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Finlay Carson MSP
Convener, Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

Via email: rural.committee@parliament.scot

24 March 2026

Dear Finlay

The Committee may wish to be aware that today, 24 March 2026, the first statutory report on the implementation of the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS) was published and laid before the Scottish Parliament. A copy of the report is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-the-joint-fisheries-statement>

The preparation of this report is a statutory requirement under section 11 of the Fisheries Act 2020. The Act requires that all fisheries policy authorities, acting jointly, prepare and publish a report, on a three-year cycle, on the extent to which the policies in the JFS have been implemented. The JFS sets out the policies for achieving, or contributing to the achievement of, the Act's 8 fisheries objectives. Given the JFS was published in November 2022, the report covers the implementation period between then and November 2025.

I hope that you would agree that the report provides a positive outline of work implemented since 2022 and how this has contributed towards achieving the Act's 8 fisheries objectives, and demonstrates our commitment to sustainable, evidence-based management of fisheries and aquaculture.

Yours sincerely

MAIRI GOUGEON

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