

The UK, the EU, Fish and Farage



A Bit of Common Sense from the UK
By Mark Angelides
ANP NEWS UK correspondent

If you're not familiar with the UK's fishing rights situation, it is one of the most contentious yet oddly ignored issues in the political landscape today. Under the last 40 years of EU rule, the British fishing industry has been decimated. Under EU regulations, British Territorial Waters are (and have been for the last 40 years) shared equally between other EU member states with allowable catch quotas for all.

Why you may ask, has Britain ceded its rights to its own fish stock? Well that comes from former Prime Minister Edward Heath in his desperation to get the UK involved with the EU project. Under UN agreement, each country is allowed to claim as up to 200 miles from coastline as their sovereign waters, under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), this would be "unequal" to those nations that are members of the "consortium" and is therefore unacceptable.

This is an area of key importance to many Brits, and one that has almost wholly been ignored by the ruling classes. All except for a certain Mr. Nigel Farage.



Nigel Farage and MP Kate Hoey

plight is beyond me. And why they have ignored the effects on the UK's fishing industry is a similar mystery.

The former UKIP leader, Member of European Parliament, and key architect of the Brexit Referendum, Nigel Farage, has made this insult to British sovereignty a national cause. Starting with leading a flotilla of fishing boats down the Thames and in front of the House of Commons, Nigel brought this injustice to the public eye.

What began as a simple way of drumming up publicity turned into a "pitched naval battle" as the elitist boarded their yachts to try and shout him down. Labour politicians, under the captaincy of Sir Bob Geldof (Boom Town Rats front man), took to jeering and hurling insults at not only Nigel Farage, but at the fishermen whose livelihoods and hometowns are being destroyed by this pernicious EU policy. Why the supposedly "caring" Labour politicians would join with the mega rich celebrities to shout down working class fisherman trying to draw attention to their

How the CFP Damages UK Fishing Destroys Fishing Communities

Because all of the governing and decision making powers reside with the EU bureaucrats, the system is open to lobbyist from large corporations. Self employed fishermen from coastal towns in the UK are being told that certain types of fish cannot be caught and that they can only catch limited amounts. If the quota of one type of fish is taken up by a Spanish trawling fleet (as was the case over the last several years), then the local fishermen have no power or recourse.

It DOES NOT Protect Fish Stocks

Three of the top four major commercial fish stocks are being drastically overfished. Through a practice called quota hopping, major European fishing companies have decimated the reproductive stocks. Within ten years, the best estimates state that 90% of fish stocks will be critically endangered.



CFP rules state that fish of a certain size or certain species are not to be collected and must be thrown away. This leads to the most ridiculous amount of waste. Up to 13% of all fish caught are now considered waste. Just to put that number in perspective that is: 1,300,000 tons of fish every year that are thrown (mostly) dead back to the oceans. Of course, this staggering number is not from local fishermen in coastal towns, it is European trawlers getting away with what they can under EU regulation.

For 40 years, the EU has been spreading the lie that the CFP would protect fish stocks. The numbers clearly show that this hasn't worked, yet it is still the most pushed line of argument used by government and media today.

Unnecessary Waste

CFP rules state that fish of a certain size or certain species are not to be collected and must be thrown away. This leads to the most ridiculous amount of waste. Up to 13% of all fish caught are now considered waste. Just to put that number in

These are just a few of the oft overlooked reasons why Britain leaving the EU is the best choice for the British people. Communities on the coast could start to control their futures again, guilt free fish could be served throughout the country, and an industry on the brink could be revitalized for the benefit of the nation.

By Mark Angelides
ANP NEWS