

## NEWS

Political backbone in Brexit talks needed to secure more successful future for UK fishing industry

# Fishing Brexit boost says study

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**The fishing industry is poised for substantial growth when the UK exits the European Union, according to a comprehensive new analysis.**

It could even double in size if Britain follows the example of Iceland where 95% of the fish caught within the 200-mile limit recognised by international law is landed by local vessels.

The study by Dr Ian Napier of the NAFC Marine Centre in Shetland, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands, highlights the fact that in 2016 UK vessels caught just over one-third (36%) of all the fish and shellfish landed from the British Exclusive Economic Zone, (EEZ) worth £815m.

In addition, UK vessels caught £112m worth of fish

and shellfish from other areas of the EU EEZ.

However, as a sovereign, independent Coastal State operating outside the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and able to control access and quota allocation, the UK industry could be worth up to £1.68bn, Dr Napier concludes.

Even if UK boats are barred from catching within the EU EEZ, the industry stands to grow in value by 92% to £1.57bn.

"These figures highlight very starkly the Sea of Opportunity Brexit will yield for the industry," said Scottish Fishermen's Federation chief executive Bertie Armstrong.

"Key to maximising the potential gain will be political backbone in the Brexit talks, and 100% resistance to any kind of messy trade-offs such as guaranteeing no-change access to EU vessels, or linkage of the trading of fish to access to UK waters."

He added: "We have never said that EU vessels will not be permitted to fish in UK waters after Brexit, but the critical element here is that this will be negotiated in the correct international forums and be done so on our terms and no-one else's."

Dr Napier's study indicates that if UK vessels are permitted to catch 50% of the fish from their own waters the industry would grow in size from between 9% (£891m) to 23% (£1bn), depending on whether access to EU waters is permitted or denied.

At 75%, the industry would be worth between £1.19bn (47% growth) and £1.31bn (60%) and at 84%, equivalent to how Norway operates, it would be between £1.32bn (61%) and £1.43bn (75%).

Under the Iceland scenario of 95%, the industry would be worth between £1.48bn and £1.6bn (growth of 82% or 96% respectively).



Brexit set to be a huge boost for the UK's fishing industry.

## Independent review of proposed RBS branch closures in Castlebay and Kyle



**Johnston Carmichael has been appointed to independently review the proposed closure of the Royal Bank of Scotland branches in Castlebay and Kyle. If you are likely to be affected by the closures we would like to hear your views by 5pm on 14 August 2018.**

Johnston Carmichael, the largest independent firm of Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers in Scotland, has been appointed by the Royal Bank of Scotland plc ("RBS") to independently review the proposed closure of ten branches in Beaul, Biggar, Castlebay, Comrie, Douglas in Lanarkshire, Gretna, Inveraray, Kyle, Melrose and Tongue.

We will be reviewing the usage of each branch on its own merits and then providing RBS with a recommendation on whether we consider each branch should remain open or be closed.

As part of our independent review, we would welcome the views of anyone who uses the RBS branches in Castlebay and Kyle and who would be directly affected by their closure. Specifically, we would like to hear how often you currently use the branches and what you use them for. We would also like to hear if you are aware of alternative ways to bank if the branches were to close and whether those alternatives would reasonably fulfil your everyday banking needs.

**You can share your views with us at any time by:**

- Writing to us at The RBS Review Team, Johnston Carmichael LLP, 29 Albyn Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1YL; or
- Completing a short online questionnaire available at [www.jcca.co.uk/rbsbranchreview](http://www.jcca.co.uk/rbsbranchreview)

**You can also talk to us in person at the branches - in Castlebay on Monday 6 August 2018 or Kyle on Thursday 9 August 2018:**

- Members of our review team will be visiting the RBS branches in Castlebay on Monday 6 August and Kyle on Thursday 9 August and would welcome the opportunity to meet customers and users of each branch to discuss their banking needs on a one to one basis. Our team members will be at each branch during normal branch opening times and will be looking to meet with as many people as possible. Appointments of 20 minutes will be made available.
- We strongly advise you to book an appointment to avoid extended waiting times. **To book an appointment, please telephone 01224 259353** between the hours of 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

**Please note that the deadline for the submission of your views is 5pm on Tuesday 14 August 2018** and all comments that you share about how you use the branches will be kept confidential. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Johnston Carmichael RBS Review Team