From George Eustice MP
Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Dr Andrew Murrison MP
Northern Ireland Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

4 July 2018

Dear Andrew,

I am pleased to let you know that today the government will publish our White Paper, ‘Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations’. It sets out a future UK fisheries policy for when we leave the EU and take back control of our waters.

We have an historic opportunity to reform fisheries management and revitalise coastal communities throughout the UK. As an independent coastal state, we will have the opportunity to move towards a fairer share of fishing opportunities – overhauling the current system where UK fishermen have received a poor deal that is based on fishing patterns from the 1970s.

In future, access to UK waters will be on our terms, under our control and for the benefit of UK fishermen. Today we are setting out our plans to promote a more competitive, profitable and sustainable fishing industry across the whole of the UK, and setting a gold standard for sustainable fishing around the world. Underpinning everything will be our commitment to sustainability – supporting future generations of fishermen and allowing our marine environment to thrive.

The White Paper also sets out proposals for a Fisheries Bill, which will be introduced in this session of Parliament. It will create powers to give the UK full control of our waters, set fishing opportunities and manage fisheries.

Our approach will benefit the whole of the UK. The UK government will continue to work with the Devolved Administrations to develop a new UK framework for fisheries management, which will maximise their power to manage their fisheries while maintaining the overall coherence of the UK’s approach.

I hope that this paper will be of interest to your Committee during the course of your fisheries inquiry. I and my officials would be delighted to meet you and the members of your Committee to discuss any details in the coming weeks.

GEORGE EUSTICE MP
Our future vision is that industry should take a greater, shared responsibility for sustainably managing fisheries. This White Paper is a first step in setting out our future approach but we remain committed to working closely with the industry, the NGOs and other stakeholders as we pursue legislative and other methods to implement reform.

Lord Gardiner and I would be delighted to meet you in due course to discuss our proposals in further detail.

GEORGE EUSTICE MP