

Sustainable Fisheries

Sarah Wollaston Chair, Health and Social Care Committee, Chair, Liaison Committee (Commons)

As an independent coastal state, we will be able to decide who can access our waters after 2020 and on what terms, but that will be subject to negotiation. Will the Secretary of State reassure the fishing community in my constituency that its interests will not be traded away after the transition period? In considering the environmental aspects of this, can he say whether those terms will also include a ban on electric pulse fishing?

Michael Gove The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

I absolutely share the concern about pulse fishing, which has been articulated by my hon. Friends the Members for Totnes (Dr Wollaston) and for Waveney (Peter Aldous). Yes, absolutely. She and I may differ on one or two aspects of politics, but one of the many things that we are united on is our belief that we need to ensure that, as an independent coastal state, we control access to our waters, and that, separately, we secure the deepest and friendliest trade, economic and other relationship with the EU.