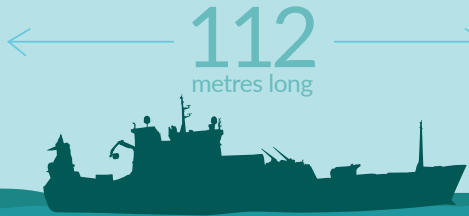


Myth Busting - 'Fact vs Fiction'


Fast facts - Frank Bonefaas



285
million fish meals
supplied
every year



catches
up to
250
tonnes of fish per day



Nets operate in the midwater, they do not touch or impact the seabed. They do not interfere with flora and fauna that live near the seabed






fishermen onboard at any one time, 70% from the UK



6,562
gross registered
tonnage

Minimised
CO₂ emissions
through economical
use of engines

3,500
tonne capacity
in cold store
equivalent to
7
million
fish meals



Highly efficient
selective fishing gear
and technology minimises
by catch (marine
mammals)



Fiction

NAFC doesn't contribute to the UK economy/ foreign owned and operated vessels are unfairly exploiting English waters.

Fact

North Atlantic Fishing Company is a UK registered company that has been based in the UK since 1984, pays taxes to the UK treasury and has offices in Caterham and Hull.

It employs English fishermen, who are residents in the UK.

With a home port of Hull in the Northeast of England, most of the 70 jobs created by North Atlantic Fishing Company's vessels are occupied by British nationals living in UK port communities.

North Atlantic Fishing Company continues to look for commercial opportunities in the UK to land and distribute its catch.

Our two Wiron vessels will start landing into Hull from July 2022, using local businesses to support our operations.

North Atlantic Fishing company complies fully with both UK and EU fisheries regulations, which are designed to assure sustainable practice, at all times

Fiction

Large vessels are taking all the fish, leaving the smaller vessels with nothing.

Fact

We do not interfere with the operations of smaller inshore fishing businesses; we fish for different species in different places and sell our product to different markets.

Our vessels target large offshore shoaling stocks like mackerel, horse mackerel, herring, and blue whiting, where there is limited or no overlap with inshore fishing.

NAFC operates within fisheries management measures that include scientifically derived Total Allowable Catches (TACs) that dictate the scale of individual species quota allocations. It would be illegal to catch more than quota allocations allow for and we account for every catch.

This quota system, which is underpinned by the latest scientific evidence, takes account of the requirements of fish stock sustainability and marine ecosystem to make sure that the harvest doesn't interfere with the healthy functioning of the marine environment.

Fiction

Pelagic vessels fish in and damage marine protected environments.

Fact

Pelagic vessels cause no damage to seabed habitats, flora and fauna. They use a mid-water trawl, which has no contact with the seabed.

Pelagic vessels actually have among the lowest bycatch levels of any fishing boats – less than 1%.

Our vessels only fish where they are permitted to do so. If there is risk that our operations will hazard the protected features of an area, we will not be able to fish there. Regulators assess the impact of all types of fishing gear on the sensitive seabed features of marine protected areas. If the gear has an impact, the gear will not be permitted to be used.

Fiction

Pelagic vessels damage the ecosystem by removing a large volume of pelagic fish from the sea.

Fact

Pelagic fishing is managed on the basis of a maximum sustainable yield per pelagic stock. The level of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and resulting quotas is based on scientific advice and takes account of the needs of other marine species and the ecosystem services provided by pelagic fish. The size of the vessel we use to catch the fish reflects operating efficiencies and has no bearing on the volume of the TAC and quota.

North Atlantic Fishing Company fishes for these species in a seasonal manner to catch the best quality fish for our consumers. Due to the large and sustainable size of the stocks available, the allowable catch quotas can also be large as well.

Pelagic species such as herring, mackerel, blue whiting, and horse mackerel are wild caught, highly migratory and swim in large, dense shoals of individual species. This means that the stocks we fish are seasonally abundant in certain places, in large quantities, and at high concentrations. We use this pattern of behaviour to catch fish in controlled quantities, at the optimum time and place, over a relatively short period to ensure the sustainability of the fish.

Fiction



Pelagic vessels and pelagic fishing contribute to high CO2 emissions.

Fact

Wild-caught pelagic fish has the lowest animal protein carbon footprint, requiring no artificial feeding or freshwater supplies, while pelagic and demersal trawling are extremely energy-efficient. Larger than average vessels make fewer longer trips, using less fuel.

Fiction

Pelagic vessels aren't compliant with fisheries regulations.

Fact

NAFCO operations are fully compliant with fisheries and shipping regulations.

We invest in state of the art technology to make our fishing compliant and selective:

- Fish finding devices to precisely target our catch
- Nets designed to let juvenile fish escape. This ensures they can go on to reproduce and contribute to the future sustainability of the stock
- Acoustic deterrent devices to dissuade marine mammals from approaching the nets
- Electronic logbooks to report our catches back to the authorities every 24 hours
- CCTV cameras to contribute to scientific data collection and provide evidence of compliant operations

Fiction

Smaller vessels are unable to make a living because the so called “supertrawlers” are taking all the fish.

Fact

The term Supertrawler is often used to suggest disproportionate catching power of a large vessel when compared to a smaller fishing vessel. This is inaccurate and misleading. Our vessels combine trawling capability with storage capability – 75% of the hull space in Frank Bonefaas is used for storage.

We catch up to 250 tonnes of fish per day compared with up to 800 tonnes for smaller Refrigerated Sea Water (RSW) pelagic trawlers that do not process but make more frequent trips and land to shore-based processing facilities.

Although the world market for the pelagic fish species undergoes fierce price competition, pelagic fish species are typically at the bottom of the price range. Taking economies of scale as an example, to provide affordable, inexpensive, sustainable pelagic fish to

the world market, they must be fished in large quantities in as few fishing journeys as possible. As such, pelagic fish has a significantly lower carbon footprint compared to other animal protein such as beef, pork, poultry, and farmed fish.

The four target species of fish are known as ‘pelagic’, relating to the midwater zone in the sea where they are found, which is neither close to the surface nor near the seabed. The pelagic environment is the largest aquatic habitat on earth. Our vessels predominantly operate up to a hundred miles from the coast and on fishing grounds that are inaccessible to smaller fishing boats. The Frank Bonefaas fishes at volume, catching up to 250 tonnes of fish per day and has a 3,400-tonne capacity cold store on board, delivering the necessary economies of scale to export its catch to foreign markets.

