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Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

3 April 2023

Dear Finlay,

The Sea Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2023

Thank you for your letters of 2 March and 9 March 2023 regarding the Sea Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2023.

The Scottish Parliament agreed on 1 March 2023 that it was content for Scottish Ministers to give their consent to the Sea Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2023, including Scottish devolved matters, as set out in the notification to the Parliament.

The above UK Statutory Instrument (SI) was made on 8 March 2023 under the Fisheries Act 2020. I now confirm that this SI is consistent with the consent granted.

On your specific questions relating to the SI, please see the responses below.

1. how the Scottish Government will enforce the provisions of the SI in relation to the tonnage of European seabass caught during the specified fishing seasons;

The amended rules will be enforced by the Marine Scotland through standing licence conditions, namely that Scotland does not have a directed seabass fishery, and by existing compliance, monitoring and inspection regimes.

2. how the Scottish Government will ensure compliance with the total allowable catch and size rules for picked dogfish, including through the use of remote electronic monitoring on quota vessels;

In UK waters, the existing prohibition remains in place to all vessels until the UK regulations come into force in early April 2023. Until the new regulations are in place the current prohibition remains and all catches must be discarded. The landing obligation will apply to specimens 100 cm or less once the prohibition is lifted. For vessels operating in EU waters, the prohibition

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was lifted in January 2023, all other related measures are aligned with the new UK regulations. The change in rules will be enforced by the Marine Scotland through amended licence conditions and existing compliance, monitoring and inspection regimes. As with all species separate catch reports must be made for catches from respective EU and UK zones.

3. whether the adjustments relating to seabass that will be made by each party will represent an increase or decrease in the level of seabass that may be caught.

Scotland does not have a directed seabass fishery and Marine Scotland does not expect a variance in the historic levels of bycatch.

I hope this is helpful.

I am copying this letter to the Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON

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