

Dear Mr Irranca-Davies,

### **Allocation of new quota stocks in 2009**

I refer to your letter of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 setting out your decision in relation to allocations for 2009.

As a fisherman whose livelihood is dependent upon the meagre scraps which are allocated to those, like myself, who operate within the under – ten metre fleet, I write to register my profound objection, indeed my disgust at DEFRA's astonishing volte face in respect of the quota allocated to the under- ten metre fleet in the new sector VIId cod quota allocation.

The background to this matter is as follows:

On the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009 you wrote to the Chief Executives of Producer Organizations, the NFFO and other interested parties setting out, amongst other things, your proposals for setting up a new ICES area VIId (Eastern English Channel) and allocating cod quota “based on the recorded landings of vessels between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008”. According to your figures this resulted in a quota available for the under ten-metre fleet of 109 tonnes (live weight). To refresh your memory I attach a copy of the proposed allocation which you distributed to the fleet. This equated to 70.3% of the overall total. Even though the number of fishermen working within the MFA South Eastern District in the under-ten fleet amounts to 83% of the total, and by number of fishing vessels 93% of the total, I was prepared to accept that this was at least a reasonable apportionment of the quota available. It seemed to me that, at last, the Marine and Fisheries Agency was prepared to recognise the wholly unfair and discriminatory practices of the past and actually seek to allocate quota on a fair and proportional basis. I was, however, premature in reaching such a conclusion.

In your second letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 which is headed “provisional quota allocation for 2009” you say “in the light of these representations (presumably you are referring here to the representations purely of the Producer Organisations such as UKAFPO).... we do not intend to proceed to distribute these quotas as proposed. Instead,..cod VIId , we have allocated quota to groups based on their FQA holdings for cod VIIb-k... which existed up until 2008. This is an absurd wholly illogical and unfair decision. This is a sector which has only just been created and therefore does not have any FQA. You have, simply given in to the demands of the large Producers Organizations and sacrificed, yet again the interests of small fishermen who have earned their livelihood by fishing in this area. The POs who have been so generously rewarded by you will, as usual, merely sit back and seek to earn profits, as armchair fishermen, by renting out their undeserved quota to hard-working fishermen such as myself.

I must inform you that this decision is so grossly unfair that I and my colleagues within the industry will challenge it by all legal means possible, unless you revoke this decision and reinstate the earlier proposals notified under cover of your letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

Please would you confirm receipt of this letter and confirm your position.

Yours Sincerely

Paul D.Joy

Co- chairman New Under Ten Fishermens Association

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