

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

20 November 2024

Dear Huw,

## **Response to consultation on amendments to the Joint Fisheries Statement**

Thank you for your letter of 6 November 2024 in response to our queries on the joint UK consultation on amendments to the Joint Fisheries Statement. We were grateful for your comprehensive replies, and we acknowledge the reasoning set out for the decisions being made, particularly in relation to the removal of Welsh Ministers as a responsible authority for a number of Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs).

We note that you will ask your officials, through their engagement in the UK FMP Working Group, to recommend that the consideration of responsible authorities should be a standard part of a review of each FMP. We believe that this would be an important change and we would be grateful, therefore, if you could confirm when this is taken forward.

As part of our consideration of the consultation, we reached out to seek stakeholders' views. We received one response, from the Welsh Fisherman's Association (WFA).<sup>1</sup> In its letter, the WFA details its responses to the consultation, which we note are broadly supportive of the proposed amendments.

Separately, we have noted that the minutes for the Ministerial Advisory Group for Welsh Fisheries have not been updated since 9 November 2023. In order to improve transparency, and to assist our

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from the Welsh Fishermen's Association - Cymdeithas Pysgotwyr Cymru (WFA-CPC), November 2024



ability to effectively monitor and scrutinise work in this area, we would be grateful if the site could be updated at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards,

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

