

# **DRAFT**

## **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

### **Summary of responses to the consultation on a recreational sea angling strategy for England**

#### **1. Introduction**

This document summarises responses to a public consultation carried out on a draft Recreational Sea Angling (RSA) Strategy between 6 December 2007 and 31 March 2008. The consultation took the form of a written document issued to around 450 angling clubs, a number of commercial fishing organisations and individual anglers. A questionnaire was also included as part of the consultation package to help stakeholders respond to the consultation. A list of the organisations who received the consultation document was published as part of the consultation package. The winter edition of Defra's Marine and Fisheries Directorate publication 'Fishing Focus' which is emailed to around 6,000 individuals also covered the consultation. To supplement the written consultation, a series of coastal meetings were held which were generally well attended, as follows:

National Mullet Club: 24 February  
Portsmouth: 24 February  
Buckfastleigh: 25 February  
Felixstowe: 28 February  
Blackpool: 3 March  
Newbiggin: 4 March  
Scarborough: 10 March

Defra officials also visited the 'Go Fishing' Exhibition at the Birmingham NEC on 14 March to promote the strategy to stallholders and visitors.

Consideration of a sea angling licence formed part of the Strategy and proved to be controversial, and was the focus of the majority of responses. The proposals for a licence also featured in the Marine Bill White Paper, published in 2007. During the strategy consultation period, on 19 March 2008, the Fisheries Minister, Jonathan Shaw, announced his decision not to proceed with enabling powers in the Marine Bill to introduce a sea angling licence. This announcement followed the Minister meeting sea angling representatives at the Angling Summit on 18 February where a number of concerns were raised with him regarding the introduction of a chargeable licence for sea angling. The Minister had also discussed the issue direct with anglers around the coast.

## 2. Background

The purpose of the strategy is to provide a framework for the development and enhancement of sea angling. It aims to demonstrate how fisheries management could take better account of sea angling in the way that fisheries policies are developed and implemented. The document was produced during 2006-2007 by a subgroup of Defra's Inshore Fisheries Working Group comprising several national sea angling organisations (NFSA, BASS, SACN), representatives from Sea Fisheries Committees, scientists from the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the Marine & Fisheries Agency (MFA), the Environment Agency (EA) and the National Fishermens Federations Organisation.

The Strategy was produced in response to various Government reports (outlined in the Strategy document) which had drawn attention to the importance of recreational sea angling and made recommendations on the need for fisheries managers to take better account of sea anglers' requirements. The strategy is intended, in part, to better define these requirements.

The Strategy is primarily concerned with issues of relevance to recreational sea anglers in England. Recreational Sea Angling is defined in the Strategy as:

“A leisure activity in which an individual uses a rod, line and hook or line and hook to catch fish on a non-commercial basis”

## 3. Summary and analysis of responses

### Composition and number of responses

A full list of respondents to the consultation is listed in **Annex A**, in alphabetical order.

In summary, there were 385 responses from individuals, and 87 responses from organisations. In addition, there were a number of false responses, which were discounted (these responses were either from a false address, or were from a correct address but the named individual had not responded to the consultation, or the letter had been falsely signed).

### **Individual responses**

**Table 1** shows that of the 385 individual responses received, 188 were from people who identified themselves as being recreational sea anglers. An additional 5 anglers were categorised separately as owning their own boat (therefore they had views on the facilities available such as access to

slipways). 4 sea angling charter operators responded to the consultation as individuals, and 7 respondents identified themselves as commercial fishermen. An additional 181 respondents did not identify themselves as being in any of the above categories. Many of these were standard responses - a total of 141 standard responses were received, as against 240 non-standard responses. Standard responses took the form of a standard photocopied letter to which an address and signature had been added.

Table 1: Individual responses

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Total number of Responses</b>
Angler	188
Angler Own Boat	5
Angling Charter	4
Commercial Fishermen	7
Not known	181
Other	0
<b>Total number of responses</b>	<b>385</b>

Table 2: Standard and Non-standard responses

Total number of individual responses	Standard Responses	Non-standard responses
385	142	243

## Organisations

87 organisations responded to the consultation, ranging from national sea angling representative bodies (for example, BASS, SACN) to commercial fishing enterprises (for example, South Coast Fishermen’s Council) and government agencies and NGOs (for example, Environment Agency and the Salmon and Trout Association). There were also responses from tackle dealers (for example Spotty Dog Tackle) and a number of Sea Fisheries Committees. Only 1 Environmental Group responded, while there were 13 responses in the ‘other’ category, which included journalists and those from organisations such as universities. Finally, there were 11 responses from Government Agencies/Local Government (this category included Sea Fisheries Committees).

Table 3: Organisation Responses

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Total number of responses</b>
National Angling Organisation	12
Angling Club	38
Commercial Fisher Association	12
Environmental Group	1

Other e.g. Journalist, University	13
Govt Agency/Local Government	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>

## Main points raised by respondents to the consultation

The following four key issues emerged from the responses and our analysis, below, is based around views on these four key issues: These were:

- (i) Whether respondents were in favour of or opposed to a sea angling licence being imposed on the RSA sector.
- (ii) Whether respondents were in favour of or opposed to the imposition of a 'Golden mile', a ban on commercial fishing within 1 mile of the shore.
- (iii) Whether respondents were in favour of or opposed to a bag limit.
- (iv) Whether respondents made reference to the issue of representation of the RSA sector on the Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs).

Respondents were asked to respond to a list of questions, so some of the respondents structured their responses according to these questions. The questions and a summary of points made in response are set out in **Annex B**.

In addition to the key issues emerging from the consultation, we also considered views and comments on the value of having a strategy.

The results did not indicate a strong preference in favour of implementing the strategy. However, neither did they indicate that respondents were against a strategy. In fact, there were only a small minority of respondents that mentioned the need for a strategy. These responses generally came from national angling representative bodies.

Arguments were made both in written responses and in public meetings in favour of and against having a Strategy for RSA.

Arguments against include the following:

- RSA has existed as a sport for centuries without formal management
- A strategy is a cover for control and restrictions on sea angling
- RSA does not have as big an impact on fish stocks as commercial fishing, therefore is less of a priority in terms of sustainable fisheries management
- The provision of more and bigger fish will not result from a strategy

Arguments in favour include the following:

- Full and sustainable management of coastal fisheries is not possible without including RSA.
- A strategy provides a framework for a comprehensive package of measures for sea anglers

- A strategy will bring benefits through representation and the sector having a 'voice', since decisions being made about the future of the sport will depend on input from the sector.
- The full impact of RSA on fish stocks is not known, therefore more management of the RSA sector would be a useful first step to determining how RSA affects fish stocks.

## **Key issues:**

### Sea angling licence

- **Individuals**

Of the individual respondents, 318 were actively opposed to the introduction of a sea angling licence, while 37 were in favour. There were also a number (30) who were neither opposed nor in favour (didn't mention the subject of a licence) and many cited arguments both in favour of and against a licence, although if they weighed more heavily in favour of one option, that was counted.

- **Organisations**

50 organisations were opposed to a licence, as against 18 in favour, out of a total of 87 organisations.

Arguments cited included the following:

Magna Carta rights – The Magna Carta was often cited as evidence of a right to fish freely from the sea. Although the text of the Magna Carta does not specifically mention the issue of fishing, it is clearly seen by anglers as protecting the right to fish without need for a permit or licence.

'Stealth taxation' – Most of those opposed to the RSA licence were of the view that the notion of a licence was an attempt by the government to tax the public through stealth. The result, they feared, would be a collapse of the sport through anglers abandoning sea angling either as a point of principle or because they couldn't afford to pay.

Young people entering the sport – Respondents expressed the fear that young people (who it was stated are often not members of organisations such as the NFSA) would be deterred from entering the sport if a licence was introduced. The question was also raised whether young people and children would have to pay for the licence.

Tackle industry – RSA supports the tackle trade in coastal areas, as well as tackle manufacturers, and contributes to the economy in this way. If a licence had the effect of reducing RSA activity, the tackle trade would be adversely affected.

Holiday anglers/tourism – The tackle trade and tourism industry, as well as charter boats, are supported by families and individuals who may only participate in RSA once per year. Such people may be deterred from RSA if they had to pay a licence, and this would have a knock-on effect on the local economy.

Improved facilities and benefits from a licence – Many of the ‘neutral’ responses were from those who didn’t mind paying for a licence so long as there were benefits from a licence for the RSA sector. In particular, the strategy mentioned ‘more and bigger fish’ which was supported by respondents, but also improved facilities at popular RSA sites. The issue was raised however, if facilities were provided, they would also be used by other users of the coast, such as windsurfers, who would not pay for a licence.

#### Golden mile (i.e. restrictions on inshore commercial fishing)

- Individuals

53 individuals were in favour of a golden mile, while 6 were opposed to it. Of those in favour, 13 thought that the golden mile should be greater than 1 mile in extent.

- Organisations

23 organisations were in favour of a golden mile, while 14 were against. Of the 23 organisations in favour, 4 were in favour of a golden mile greater than 1 mile.

Arguments cited included the following:

No Take Zones – Some respondents expressed the wish for the ‘golden mile’ to consist of no take zones (NTZs) for commercial activity within 1 mile of the shore. Some respondents were of the view that it should apply only for certain times in the year, such as the spawning season for the target fish

Damage to the sea bed – Some of those respondents from the RSA sector were opposed to what they see as damaging activities by the commercial sector. In particular, one issue singled out was damage to the sea bed (and the seabed flora and fauna) of beam trawling. The imposition of a golden mile was seen as a way of protecting corals and spawning areas close to shore.

Benefits to RSA sector – The RSA sector responses indicated that there were perceived benefits to RSA from a golden mile. While some sea angler responses recognised that commercial fishermen have to make a living from the sea, others were critical of what they saw as overfishing in inshore areas.

Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) – Many of the angler responses were critical of what they saw as the policies being made under the CFP. While some proposed pulling out of Europe altogether, others proposed reforming the CFP to reduce quotas and prevent discards. Many were extremely critical of the practice of discarding unwanted fish and to resolve this proposed limiting time at sea for the fishing fleet rather than the quota system.

#### Bag limit

- Individuals

In all, 52 individuals were in favour of a bag limit, while 82 were opposed to a bag limit.

- Organisations

25 organisations were in favour of a bag limit, while 17 were opposed to a bag limit.

Arguments cited included the following:

#### RSA is low-impact

The RSA sector view the impact of their activities as low-impact in terms of fish stocks. There is data on catches by angling clubs which demonstrates the size of fish caught over time (some clubs have been keeping records since 1960s or even earlier) but many clubs practice 'catch and release', which limits the effects of RSA on fish stocks since fish are returned alive to the sea. Therefore many RSAs view a bag limit as unnecessary. This view is challenged by others, including commercial fishermen, who cite charter boats as allowing RSAs to catch boxes full of fish when they go out to sea on trips.

#### Representation on sea fisheries committees

- Individuals  
19 individuals mentioned representation on Sea Fisheries as an issue.
- Organisations  
10 organisations mentioned representation on Sea Fisheries Committees as an issue.

Arguments cited included the following:

#### Conservation of fish stocks

Respondents cited the small or under-representation of RSA and conservation bodies on SFCs as an issue affecting levels of fish stocks. The argument is that increased representation on SFCs would lead to the introduction of byelaws which would improve conservation of fish stocks through limiting fishing effort and at the same time provide benefits for anglers.

#### 4. Key points raised at the RSA Strategy Consultation Coastal Meetings

##### Venues and dates of meetings comments taken

National Mullet Club: 24 February

Portsmouth: 24 February

Buckfastleigh: 25 February

Felixstowe: 28 February

Blackpool: 3 March

Newbiggin: 4 March

Scarborough: 10 March

##### RSA Licence

- Strong views nationwide that licensing should not be introduced without first a significant improvement in stocks and a demonstration that measures have been taken to improve sea angling.
- Anglers wanted a guarantee that money raised by the scheme would be put directly back into sea angling, and not used elsewhere. (For example, money should not be used to support increased enforcement (new SFC burdens) or more generally into Treasury - concern about 'stealth taxation')
- There was some support for a scheme if the pre-conditions (as above) were first met.
- However, some held the view that licensing should not be introduced under any circumstances, as anglers have a 'public right to fish'.
- Significant amount of revenue already raised for by anglers through VAT on tackle, boats and through holidays, which contributes to the economy
- Concern that the scheme could not be policed effectively and that there would be additional costs to enforcement borne by the licence holder.
- Queries about how money would be used to provide benefits for anglers – where the money would be spent and how much say would anglers get. Noted that some types of facilities provided by a licence fee would also benefit other stakeholders (e.g. boat launching facilities/piers – anglers wanted reassurance they would not be 'double charged' for access)
- Concern about the impact on 'day anglers', especially through tourism and associated tackle/charter boat trade. Portugal licensing scheme frequently quoted as a poor example.
- Some raised the discrepancy between commercial fishing licenses given free of charge, and queried whether this position would change if anglers are to pay for a sea angling licence.
- Good examples of licensing schemes quoted as Dutch, US and Australia.

##### Communications

- Issue of trust. The relationship between stakeholders and Government needs to be rebuilt following the Minister's decision on bass. Regardless of the individual's position on bass, anglers note it is the principle of the decision - Defra did not meet its commitment to take account of anglers in fisheries policy.



- Anglers stressed the need for transparency in fisheries management and the decision making process.
- Belief that new actions for species/restricted areas to benefit anglers would not be achieved as a result of commercial fishing interests having higher management priority.
- General view that anglers were not accounted for in fisheries management at all levels. Anglers wanted increased representation on other fisheries stakeholder groups (e.g. ensuring they are actively consulted on quota issues)
- Communications between Defra, SFCs and anglers needs improvement; concern that Strategy – and licensing proposals - not widely known about. Anglers also not aware of other measures being taken e.g. tope, netting, SFC byelaws were quoted
- View that policy makers and fisheries managers needed a better understanding of anglers – both through experience and participation, and expert advisors.
- Views that the difference between angling priorities and needs in the North and South are not fully accounted for.
- Strategy had been drafted by a small group of anglers, not reflective of anglers views around the coast, especially the North.

#### State of the stocks

- Fish stocks are in poor condition and anglers want to see improvements to general conservation measures and additional restrictions on commercial fishermen to prevent overfishing
- Current quota system leads to discards – anglers want to see an end to discarding and better technical measures.
- Concern that scientific advice on management of fish stocks is not followed
- Concern about the level of pollution in coastal waters affecting fish stocks.
- Many supported the view that the CFP needed to be reviewed, and several expressed that they would prefer the UK to pull out of the CFP and manage fish stocks within their own waters.
- View that climate change was affecting stocks and needed to be accounted for – e.g. cod and bass moving north.
- Particular species that came up in need of action/where action would provide benefits for anglers included; flounder, cod, (and sand eel) bass, skate, ray, pollack, mullet, pouting, whiting, bream. However, general view that all stocks were in need of action/increased protection.
- Many raised concerns about the lack of regulation (and enforcement) of the use of gill nets, and wanted to see clear improvements. Others also raised concerns about scallop dredging, beam trawling and pair trawling.
- Problem of 'Ghost fishing' (discarded nets on the sea bed) raised by some.
- Some concern in the North raised about the need to control the seal populations.

#### Anglers Impact on the stocks

- Anglers stated they have relatively little impact on the overall take of fish, so did not see the need for management measures to restrict angling.

- Raised that there is little point imposing bag limits as conservation tools when there are no fish to take at present. Several examples of angling competitions given where few fish of size were landed, leading to some prizes being left unclaimed. Cod given as a prime example, especially in the North.
- Several examples of where individual clubs have bag limit and landing size policies for particular fish, as well as wider codes of conduct.
- Concern about the management of bait digging in future, with existing restrictions in some areas.

#### Enforcement

- Fisheries enforcement at all levels (SFCs, MFA, and EA) needs to be improved to minimise illegal activity, with more prosecutions taken.
- Concern that netting restrictions, nursery areas and some other measures are not enforced

#### Measures to benefit anglers

- General support for a 'golden mile' (defined as a complete ban on netting within one mile of the shore), though some opposing views. Many saw the Golden Mile as the key example of a measure that would provide clear benefits for anglers, and demonstrate Government commitment.
- Also support for restricted areas for angling only, with some concern about future 'No Take Zones'. However, some raised that as fish are mobile and many highly migratory, restricted areas would not provide year round benefits for anglers or fish, once they had left protected areas.
- Anglers wanted to see more specific tools being outlined in the Strategy to indicate how measures to improve stocks/benefit anglers will be achieved.

#### Other

- Concerns raised by a number of anglers (Charter businesses) about the impact of changes to the derogation in duty on red diesel. Wanted to see the UK doing more to support the Charter businesses as legitimate commercial operations.
- The importance of young anglers coming into the sport was noted, both for the future of the sport and also social opportunities it presented. This included schemes such as 'Hooked on fishing'.
- Concern about access to the coast – examples given where access has recently been restricted by land owners/developers or individuals being charged for use of piers etc.

### **5. Other Issues raised by organisations in their responses to the consultation**

#### **Licence**

- Licence only in exchange for improvements, such as golden mile.
- Should be joint coarse and sea fishing licence, run by EA
- Charter boats should be licensed.
- Agree with principle of licence but extremely difficult to enforce.

- Licence fees must be ring fenced and ploughed back into sea angling.
- Fees should be spent in the area they are collected from.
- Other sea users will benefit from facilities paid for by licence fee – this doesn't make sense.
- Scottish people do not have to pay for a licence.
- Will children require a licence?
- Pensioners would not be able to afford licence fee.

### **Sportfish**

- Grey mullet should be given recreational-only status.
- Bass should be sport only fish.

### **Bag Limit**

- Bag limit should only be considered as part of an overall conservation package that will demonstrably benefit stock availability.
- Would only support a bag limit if commercial fishing restricted.
- Bag limit should follow the Irish model for bass.
- Licences and bag limits should apply to boat anglers only

### **Salmonids**

- Need to consider effects of policies on migratory salmonids

### **Governance**

- Would support voluntary code of conduct.
- Number of angling clubs already have codes of conduct
- Need single agency to replace SFC, MFA, EA and local government. And enforcement of MPAs needs to be stronger.
- Voluntary angling associations do an excellent job of educating sea anglers in conservation

### **Commercial Fishing/CFP**

- Need to control beam trawling
- Should be less commercial fishing until stocks have recovered.
- Calculations of worth of commercial sector vs. RSA sector re: downstream expenditure (not included in calculation of Commercial)
- Need immediate ban on dumping dead fish
- RSAs need to have real say in CFP.
- Need to reform CFP
- Recommends fitting AIS system to commercial fleet for tracking all actions while at sea

### **Protected Areas**

- Protection of brood stocks in nursery areas important.

- Golden mile should restrict larger vessels.
- Need ban on fishing for species when they are spawning.
- Suggests closed season of 1 month (June) for commercial fishermen and sea anglers for bass

### **Minimum Landing Size**

- MLS unenforceable.

### **Representation**

- Majority of sea anglers do not join angling clubs.
- Should be encouraging young people to get involved with RSA
- RSA needs lobbyist and PR campaign
- Bias towards the wishes and aspirations of Southern based stakeholders rather than those participating in the sport in the North.

### **Bait collection**

- Collection of shellfish as bait by anglers is a widespread activity – need to consider.
- Need management of bait collection

### **Other**

- Need to consider welfare of fish
- Tourism benefits from RSA.
- Need to take account of northern RSA sector.
- Suggest using tackle dealerships as a platform to reach anglers to float ideas.
- Enjoyment of angling most important.

## **6. Next steps**

### Strategy

The level of explicit support for the draft strategy was low, and some respondents did not feel that a strategy was needed. However, this may be due to the link made by respondents between the strategy and the proposals in the Marine Bill White Paper for a sea angling licence. It is clear that the majority of sea anglers are seeking an improvement in their sea angling opportunities and have a range of suggestions on how this can be achieved, but there is no clear consensus among respondents on what is required or how this can be delivered. Although management measures can and are being devised and implemented in the absence of an agreed strategy document, a strategy could have value in providing a focus and framework for the future development of the sport and the better integration angling into fisheries management.

The content of the draft strategy will therefore be reviewed in the light of the comments received and resubmitted for discussion to the

Recreational Sea Angling Subgroup of Defra's Inshore Fisheries Working Group. A revised strategy which will aim to take on board the range of concerns expressed from respondents will then be submitted to the Inshore Fisheries Working Group for their agreement and then subsequently for Ministerial approval later in the year.

One key point arising from the consultation is national angling organisations do not necessarily have a wide geographical spread of members and that a more diverse group of anglers including charter boat interests and tackle manufacturers need to have more of a say in the development of policies in the future if any strategy is to succeed. As a result of the consultation, Defra has added a large number of sea angling organisations and individuals to its circulation lists to ensure that, at the least, documents are widely circulated. Further work will be necessary to improve communications and ensure Defra has access to the views of a wider group of anglers. National sea angling bodies can also play a part in improving communications by ensuring its membership is up to date on discussions at a national and local level. It was also evident that in some parts of the country knowledge or awareness of the activities of Sea Fisheries Committees was limited.

The implementation of the strategy will require a co-ordinated approach by a range of bodies, in addition to Defra, in particular Sea Fisheries Committees and angling groups. Implementation will require an assessment of available resources. The RSA subgroup will be used to discuss and take forward implementation issues.

### Licensing

Defra has taken on board the concerns of sea anglers and withdrawn from the Marine Bill proposals for enabling powers to introduce a sea angling licence. However, licensing forms a key part of well managed fisheries in other countries where anglers are fully integrated into fisheries management. In making the decision to remove the proposal from the Bill, the Fisheries Minister, Jonathan Shaw announced that the arguments for a licence would be reconsidered at some stage in the future in the light of progress being achieved on a number of other measures to benefit angling. Consideration of a sea angling licence will therefore remain in the strategy but the focus in implementing the strategy will need to be on management measures to benefit angling. However, the strategy will need to be revised to reflect what can be delivered without the funds which a licence would have provided.

### Bag limits

Enabling powers for bag limits have been proposed in the draft Marine Bill, to apply to persons fishing from the shore (whether commercial or recreational) and from boats. Powers to introduce them are already available to Sea Fisheries Committees and have been used in relation to shellfish. Bag limits can be an effective conservation measure in certain

circumstances. Bag limits also form part of the range of tools used to manage fisheries in other countries where there is a strong promotion of sea angling. Any use of these powers would be subject to full consultation and sea anglers would therefore have the opportunity to comment further on this subject in the future.

### Inshore fisheries management

It is clear from responses to the consultation that inshore fisheries management has a major role to play in delivering benefits for sea angling. Defra is using the opportunity of the Marine Bill to reform inshore fisheries management in England and Wales by introducing new Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) who will lead on fisheries management in the inshore marine area. In performing their new duties, IFCAs will need to consider how sea fisheries resources are best exploited ensuring, for example, equitable access to fisheries by both commercial and recreational users. Anglers are currently included in the membership of SFCs. In future, membership will be adjusted to improve local decision-making and stakeholder involvement and to ensure a balanced representation across a range of interested sectors including commercial, recreational and marine environmental interests.

These proposals will deliver a strengthened fisheries and environmental management in the inshore marine area so that more effective action can be taken to conserve marine ecosystems and achieve sustainable and profitable fisheries sectors.

### Other measures

In advance of an agreed strategy, Defra is continuing with a number of measures in relation to sea angling. The Fisheries Minister, Jonathan Shaw announced in October last year a package of new measures that will provide benefits for stocks of bass and more widely for anglers. This includes plans for a review of Bass Nursery Areas and inshore netting restrictions and for consultation on the designation and design of new areas. In March, Jonathan Shaw announced a prohibition on directed commercial fishing for tope, a species of angling interest. Defra is also funding research exploring the use of restricted areas to benefit recreational anglers. The project will consider the economic implications of potential management options for commercial and recreational fisheries for bass, as a basis for policy decisions on management. The project will investigate the impact of potential management measures in relation to stock sustainability and economic activity.

**Coastal Waters Policy  
Marine Programme  
August 2008**

## **Annex A – List of respondents to the consultation**

### Individuals

Adamson	K.	Broach	Graham
Adeyre	Rufus	Brock	David
Adkins	Mike	Brooks	D
Agnew	J	Brooks	John
Agnew	J.	Brown	Jack
Ainsworth	S.M.	Browne	Paul
Albert	Colin	Burns	D.
Ambler	John	Burrows	Robin
Ansell	Stephen	Bushby	R.T.
Argyle	Matthew	Butcher	A.J.
Armstrong	D & J.	Butler	J.
Aston	Kevin	Callaghan	J.
Atkins	Ashley	Calligan	Stewart
Atkinson	Malcolm	Cammish	Martin
Atkinson	Andrew	Campbell	Martin
Austin	M	Campion	C.
Auston	D.	Carter	T.
Baker	J.J.	Cartwright	Joseph
Barnes	J.A.	Carville	James
Barnes	I	Castle	Kevin
Bate	Patrick	Chamberlain	K.
Bates	Richard	Chaney	Brian
Beaugendre	Frank	Charlton	J.H.
Beckham	C.R.	Church	C.
Behenna	Alan	Clark	Simon
Bell	John	Clark	Jack
Bell	Dennis	Cockram	P.
Bendall	Stuart	Coles	C.S.
Best	L.	Colling	Mark
Bettison	E.J.	Colling	John
Bilton	Graham	Colling	W.E.
Binckes	Steve	Concannon	Mike
Birchenough	H.G.	Cook	Ian and Mark
Bishop	T.	Cook	Barry
Blackett	Alan James	Cooke	Richard
Boddice	Adrian	Cookson	Anthony
Boiston	Peter	Cooper	M.J.
Booth	G.	Coppolo	Steve
Boughey	Alec	Cornick	David
Bowen	Kenny	Cosford	Nick
Bowman	Andrew	Cox	Bob
Boyle	Mike	Cox	Sam
Brett	Craig	Croft	A.
Briggs	A.	Curry	G.
Briston	A.B.	Curry	Elizabeth



Daley	Chris	Fullick	Gary
Davidson	Stephen	Furphy	M.
Davies	Andrew	Gadsdon	Graham
Davies	Philip	Gannon	Richard
Davison	Michael	Gardner	S.
Day	Mike	Garratt	Duncan
De Varnt	A.	Gasoinne	John
Deane	Mandy	Gaze	J.A.
Delnoy	P.	George	J.R.
Dinning	D.	Gibbs	Dr. Trevor Kim
Dixon	John	Gibson	G
Dodwell	John	Gibson	Steve
Drummond	J.	Gilbert	Malcolm
Dunmore	Karl	Goldsbrough	G.T.
Dunmore	M.	Goodchild	Lee
Eden	Graham	Gray	Tony
Edmead	Trevor	Greaves	Richard
Edwards	Jeffrey	Green	Jerry
Eglon	R.	Greenwood	Paul
Eldred	David	Hall	Lisa?
Elliott	Valerie	Hall	Guy
Emmerson	P.J.	Hall	J.
Emmerson	M.J.	Hall	G.
Emmerson	J.T.	Hallcro	John
Emmerson	J.	Hancock	Geoff
Emmerson	Miss L.	Hancox	R.
Emmerson	Mrs. J.	Hazell	Phil
Evans	R.J.	Hearne	Robert
Evans	Andrew	Helens	Philip
Evans	R.D.	Hemblade	P.
Evans	Jamie	Henderson	John
Evans	Ray	Henderson	Ken
Evans	J.	Heron	Bernard
Farley	Adrian	Heron	Ian
Fawcett	B.S.	Heron	George A.
Fellowes	Shane	Heward	David
Fenwick	A.	Hills	John
Fitzhugh	Elna	Holloway	Peter J.
Ford	Morris	Holman	Keith
Ford	Keith	Holmes	D.G.
Ford Snr	Morris	Hope	Susan
Fox	Julian	Hope	G.
Fox	V.J.	Hope	Baden
Fraser	Dick	Hope	Mrs. Susan
Fudge	Clive	Horseman	Mrs. S.

Illegible	I1	Mairs	M
Illegible	I10	Mann	Michael
Illegible	I11	Marchant	Chris
Illegible	I12	Marsh	R.G.
Illegible	I2	Martin	Kevin
Illegible	I3	Matthews	David
Illegible	I4	McCarthy	Mat
Illegible	I5	McIntosh	J.
Illegible	I6	McIntyre	M.
Illegible	I7	McIntyre	B.
Illegible	I8	McMillan	R.T.
Illegible	I9	McPherson	Stuart
Ingham	David	Merrill	G.
Jaafar	Sarah	Merrill	S.G.
James	Kevin	Milburn	Shaun
Jennings	Paul	Mills	Nigel
Johnson	Mrs V.	Moate	Nicholas
Joice	E.A.	Morgan	John
Jones	A. P.	Morris	Bill
Jones	Anthony W.	Morris	A.
Jones	Peter	Morris	Brian
Jones	Chris	Morris	Ian Gethin
Jordan	Alan	Mullis	Ian
Jordan	Alan	Munday	Dave
Jouault	Nicolas	Myhill	Derek
Kay	Des	Neal	Sid
Kelly	Chris	Neale	R.
Kilpatrick	Glenn	Nelson	Dave
King	Paul	Newton	Ian
Lamb	Alison	Northbay	John
Landeg	Chris	Not known	1
Lane	Rory	Not known	2
Lang	R.A.	Not known	3
Langley	R.	Not known	4
Lashbrook	Roger	Not known	5
Laverty	Commander R.E.	Oliver	John Alan
Leonard	Mick	Osborne	John
Lesmana	Henry	Ovens	M.
Leyland	Harry	Pagel	C.
Lindsay	Vera	Painter	D.F.
Litt	S.	Parker	A.J.
Liversidge	Peter	Pattison	George
Lloyd	Peter	Patton	J.T.
Longstaff	Graham	Payne	R.M.
Lovett	Neil	Payne	Peter

Pike	Alan and Carol	Szymczak	Henry
Pinborough	Tom	Tait	Jim
Pitts	Steve	Taylor	Adrian
Ponthus	Marc	Taylor	Paul
Price	Anthony	Taylor	John
Price	Martin	Terry	Will
Probert	Ralph L.	Thomas	Colin
Race	Peter R.	Thompson	Jim
Rae	David	Todd	Ian
Ray	Mike	Todd	A.F.
Raymond	P.	Tunnell	G.R.
Reece	W.P.	Warburton	R.I.
Reed	D.	Ward	Richard
Reeve	W.	Ward	M.D.
Render	G.	Waring	Denise
Renney	Michael	Waring	John
Reynolds	Mike	Warnes	Simon
Rich	Nigel	Warren	Mrs. J
Richardson	David	Watson	E.
Riches	Gavin	Way	David
Riley	D.S.	Welch	G.
Roberts	S.J.	Wheatley	Derryck & Pat
Robinson	D.	Wheeley	John
Robinson	Vera	Whitaker	D.
Robson	John	White	Matt
Rodgers	H.C.	Whittingham	Frank
Rodgers	J.	Whitty	Martin
Ruckley	Nigel	Wilkins	Pete
Sands	W.P.	Wilkinson	J.
Scholey	D.	Wilks	Andy
Scrivens	F.	Williams	Jon
Senior	Barrie	Willson	Roy
Sessions	M.D.	Wilson	Richard
Shepherd	A.J.	Wilson	N.
Skinner	A.T.B.	Wilson	G.
Smith	Brian	Wilson	S.
Smith	S.M.	Wilson	Peter
Sparkes	D.J.	Wodehouse	Henry
Speight	Paula	Wood	John
Spence	Matthew	Woods	Alan
Spiller	Mike	Wright	David
Spiller	A.J.	Wright	S.
Stebbing	Bernard	Yates	Matt
Stent	D.	Yates	Alan
Stent	Paul	York	Keith

## **Organisations/Companies**

Amble Sea Angling Club  
Anglia Sportcast  
Angling  
Angling Trades Association  
Arctic Traders Ltd. Fish Export Merchants  
Atlantic Salmon Trust  
Bass Anglers' Sportfishing Society (BASS)  
Bedlington Station Sea Angling Club  
Bristol Channel Federation of Sea Anglers  
Brixham S.A.C., South Devon  
Brixham Sea Angling Club  
Broadstairs and St. Peters Sea Angling Society  
Chelmsford Angling Association  
Christchurch Shore Fishing Club (Affiliated to NFSA)  
Combe Martin Sea Angling Club  
Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee  
Countryside Alliance  
Cumbria Sea Fisheries Committee  
Dartangler Partnership  
Devon County Council  
Devon Sea Fisheries Committee  
DOESAC Plymouth  
Dungeness Angling Association  
Eastbourne Angling Association  
Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee  
Environment Agency  
Glossopdale Sea Angling Club  
Gosport Commercial Fishermen's Association  
Great Ouse Boating Association  
Greenhill Sea Angling Club, Herne Bay  
Hartlepool Boatowners Association  
Honiton Sea Angling Club  
Lobster Smack Sea Angling Club  
Morecambe and Heysham Fisherman's Association  
Mount's Bay Angling Society  
Mundeford & District Fishermen's Association Limited  
National Federation of Sea Anglers (NFSA)  
National Mullet Club  
Natural England  
Newhaven Deep Sea Anglers  
NFSA Yorkshire Division  
North Devon Fishermen's Association  
North East Boating Federation  
North East Dinghy Angling Club  
North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee  
North Norfolk Fishermen's Society  
North West Assoc of Sea Angling Clubs and Sefton Sea Anglers  
North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee  
Okehampton College  
Plume and Feather Fishing Club, Redruth

Poole and District Sea Angling Association  
Pot Black Sea Angling Club  
Rutherfords Angling Ltd  
Salmon and Trout Association  
Saltburn Angling and Boating Association  
Sandown and Lake Angling Society  
Scottish Sea Angling Conservation Network  
Sea Angler Magazine  
Seaham Harbour Small Boat Club  
Shellfish Association of Great Britain  
South Cliff Angling Club Members  
South Coast Fishermen's Council  
South Coasters SBAC  
South Devon and Channel Shellfishermen  
South West of England Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)  
Southern Sea Fisheries District  
Southsea Sea Angling Club  
Spotty Dog Tackle Ltd  
SWWFC Ltd  
The Association of Sea Fisheries Committees of England and Wales  
The North East Boating Federation  
The Professional Boatmans Association  
Thorpe Bay Angling Association  
TSF  
University of Portsmouth School of Biological Sciences  
Vectis Boating and Fishing Club  
Vegetarian Economy and Green Agriculture  
Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers  
Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers  
Weymouth Angling Society  
Whitby and District Tourism Association  
Whitby Charter Skippers Association  
Whitstable & District Angling Society  
Woodcombe Sports and Social Club (Sea Angling Section)  
World Sea Fishing Ltd.  
Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Association of Sea Anglers  
Yorkshire Division of NFSA

## Annex B - Structured responses to questions in the Strategy

	Reference	Question
1	Section 1 Page 4	What are your overall views on the Strategy? Does it miss anything? Which part would you change and how?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perceived overall long-term decline in bass stocks</li> <li>• Need to consider other types of fishing i.e. netting as these are linked</li> <li>• Consultation process flawed as no consultation with all stakeholders i.e. Commercial sector – adverse effect.</li> <li>• Wales – covered in Drew Report but not by consultation</li> <li>• Strategy should consider other recreational forms of fishing e.g. potting, netting and line fishing.</li> <li>• Sport of sea angling has been in decline for some time</li> <li>• Relatively little management of recreational sector is main appeal of the sport.</li> <li>• The Strategy appears to cover most aspects of recognition of the growing RSA community. However Defra should periodically review the appointees to SFCs within the committee structure to ensure that they are acting responsibly and in accordance with the Defra guidelines. This will prevent stagnation and political corruption from taking over during important decision making.</li> <li>• Could be difficult to police the policies in Strategy as not enough bailiffs on rivers at present, policing the sea could be very difficult.</li> </ul>
2	Section 1 Page 4	How often do you go angling? Where do you mostly go angling? Do you go on angling holidays? What sort of angling – shore, own boat or charter vessels?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many anglers take angling holidays abroad. There is a perception that RSA is better managed in countries such as USA, Republic of Ireland.</li> </ul>
3	Section 2 Page 5	Why do you go sea angling? What are the key reasons for your participation in the sport? What is the biggest issue for you affecting your angling?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fish, fresh air and enjoyment</li> <li>• Own boat allows freedom to fish when and where you wish. Biggest issues are slipway availability and dwindling fish stocks.</li> <li>• Club competitions</li> <li>• Companionship of like-minded people</li> <li>• Being at one with nature, with only birds and wildlife for company, spiritual experience</li> <li>• Escape from the stress of life after a hard week at work and home</li> <li>• Open competitions can put pressure on vulnerable fish stocks</li> <li>• Overexploitation of bait areas</li> <li>• Fishing for rays – thornback ray now unlikely to be caught in Cardigan Bay, but no minimum size set for rays regardless of species. Decline in size of fish available to anglers.</li> <li>• Real value of the RSA to the UK economy is far more valuable than commercial fishing sector if administration costs are excluded.</li> </ul>
4	Section 2 Page 5	Do you agree with the aim and objectives of the Strategy? Which objective do you think is most important?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golden Mile is very important</li> <li>• Govt needs to be stronger with Europe and the CFP</li> <li>• Golden Mile would have severe financial effect on the commercial sector.</li> <li>• Majority of anglers do not belong to any club or organisation</li> <li>• Approach and past record of Defra give no confidence of any slowing in the current decline in fish stocks.</li> <li>• Support golden miles – believe it should be 6 miles! Success of Marine</li> </ul>

	Sanctuary no take zone (NTZ) around Lundy Island – benefits for diverse fish stock and marine ecosystem.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Importance of healthy ecosystem and environment in supporting RSA</li> </ul>	
5	Section 3 Page 7	How do you think angling needs can be reflected in fisheries management decisions and policy? What do you think is the best way to achieve this?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea Fisheries Committees to include anglers and conservationists</li> <li>Through discussion with groups that represent the stakeholders i.e. sea anglers</li> <li>Should be more 'decisive' management strategy, in the case of levels of decisions where local 'clubs' are seeking clarification of local issues. To achieve this, would require a 'contact' being made available to 'clubs'. At present, DEFRA try to arbitrate and advise, but are gagged by local fisheries policies.</li> <li>No objection to anglers having representation as long as the needs of other stakeholders are not adversely affected i.e. loss of fishing grounds</li> <li>Improvement in marking gear</li> <li>Consultation: List of angling bodies not representative, most sea anglers have not heard of many of these bodies</li> <li>Most sea anglers just want to go out and fish and do not want to be involved with the politics.</li> <li>Many fish have a far, far higher economic value as sportfish than they do as a commercial catch e.g. tope angling around the UK supports many charter boats and spin-off accommodation, almost all tope caught by anglers are returned alive. Many tagging programmes in the UK and Ireland prove that tope are successfully released by anglers. As a dead fish on a commercial slab the value of a tope carcass is a few pounds at the most. I have been on a charter trip that has cost over £500 by the time they charter costs, accommodation and travel is considered with a total of 2 tope being caught and returned. This is a clear example of the economic benefits of sportfish status.</li> <li>SFC's must be equally represented by stakeholder sectors. Both Chairman and Vice Chairman should not be commercial fishermen since they can steer the committee towards a decision that benefits their own interests.</li> <li>Many livelihoods now depend on RSA – tackle shops and manufacturers, bait collectors, charter skippers and crew. Should not be viewed as a hobby.</li> </ul>	
6	Section 4 Page 8	Which species do you value most? What action would you like to see taken to improve these stocks?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bass, tope, plaice and cod</li> <li>Bass, mackerel and ray from the shore and Pollack and conger eel from the boat.</li> <li>Cod – Current CFP of disposing of thousands of tonnes of cod as bycatch is sickening. Allowing commercial vessels to keep this fish and having less days at sea would make sense.</li> <li>Bass, tope, cod, conger eel</li> <li>Action: Increase the bass size limits. Ban inshore gill netting. Give tope sportfish status, that bans any commercial fishing for or landing of tope at all European fish markets.</li> <li>From a charter skipper's point of view, black bream offer a very good opportunity for anglers to enjoy good sport, they are also a very hardy fish and are a very good candidate for 'catch and release'.</li> <li>Bass, black bream, mullet, Pollack, flounder, whiting and especially ballan wrasse.</li> </ul>	
7	Section 5 Page 12	If a sea angling licence were introduced and the revenue spent to provide benefits for sea anglers, would you be willing to pay and how much?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£5</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £20 but only if a vast improvement in fisheries</li> <li>• Problems with introduction of sea angling licences in Portugal and using revenues to support commercial fisheries.</li> <li>• No benefits to anglers</li> <li>• Freshwater anglers pay a licence, but they do not have trawlers netting their lakes, canals and rivers and then throwing the discards back over the side.</li> <li>• No taxation without representation!</li> <li>• Sea angling licence is essential but it should be combined with freshwater licence. Inshore gill nets also need regulation.</li> <li>• Licence would cost more to administer than would be received in licence fees e.g. radio licence, game licence</li> <li>• Licence wouldn't contribute to restocking of the sea, benefits of a licence fee would need to be clear.</li> <li>• Low income groups would be adversely affected e.g. pensioners and young people</li> <li>• Any facilities built from revenues would not exclusively be used by RSAs but also by sea sport followers e.g. kayakers, surfers, kite-surfers etc.</li> <li>• Would there be an age-limit on the licence?</li> <li>• VAT paid on fishing tackle, therefore no need for licence fee</li> <li>• Any licence would need to be at source, i.e. on fishing tackle</li> <li>• A licence might encourage some anglers to catch fish to sell, to recoup the cost of the licence</li> <li>• Improvements should come before licence</li> </ul>
8	Section 5 Page 12	Would you support a bag limit for certain species where there is a conservation need and there are controls on commercial exploitation of the same species?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes but as in America species like bass need to be deemed sport only with a total ban on commercial fishing for bass – they can be farmed</li> <li>• Support for bag limit</li> <li>• Most angling clubs already operate a 'catch and release' criteria within their rules, and a strict watch is kept on to ensure a limited amount of fish is kept.</li> <li>• No need for bag limits as anglers take only a small number of fish</li> <li>• Support for bag limits, as there are far too many unlicensed 'anglers' who sell their catch for cash. Max 2 fish per angler for bass and all other species a maximum of 5 fish of any species.</li> <li>• Bass are an obvious target for a bag limit, but these would be meaningless until equally restrictive limits are placed on gill netters, pair trawlers in the western approaches and other commercial fishermen.</li> <li>• No – would be thin end of the wedge, to be used by commercial sector and also used as a back door regulatory tool by SFC's.</li> </ul>
9	Section 7 Page 15	What would you spend money on to improve your enjoyment of sea angling?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anglers contribute a large amount of money already</li> <li>• New fishing gear</li> <li>• More policing by SFC's or the EA to prevent over exploitation of fisheries and bait areas.</li> <li>• Waste bins around popular angling areas</li> <li>• Limiting the interference of government in a free pastime for all of the UK population.</li> <li>• Formation of a council for the development of RSA whose role would be to listen to sea anglers and implement regional improvements, the NFSA are ideally placed to offer that role and are generally held in high regard by RSA's.</li> <li>• To provide legislation that ensures that fishing boats under 10 metres are not permitted to increase the amount of days they are allowed to fish.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inshore reefs</li> </ul>	
10	Section 9 Page 18	What new sources of information are you aware of that are available to build an evidence base? E.g. data on catches, social studies, angling business turnovers, numbers of people going on charter vessels year on year etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Sea Angler magazine past and present</li> </ul>	