

[News story: English fishing vessels sought for trials which may help to reduce discards](#)

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is looking for English fishing vessels working in the North Sea to take part in three trial schemes which may help to reduce discards and encourage more selective fishing behaviour.

Vessels taking part in the trials may be fitted with remote electronic monitoring (REM) equipment or be involved in trying out new gears and may be awarded additional quota in return.

The MMO has run fully documented fisheries (FDF) schemes, sometimes referred to as catch quota trials, [since 2011](#). As part of these schemes remote electronic monitoring (REM) equipment is fitted to vessels to encourage a reduction in discards. In addition, REM has proven to be a useful tool for gathering scientific data. The MMO has collaborated with the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences (Cefas) on exploring this use.

The MMO is [looking for English fishing vessels to apply](#) for two fully documented fisheries schemes in 2018:

1. North Sea Fully Documented Fisheries
2. North-East Nephrops Fully Documented Fisheries

The MMO is also looking for English vessels to take part in the North East Nephrops Net Selectivity trials which is looking to trial new gears which have the potential to be more selective.

North Sea Fully Documented Fisheries

To take part the vessel must be English-registered and a member of a Producer Organisation. In return for taking part in this scheme, vessels will be able to access additional quota for North Sea cod and saithe. In addition scientific quota may be available.

[Vessels should apply to take part by 18 April 2018](#), but if unable to do so by the deadline should contact the MMO as soon as possible to express an interest.

The aims of the scheme in 2018 are to:

- Test the use of REM as a control and enforcement tool
- To monitor compliance with fisheries legislation
- Test new developments in REM technologies
- Trial the use of inter-species flexibility (ISF)

North-East Nephrops

This is a new scheme for 2018. To take part vessels must be English-registered and work within the North East nephrops fishery. In return for participation in this scheme, vessels will be able to access additional quota for North Sea haddock and whiting. In addition, scientific quota for nephrops may be available.

[Vessels must apply to take part by 30 April 2018.](#)

The aims of this scheme are to:

- Test the use of REM as a control and enforcement tool within the nephrops fishery
- To monitor compliance with fisheries legislation
- Test new developments in REM technologies

North-East Nephrops Net Selectivity trials

This is a new scheme for 2018. To take part vessels must be English-registered and work within the North East nephrops fishery. When applying for this scheme vessels are asked to propose how they might improve their gear selectivity and the methods they will use to do this. In return for participation in this scheme, vessels will be able to access additional quota for North Sea haddock and whiting.

[Vessels must apply to take part by 30 April 2018.](#)

The aims of this scheme are to:

- Trial the use of highly selective gear to reduce discards and catches of below Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS) fish
- To document the effects of using highly selective gear in this fishery

For more information on the scheme email ukcatchquota@defra.gov.uk or call 0300 123 1032. If you would like to take part but have issues meeting the stated deadlines please contact the MMO as soon as possible to express your interest.

[This blog post explains more](#) about how fully documented fisheries work in practice.

[Guidance: North Sea Fully Documented Fishery \(FDF\) and North Sea Nephrops](#)

schemes

The Fully Documented Fishery (FDF) schemes aim to reduce fish discards and encourage fishermen to fish more selectively. Vessels participating in either scheme are required to comply with the Landing Obligation and all fisheries regulations.

North Sea FDF scheme

To apply for the North Sea FDF scheme you should refer to documents 1a) and 1b). You need to apply to take part by 18 April 2018.

North East Nephrops FDF scheme

To apply for the North East Nephrops FDF scheme you should refer to documents 2a) and 2b). You need to apply to take part by 30 April 2018.

The documents give more information on the specific conditions of each scheme including:

- eligibility
- additional quota given to those boats taking part in the scheme
- rules on discards and undersize fish
- operation of the remote electronic monitoring (REM) system
- control and enforcement
- conditions placed on the vessel and people taking part
- data control and handling
- penalties
- other general conditions

North East Nephrops net selectivity trial

Document 3 provides more information about the North East Nephrops net selectivity trials. To express an interest in taking part in this scheme please contact the MMO by email: ukcatchquota@defra.gov.uk or call 0300 123 1032. Vessels must apply to take part by 30 April 2018.

If you would like to take part in the schemes but are unable to apply by the deadline please contact the MMO as soon as possible to express an interest.

Further information and reports on the results of the scheme are available in the [document collection](#).

[News story: Trust Your Vet on antibiotic treatment](#)

A campaign urging pet owners to trust their vets on the use of antibiotics has today been launched by the government.

It follows a new survey by the [British Veterinary Association](#) (BVA) that found almost 90% of vets said clients came to appointments with an expectation they will provide antibiotics for their pets.

Nearly 70% of vets also said they feel their clients are not aware of the gravity of the issue of antimicrobial resistance.

Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest global threats with estimates suggesting it could be responsible for 10 million deaths per year by 2050 – and cost the global economy \$100 trillion.

Following a [government strategy to tackle AMR](#) launched in 2013, antibiotic use in livestock has fallen to an all-time low, but attention must now address antibiotic use in companion animals, specifically client expectation and understanding.

Christine Middlemiss, Chief Veterinary Officer said:

We are a nation of animal lovers, and are committed to having some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world.

We all want to take care of our pets which is why it's important to remember that antibiotics are not always the best treatment.

If that's what your vet says – trust your vet.

We all have a part to play in tackling the threat that is antibiotic resistance and reduce it wherever possible.

John Fishwick, BVA President said:

Vets are working hard to reduce the threat of antibiotic resistance to ensure these vital medicines can be used in the future. It is incredibly important that pet owners follow veterinary advice and trust their vet's clinical judgement.

John Chitty, [the British Small Animal Veterinary Association](#) (BSAVA) President said:

Antimicrobial resistance is a major problem in all species, so

trust your vet to give professional and impartial advice on the correct use of antibiotics to help not only your pet, but the whole pet population.

To help raise awareness of the campaign we're encouraging vets to put up our poster in their practices. The poster is available in [Vet Record](#) (6 April) and also downloadable at www.bva.co.uk/trustyourvet where you can also find other resources.

Further information:

- *According to BVA's Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey, conducted in February 2018.
- In 2017 it was estimated that the total number of pets in the UK is 21 million, with 8.5 million dogs, 8 million cats and 900,000 rabbits being among the most popular.

[Consultation outcome: National policy statement for water resources: infrastructure types and sizes](#)

Updated: Summary of responses and government response added.

We want your views on our proposals for the types and sizes of infrastructure which should be considered as 'nationally significant' infrastructure projects. These will be defined in the Planning Act 2008.

This consultation supports the development of the National Policy Statement for Water Resources.

[Policy paper: Beyond the ice: UK policy towards the Arctic](#)

This document follows the publication in 2013 of the government's first Arctic Policy Framework, [Adapting to Change](#), which set out the UK's approach towards the Arctic, based upon the 3 principles of respect, co-operation and appropriate leadership.

These principles remain central to the UK government's approach to the Arctic. We recognise that Arctic stewardship rests with the Arctic States and the indigenous peoples of those States, and continue to support their efforts to ensure a sustainable future for the region. The main commitments include:

- helping to understand a changing Arctic through world-class science
- protecting the Arctic's fragile environment
- promoting prosperity in the region

The UK will show leadership in matters of global importance such as climate change and tackling pollution in our oceans. We will also encourage UK companies to explore commercial opportunities, while ensuring that people who depend on the Arctic for their livelihoods can continue to do so sustainably for generations to come.