

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid
Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change
and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: MA/HIDCC/0057/26

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

22 January 2026

Dear Mike,

I wish to inform the Committee of the intention to consent, in this instance, to the Secretary of State making and laying the Sea Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2026.

The Regulations will be made under section 36(1)(b) and (c) of the Fisheries Act 2020 and section 15 of the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023. The Regulations amend assimilated legislation, Council Regulation (EU) 2020/123 fixing for 2020 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters.

The Regulations make adjustments to the level of European seabass that may be caught within British fishery limits, as specified in Article 10(5) of Council Regulation (EU) 2020/123, for recreational fisheries. Increasing the number of fish which can be retain from two per day to three. The Regulations also remove picked dogfish (spur dog) of over 100cm from the list of prohibited species contained in Article 16 of Council Regulation (EU) 2020/123.

These changes were agreed during the recent UK EU fisheries consultations under the framework of the Trade and Cooperation agreement.

In accordance with section 40 of the Fisheries Act 2020, the Secretary of State has approached the Welsh and Scottish Ministers, and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland for consent to the making of these Regulations.

Although the Welsh Government's general principle is that the law relating to devolved matters should be made in Wales, on this occasion, it is considered appropriate for the Secretary of State to legislate on a UK-wide basis. The purpose of the Regulations is to

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

make minor technical amendments to existing assimilated legislation of UK-wide application, to implement UK international obligations arising as a consequence of the UK-EU annual Fisheries Consultations. A UK-wide approach to the making of the amendments ensures timely implementation and policy continuity, providing a level playing field for fishers across the UK.

There is no policy divergence between the Welsh and UK Government in this matter, and the Regulations amend retained legislation with UK wide extent that was not made bilingually.

The Regulations will be laid before the UK Parliament on 6 February.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Huw Irranca Davies AS/MS

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