

Dear Committee member,

I am writing to voice my concern at the way the cockle review is being conducted. Looking at the last consultation we have ended up with fishermen in a non-established fishery influencing rules on an existing successful fishery where the two are tied together, as in the NEW JAMAICA where a potential annual permit fishery brings the long term future of the existing cockle industry into uncertainty with a 7 year cycle whilst losing a huge portion of ground. I do not feel it is right for an emerging small scale fishery to have significant detriment on the existing cockle fleet that some have invested their entire lives, financially and socially to make it successful, and in return should reap the benefits for time to come for that.

The process of these consultations are proving far too complicated and time consuming for the majority of fishermen to understand the consequences and to explain their views and desires from the process.

My biggest frustration with the current TECFO/permit fishery is it prevents anyone fishing for cockles that are out of area or inaccessible to the cockle fleet ie. Due to working depth (deep water cockles). It also prevents us for fishing for other species like clams, razor clams that co-exist in the same area.

The KEIFCA district now has the least fishing opportunities of all the IFCA districts in the country. We have lost the ability to fish for bass, soles, cod and skate on any profitable scale. The only viable fishery left is whelks, so it would be great if other opportunities could emerge for a few cockles, clams and any other species that emerge in the future to supplement our income, **BUT THIS SHOULD NOT IMPACT ANOTHER MAN'S FISHING OR INCOME STREAM!**

Of late we improving at uniting as an industry and are working together than ever before but it feels like like the IFCA are needlessly driving a wedge between us with the cockle review.

In my opinion all of this could have been avoided if the chief fishery officers would have sat down in a meeting with members of TEFA and a select few representatives from the Kent and Essex fishing associations and come up with workable ideas and solutions from that.

I don't believe any of the options in the latest document are to the best benefit of the industry and that the whole process would benefit from a rethink as there are many other easier and better solutions that have been discussed between TEFA and other industry that the authority don't seem willing to talk about let alone explore

Yours sincerely

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Under 10m fisherman, ██████████