**Application Pack for 2017**

**North Sea Fully Documented Fisheries (FDF) scheme**

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is managing the Fully Documented Fishery (FDF) scheme in 2017 in the North Sea. The scheme aims to improve understanding of the impact of the landing obligation on North Sea vessels and to provide high quality data on the levels of discards of key North Sea stocks.

The scheme will run from January 2017 and will end on 31st December 2017.

**The main objectives of the project are to:**

* Further investigate the potential to reduce discard levels with particular focus on how mixed fisheries will be affected;
* Enhance our data collection to improve fisheries science and advice;
* Investigate the potential for likely ‘choke’ species in North sea mixed demersal fisheries;
* Investigate the impact of the introduction of the landing obligation on catches of landing obligation species (e.g. plaice, haddock) and fisheries behaviour/methods.

**The main principles of the catch quota scheme are that:**

a) All landing obligation stocks caught shall count against quota;

b) All landing obligation stocks caught shall be retained on board and landed (no discards are permitted);

c) Once a vessel’s quota for stocks subject to the landing obligation is reached, it must stop all fishing practices if sufficient quota cannot be secured or where incidental catches cannot be avoided.

d) During the scheme masters will be responsible for recording all of their catches including those below Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS). Remote Electronic Monitoring systems (REMs) will be used to verify this data.

**Additional quota**

Additional North Sea cod quota will be made available for vessels participating in the 2017 scheme. The allocation to individual vessels will be dependent on the number of vessels joining the scheme.

There may also be the opportunity for scientific quota to be made available.

Please note that all catches of landing obligation stocks (including undersized fish) will count against the vessel’s quota and must be landed. No discards of those stocks are permitted.

**Landing Obligation**

Applicants are reminded that the demersal landing obligation came into force on the 1st January 2016. All those with vessels affected by the 2016 and 2017 landing obligations should have received letters specifying which species they must stop discarding. If you are in any doubt, please contact your local MMO office or consult the guidance here: [2017 Demersal Landing Obligation guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/demersal-landing-obligation-discard-ban-2017-north-sea-and-north-western-waters/demersal-landing-obligation-discard-ban-2017-north-sea-and-north-western-waters)

Vessels participating on the 2017 scheme will be monitored to ensure that they are in compliance with the demersal landing obligation rules.

**SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION**

Vessels will be selected to participate on the basis of the criteria set out below:

**Mandatory criteria**

Vessels wishing to participate in this trial must meet the following criteria:

• Masters must ensure that discards are recorded in the logbook. In order to collate high quality data on levels of discards of key stocks including: saithe and hake the MMO will agree specific sampling plans with vessel owners and masters.

• Vessels must be English administered and be a member of a Producer Organisation.

• The master must make himself and the vessel available at a UK port (where possible) for a period of up to 3 days prior to the start of the scheme to allow installation of the monitoring systems and for one day after completion of the trial for the equipment to be removed.

• The vessel must satisfy accommodation standards as specified in the Terms and Conditions; have a current MCA safety certificate; and, be willing and able to take an observer to sea when required as part of this project.

• All vessels must have adequate insurance cover for the vessel and for personnel on board.

• A vessel engaged in Pair Trawl activities shall only be eligible for the scheme if both vessels are signed up to the FDF scheme.

• Vessels must be compliant with mandatory electronic reporting requirements.

Please see the [terms and conditions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/catch-quota-trial-scheme-application-forms-terms-and-conditions) of the scheme for full details.

**Selection criteria**

Applicants who meet the mandatory criteria will be sifted and places allocated on the scheme against how well they are judged to meet the following criteria:

* A clear indication, in the form of a Fishing Plan, on how fishing operations will be managed in order to: reduce catches of undersized fish of all species;
* reducing overall discards,
* avoid catches of juvenile fish; and,
* A clear indication of how undersized fish will be disposed of, for example information on which fishmeal processor or whether it will be offered for use as bait.
* Subject to the number of applications received, selection criteria may include (for previous participants) performance against meeting terms and conditions and duty of care requirements.

**Other considerations**

MMO reserves the right to choose those individuals that they consider to be fit and proper persons for participation in the scheme. MMO requires applicants to provide any information they consider relevant to this decision.

In making their decision MMO will consider all relevant information available.

**Submission of the application**

The application form attached below must be completed and submitted, by electronic copy to ukcatchquota@defra.gsi.gov.uk or, by hard copy to:

***Fisheries Development Team***

***Marine Management Organisation***

***Lancaster House***

***Hampshire Court***

***Newcastle***

***NE4 7YH***

**Queries about the application**

Clarification of the application requirements can be given. Please email queries to ukcatchquota@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

**Timetable**

Applications must be received by **12.00hrs** on **31/03/17**. Applicants will be informed of the results as soon as possible.

**APPLICATION FORM**

**FULLY DOCUMENTED FISHERY WITH REMOTE ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEM: NORTH SEA STOCKS** [Please use this to submit your application -Failure to provide the requested information may result in the application being rejected].

1) NAME OF APPLICANT (in capitals)

 **Name:**

2) ADDRESS & CONTACT DETAILS (in capitals)

 **Address for contacting over this application:**

**Daytime phone numbers and mobile number:**

 **Email address:**

3) VESSEL NAME & SKIPPER

 **Vessel Name:**

 **Vessel Registration Number:**

 **Skipper:**

4) GEAR TYPE

Please mark which gear types are intended to be used by your vessel during 2017 in the box below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TR1 | TR2 | Long-line | Gill net |
|  |  |  |  |

5) MEMBERSHIP OF FISH PRODUCER ORGANISATION

The vessel must belong to a Fish Producers Organisation.

I confirm that the vessel is a member of a Fish Producers Organisation, (delete as appropriate)

**Yes/No**

**The PO which the vessel is a member of is:**

6) ELECTRICAL SUPPLY

The vessel must have a reliable electricity supply.

I confirm that the vessel has a reliable electricity supply, (delete as appropriate)

**Yes/No**

On board voltage is **[** **]** volts.

 7) OBSERVER CAPACITY

The vessel must have the capacity to carry at least one observer and the facilities to enable observer(s) to remain on board overnight if required.

I confirm that the vessel has the capacity to carry at least observer and the facilities to enable an observer to remain on board overnight if required, (delete as appropriate)

**Yes/No**

8) AVAILIABILITY FOR CAMERA FITTING/ REMOVAL

a) The vessel must be available from January 2017 for up to three days to ascertain its suitability and to install the equipment. These days will be arranged at a mutually convenient time for the applicant and MMO and it will be responsibility for the vessel owner to arrange for engineering contractors to be on site subject to MMO agreement.

I confirm that the vessel will be available for 3 days at a mutually agreed time, (delete as appropriate).

**Yes/No**

b) The vessel must be available for one day between January and March 2018 for the equipment to be removed. This will be arranged for a mutually convenient day between the applicant and MMO.

I confirm that the vessel will be available for 1 day at a mutually agreed time between January and March 2018, (delete as appropriate).

**Yes/No**

9) CERTIFICATION

Applications for vessels 10m LOA to less than 15m LOA must include:

• A **copy** of a valid Marine & Coastguard Agency Fishing Vessel Decal certificate issued by an appointed MCA surveyor after inspection to ascertain the vessel’s general seaworthiness and compliance with The Small Fishing Vessels Code of Practice for Fishing Vessels under 15 metres LOA, MSN 1813.

Applications for vessels 15m LOA to less than 24m registered length must include:

• A **copy** of a valid Marine & Coastguard Agency Safety Certificate issued by an appointed MCA surveyor after inspection to ascertain the vessel’s general seaworthiness and compliance with The Code of Safe Working Practice for 15m (LOA) to less than 24m (L) Fishing Vessels.

Applications for vessels over 24m LOA must include:

• A **copy** of a valid International Fishing Vessel certificate (Certificate of Compliance) issued by an appointed MCA/Lloyds surveyor after inspection.

10) INSURANCE

All vessels must have adequate insurance cover for the vessel and for personnel on board. {You may wish to detail your P&I and personnel insurance and the limits of financial liability on each.}

I enclose a copy of the current vessel insurance, (delete as appropriate)

**Yes/No**

I confirm that additional insurance cover for the REM equipment will be arranged prior to the start of the trial and a copy of the cover note sent to MMO, and I understand that I am responsible for any insurance excess or other shortfall of insurance cover in the event of damage to REM equipment(delete as appropriate)

**Yes/No**

11) DISPOSAL OF UNDERSIZED FISH

Participants are required to dispose of undersized fish by sending them for processing into fishmeal or offering as bait to static gear operators. **Vessel operators must supply documentary proof of landings under sized and unmarketable catch quota fish with the landings declaration for quota uptake purposes.** Please describe how you will fulfil this obligation.

**Signed:**

**Date:**