



HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

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9 December 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 19 November 2020 on the above Regulation, which was considered by our Environment Sub-Committee on 9 December 2020.

Thank you for the update on the UK's applications to join the five priority Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs). Please confirm that the UK has indeed joined the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization as expected; and we would also appreciate a further update either confirming that the UK has joined the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), or with a more detailed explanation of why the application has been held up by the Food and Agricultural Organisation, what steps you are taking to progress the application, and what the impact will be if the UK has not joined by 2021, including in relation to the Blue Belt programme.

We welcome your call for evidence on extending the use of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM), and draw your attention to the letter we sent to the Rt Hon Secretary of State George Eustice MP on that matter.¹

The Committee continues to take an active interest in this matter and looks forward to a response by the end of the year, or when there is a development to report regarding the IOTC, whichever is the sooner.

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 EU Environment Sub-Committee, *Letter to George Eustice regarding the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Fisheries: Remote Electronic Monitoring Call for Evidence*
<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/3420/documents/32682/default/>