



Department
for Environment
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13 October 2020

The Earl of Kinnoull
Chairman
Select Committee on the European Union
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

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 30 September 2020.

The effectiveness of the North Sea cod recovery measures will be garnered from a combination of data sources. These include vessel monitoring systems (VMS), enforcement and vessels self-reporting. In the longer term, the international bottom-trawl surveys covering the whole of the North Sea will inform the ICES assessment of the health of the stock.

With regards to the UK's future relationship with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the UK has agreed in principle a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICES. This will ensure the advice we require is in place so that the UK can continue to meet its international and domestic commitments and obligations on sustainability. The MoU will be signed by December 2020, entering into force on the 1st of January 2021.

The UK has been a member of ICES since its inception in 1902 and we intend to continue playing a strong role in it in the future. UK scientists make a significant contribution to the

science that generates ICES' advice, including annual recommendations for total allowable catches, and they will continue to provide their scientific expertise. The UK will continue to provide strong support for ICES' scientific activities in 2020 and beyond.

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