

Government Response to the Sixth Report from the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, Session 2004–05, on The future for UK fishing

Defra response	EFRA Committee Query
<p>1“No decision has yet been taken as to the use of onboard observers on "high-risk" vessels as this question is currently under review. It is agreed in principle, however, that there is a role for onboard observers.” [Response to Recommendation 13]</p>	<p>Is Defra now in a position to indicate when a decision will be taken on this issue?</p> <p>Observers are currently involved in a number of scientific studies and have a useful role to play in this context.</p>
<p>2“We will address the issue of cost recovery in detail alongside the broader programme of change flowing from Securing the Benefits.” [Response to Recommendation 16]</p>	<p>When does Defra expect to address this issue?</p> <p>There are no immediate plans to introduce cost recovery. However, possible vehicles for any new legislation required to advance this work are being considered. No action will be taken in this area without full consultation with the industry.</p>
<p>3“The work of the Sustainable Fisheries Programme has thrown up a variety of views on the current quota-based management system ... No decisions have yet been taken [Recommendations 17-19]</p>	<p>When does Defra expect decisions to be taken on quota-based systems, and what view has it reached on the advantages and disadvantages of effort-based systems?</p> <p>The options for changes to the quota management system are being reviewed in depth through the Quota management Change Programme, which began in Spring 2005 with a goal to complete the reform within 3 years. Industry consultation of options will be a key part of the process, and no future system has been selected at this point.</p>