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Neil Parish MP (Chair)  
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
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Dear Neil,

Further to my informal meeting with the EFRA Select committee on 19 October, please find below some additional information.

### **UK's analysis of 2021 UK-EU annual consultations**

On 30 September 2021, the Marine Management Organisation published an analysis of the quota share uplifts gained as a result of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). This is available here: [Official statistics overview: Analysis of fishing quota shares in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/official-statistics-overview-analysis-of-fishing-quota-shares-in-the-eu-uk-trade-and-cooperation-agreement). In November, the Government will publish a summary of UK fishing opportunities in 2021, which is the outcome of both the TCA quota share uplifts and the annual fisheries negotiations.

### **International quota swaps**

Information on international quota swaps which have already been agreed during 2021 is available here: [Fishing quota transfers between the UK and the EU - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fishing-quota-transfers-between-the-uk-and-the-eu). Further exchange rounds with the EU have been agreed for November, December and January 2022.

### **Negotiations with Norway and the Faroe Islands**

Bilateral negotiations with Norway have begun, and negotiations with the Faroe Islands will start in the second half of November. These will take place under the umbrella of the respective bilateral fisheries framework agreements signed last autumn. I am cautiously optimistic about reaching agreements with both parties this year, although any agreements must be balanced and in the UK's best interests.

### **Fishing licences**

On 3 November 2021 I laid a Written Ministerial Statement outlining the numbers of fishing licences issued by the UK and the Crown Dependencies since the UK-EU TCA was signed. I have attached a copy in Annex A. This is correct as of 9am on 3 November 2021. The position does change as applications can be made or withdrawn at any time. Requests to

withdraw licences by the European Commission can also be made at any time and therefore the number of active licences will be slightly different.

Additionally, we have also issued licences for Republic of Ireland and Northern Irish vessels to fish in each other's 0–6-mile zone under the Voisinage arrangement. This is of particular economic importance to Northern Irish fishers with 275 licences issued to Northern Ireland and 202 to Ireland.

Under the 1964 London Fisheries Convention vessels from Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands and Ireland had the theoretical right to fish in parts of our 6–12-mile zone. The TCA changed the access arrangements. It reduced the areas in which vessels may fish and they must demonstrate that they fished in those areas in four years in the 2012 – 2016 reference period.

### **Control and enforcement**

Control and enforcement measures are a devolved matter. Defra, the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive work together to ensure a coordinated approach to monitoring, compliance and enforcement across UK waters. All UK fisheries authorities work together to share intelligence and information, with coordination of assets when required through the UK's Joint Maritime Security Centre.

In England, the MMO is responsible for the enforcement of fisheries legislation within English waters while the ten Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) are also responsible for inshore enforcement inside the six nautical mile limit within their respective areas. Considerable resources are available to fisheries authorities in England to protect the integrity of our fishing waters. These include two offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) commercially contracted to the MMO which are dedicated to fisheries enforcement 365 days a year. In addition, at-sea provision can be enhanced if required with the ability to task up to three Royal Navy OPVs for fisheries enforcement work, pending agreement with MoD on the priority of tasking.

This significant offshore capability is complemented by IFCA patrol vessels which provide coverage inshore around England's coast. The IFCAs operate a range of craft which the MMO has agreements in place to utilise if required. Patrol vessels are just one part of our surveillance and enforcement capacity. The MMO commissions flights using Maritime and Coastguard Agency aircraft with MMO-trained observers onboard to provide an enforcement capability with high visibility and wide-ranging coverage that can detect the presence of vessels fishing illegally and those without vessel monitoring systems on board (all those 12 metres and under). In situations where scale and/or concurrency of activity demands, requests for RN vessels can also be made through the existing Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA) process.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

Victoria Prentis

## VICTORIA PRENTIS MP

### Annex A: Written Ministerial Statement- Confirmation of fishing licence numbers issued by the UK and the Crown Dependencies.

#### Statement

This statement sets out, for clarity, the numbers of fishing licences issued by the UK and the Crown Dependencies since the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) was signed. The information is correct as of 9am on 3 November 2021.

The position does change as applications can be made or withdrawn at any time. Requests to withdraw licences by the European Commission can also be made at any time and therefore the number of active licences will be slightly different.

#### UK waters

Under the Fisheries Act 2020, all foreign vessels fishing in UK waters are required to have a licence. Article 2(1) of Annex 38 to the TCA sets out the level of access which applies during the adjustment period (until 30 June 2026). This includes both the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and also particular zones in the territorial sea (6 to 12 nautical miles from the shore in ICES divisions 4c and 7d-g). Access to the territorial sea is limited to “qualifying” vessels, i.e. those that fished in those zones in at least four of the years between 2012 and 2016, or their direct replacements. The TCA also places some limitations on access in terms of which stocks can be targeted, where and by which Member States.

In the UK 6 to 12 nautical mile zone, our approach has been to license vessels once sufficient evidence has been provided that they have fished in UK waters on at least one day in four of the years between 2012 and 2016.

The number of licences that have been issued to EU vessels to fish in UK waters are as follows.

Overall total:

#### UK

Applications received	Licences issued	Licences pending further information from the Commission/Member State
1831[i]	1793	38

In short, almost 98% of all licences received by the UK have been granted.

#### UK 12-200nm zone

The majority of these licenses were granted on 31 December 2020 with 1,285 EU vessels licensed.

Applications received: 1,673

Vessels licensed: 1,673

By member State:

Member State	Applications received	Licences issued	Applications pending
Belgium	65	65	0
Demark	121	121	0
France	736	736	0
Germany	49	49	0
Republic of Ireland	358	358	0
Lithuania	2	2	0
Netherlands	192	192	0
Poland	2	2	0
Portugal	49	49	0
Spain	90	90	0
Sweden	9	9	0

### UK 6-12nm zone

#### Vessels over 12m

Applications received: 109

Vessels licensed: 102

By member State:

Member State	Applications received	Licences issued	Applications pending
Belgium	21	17	4
France	88	85	3

#### Vessels under 12m

Applications received: 50

Vessels licensed: 19

By member State:

Member State	Applications received	Licences issued	Applications pending
France	50	19	31

- 1 licensed vessel was withdrawn at the EU's request.

### Crown Dependency waters

The TCA provides for different arrangements for the Crown Dependencies of Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man, all of which are responsible for issuing their own licences. Article 502(1) of the TCA provides that:

“Each Party shall grant vessels of the other Party access to fish in its waters reflecting the actual extent and nature of fishing activity that it can be demonstrated was carried out during the period beginning on 1 February 2017 and ending on 31 January 2020 by qualifying vessels of the other Party in the waters and under any treaty arrangements that existed on 31 January 2020.” A “qualifying vessel” is one which fished in the relevant CD waters on more than 10 days in one of the periods defined by the TCA.

Both Jersey and Guernsey have extended transitional arrangements to enable EU vessels to continue to fish in their waters, while evidence of relevant fishing activity during the reference period is collected and they move to a full licensing regime.

Licensing figures for the Crown Dependencies are as follows:

### Jersey

Total live applications	Permanent licences issued	Temporary licences granted. Valid until 31/1/22. Further information from the Commission/Member State required for them to be made permanent	Lapsed on 30/10 due to lack of evidence
217	113	49	55

Jersey have also received 11 applications for replacement vessels, which are pending the finalisation of a methodology for such vessels.

### Guernsey

Guernsey’s transitional arrangement which allows access for 167 French vessels will continue until 31 January 2022.

Full licences will be issued to eligible vessels on 1 December 2021. 58 applications have been received.

Isle of Man: no applications received.

[i] Additionally, a further 37 applications for direct replacement vessels have been received from France. Processing of these will be carried out once a methodology has been finalised for such vessels