

Devon and Severn IFCA News

Bass Fisheries Management Plan

Invitation to take part in a co-design workshop for the new Bass Fishery Management Plan



As part of their public engagement work for the new Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP), Policy Lab has arranged a series of face-to-face and online co-design workshops in October.

The workshops involve scenario testing using challenge and ideas cards, with bass stakeholders. The exercise aims to validate and prioritise ideas for the FMP, ideas that were generated by stakeholders who participated in the Lived Experience Research and Collective Intelligence Debate. The purpose of the workshops is to form a sensible set of FMP solutions and to work through areas of agreement and disagreement between bass stakeholders.

In order to be in with a chance of being selected for these workshops, make sure you complete this Google form by Tuesday 4th October, if you haven't already:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeM0JVUi_0TZP4iIWEXtr40Qp7VJra87vnUzoX5ltNSN2_ow/viewform?usp=sf_link

Please note that the dates and some locations may change.

Dates of face to face co-design workshops:

October 17th in Plymouth, Devon
October 19th in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire
October 21st in Lowestoft, Suffolk

Dates of upcoming online co-design workshops:

October 24th on Microsoft Teams
October 25th on Microsoft Teams
October 26th on Microsoft Teams

Other ways to participate if you're not available on the dates and/or locations: a Google form will be emailed to you to ask you to rank your preference on FMP challenges and ideas.

Policy Lab is interested in hearing from a wide range of bass stakeholders based in the above locations (Plymouth, Milford Haven, and Lowestoft) for the face-to-face workshops and from across England and Wales for the online workshops.

At the workshops, one researcher will be making notes throughout the session. Policy Lab may also audio record and take photos, and in some cases film the workshops. This is to keep a record of the discussions and ideas. Some of this may be shared within government and/or publicly.

A computer randomisation selection process will take place to select participants for the face-to-face and online workshops. For those not selected, you can still take part via a specially designed Google form that will be emailed to you later in October. Should there not be enough participants (less than the available slots), we (Policy Lab) may not be able to randomly select people and/or cold call individuals who published their details online.

Background Information

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) will publish a new Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for sea bass in early 2023. DEFRA would like this new FMP to be designed together by people from across the diverse range of interest groups in this space. They have therefore commissioned Policy Lab — who are experts in facilitating this kind of collective endeavour (known as ‘co-design’) – to help in the creation of the FMP.

Who are Policy Lab?

Policy Lab is a small multidisciplinary team based at the Department for Education. Their team includes policymakers, designers, and researchers. They work with policy teams across the government, supporting them to get closer to the real lives of the people they are creating policy for, and to co-design new solutions.

What are Policy Lab planning to do?

The co-design process will take place in two stages. Firstly, over the summer, we (Policy Lab) will be conducting ethnographic research with commercial and recreational fishers: to ensure their voice and perspectives are brought into the co-design process. Ethnography is a research method in which researchers try to find out about participants’ lived experience by spending time with them in their own environments. The method is designed to allow the participant to lead the conversation, so they can talk about the issues which matter to them. Secondly, over late summer and autumn, we will be conducting co-design workshops in which people from across the sea bass system will have the chance to sit down together and decide on the approach which ought to be taken to the FMP. There will be an initial co-design workshop in October, in which attendees will be given the opportunity to contribute their views and make proposals for how the FMP should look. Following this workshop, Policy Lab will take away the insights gathered and explore some possible solutions. The FMP itself will be produced by DEFRA and is expected to be delivered in early 2023.

Who will get to be involved?

Policy Lab are relative newcomers to the sea bass management space; they are gradually building a picture of the networks of individuals and groups in this space by speaking to representatives from across the sector. It won’t ultimately be possible for Policy Lab to involve every single individual and group with an interest in sea bass in the process, but they recognise the importance of making sure the full diversity of perspectives are represented. Policy Lab are therefore working hard to identify all of the interest groups in the sea bass system, whether it be people who fish for bass recreationally or commercially, those who are involved in the supply chain, the scientists, those involved in regulation (such as Cefas or the Marine Management Organisation), and many others.

You can help Policy Lab build their contact list in two ways:

Completing [this online form](#).

by emailing bass@policylab.gov.uk and telling them a bit about who you are and the nature of your interest in sea bass.

For information on D&S IFCA’s consultations and engagement please visit our [‘Engagement & Have Your Say’](#) page. You can [contact D&S IFCA](#) to be added to our mailing list.