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**From:** j\_tait@tiscali.co.uk  
**Sent:** dimanche 31 mai 2009 22:28  
**To:** MARE CFP CONSULTATION  
**Subject:** Reform of the CFP

It is long overdue the scrapping/reorganisation of the CFP. The suggestion that the new replacement should be governed to a greater extent by the commercial fleet gives me grave concern. The current overfishing situation is due in no little extent to the commercial fleet. There are a myriad of prosecutions of commercial fishermen for any number of serious fishing offences. To give them more opportunity for illegal fishing and landings would in my opinion be unwise. Secondly, future TAC must be based on the scientific advice from ICES and other reputable sources. This advice must not be allowed to be watered down by political pressure from individual governments whose main strategy appears to try and appease the commercial fishing lobby. The following items must be implemented.

1. Stop discarding. All catch must be landed.
2. Stop grading which is a form of discarding.
3. All diamond pattern nets must be replaced with square mesh.
4. All nets to be fitted with release panels where appropriate.
5. Net mesh sizes to be of a size that will allow undesize fish to escape.
6. Net sizes should allow all fish of a size which have not reproduced to escape.

The commercial fleet has massive overcapacity for the fish stocks available. The recent trend towards larger and larger capacity ships with more sophisticated catching gear is accentuating this. It might be useful to consider a maximum size for fishing vessels. There then could be a spreading of opportunity over more fishermen, over more areas, supporting more communities.

Industrial fishing should be looked at carefully. To potentially destroy the base of the food chain for high grade fish is not logical. As well as taking vast volumes of sandeel, they also take a substantial volume of small immature haddock, whiting, cod, etc. The use of landed "discards" from the other sectors of the fishing fleet will replace some of this requirement.

The nethrops fleet has also the ability to both destroy the seabed habitat, and clean out immature fish. The mesh size that is used has a most detrimental effect to small fish. Perhaps have a look at banning nethrops trawling in certain areas, such as within a few kilometers of the shore, but allow nethrops potting which is much more eco-friendly. Where there are known fish spawning areas, fishing should be banned in these areas at the time of year when spawning occurs. No exceptions. There needs to be a legal structure put in place where illegal fishing is firmly dealt with, and where there is no doubt in the commercial fleet that infringement will not pay.

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