



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

**The Rt Hon George Eustice MP**  
Secretary of State for Environment,  
Food and Rural Affairs

Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

T 03459 335577  
defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA  
[lana.mccormick@parliament.uk](mailto:lana.mccormick@parliament.uk)

Our ref: MC2021/01726/SR

30 April 2021

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 19 January on behalf of your constituents regarding trade with the European Union (EU). I apologise for the considerable delay in responding. Defra is currently dealing with high volumes of correspondence due to COVID-19. Thank you for your understanding during this challenging time

The UK Government has agreed a new settlement with the EU which takes back control of our fishing waters, and which will ensure that our fishing communities will enjoy all the benefits that come from being an independent coastal state.

Under this deal, from 1 January 2021 the UK's sovereign control of its waters was recognised. The Agreement provides for a significant uplift in quota for UK fishermen, currently estimated to be worth around £146 million for the UK fleet. This is equal to 25% of the value of the average annual EU catch from UK waters and will be phased in over five years; with the majority of this value (15%) being transferred in the first year (2021). It ends the dependence of the UK fleet on the unfair 'relative stability' mechanism enshrined in the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and will mean that UK vessels are able to take a larger proportion of the total landings from UK and EU waters going forward.

There will be an adjustment period lasting five and a half years to allow fleets on both sides time to adapt to the new arrangements. During this period there will be continued reciprocal access to each other's waters at levels commensurate to each party's share of fishing opportunities and, for non-quota stocks, at historic levels.

At the end of the adjustment period, the UK will take back full control of its coastal waters and will have the sole right to determine access. From this point onwards access will be subject to annual negotiations, alongside fishing opportunities as is typical for independent coastal states.

Throughout the adjustment period, the UK Government will invest in our fishing communities and will do everything we can to help to rebuild the industry after 40 plus years of neglect. This means that, as the adjustment period draws to a close, there will be a restored and improved UK fishing fleet prepared to take advantage of the exciting new opportunities.

The agreement ensures our rights under international law are upheld. It provides for annual negotiations on fishing opportunities based on scientific principles ensuring sustainable fishing. The UK has long championed sustainable fishing and our plan is to set a gold standard for sustainable fishing around the world.

The UK is committed to working closely with our partners including the EU, Norway and the Faroe Islands to manage shared stocks in a sustainable way and share fishing opportunities on a fair and scientific basis. Importantly, the Government has preserved our ability to deliver structural change which delivers on our sustainability objectives and will meet the needs of the UK fishing industry.



**RT HON GEORGE EUSTICE MP**