



A 'NO-DEAL' BREXIT: FISHERIES

April 2019



What effect would a 'no-deal' scenario have on EU fisheries?

In a 'no-deal' Brexit, access to UK waters will be governed by United Kingdom legislation in accordance with international law. UK vessels will no longer have automatic access to EU waters, and vice versa.



What Brexit preparedness and contingency measures have been taken?

The EU has fully prepared for a 'no-deal' scenario. Two contingency measures have been adopted:

- An amendment to the Regulation on the Sustainable Management of the External Fleets: this would ensure that the EU is in a position to grant UK vessels access to EU waters until the end of 2019, on the condition that EU vessels are also granted reciprocal access to UK waters. This measure is based on the terms of 2019 fishing opportunities, as agreed in the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 17 and 18 December 2018.
- The EU has adjusted the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to enable Member States to grant financial compensation to fishermen who have to cease their activities temporarily resulting from the loss of access to UK waters.



How will the Commission support a coordinated approach by affected Member States?

- The Commission will work closely with the Member States concerned to assess the impacts of a potential loss of access to UK waters and to coordinate the use of a range of mitigation tools. This can take many forms: ranging from EU emergency measures to the use of temporary cessation aid by the Member States concerned.
- The Commission and the Member States concerned will analyse fishing patterns in detail and work to identify relevant criteria, within the existing framework, to assess the viability and scale of potential displacements in fishing efforts to EU waters.
- The Commission will work with the Member States concerned to agree on a voluntary framework for intensified monitoring of changes in fishing activities in EU waters.