

## Regulation & compliance

The UK fishing industry is one of the world's best-managed and most regulated to safeguard fish stocks for future generations. Scientific evidence informs and drives fisheries management decisions.

NAFCO operates within the fisheries management measures that include scientifically derived Total Allowable Catches (TACs) that dictate the scale of individual species quota allocations. We cannot and do not catch all the fish as it would not only be illegal to do so but self-defeating in business terms.

We can only fish for what is permitted through quota allocations. We do not target non quota stocks. We are required by law to submit catch information daily to enable monitoring of catch by Fishing Authorities. If we exceed our permitted quota allocation, we are required to source additional quota from other fishing operators to make up the shortfall whilst not increasing the overall TAC. It is illegal to discard fish which are subject to quotas, so we fish selectively to minimise bycatch.

The Frank Bonefaas holds quota for only four species of fish - mackerel, horse mackerel, blue whiting, and herring – and actually holds just **10%** of the current UK quota for the four species for which it fishes. This equates to **19%** of all quota by weight because the Frank Bonefaas fishes for high volume, low value fish, which provides an essential, healthy, sustainable and low-cost food source for people in poor, nations mainly outside the EU.

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.

With a home port of Hull in the Northeast of England, most of the North Atlantic Fishing Company's employees are British nationals living in UK port communities, fishing the North Sea and Northeast Atlantic Ocean.



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## Authorities and organisations



Fisheries management in the UK involves several different authorities and organisations. Defra is responsible for broad oversight of UK fisheries policy and governance. Fisheries management is carried out by the devolved fisheries administrations: the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in England, Marine Scotland in Scotland, DAERA in Northern Ireland, and the Welsh Government in Wales.

The MMO's function is to promote sustainable marine development in England's waters, in line with government policy. It supports marine businesses, the marine environment, and coastal communities.

- Inspect POs and ensure they are operating lawfully, allocating among members
- Manages fishing quotas for non-sector and under-10m English vessels
- Licenses fishing vessels operating in UK waters on behalf of all devolved fisheries authorities
- Coordinates enforcement of fishing regulations in English waters to assure compliance with regulations
- Administers financial penalties and legal action for non-compliance
- Coordinates with other fishing authorities to ensure waters are fished responsibly and sustainably

## How we meet Government guidelines

### Electronic logbooks

These are compulsory and report our catches back to the authorities every 24 hours, making sure we are acting within government quotas and restrictions.

### Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

A position report is sent by a closed-circuit, tamper proof, satellite system to the authorities every two hours ensuring a high level of monitoring to ensure that our vessels are fishing in the right place.

### Innovative fishing gear

We use nets designed to let juvenile fish escape. This ensures they can go on to reproduce and contribute to the future sustainability of the stock. We use devices called 'pingers', which deter marine mammals such as dolphins and seals from approaching our nets.

### Our commitment

North Atlantic is committed to fishing sustainably and works with authorities to ensure its compliance with regulations.

The Fishing Company's pelagic trawlers do not endanger fish stocks. Pelagic fishing is managed on the basis of the maximum sustainable yield that can be sourced from the pelagic stock whilst also assuring that the harvest can be replaced by the residual breeding stock.

To ensure we work with authorities we are working with Government to pilot **Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM)** onboard our vessels. The Frank Bonefaas will trial CCTV cameras on-board to record fishing activity to provide both data for scientific analysis and evidence of compliance with regulations.