICES Statistical Area IV (North Sea) shall during the period commencing midnight Wednesday 31 October 2018 and ending midnight Friday 30 November 2018, catch, land, tranship, transfer, offer for sale, barter, deal in or retain on board more than the amount shown below per vessel:

'Norwegian Others': 3 tonnes.

(which are all species except cod, haddock, saithe, whiting, plaice, Norway pout, sandeels, blue whiting, herring, mackerel and shrimps)

No boat entered in the Company by a member and fishing in ICES Statistical Areas Vb (EEC Zone) (Faroes Grounds) VI (West of Scotland and Rockall) and VII (Irish Sea, West of Ireland and Porcupine Bank) and which is in possession of a permit issued by Fisheries Departments to catch, retain and land deep sea species shall during the period commencing midnight Wednesday 31 October 2018 and ending midnight Friday 30 November 2018 catch, land, tranship, transfer, offer for sale, barter, deal in or retain on board more than the amount shown below per vessel:

Black Scabbardfish:	100 kgs
Greater silver smelt:	100 kgs
Roundnose grenadier:	100 kgs
Blue ling:	100 kgs

Dated Wednesday 31 October 2018
By order of the Board



John Anderson, Chief Executive
c.c. All SFO Members/Fishsalesmen/Port Officers