APPG For Fisheries

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th April 2017.

In Attendance:
- Margaret Ritchie MP
- Peter Aldous MP
- Martin Vickers MP

Guest:
- Barrie Deas, speaking on Fisheries Policy Post Brexit.

Summary:

Parliament is much more important in fisheries terms then it has been in the last 20 years. International negotiations mandate will come from here. Continuous dialogue and clear communication is important.

The fishing industry was overwhelmingly in favour of leaving the EU. Conditions that were applied to fishing when we joined the EU were as a result of the UK being ambushed by other member states. Functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy (CPF) compared to blind alleys; stocks are on the up, but getting there has been difficult.

Brexit is an opportunity. Shift away from the idea of equal access. Should happen automatically. UK can operate as an independent state and develop our own fisheries management system that is tailored to our own fleet.

Acting as an independent costal state – over 100 stocks are shared with other countries. Manage them jointly with other countries. Look to the EU-Norway model. Annual fishing summit for an agreement for the coming year. Total allowable catches, shares, and access arrangements. Demersal and Pelagic fisheries.

Meeting with David Davis in August 2016 to produce a comprehensive document outlining the positions of the National Federation of Fisherman's Organisations. Three essential expectations:

- Exclusive 12-mile limit to protect in shore fisheries (single exception of the Northern Ireland border)
- Renegotiation of the quota shares to reflect shares in our waters. E.g. Channel cod UK share is 9%
- Dependence on the European market.

Industry concerned fishing industry could be sacrificed as part of broader negotiations. Big opportunity but not without risks – fundamentals are renegotiations of the shares to reflect our waters. UNCLOSS (United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea) have to be taken into account.

A discussion then took place.