

Dear NUTFA Member.

As the yearly subscription of your membership has expired we would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your support through what has been a difficult year and update you on the progress of this Association so far. As you are no doubt aware the two main reasons for forming this organisation were to achieve a voice for the under-ten metre fleet at national level and to fight for a fair proportion of the UK quota. The first objective has been achieved and NUTFA is now recognised by DEFRA as a credible although somewhat feisty organisation. That said however DEFRA have steadfastly refused to re-allocate quota, despite the fact that a considerable amount is unused at the end of each year by the PO's. They have also openly stated to us that they consider the under-10's the same as the miners and we will go the same way. We had intended to take legal action to rectify this problem last year but without sufficient numbers and therefore funding in our organisation it was considered unwise to proceed at that time. A target of 300 members was considered the minimum point that we would be able to proceed with our legal objectives, this point was reached at the end of November and we instructed our legal team to proceed on the 14th December, they are now preparing the case. Our membership has now swollen to 370 but to be successful in our objectives we must maintain and hopefully increase that number. There has been of late a lot of negative comments started by DEFRA and other parties that would like to see us fail, because if we lose support we would also lose funding and then not be able to conclude the legal action. Regarding decommissioning and the two-tier license system, it is not our intention to jeopardise the decommissioning process and we will do nothing that endangers it. NUTFA has openly stated its stance regarding the two-tier license system. Under ten fishermen should be aware that the two tier license system will not put one more fish into the pool but is quite likely to have the reverse effect. There are no doubt those amongst us that do not entirely agree with these sentiments but we will not be detracted from what is our primary aim of achieving a fair and just quota allocation for all under-ten fishermen, this can only be achieved by retaining a strong membership. 2009 is our make or break year we must retain our unity and put aside self-interest, to do otherwise is to surrender to what ever draconian measures DEFRA wish to impose on us now or in the future, with little or no opposition. We therefore ask for your continued support by renewing your membership for another year, you may wish to (if you have not already) donate/loan additional funds to our fighting fund, as many have already done.

Dave Cuthbert Co-chairman NUTFA