



**For Immediate Release
16th November 2021**

Stop Hinkley Campaign calls on Environment Minister to Champion Biodiversity in the Severn Estuary and refuse EDF's Appeal which could wipe out 11 billion fish.

Marine and conservation groups based around the Bristol Channel, along with the Environment Agency are still awaiting a decision from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, George Eustice, on the public inquiry which considered EDF's application to renege on its commitment to install Acoustic Fish Deterrents on the massive cooling water intakes at Hinkley Point C nuclear power station.

The inquiry was held into this issue by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) from 8 to 24 June 2021.

The Stop Hinkley campaign wrote to George Eustice on 7th October 2021 asking him to refuse EDF's Appeal so that the UK could be seen as a leader in tackling the global biodiversity crisis. But, as of 15th November 2021, it has received no reply.

Stop Hinkley spokesperson Katherine Attwater said:

“The new post-Brexit Environment Act requires the Secretary of State to set a long-term legally binding target on biodiversity by late next year. (1) On paper, George Eustice is committed to halting the decline in nature in England, and beginning the restoration of our marine environment, but on current evidence he is failing to do so. He needs to set an example in tackling the global biodiversity crisis by refusing EDF's application to remove the Acoustic Fish Deterrents, against Environment Agency advice, threatening to wipe out 11 billion fish and decimate stocks in Severn Estuary for 60 years.”

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(1) ENDS Report 10th Nov 2021

<https://www.endsreport.com/article/1732807/environment-act-2021-45-things-need-know>

Bibliography

Stop Hinkley Briefing August 2021: “*EDF’s Hinkley C Nuclear Power Station could wipe out 11 billion fish –decimating stocks in Severn Estuary for 60 years*”.

<https://www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/HinkleyBiodiversity.pdf>

Stop Hinkley Press Release 26th August 2021: “*George Eustice MP must reject EDF’s plans for a Severn Estuary Fish Killing Machine*”. <http://stophinkley.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/PressRelease260821.pdf>

Stop Hinkley Letter to George Eustice dated 7th October 2021

<https://www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Letter22.pdf>