



Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

balanceofcompetence.Fish@Defra.gsi.gov.uk

13 January 2014

Dear Sir / Madam,

Call for Evidence: Review of Balance of Competences – Fisheries

Thank you for the opportunity to provide evidence to this review.

The Institute for Archaeologists

The Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) is a professional body for the study and care of the historic environment. It promotes best practice in archaeology and provides a self-regulatory quality assurance framework for the sector and those it serves.

IfA has over 3,000 members and more than 70 registered practices across the United Kingdom. Its members work in all branches of the discipline: heritage management, planning advice, excavation, finds and environmental study, buildings recording, underwater and aerial archaeology, museums, conservation, survey, research and development, teaching and liaison with the community, industry and the commercial and financial sectors.

In matters relating to maritime archaeology IfA is advised by its Maritime Affairs Group (MAG), to which most professional maritime archaeologists belong. The Group exists to:

- advance the practice of maritime archaeology by promoting professional standards for the management, conservation, understanding and enjoyment of the maritime archaeological resource;
- provide advice and commentary to IfA on matters relating to maritime archaeology;
- aid in the development of professional guidelines and standards for the execution of maritime archaeological work;
- promote the training of archaeologists and others in maritime archaeological practice; and,
- facilitate the exchange of information and ideas about maritime archaeology and to communicate these to the wider profession.

IfA's evidence focuses on the EU's effect on the management and protection of the historic environment.

Review of Balance of Competences – Fisheries

General

The 'historic environment' is defined in the UK Marine Policy Statement (2011):

'2.6.6.1 The historic environment includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged. Those elements of the historic environment – buildings, monuments, sites or landscapes – that have been positively identified as holding a degree of significance meriting consideration are called 'heritage assets'.'

Heritage assets can be either designated (for instance, through the scheduling of an ancient monument, the designation of a wreck under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 or the designation of a historic marine protected area) or undesignated. It is important to note that the vast majority of the historic environment (around 95%) is undesignated.

The UK Marine Policy Statement continues:

2.6.6.2 The historic environment of coastal and offshore zones represents a unique aspect of our cultural heritage. In addition to its cultural value, it is an asset of social, economic and environmental value. It can be a powerful driver for economic growth, attracting investment and tourism and sustaining enjoyable and successful places in which to live and work. However, heritage assets are a finite and often irreplaceable resource and can be vulnerable to a wide range of human activities and natural processes.'

One of those activities is fishing and work is continuing better to understand the relationship between fishing and the marine historic environment (see, for example the report of Seafish (Ref.CR643), *Underwater Cultural Heritage, An Assessment of Risks from Commercial Fishing* (2011)).

There is scope for EU provision through the Common Fisheries Policy to support the management and protection of the marine historic environment (in a similar way to the support for the terrestrial historic environment through the Common Agricultural Policy). However, at present the measures to safeguard or improve the environment are confined to the natural environment.

Specific Questions

Advantages and disadvantages

How does the EU approach to fisheries management, including recent reforms to the CFP, benefit the national interest, or act against the national interest?

The EU approach to fisheries management acts against the national interest insofar as it fails adequately or at all to address the management and protection of the marine historic environment.

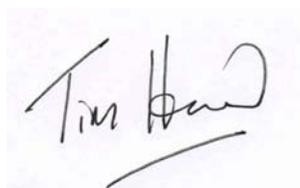
The importance of the historic environment, generally, is recognised in *The Government's Statement on the Historic Environment for England 2010* which sets out a vision

'That the value of the historic environment is recognised by all who have the power to shape it; that Government gives it proper recognition and that it is managed intelligently and in a way that fully realises its contribution to the economic, social and cultural life of the nation.'

Those sentiments continue broadly to be echoed by all administrations throughout the United Kingdom. IfA would like to see this recognition reflected in the Common Fisheries Policy.

If there is anything further that I can do to assist please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Tim Howard LLB, Dip Prof Arch
Policy Advisor