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UUEAS Sustainable Seafood Policy

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The Union Notes:

1. That many current practices of industrial fishing fleets are destructive and unsustainable, risking overfishing, damaging marine ecosystems, and resulting in wasteful bycatch discarded dead or dying back into the ocean.
2. That certain species of fish including cod, haddock, and tuna are severely overfished and at risk from fish stock collapse.
3. That industrial fishing fleets also result in inequitable outcomes, outcompeting local fishermen and impinging on rural livelihoods.
4. That in many cases, more sustainable and equitable fishing methods, such as pole and line, and more sustainable species of fish, exists as viable alternatives, for example coley or gurnard instead of cod, pilchards instead of tuna.

The Union Believes:

1. That industrial fishing practices cause irreplaceable damage to marine ecosystems and threatens the sustainability of fish stocks.
2. That we have a responsibility to protect fish stocks from overexploitation and challenge the corporate power of industrial fishing fleets monopolizing the sector.
3. That students are currently under-informed on issues regarding sustainable seafood and require adequate information to make informed decisions.
4. That our combined buying power can send a clear signal as to what is acceptable practice, and cement UEA's position as a leader in sustainability.

The Union Resolves:

1. To have publicly available leaflets of the Marine Conservation Society's Good Fish Guide, to be available online and in print copy from the Hive and the UFO.
2. To eliminate the sale or use of fish identified as 'avoid' in the Good Fish Guide or included on Greenpeace's 'red list', where possible replacing with more sustainable alternatives (those identified as ok to eat by the Marine Conservation Society, or certified by the Marine Stewardship Council), in Union outlets. In cases where the sustainability of a species varies depending on its method of fishing or region of origin, the species may be kept if its origin can be verified against Marine Conservation Society sustainability criteria or it is certified by the Marine Stewardship Council.

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3. To mandate officers to write to suppliers whose fish is identified as unsustainable, and inform them of the reasons for terminating the purchase of such seafood, urging them to reconsider stocking unsustainable fish and to replace them with more sustainable alternatives.