

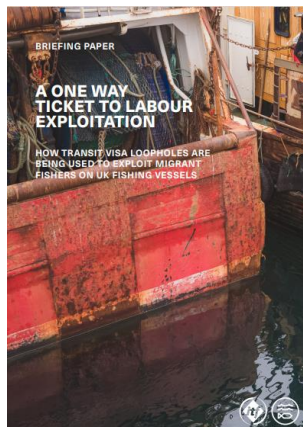
*Meeting to discuss developments re:
worker welfare in the UK*



Wednesday 14th September 2022
12:30 – 14:00

Agenda

- 12:30 – 12:35: Introduction and competition statement (*Andy*)
- 12:35 – 12:45: Update on developments re: foreign fishers in the UK (*Julia*)
- 12:45 – 13:00: Discussion (*All*)
- 13:00 – 13:45 Q & A with Chris Williams and Jessica Sparks (*All*)
- 13:45 – 14:00 Next steps and wrap-up (*Andy*)



the guardian



Please feel free to ask any questions or make any comments in the chat as we go



Competition statement

We must at all times comply with the requirements of competition law throughout this meeting, including in any informal discussions. Accordingly, we must not engage in any conduct which is likely to have the effect of preventing, distorting or restricting competition. All participants at this meeting agree to adhere to these principles and acknowledge that failure to do so could have serious consequences in law. Please also respect the confidentiality of your relationships with both customers and suppliers. These ground rules should serve to protect us all from any inadvertent breach of competition law.



Update on developments re: foreign fishers in the UK



Nationality and Borders Act 2022

Developments relating to application of Nationality and Borders Act.



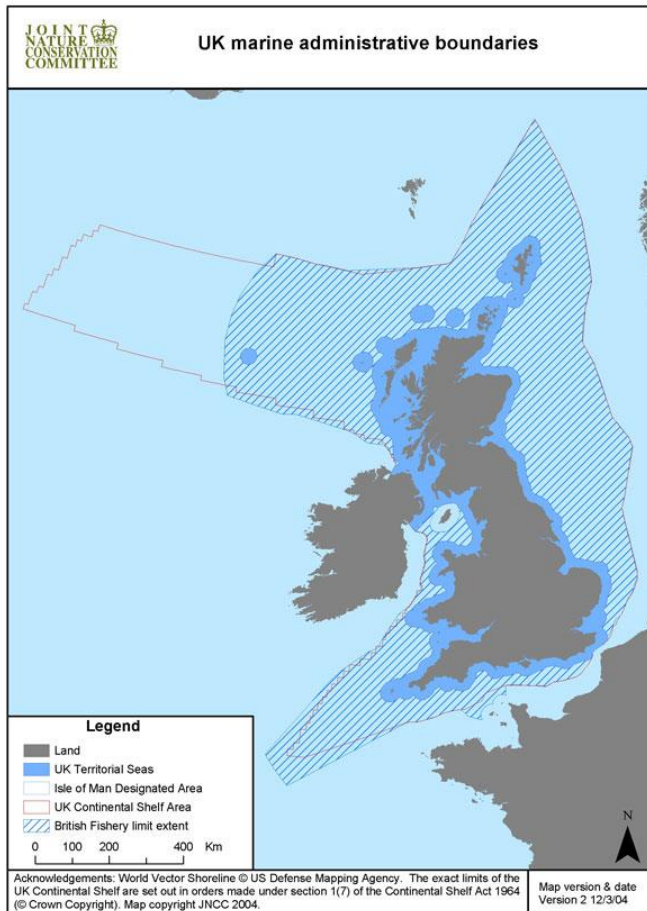
Potential sanctions for fishing vessels found to be in breach of rules.



Issue of transit visas not fundamentally addressed.



Update on developments re: foreign fishers in the UK



- *Certain fisheries/areas likely to be particularly impacted, inc. West Coast of Scotland, Northern Ireland.*
- *Concerns of foreign fishers in these areas becoming even more vulnerable.*

UK territorial seas (12nm from baseline) shown in light blue.



Our position statement following the University of Nottingham and ITF reports

“SEA Alliance members are appalled by the reports of abuses in the UK fishing industry. Whilst we recognise that there has been work towards improving conditions and addressing regulatory gaps in recent years, there is clearly a need for systemic change that addresses the needs and welfare of all fishers, and prevents any further abuses from occurring. The SEA Alliance wishes to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to help bring about the change we need to see for fishers.”

The instances of abuse and mistreatment described in the report by the University of Nottingham are deeply concerning. Any form of human rights or labour abuse is completely unacceptable.

Directly engaging fishers in their own language, as this study did, is important to better understanding the experiences of those that work on fishing boats and catch our fish. We commend the University of Nottingham for doing this work, and the bravery of those that took the time to speak about the unacceptable challenges they have faced.

Any fisher experiencing abuse and exploitation is one too many, and it is clear from the research, as well as other recent research, that there are systemic issues that need to be addressed.

We also welcome the briefing by the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) to shine a light on the use of transit visas to recruit migrant workers. We agree that these visas render workers vulnerable to exploitation and have been in use for an unacceptably long time. We share the view of both the ITF and members of the fishing industry that there should be a more suitable way to recruit workers into the sector – one that ensures fishers are not abused or exploited and that is consistent with the ILO’s Work in Fishing Convention.

We believe that the remediation of these issues will achieve the best outcomes when it involves collaboration between workers organisations, the fishing industry and seafood businesses, NGOs, regulatory bodies and other key stakeholders. We will work to support this process, in acknowledgment of the fact that ensuring respect for human rights is a shared responsibility of all those in the supply chain.

Whilst some of the more systemic changes may take some time to achieve, we will work at pace on the immediate actions that can be taken to drive necessary changes in conditions for workers. This includes ensuring that all workers in seafood supply chains know where to go for help and support should they need it, and are able to safely report abuse to the relevant government agencies and support organisations.

Discussion



Q & A



Chris Williams, ITF



*Jessica Sparks, University
of Nottingham/Tufts
University*



Next steps

