



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Zac Goldsmith MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MC355113/RGW

18th October 2014

From George Eustice MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Farming, Food and Marine Environment

Dear Zac

Thank you for your email of 5 August following up on earlier correspondence (our ref MC348575/SB) on deep sea bottom trawling. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

As you were aware, we did not have 'off the peg' information on catches classified by depth. A bespoke data processing exercise was therefore undertaken at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) to provide this reply. I have attached the outcome, with the data responding to your questions keyed by column as indicated, relating to the reference year 2011. Note that headings used in earlier data implied that the 56 vessels fishing below 600m were all UK vessels; the response below to your question 4 on vessels flagged to other Member States confirms that the data includes UK and non-UK vessel activity.

The dataset these replies were drawn from enables the analysis you were looking for on fishing activities by depth criteria within the UK's exclusive economic zone (EEZ); so will not answer your fifth question on fishing outside these areas. Standard catch data is available, for example, to establish how much Greenland Halibut is caught by UK vessels nearer to Greenland coastal areas (ICES sub area XIV) but not by depth classification. The same dataset does not provide for identification of any UK flagged vessels owned by non-UK companies (your question 3), or for catch composition analysis (your question 6).

This data does, however, provide a useful snapshot of bottom fishing activity within the UK EEZ by depth. I trust you will bear in mind that it is the wider specified area referred to in your question 5 that is covered by the proposed EU deep sea access regulation.

George Eustice

GEORGE EUSTICE MP

Let me know if you want to discuss.



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

				1a, 2, 8		1b, 8		4	7a		7b	
Fishing below 600m in UK waters (in reference year 2011)												
Total no. of vessels	Total landings all species (t)	Total landings excl. ling & conger (t)	Vessels using bottom trawl gear	Landings from bottom trawl gear (t)	Vessels using other gear	Landings from other gear (t)	UK vessels using bottom trawl gear	Non-UK vessels using bottom trawl gear	Vessels with >10% landings from bottom trawl fishing	Total landings excl. ling & conger (t) >10% DSS	Vessels with >5% landings from bottom trawl fishing	Total landings excl. ling & conger (t) >5% DSS
56	10,127	10,127	33	7,886	23	2,288	12	21	19	6,283	24	6,494
Fishing below 800m in UK waters (in reference year 2011)												
Total no. of vessels	Total landings all species (t)	Total landings excl. ling & conger (t)	Vessels using bottom trawl gear	Landings from bottom trawl gear (t)	Vessels using other gear	Landings from other gear (t)	UK vessels using bottom trawl gear	Non-UK vessels using bottom trawl gear	Vessels with >10% landings from bottom trawl fishing	Total landings excl. ling & conger (t) >10% DSS	Vessels with >5% landings from bottom trawl fishing	Total landings excl. ling & conger (t) >5% DSS
44	4,330	4,330	24	2,522	20	1,808	8	16	12	1,117	16	1,299

- How much of these vessels' catch taken from below 600m was done using: a. bottom trawl gear? b. other gear (e.g. bottom longline, pots, midwater trawl, gillnets, other)
- How much of the landed catch below 600m is taken by bottom trawl gear?
- Are any of the bottom trawl vessels that landed catch taken below 600m owned by companies based in countries other than the UK?
- Are any of the bottom trawl vessels that landed catch taken below 600m flagged to a country other than the UK?
- How much of the landed catch taken by UK owned bottom trawl vessels below 600m was caught in the areas covered by the European Commission's proposal for the new deep-sea regulation? The COM proposal would apply to EU waters in ICES Areas II-XII, the NEAFC Regulatory Area (international waters of the NEAFC convention area) and EU and international waters of CECAF areas 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2 (i.e. this would exclude any catch from in ICES Area XIV where the UK has reported landings of Greenland halibut). Could you please specify?
- What is the species composition by weight per vessel of the landed catch taken below 600m by bottom trawl vessels?
- How many vessels caught more than:
 - 10% of their overall landed catch of all species in 2011 by bottom trawl fishing below 600m?
 - 5% of their overall landed catch of all species in 2011 by bottom trawl fishing below 600m?
- Can you provide answers to the questions above based on landed catch taken below 800m by bottom trawl vessels?