



Dear **Brixham Fish Market**,

You are a **hugely profitable company that turned over a record £60 million last year from landings directly from sea and hauled in by truck from other ports**. Your actions and impact are felt globally; you export vast quantities of fish abroad, truck large amounts of fish from across the UK to Brixham and out again, and have made a significant donation to a political campaign fund. **Your influence is wide and profound.**

We are in a nature and climate crisis – and now the time for action is essential. Your organisation not only needs to ‘talk’ leadership, but act with leadership, so that others may follow.

As you know, scientific consensus is clear that beam trawling, scallop dredging and industrial bottom trawling is highly damaging to marine ecologies. Unfortunately, much of the fish sold in your market is also damagingly trawled or dredged. Scientists all over the world have concluded that this devastation is contributing to biodiversity loss and is unsustainable. Scientists are also clear that the health of our oceans is directly linked to the climate crisis; disturbing the ocean floor releases carbon and contributes to climate change. **Doing nothing about these damaging practices is not an option for any organisation that wishes to support fishers and coastal communities not only now, but in the years to come.**

We ask that Brixham Fish Market and its affiliated organisations publicly state that these highly damaging methods have no place in modern Britain. This commitment would include a clear plan to refuse to sell seafood harvested in these damaging ways. We ask that you engage with an inclusive group to create an action plan that reflects the urgency of this climate and nature crisis. This action plan should be scrutinised by independent scientists and modified following scientific advice.

In the climate & nature crisis we should harness market forces. **And having received so much public funding for Brixham’s Fish Market, now is the time to ensure this national resource is safeguarded for Brixham and the nation to come, not destroyed for short term profit.**

Technical solutions for reducing dragging and dredging are slow to come, and this wait extends the destruction of our marine ecologies. Currently we are witnessing the migration of fish stocks at an alarming rate. Our marine ecology and the coastal community fleets that make Brixham special, are in decline. **But with action from you – world famous Brixham Fish Market - the fishing industry can have the clarity and guidance to adapt and change, and thousands of lower impact fishers can flourish. Less damaging fishing methods destroy less, create less discard, and leave invaluable marine ecologies less harmed – meaning that banning damaging methods leads to a healthier shared fishing industry.**

That is why, we the undersigned – business leaders, organisations and concerned citizens- call on you to live up to your responsibilities. It is the least that communities should expect from an immensely profitable organisation making vast profits from a vanishing public resource. **The community of Brixham, the South West, the UK and the world ask you to stand up and be counted on to do the right thing by the resource from which you make so much immediate profit.**