What a Sustainable Fisheries Act could look like

Fishing communities have been promised a better deal from Brexit. This is a golden opportunity to create a bold and aspirational Sustainable Fisheries Act to ensure fishing livelihoods and the marine environment are improved when we leave the EU:

1. **The UK must continue to collaborate with the EU Common Fisheries Policy** on the following:
   - all states fishing within scientifically established total catch levels for shared fish stocks, which must all be at sustainable levels (Maximum Sustainable Yield) by 2020;
   - sharing catch data and other scientific information with other states.

2. **Protect the following EU legislation** after 2019:
   - the discard ban, as well as the provisions for its implementation;
   - ban on bottom trawling and assurance of sustainable fishing by UK boats in international waters;
   - fish packaging labelling regulations;
   - the commitment to providing funding for the transition to sustainable fishing.

3. **A commitment to better support the small-scale inshore UK fleet** by:
   - setting out clear environmental and social criteria for allocating shares of fishing rights (quota); award more quota for boats that adopt sustainable fishing gear, avoid sensitive zones, take part in scientific monitoring and achieve certified sustainable status;
   - getting a solid understanding of the stock status for commercially-fished UK species that aren’t covered by the EU many are not in a good shape and this has nothing to do with the EU; ensure these depleted stocks rebuild, and if Brexit doesn’t guarantee a greater share of the EU quota, we should guarantee that our own stocks improve.

4. **A commitment to supporting the industry** by:
   - supporting fisheries financially through certification (other countries do this, and it would greatly help the industry achieve greater prices for catches);
   - encouraging sustainability with a legally-binding commitments to buy fish from healthy and verifiably sustainable UK stocks for food in the public sector;
   - encouraging sustainability with a legally-binding requirement for large food buyers – supermarkets and food service companies – to report transparently on the quantity, source and sustainability status of all the fish and seafood they buy.