



## **LENGUA EXTRANJERA-INGLÉS**

### **Gibraltar and Spain clash in fishing rights dispute**

Tensions over fishing rights around the British territory of Gibraltar have been raised, following an incident involving Gibraltar police boats and British Royal Navy, and Spanish police.

It comes after several days of dispute in which Spanish police escorted Spanish fishing boats near the area.

The Gibraltar government says fishing with large nets there is illegal because of an environmental law.

Spain claims sovereignty over Gibraltar, a British colony since 1713.

Several Royal Gibraltar Police boats surrounded three Spanish fishing vessels on Wednesday night after they cast their nets near Gibraltar harbour, media reports say.

Gibraltar news agency GBC News said several Spanish Guardia Civil boats appeared to be defending the fishermen, but were told to leave by the Gibraltar police.

The Spanish boats reportedly left the area later, after a Royal Navy vessel arrived and told them again to depart.

Gibraltar's chief minister, Fabian Picardo, said the Gibraltar government condemned what were "obviously carefully premeditated challenges to our indisputable sovereignty, jurisdiction and control of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters and our airspace" - according to GBC News.

### **'No negotiations'**

A Foreign Office statement confirmed that Britain's minister for Europe, David Lidington, had met with Mr Picardo to discuss various issues, including the fishing dispute and recent incidents in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

"Mr Lidington reiterated that the UK's position on sovereignty has not changed and will not change", it said.

"The UK will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another State against their wishes.

"Furthermore, the UK will not enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar is not content."

But Spanish Interior Minister Jorge Fernandez Diaz said Madrid would continue to dispatch police boats to protect Spanish fishermen in the area.

"We are not going to accept intimidations or humiliations," he told reporters.

"What the government is doing is defending the fishing rights of our fishermen.

**BBC NEWS. UK 24 MAY 2012.**



**READ THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.**

**1- Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify your answer. (1 mark)**

- a) People of Gibraltar would wish to be under the laws of a different reigh.
- b) Spanish police vessels will protect Gibraltarian fishermen too.

**2- Complete the sentences using information from the text. Try not to reproduce phrases literally. (2 marks)**

- a) Gibraltar's chief minister disapproves...
- b) The rights of Spanish fishermen...
- c) Large nets...
- d) The Royal Navy Commanded...

**3- Vocabulary. Find the words in the text that mean: (1 mark)**

- a) Things one may do or have by law.
- b) Important topics for discussion.
- c) Quality of being a country with independent power.
- d) Throw something deliberately or with force.

**4- According to the text, what are the problems between the Gibraltar government and the Spanish authorities? Use your own words [50-60 words] (3 marks)**

**5- From your point of view, should fishermen be free to earn their living by fishing in another country's territorial waters? [50-60 words] (3 marks)**