

Support Local Inshore Fishing Boats – End the Marketisation of Quotas

Submission from SE Cornwall CLP to Labour Policy Consultation 2018 ‘A Greener Britain’

1. This CLP believes that as part of its Energy, Environment and Culture Policy, the next Labour Government should urgently explore ways of supporting UK coastal fishing communities, by implementing a series of fisheries policies which are economically more equitable, socially less-damaging, and ecologically more sustainable, than those currently operated under the EU Common Fisheries Policy.
2. Rather than current marketised leasing arrangements, which have seen two thirds of the UK quota leased to large, transnational corporations, we should seek to establish more equitable/fairer quota allocations which more accurately reflect the historically-important contribution of local inshore fishing fleets, especially of small boats under ten metres length, to the UK fishing industry, and to coastal communities in general.
3. Allocating a fairer share of UK fishing quotas to small boats will not only benefit many coastal economies, but will also reduce the ecological impact of fishing. More than 90% of large boats use towed beam gear which damages the sea-floor, compared to 22% of small boats.
4. Information used for determination of quotas should be improved by employing data collected at sea by boat operators themselves. Many UK small-boat operators consider present information-collection and quota-allocation methods top-down, inflexible, and exclusive of the fishing workforce.

Proposed by Patrick O’Sullivan