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Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

From the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for  
Environmental, Food & Rural Affairs

4 July 2018

Dear Colleagues

Today's White Paper, 'Sustainable Fisheries for Future Generations', 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 United Kingdom. As an independent coastal state, we will have the opportunity to move towards a fairer share of fishing opportunities – seeking to overhaul 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. Fisheries will be a separate strand of our future relationship with the EU to the future economic partnership. Through the fisheries strand there will be a separate process whereby the EU and the UK, as an independent coastal state, will negotiate on access to waters and fishing opportunities on an annual basis.

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.

The UK Government will continue work closely with the Devolved Administrations to develop a new UK framework for fisheries management. This will respect the devolution settlements and maximise all Fisheries Administrations' powers to manage their fisheries while, where necessary, maintaining the overall coherence of the UK's fisheries policy so that we can deliver our international obligations and protect the functioning of the UK internal market.

This White Paper marks the beginning of our consultation on our future fisheries policy, including the Fisheries Bill, and heralds a new era for our fishing industry and coastal communities.

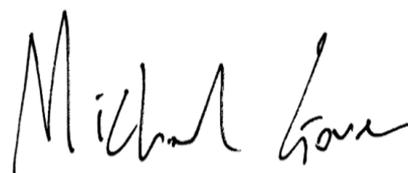
Ministers at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs would be delighted to discuss our plans with any colleagues with an interest. If you would like to arrange a meeting please contact: [fisheriesengagement@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fisheriesengagement@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

The document can be found at [www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra) and hardcopies will be available in the Vote office.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. May', written in a cursive style.

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THERESA MAY MP**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Gove', written in a cursive style.

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
MICHAEL GOVE MP**

To all Members of Parliament

