Written Answer

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes, Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the proposals in the 2012 draft common fisheries policy to ban discards of certain species which are believed to have a good chance of survival if discarded promptly.

Richard Benyon (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Natural Environment and Fisheries), Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Newbury, Conservative)

The UK Government strongly support the European Commission's ambition in seeking to end the wasteful practice of discarding of dead and dying fish, which has rightly attracted so much public interest. Through a reformed common fisheries policy (CFP) we need a flexible regulatory framework that drives the necessary changes in fishing activity and behaviour to end these discards.

There are some species which have a good chance of surviving if discarded, and it is important that the provisions of the CFP reflect this.

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