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MONITORING THE SAFETY OF OUR FOOD

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Centre for Environment Fisheries & Aquaculture Science

MONITORING THE SAFETY OF OUR FOOD

Cefas plays a leading role in Europe, and the North-east Atlantic, collecting and processing fisheries data, conducting stock assessments, and advising in support of government policy. More recently, our role has expanded to international fisheries, and our advice is provided to countries that include Canada, USA, Antarctica and Kuwait, amona others. Our fisheries work predominantly uses approaches that Cefas' scientists have developed and improved since the 1950s. Reforming and managing marine fisheries for a prosperous fishing industry and a healthy marine environment are supported by our scientific evidence bases. The Johannesburg Declaration of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 calls for an ecosystem approach to the management of the exploitation of living marine resources and rebuilding fisheries to maximum sustainable yield (MSY). The emphasis on long-term management plans for fisheries, the drive to manage stocks (where possible) at maximum sustainable yield by 2015, and the integration of fisheries policy with other environment/maritime policies all require radical changes and new thinking being pioneered at Cefas.

Moving ever closer to 2020 and the delivery of fisheries and environmental targets, the UK is ever more reliant on excellent, well-respected international fisheries science. Stock recovery/rebuilding are preconditions for economic success. and new objectives and approaches are being developed by our scientists to replace single-species management plans by fishery based plans which regulate entire fisheries. Cefas' new thinking and emerging approaches include sustainability based on total catches rather than landings, harvest rates for data-rich and data-limited stocks, and the protection of valuable habitats. Cefas' leading role was recognized in the Queen's Birthday 2017 Honours list with a CBE for Dr Carl O'Brien for services to the management of internationally-shared fisheries.

For more information please visit:

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