



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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16 July 2020

Victoria Prentis MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Block
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

Dear Victoria,

EM 13438/19: PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION FIXING FOR 2020 THE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CERTAIN FISH STOCKS AND GROUPS OF FISH STOCKS, APPLICABLE IN UNION WATERS AND, FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS, IN CERTAIN NON-UNION WATERS

EM 13438/19 ADD 1: ANNEX TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION FIXING FOR 2020 THE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CERTAIN FISH STOCKS AND GROUPS OF FISH STOCKS, APPLICABLE IN UNION WATERS AND, FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS, IN CERTAIN NON-UNION WATERS

EM 13438/19 ADD 2: ANNEXES TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION FIXING FOR 2020 THE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CERTAIN FISH STOCKS AND GROUPS OF FISH STOCKS, APPLICABLE IN UNION WATERS AND, FOR UNION FISHING VESSELS, IN CERTAIN NON-UNION WATERS

Thank you for your letter dated 12 June 2020 on the above Regulation, which was considered by our Environment Sub-Committee on 15 July 2020.

Thank you for your detailed answers regarding the quota uplift and the TACs set above MSY; and we acknowledge that you cannot yet provide details on the principles underpinning your new methodology for assessing the sustainability of fishing opportunities or the timing and format of the 2021 fishing opportunity negotiations, but that work on both of these issues is underway.

We note your view that sustainable fishing will be adequately mandated through the obligations on Fisheries Administrations, and furthered through the Government's championing of the

issue in international negotiations. We remain of the view that an overarching target – similar to the original 2020 MSY target – would be complementary, demonstrating and driving a clear ambition, though hope that the amendment made by this House to the Fisheries Bill goes some way to delivering the same outcome.

We also note your statement that the UK is having to make fresh Regional Fisheries Management (RFMO) applications in light of the transition period, that you cannot provide a precise timeline for the progress of those applications, and that you are working with the other contracting parties to ensure the UK's applications are approved in a timely manner. Please write back with an update on the progress of these applications, either when there is a development to report or by the end of September, whichever is the sooner.

In your letter you note that Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) trials are underway. We note that REM supports the accurate monitoring of catches and the avoidance of unwanted bycatch, which you state as key objectives in your letter. As you will recall from our predecessor committee's reports on the landing obligation,¹ we have previously urged the Government to commit to mandating the use of remote electronic monitoring on all vessels fishing in UK waters after it leaves the EU. We therefore welcome these trials as your recognition of the importance of this technology. Please update us on the progress and findings of those trials, and how you envisage REM moving forward within your fisheries policy once the trials are complete.

The Committee continues to take an active interest in this matter and looks forward to a response in due course.

I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chair of the Commons European Scrutiny Committee; Jessica Mulley, Clerk to the Commons Committee; Les Saunders, Cabinet Office; and John Leach, Departmental Scrutiny Coordinator.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Kinnoull', with a horizontal line underneath.

Lord Kinnoull
Chair of the European Union Committee

¹ [Fisheries: implementation and enforcement of the EU landing obligation](#) and [The EU fisheries landing obligation: six months on](#)