



Department
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The Earl of Kinnoull
Chairman
Select Committee on the European
Union
House of Lords
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29 July 2020

Dear Lord Kinnoull,

EM 8078/20: PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2019/1838 AS REGARDS CERTAIN FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2020 IN THE BALTIC SEA, AND AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2020/123 AS REGARDS CERTAIN FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2020 IN UNION AND NON-UNION WATERS

8078/20 ADD 1: ANNEXES TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2019/1838 AS REGARDS CERTAIN FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2020 IN THE BALTIC SEA, AND AMENDING REGULATION (EU) 2020/123 AS REGARDS CERTAIN FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN 2020 IN UNION AND NON-UNION WATERS

Thank you for your letter of 15 July concerning North Sea cod recovery measures.

The UK welcomes the fact that some measures have finally been established, given the poor health of the stock. However the UK has had concerns with the level of consultation and the final measures agreed.

Firstly, we have concerns regarding the lack of UK involvement in agreeing a final set of measures. The UK is therefore writing to the EU Commission through numerous channels with recommendations on how such consultations could be improved during the transition period. For example, the UK would prefer a proper dialogue with the EU on such matters, rather than a simple submission of views at the outset of the process, and for the UK to be informed of the final text when the draft legislation is finalised, in advance of publication.

Secondly, the EU's cod recovery measures fail to provide equivalence across all fleets. Whilst the UK will be establishing a national cod avoidance plan in compliance with the Regulation, this will only apply to UK vessels for the remainder of the transition period. However, the UK is keen to look ahead to 2021 when we will be able to establish new measures, which will apply to all vessels in UK waters.



I am copying this letter to Sir William Cash MP, Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee. I am also copying this letter to the Clerks of the Commons and Lords Committees, Jessica Mulley and Chris Johnson respectively; Les Saunders, Cabinet Office; and Steve Wigham, Defra Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

Yours sincerely,



VICTORIA PRENTIS MP