

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Climate Change and Rural Affairs

21 October 2024

Dear Huw,

Consultation on amendments to the Joint Fisheries Statement

Thank you for your letter of 7 October regarding the Welsh Government's consultation on amendments to Annex A of the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS), which we considered at our meeting on 16 October. We agreed to respond in line with the requested deadline of 29 November.

To assist us in preparing our submission, we would be grateful if you could set out your general views on the proposals, in addition to addressing the specific points below:

- To what extent has the Welsh Government been involved in the preparation of the consultation draft;
- Could you share your views on, and justification for, the removal of Welsh Ministers as a responsible authority for preparing and publishing a number of joint Fisheries Management Plans (FMP)s;
- Could you set out whether any impact assessment has been undertaken on the removal of Welsh Ministers as a responsible authority for these FMPs. For example, could the removal impact ambitions for Welsh fishers to target those stocks in the future; and
- Could you set out whether there is a mechanism in place, or planned, for Welsh Ministers to regain responsibility for those joint FMPs, and what this would involve. For example,



could consideration of responsible authorities be a standard part of the six-year review of each FMP.

We would be grateful to receive your response by 8 November 2024.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Davies'.

Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

