

[Redacted]

**Subject:**

FW: Briefing: Meeting with the SFF on Tuesday 8 May

[Redacted]

Kevin

Please see attached note of Mr Ewing's meeting on Tuesday with the SFF.



Meeting between  
Fergus Ewing, ...

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Note of Meeting between Fergus Ewing, Bertie Armstrong (Scottish Fishermen's Federation) and John Anderson (Scottish Fishermen's Organisation) on transitional arrangements**

**8 May 2018 – Scottish Parliament**

Officials Present

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Note**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

2. Bertie remained optimistic that a “managed expansion” of UK fisheries was possible. He believed that it would be a “travesty” if UK were “give fishing away” as part of the Brexit negotiations.
3. The Cabinet Secretary emphasised the need for full devolution of Scottish fishing powers to ensure policies could be adjusted in accordance and at a tempo with Scottish needs, pointing to delays in UK Government actions in fisheries and in other sectors.
4. Bertie accepted that Scottish fisheries ought to be managed by the Scottish Parliament and that he was fully behind the Scottish position on UK frameworks. He also fully supported the principle of Scottish Ministers leading international negotiations where Scotland held the greatest interest, though under a single UK Coastal State team.

[REDACTED] Bertie said that the important issue was to ensure UK sovereignty of UK seas. This he felt was the most important issue and that he expected that administrative arrangements would be made in due course to preserve the current division of responsibilities between UK and Scotland. John Anderson said he expected the current balance of powers between the UK and Scotland to continue. Mr Ewing noted that under the existing EUWB that would not be the case. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

6. Bertie and John agreed that the most pressing current issue facing the fishing sector is the landing obligation. Mr Ewing noted that it had been difficult to persuade the UK Government to think radically about the issue of choke species. Mr Ewing considered whether the UK might seek a derogation from choke species restrictions, something that

Bertie enthusiastically agreed. All agreed that choke species should be a priority target in any managed expansion negotiations with the EU.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Marine Scotland

9 May 2018