



Our ref: MA/LG/3908/21

Paul Davies MS
Chair, Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee

25 November 2021

Dear Paul,

The Welsh Government has been working with all other fisheries policy authorities (FPAs) across the UK to develop a draft Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS). The JFS must be published within two years of Royal Assent of the Fisheries Act 2020 (the Act) – by 23 November 2022. The JFS must:

- set out the policies of the FPAs for achieving, or contributing to the achievement of, the fisheries objectives in the Act;
- contain a statement explaining the use the FPAs propose to make of fisheries management plans in order to achieve, or contribute to the achievement of, those fisheries objectives; and
- contain a statement explaining how those fisheries objectives have been interpreted and proportionately applied in formulating those policies and proposals.

Paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to the Act requires each of the FPAs to lay a consultation draft of the JFS before the appropriate legislature and to specify a period for scrutiny of it.

Please be advised of my intention to lay the consultation draft JFS before the Senedd on 10 January 2022. This will be carried out in tandem in all other UK legislatures. The draft JFS would then be the subject of a public consultation from 11 January – 5 April 2022.

I propose a scrutiny period of 11 January to 18 February for the Senedd. The same scrutiny period is proposed for each of the UK legislatures.

I recognise it is a matter for you to determine how you wish to proceed with scrutiny. I will make myself available should you wish to discuss the documents with me in the New Year.

I hope this information will help you to manage your forward work programme.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd

Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd