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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
No. Cion doc.:	ST 8078/20 PECHE 121 - COM(2020) 205 final
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION amending Regulation (EU) 2019/1838 as regards certain fishing opportunities for 2020 in the Baltic Sea, and amending Regulation (EU) 2020/123 as regards certain fishing opportunities in 2020 in Union and non-Union waters - UK formal response to the Commission consultation

DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (13.03.2023)

Delegations will find in Annex the UK formal response to the Commission consultation on the non-paper (doc. 8312/20) to the above-mentioned proposal, as received from the Commission services.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Ms. Charlina Vitcheva,
Director-General
Maritime Affairs and Fisheries
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Nobel House
Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JP

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www.defra.gov.uk

3 June 2020

Dear Ms Vitcheva,

**Consultation on the 1st non-paper to the second amendment to the 2020 fishing opportunities,
pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 130 of the Withdrawal Agreement**

First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Director General of DG Mare. I look forward to working closely with you.

Bernhard Friess wrote to Tim Barrow on 26 May asking the UK to provide comments on the Commission's proposals for the second amendment to the TAC and Quota regulation for 2020 relating to recovery measures for the Celtic Sea. This letter is in response to that request.

We note that the proposal set out in your non-paper relates to a technical measure intended to improve selectivity in the Celtic Sea. The proposal will remove the time limit of 31 May 2020 applying to vessels fishing with bottom trawls to use a gear with a mesh size of 100 mm and 160 mm square-mesh panel. Our science advice suggests this measure will principally benefit recovery of whiting. We consider that the priority for the Celtic Sea remains recovery of cod and that the proposed extension is less likely to benefit the recovery of cod. Notwithstanding this, the UK is content that this measure should remain in place and is accordingly content with the amendment.

For the avoidance of doubt, we confirm that nothing in this reply undermines the position that under the Withdrawal Agreement the UK will cease to be bound by the Common Fisheries Policy when the Transition Period ends.

Yours sincerely,

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Director
Marine and Fisheries Directorate
DEFRA
