

**New Under Ten Fishermen's Association Ltd**  
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***SUPPORTING THE UNDER 10m AND NON-SECTOR FISHING INDUSTRY WHICH REPRESENTS OVER 85% OF U.K. FISHING VESSELS.***

## NUTFA NEWSLETTER

NUTFA has now been in existence for ten months and membership has grown to well over three hundred members fishing out of eighty four different ports, harbours and beaches around the UK. The NUTFA executive would like to thank these members who have put their trust in us to achieve our aims of a fair and just industry for the under ten sector.

DEFRA has recognised NUTFA as the voice of the under ten fleet, and some progress has been made with better use of what little quota is available to us, however despite many years of mismanagement and many bad regulations being foisted upon us DEFRA appear to be unable or unwilling to rectify the imbalance of quota available to the under ten sector.

NUTFA sought legal opinion on a challenge to the quota system in the summer but it was considered that as a new Fishing Minister had been appointed and that a new team was heading DEFRA (MFA) all avenues should be explored before proceeding with the application for judicial review. Sadly the team at the top might have changed but the attitude and the rhetoric remains the same, DEFRA created the problem but the under ten sector must pay the price.

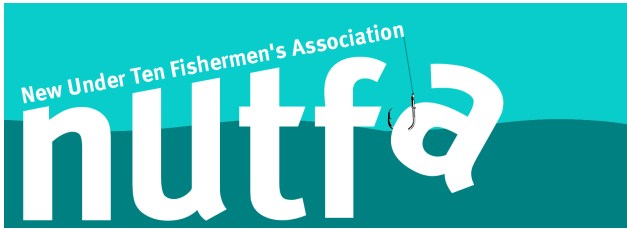
Despite attending six meetings in London at great time and expense to themselves the NUTFA representatives: all of whom are unpaid have reached the conclusion that to waste anymore time and money on pointless dialogue with an organisation that goes to the table with preconceived ideas and will not listen or act upon any initiatives from the Fishing Industry cannot be solved out of court.

The under ten metre fleet has been and continues to be discriminated against compared to other sectors of the fleet and it is with this and the above facts in mind that NUTFA has regrettably been left with no option but to proceed with the legal action, this is not a decision that has been taken lightly but to do nothing is not an option.

The next step is to raise the necessary funds, how can you help?

With well over three hundred members at present, out of 3000 vessels in England and nearly 5000 in the UK it is obvious that there are many fishermen out there that are either unaware or do not care about the situation that they find themselves in, however in the event of a successful outcome all will benefit should they join the Association. The NUTFA representatives have worked hard to reach as many fishermen as possible and we ask every member to ensure that every fisherman they come in to contact with is made aware of the facts and asked to join up.

New Under Ten Fishermen's Association Ltd, P O Box 10109, Colchester, Essex, CO1 9GF  
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We are very aware of the dire situation that many of you are in and to ask for money at the present time is difficult, however if we wish to proceed with legal action we must raise funds, so we respectfully ask that each and every one of you contribute what you can, ideally between £100 and £2,000, this would be on a loan basis, and repaid to you at ten per cent per year from the Associations subscription fees. Members may wish to consider a smaller amount paid by direct debit each month for example, which we could set up with your Bank if required.

This is a very small price to pay to save our livelihood and way of life.

We would also like to reassure all members that as this Association is registered as a company limited by guarantee all possible liabilities from this legal action lay solely with the committee members.

We have been advised that as the under tens have such a clear and strong case of discrimination, it would be likely DEFRA would wish to start quota re-negotiations with us soon after the legal action is initiated.

We are aware that many members have been frustrated with the apparent lack of progress and information forthcoming which we apologise for, however to send out the originally intended news letters every month would use up a lot of time and funds that would be better spent fighting the cause.

We will endeavour to keep all members as well informed as possible in the coming months and if you have any ideas or suggestions how we can improve on this please let us know. Remember we are a fishermen's organisation run by fishermen for fishermen and do not employ any secretaries.

Finally please give this matter your urgent attention as the need to start legal action is now paramount, particularly as many of our quotas are presently set to reduce further next year.

Yours faithfully

Dave Cuthbert Co Chair  
Paul Joy Co Chair  
Andrew Craig  
John Nichols  
Tom Brown  
Phil Walsh  
Don McKenzie