

Press release: Next phase of the discard ban takes effect

From today (2 January), fishermen targeting certain fish in the North Sea must land everything they catch as the [next phase of the discard ban](#) for demersal species comes into force, Fisheries Minister George Eustice has announced.

The discard ban, also known as the landing obligation will encourage sustainable fishing by ending the wasteful practice of throwing dead fish overboard.

It has been gradually introduced to allow time for fishermen to adapt to the new rules, and today, the existing ban for cod, whiting and saithe has been extended to include more vessels in the North Sea. Fishermen targeting saithe in North Western Waters, including the Irish Sea, will be required to land it for the first time.

Commenting on the next phase of the discard ban, Fisheries Minister George Eustice said:

The UK is leading the way in championing sustainable fishing, and the latest phase of the discard ban will help put an end to the wasteful practice of throwing fish back, dead, overboard.

Together with careful quota management, the discard ban will help us create a profitable fishing industry and safeguard our marine environment.

Today's extension of the discard ban follows the successful introduction of the [pelagic ban in January 2015](#) and the [demersal ban in 2016](#).

Press release: Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant opens for applications

From today (Tuesday 2 January 2018), applicants can apply for the [Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant](#) – a scheme to help landowners reap the environmental and financial benefits of woodland creation.

The grant is open to all qualifying land managers. Successful applicants will

receive a two-year capital grant of up to £6,800 per hectare, as well as an opportunity to apply for annual maintenance payments for ten years.

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

Planting trees is one of the best ways we can invest in our environment for future generations. They provide a haven for wildlife, reduce flood risk and improve water quality – making them some of our most cherished assets.

I have seen first-hand how planting trees can really make a difference at places such as the Lowther Estate in Cumbria, so I would urge landowners to apply to this scheme.

Richard Greenhous, Forest Services Director for the Forestry Commission, said:

Aside from the environmental benefits, planting trees on your land can offer an alternative source of income.

Your local Woodland Officer can provide advice and support throughout the application process.

Guidance and application forms for the scheme were [made available](#) in September to give potential applicants more time to develop their plans. The process has now been streamlined to make it easier to apply.

Alongside the Woodland Creation Grant, landowners can also apply for the [Woodland Creation Planning Grant](#) to help with planning and proposals. This grant has already supported two large-scale planting schemes in England this autumn: [Doddington North Moor](#) in Northumberland and the Lowther Estate in Cumbria.

The Forestry Commission has appointed a new team of specialised woodland creation officers to assist landowners through the application process for large scale projects.

More information on the funding options available is available [here](#) and applicants can [contact the Forestry Commission](#) for further advice and assistance.

Case study

Mr Hugh Davis, the owner of Treworder Barton Farm in Cornwall, has received funding from the Countryside Stewardship Woodland Creation Grant to plant a new productive woodland that enables him to quickly produce a crop of timber for wood markets. The grant has covered 80 per cent of the planting costs with an ongoing payment of £200 per hectare for the next 10 years.

Speaking about his application, Mr Davis said:

Planting is relatively straight forward. For the first two years, you need to keep weeds under control and protect young trees from other threats, for example pests, frost or drought. Once they are established, looking after the trees is relatively low maintenance.

The thing with forestry is that you can't play catch up. You need to plan ahead and invest sooner rather than later. I'm very pleased I've done it.

Notice: TA7 9QW, Hook 2 Sisters Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish surrenders that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the surrender letter, decision document and site condition report evaluation template for:

- Operator name: Hook 2 Sisters Limited
- Installation name: Whitley Wood Poultry Unit
- Permit number: EPR/DP3934DV/S002

Notice: EX15 2JE, PD Hook (Breeders) Limited and PD Hook (Rearing) Limited: environmental permit issued (EPR/BP3638RX/S003)

The Environment Agency publish surrenders that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the surrender letter, decision document for:

- Operator name: PD Hook (Breeders) Limited and PD Hook (Rearing) Limited
- Installation name: Northcott Farm Poultry Unit

- Permit number: EPR/BP3638RX/S003
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Notice: C05 8SU, AM Gray & Co Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publishes surrenders that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the surrender letter, decision document and site condition report evaluation template for:

- Operator name: AM Gray & Co Limited
- Installation name: Bocking Hall Pig Farm
- Permit number: EPR/VP3138KT/S003