

PRESS RELEASE

Attention: Newsdesks and Fish
Correspondents

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ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES TO LOOK BEYOND FISHERIES

Speaking during the European Parliament plenary session in Strasbourg, SNP Euro-MP, Ian Hudghton, has today called for the protection of the marine environment to be considered as a whole, and for fisheries not to be singled out. Mr Hudghton, commenting on a report on the Integration of Environmental Protection Requirements into the Common Fisheries Policy, said:

“It is vital that the integration of environmental concerns into fisheries management is looked at in the context of the marine ecosystem as a whole. We must not forget that fishing activities can also be, and regularly are, severely curtailed by pollution – whether external in the case of oil pollution or dioxins, or biological as in the case of the growth of algae resulting in Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning – and that this pollution can and does have drastic socio-economic repercussions.

“As to the impact of management instruments to integrate environmental concerns, it is crucial that all measures are preceded by detailed assessments of the socio-economic ramifications involved, and where necessary, additional structural safeguards are put in place. Management measures must also be properly evaluated in advance of their implementation, and risk analysis, such the implications of displacing effort, must be properly balanced.

“Moreover, any attempt to integrate environmental concerns cannot ignore the development of genetically modified fish outside the European Union. There must be appropriate safeguards in place to ensure that such fish are not introduced with potentially devastating effects on the marine ecosystem and that consumers not be exposed to such foodstuffs.

“I am therefore pleased that European Parliament has endorsed provisions along these lines which I introduced at Committee stage.”