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NOTE

From:	The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine
On:	4 November 2021
To:	The President of the Council of the European Union
No. prev. doc.:	ST 10417/21 + COR 1 + ADD 1 + ADD 1 COR 1 PECHE 248 CODEC 1059 - COM (2021) 356 final
Subject:	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013, as regards restrictions to the access to Union waters [10417/21 – COM(2021) 356 final)] - Opinion on the application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality

Delegations will find in annex the Opinion of The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine on the application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality on the Proposal mentioned above.

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Our Ref: AFM-i-317-2021

4 November 2021

For the attention of:
The Council of the European Union,
The European Commission, and
The European Parliament.

Political Contribution on COM(2021)356 in relation to restrictions to the access of Union Waters

The Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine (''the Committee'') has considered the recent proposal, COM(2021)356, concerning restrictions to the access of Union waters. The Committee has agreed to forward the attached contribution for consideration to the Council of the European Union, the European Commission and the European Parliament as part of the political dialogue process with national parliaments.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Cahill

Deputy Jackie Cahill
Cathaoirleach
Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Cuireann Seirbhís Thithe an Oireachtas fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaelige



An Comhchoiste um Thalmhaíocht, Bia agus Muir

Cion Polaitiúil maidir le

RIALACHÁN Ó PHARLAIMINT NA hEORPA AGUS ÓN gCOMHAIRLE lena leasaítear Rialachán (AE) Uimh. 1380/2013 ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle an 11 Nollaig 2013, a mhéid a bhaineann le srianta le srianta ar an rochtain ar uiscí an Aontais.

Samhain 2021

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Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Political Contribution on

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013, as regards restrictions to the access to Union waters

November 2021

33/AM/006

1. Introduction

The Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine ("the Committee") considers *COM/2021/356 Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013, as regards restrictions to the access to Union waters* to be significantly important to Ireland and the EU.

2. Scrutiny by the Committee

The Committee first considered the proposal at its meeting on 15 September 2021. Following this meeting, the Committee sought further briefing on this proposal from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Having considered the further briefing from the Department, the Committee considered the proposal again at a meeting on 5 October 2021. It was agreed by the Committee at this meeting to write a Political Contribution.

3. Decision of the Committee

On 2 November 2021 the Committee agreed to forward a copy of this Political Contribution to Charlie McConalogue T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, David Maria Sassoli MEP, President of the European Parliament, and Charles Michel, President of the European Council.

The Committee further agreed that, in the interests of inter-parliamentary cooperation on EU matters, a copy of this report be forwarded to the appropriate Committee in the National Parliament of each EU Member State and to Ireland's MEPs.

4. Opinion of the Committee

Having considered the proposal in detail, the Committee makes the following observations:

a) Following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, arrangements for access inside its 12 nautical mile zone are set down in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). The Committee notes that this proposed regulation amends Annex I of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) to reflect this by removing the provisions relating to access inside the UK's 12nm zone and references to the UK's access inside Member States' 12nm Zone, including that of Ireland, with the exception of the small area off the south coast. However, the Committee is concerned with the timing and implications of this proposal as the subject of access to waters for fishing fleets is a sensitive issue. It appears to the Committee that this proposal rolls over existing arrangements without considering the wider context of the issue.

b) The Committee believes that the issue of access to waters should not be treated in isolation from the overall upcoming review of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). This review must take into account all aspects of the functioning of the CFP including access issues and any negative impact arising from Brexit.