



# Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

**The Rt. Hon. Mark Spencer MP**  
**Minister of State for Food, Farming and Fisheries**

Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF  
T: +44 (0) 3459 335577  
E: [correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk)  
W: [gov.uk/defra](http://gov.uk/defra)

Sir William Cash MP (Chair)  
European Scrutiny Committee,  
House of Commons,  
London, SW1A 0AA

8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## **Fisheries negotiations for 2024**

I am writing to outline the approach the Government is taking to the fisheries negotiations taking place this autumn.

The UK will continue to be a pragmatic, forward-leaning negotiating partner and demonstrate leadership across all forums in which we operate. We will work to the objectives set out in the Fisheries Act and Joint Fisheries Statement, and seek to ensure the long-term sustainability of fisheries, support the blue economy and the long-term economic growth of the fishing industry across the UK.

We have recently agreed with coastal States to set the Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for the three main stocks we share in the North East Atlantic at the levels advised by scientists at the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and will continue to advocate for sharing arrangements on these stocks that ensure we collectively do not fish above the TAC.

We have started bilateral negotiations with the EU and will shortly commence negotiations on the stocks we manage trilaterally with Norway and the EU. These negotiations focus on catch limits for 2024 for a range of species, access arrangements with the EU for certain species not covered by the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, and other fisheries management measures including for non-quota stocks.

We will be attending a number of Annual Meetings of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), for which our objectives are to ensure that fisheries for RFMO stocks are managed sustainably, to maximise fishing opportunities for the UK, and to ensure that RFMOs adopt measures that protect ecosystems and combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Finally, we will be meeting with Norway and the Faroe Islands under our respective Fisheries Framework Agreements to negotiate possible quota exchanges and access to waters for 2024.

I will provide a Written Ministerial Statement once we conclude our negotiations.

Yours sincerely,

**Rt. Hon. Mark Spencer MP**