Public Consultation on the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Sectoral Plan for Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Sector

Consultation Questionnaire

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine welcomes feedback on the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Sectoral Plan for the Agriculture, Forest and Seafood sector.

Please consider the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Sectoral Plan before submitting a response. All opinions are welcome and will be considered in the further development of the Adaptation Plan.

Terms and Conditions

All submissions, including the name of the person making the submission, will be published on the Department’s website.

Freedom of Information

All submissions and comments submitted to the Department for this purpose are subject to release under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014 and the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007-2014. Submissions are also subject to Data Protection legislation.

Personal, confidential or commercially sensitive information should not be included in your submission and it will be presumed that all information contained in your submission is releasable under the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

Data Protection

Please note that if you make a submission you are agreeing for it to be published in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR EU 2016/679), the Data Protection Acts 1988-2018, the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and the DPER Consultation Principles and Guidance.
Privacy Statement

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is committed to protecting and respecting your privacy and employs appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect your information from unauthorised access. The Department will not process your personal data for any purpose other than that for which they were collected. Personal data may be exchanged with other Government Departments, local authorities, agencies under the aegis of the Department, or other public bodies, in certain circumstances where this is provided for by law.

The Department will only retain your personal data for as long as it is necessary for the purposes for which they were collected and subsequently processed. When the business need to retain this information has expired, it will be examined with a view to destroying the personal data as soon as possible, and in line with Department policy. Further information on Data Protection can be found on our website at: https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/dataprotection/informationondataprotection/

1. Details:

Full Name: Norah Parke

Organisation where applicable: Killybegs Fishermen’s Organisation (KFO)

or

Member of the public: 

Subsector:

- Dairy
- Mixed
- Fisheries [X]
- Beef
- Arable
- Industry
- Sheep
- Horticulture
- Prepared Consumer Foods
- Other: ________________________________
2. What do you think are the changes in climate that are having the most impact on those working in the agriculture, forest and seafood sector?

- Extreme Rain
- Drought
- Extreme heat
- Storminess
- Flooding
- Seasonal stability
- Other: ________________________________

X X X
Please Explain:

Storminess

Depending on the severity, storminess may cause

1. Reduced opportunities to fish so fishermen will earn less money

2. Current financial models for investing in new builds/upgrading fishing vessels to be no longer be feasible so there will be a reduction in such areas as:
   a. shipbuilding/repair businesses
   b. chandlery businesses
   c. other ancillary operations - insurance, professional fees, disposable income in fishing communities,

3. Reduction in all landings/traditional valuable species resulting in:
   a. Less demand for transport
   b. Less product reaching market
   c. Processors unable to source sufficient raw material
   d. Loss of market reputation/placement in market/possible loss of marketing expertise developed in recent years
   e. Increased unemployment
   f. Less investment in land-based fishing related operations

4. Damage to Infrastructure such as harbours and piers, loss of fishing gear,

5. Reduction in recruitment of young people to the fishing industry

Seasonal Stability

The loss of seasonal stability will reduce the predictability of seasonal patterns of fishing which is the backbone of both catching and marketing - the how, when and where. This will be reflected negatively along the supply chain from fishing vessel to processor, transporter, retailer and consumer. It will reduce investment and wealth creation in fishing communities.

There are few obvious alternatives for those working in the seafood industry who will be impacted by climate change.
3. What do you think the main impacts from climate change will be on the agriculture, forest and seafood sectors?

Please Explain:

The main impacts of climate change to the seafood sector will be the challenge of mitigating the arising problems and finding innovative ways to deal with changed opportunities.

The current outlook forecasts raised sea temperatures, increased storminess, sea levels and ocean acidity; there will a range of mitigation measures to reduce carbon emissions which will also impact the seafood sector.

It seems likely traditional fish stocks will move northwards to cooler waters and/or to follow their migrating food stocks. At the same time, species from warmer waters will also, probably, move northwards.

Negative Impacts:

- Loss of traditional species (pelagics, cod, etc.)
- Damage to shellfish stocks due to acidification
- Damage to calcareous reef habitats with subsequent loss of commercial stock habitats
- Power generation (Wind, wave, current) will be greatly increased and will occupy considerable offshore sites which will be no-fishing zones.

Possible Positive Impacts

- Development of an Irish fleet in more northern waters
- Development of new fisheries with movement of warm water species into Irish latitudes
- Development of new processed products and markets
- Opportunities for fishermen with the development of new offshore industries.

4. How are those working in the sector currently adapting to climate change?
Please Explain:

The fishing industry has survived on its ability to adapt to changing circumstances.

Vessel design, more efficient engines, better planning of fishing activities all contribute to a leaner industry. While climate change is a huge multi-faceted challenge, the industry is already looking at alternatives.

There is a growing awareness in the fishing industry of the dangers posed by climate change and, as a sector so dependant on stable climate, fishing and the wider seafood sector will embrace innovation in this regard.

Killybegs Fishermen’s Organisation is a partner in the EU-funded project “EfficientShip” (LIFE13 ENV/FR/000851) launched in 2015 to develop an effective option to reduce fuel consumption and therefore, greenhouse gas emissions. This solution is based on the Organic Rankine Cycle technology (ORC) which converts waste heat from the exhaust or engine cooling system into electricity.

There will be many more such projects undertaken in the near future.

5. Where do you get climate related information?

Please Explain:

KFO is a member of national and EU bodies which are concerned with many aspects of Climate Change and ensures its members are kept informed of developments in this regard.

6. What additional information do those working in the sector need to adapt to a changing climate?
7. How do you perceive and use weather and climate information to inform management decisions?

Please Explain:

Not Applicable - representative organisation

8. Is the source of inputs to your farm or business affected by climate change; if so what supply chains?

Please Explain:

The members of KFO would be directly affected by any climate change events, trends or mitigation measures which would reduce the quantity of fish caught and landed.

9. When making investments and management decisions how far ahead do you plan?

- 0 - 1 year ☐
- 1 - 5 years ☐
- 5 - 10 years ☐
- 10 years + ☐
10. Does the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Sectoral Plan adequately demonstrate the potential impact climate change may have on Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood in Ireland (see section 4 of Draft Plan)?

- [X] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Need more information

Please Explain:
Not applicable

11. The Adaptation Plan’s focus is on actions that can be undertaken over the next five years. Therefore, do you think the Adaptation Objectives are appropriate for the duration of this plan (see section 2 of Draft Plan)?

- [X] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Unsure

Please Explain:
Yes as the Plan will be monitored and reviewed
12. What three things could the Department do to help you be better prepared to adapt to future climate change?

1. Monitoring Programme to establish baselines
2. Support research
3. Protect current access to fishing grounds

13. Any other comments?

This is a particularly difficult time for the fishing industry to embrace the necessary mitigation measures required by the Climate Change Adaptation Plan faced with BREXIT which could wipe-out a substantial portion of its fishing potential and a Marine Spatial Plan which could, likewise, severely curtail access to traditional fishing grounds