

Cornwall Fisheries Science Board (CFSB) Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The Cornwall Fisheries Science Board (CFSB) exists to support the sustainable management of Cornwall's fisheries through science-led advice, research coordination, and stakeholder engagement. The Board will act as a forum for collaboration between fishers, scientists, regulators, and the wider community.

2. Objectives

- To identify environmental, social and economic scientific priorities and data gaps relevant to Cornwall's marine and coastal fisheries
- To coordinate and commission research projects that support evidencebased fisheries management
- To review and disseminate research findings to stakeholders and the wider public
- To provide science-based advice to local, regional, national, and international decision-makers
- To facilitate knowledge exchange between the fishing industry, scientists, and conservation bodies
- To promote innovative approaches in fisheries science, including participatory and co-produced research

3. Scope

- All marine fisheries within Cornwall's inshore (0–6 nautical miles), nearshore (6–12 nautical miles) and offshore (beyond 12 nautical miles) waters
- · All commercially and ecologically significant species
- Consideration of social, ecological, and cultural factors in scientific evaluation, recognising the contribution of communities and future generations to sustainable fisheries
- Coordination with adjacent regional and national science advisory structures

4. Membership

The Board shall be composed of representatives from:

 Fishing Industry (e.g., inshore, offshore, shellfish, and mobile/static gear sectors)



- Academic Institutions (marine biology, fisheries science, social science)
- Government Agencies (e.g., MMO, Cefas, DEFRA)
- Environmental NGO and Conservation Bodies
- Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA)
- Local Government (Cornwall Council Coastal & Marine Team)
- Youth involvement (relating to Cornwall fishing strategy cross cutting theme)

Membership will aim to reflect a balanced representation of sectors and expertise. Members may be appointed for a fixed term (e.g., 3 years), renewable once.

5. Meetings

- The Board will meet quarterly or as required
- Meetings will be chaired by an elected Chairperson (appointed annually)
- A quorum will consist of at least 50% of members, including representation from the fishing industry and science community
- Agendas and minutes will be publicly available unless confidential matters are discussed

6. Decision-Making

- The Board shall operate by consensus where possible
- Where consensus cannot be reached, decisions will be made by a simple majority vote
- Dissenting views may be recorded in the minutes

7. Reporting and Communication

- The Board will produce an annual report summarising activities, findings, and recommendations
- Key findings and updates will be shared via an accessible online platform and stakeholder briefings

The Board will maintain transparent and open communication with the wider fisheries community.



8. Funding and Resources

- Funding may be secured through grants, partnerships, and contributions from member organisations
- A small secretariat will support the administrative functions of the Board, hosted by a lead partner (e.g., CFPO, Cornwall IFCA or local authority)

9. Review

These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed **every two years** to ensure they remain relevant and fit for purpose