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## **Prospects for UK Fisheries Post-Common Fisheries Policy**

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*Selected Paper prepared for presentation at the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium's (IATRC's) 2016 Annual Meeting: Climate Change and International Agricultural Trade in the Aftermath of COP21, December 11-13, 2016, Scottsdale, AZ.*

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# Prospects for UK Fisheries Post-Common Fisheries Policy

Presentation to IATRC | December 13, 2016

Image credit: *The Telegraph*, November 13, 2013

# Disclaimer

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*The views expressed here are those of the presenter, and do not necessarily represent those of any individual Commissioner or of the Commission as a whole.*



# Fisheries as political ammunition in the Leave/Remain debate

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Image credit: *The Telegraph*, June 15, 2016

# Importance of fishing industry to the UK

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- ▶ About 11,000 directly employed in fishing sector, half in Scotland. In some Scottish towns, share employed is as high as 40%.
- ▶ UK is the world's 15<sup>th</sup> largest exporter of fresh and frozen seafood – in the top 10 for fresh sole, cod, and haddock
- ▶ 2/3 of UK fish exports go to the EU



# How the fishing industry voted

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- ▶ Survey just before the vote suggested that upwards of 90% of fishermen would vote Leave
- ▶ This includes a strong majority of the Scottish fishing industry, in contrast to the vote in Scotland as a whole
- ▶ 3/4 thought that leaving the EU would afford them the opportunity to catch more fish



# Terms to know to understand fisheries policy

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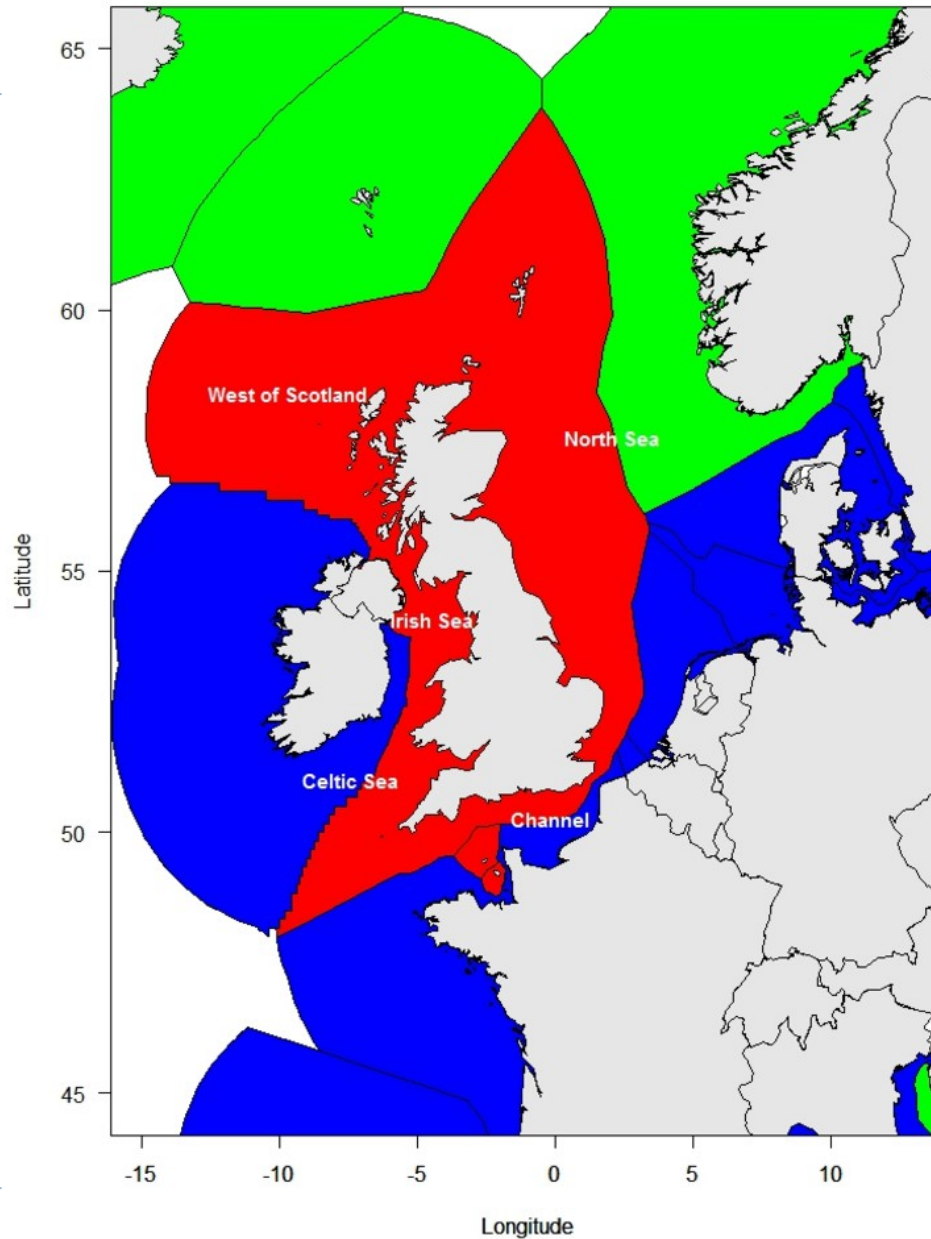
- ▶ **Territorial waters:** waters extending from a country's coastline to 12 nautical miles offshore
- ▶ **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):** waters extending from 12 to 200 nautical miles off of a country's coast





# EEZs

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- 
-  UK EEZ
  -  EU member EEZ
  -  3<sup>rd</sup> country EEZ
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Image credit:  
*The Conversation*

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# UK fisheries under the CFP

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- ▶ EU fisheries have been centrally managed since 1970
- ▶ The CFP is designed to allow members to fish in each others' EEZ as if they were domestic to that zone
- ▶ 1. Total quota levels are set based on science. They are specific to a species and geographic zone (35).
- ▶ 2. EU allocates shares of total quota to members based on their historical share of catch
- ▶ 3. Quota shares may be traded between members
- ▶ 4. The government of a member country awards shares of the total quota allocation allotted to vessels



## Challenges with current regime from UK perspective

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- ▶ Objections to the share of UK national quota awarded to foreigners, particularly the Spanish
- ▶ Can't independently negotiate with northern neighbors
- ▶ Historical basis used for quota allocation may not reflect current interest in fishing certain stocks



# What might change post-Brexit?

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- ▶ UK will negotiate new agreements with Iceland, Faroe Islands, and Norway
- ▶ UK will need to negotiate with EU to come to an agreement on total allowable catch for migratory stocks
- ▶ UK might face tariffs when exporting fish to the EU market. Most EU trade agreements maintain some tariffs on fish products.



...and what likely will not.

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- ▶ Total quota level for most types of fish caught in UK waters is unlikely to increase
- ▶ UK will likely still find it advantageous to sell some access to foreign fleets and the big players will still have advantages over small-scale fishermen
- ▶ No quick resolution since the sector is small

