

FAQ: Policy Lab's role in helping create a new Sea Bass FMP

PL171 Sea Bass FMP



Background to the project

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 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.