



Department
for Environment,
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Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP
Chair of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

16 July 2026

Dear Chair,

Publication of Fisheries Act 2020: Post-Legislative Assessment

I am writing to let you know that on 29 July we will be laying in the House, publishing and submitting to the EFRA Committee the post-legislative scrutiny (PLS) memorandum relating to the Fisheries Act 2020 (the Act). I would like to apologise that it has not proved possible to lay this before Parliament before the Summer Recess. The preparation of this PLS memorandum meets the requirements set out in in Section 40 of the Cabinet Office's 'Guide to Making Legislation' guidance document. The memorandum will be found at the link below on that date:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fisheries-act-2020-post-legislative-assessment>

Background

The Act received Royal Assent in November 2020, and Defra has produced this PLS memorandum with factual input from the Devolved Governments (DGs) given the UK-wide nature of the Act. It is a framework act, which sets out the overarching goals, principles and structures for the UK to operate as an independent coastal State on fisheries related matters. It provided the new legal framework and powers that the UK fisheries administrations needed once we left the European Union and the Common Fisheries Policy.

Our assessment of the Act is that it has achieved its primary intention of providing the UK with an appropriate legal framework. Using the Act, the fisheries administrations have been able to (and will continue to in future) develop and implement specific fisheries policies which contribute to the achievement of the Act's eight fisheries objectives.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House libraries and have written on similar terms to Toby Perkins MP in his role as Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee, and Baroness Sheehan in her role as Chair of the House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Morgan

STEPHEN MORGAN MP