



Our ref MA-LG-0750-22

Huw Irranca-Davies, MS
Chair of Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

Cc: Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

18 May 2022

Dear Huw

The Sea Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2022

The above named regulations (the “2022 Regulations”) relate to measures which apply to the seabass fishery which extends beyond the Welsh Zone. In order for them to be effective, they need to apply on a UK basis and apply to all vessels operating in UK waters. In particular the 2022 Regulations make amendments to the quantities of seabass that can be retained as bycatch during the operation of fishing gears being used to target other species. The measures will extend the avoidance of the wasteful discarding of seabass.

These measures were agreed with the European Commission during the consultations on shared fishing opportunities for 2022 which concluded in December 2021.

I have given my consent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to make the 2022 Regulations, so the provisions therein apply in Wales. The 2022 Regulations were laid before the Houses of Parliament on 29 April and the SI is subject to the negative procedure.

When there is a need to maintain regulatory fisheries frameworks across the UK, it is appropriate I consent to the UK Government legislating on our behalf on the seabass fishery which is shared with other Administrations in the UK.

I am copying this letter to the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution and writing in similar terms to the Chair of the Environment, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

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