



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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The Earl of Kinnoull
Chairman
Select Committee on the European Union
House of Lords
London
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19 November 2020

Dear Lord Kinnoull,

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 (AND ADD 1-2)

Thank you for your letter dated 16 July 2020. I apologise for the delay in responding to you. I will answer each of your questions individually below.

Application process for joining the RFMOs

The UK received authorisation from the EU to accede to Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) on 18 September. We have since joined 3 of the 5 RFMOs that we intend to join during the Transition Period. These are the North West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO), the North East Atlantic Fisheries Convention (NEAFC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

Our application to join the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) has been approved by the contracting parties and we expect to join that RFMO by 21 November.

There has been a delay in the UK's application to join the final RFMO on our list, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). We have submitted our application to join however it is currently being held up by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), which acts as depositary for IOTC. We notified the FAO on 13 October of our intention to join, however it is still being processed. We are following this up as a matter of priority, and meanwhile will continue to participate in IOTC as part of the UK/BIOT delegation. Defra and FCDO officials attended the recent annual meeting on this basis.

Remote Electronic Monitoring Trials.

We will update you in due course on our future Remote Electronic Monitoring policy once the trials are complete and we have analysed the results of our current call for evidence.

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