
1. Item 001

[OUT OF SCOPE]



From: Gibb AG (Allan)

Sent: 20 January 2022 08:05

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Cc: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: Immediate for this morning: Clyde Cod Box

Importance: High

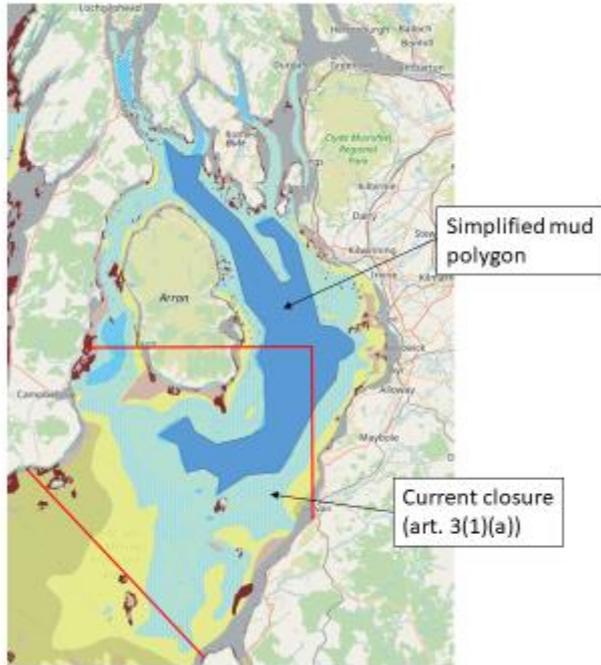
Cabinet Secretary

To help with this morning's call. We have looked again at the potential to reduce the size of the closed area by way of mitigation of impact on the local fishing fleet. In terms of explaining to Parliament and stakeholders I think the narrative would be.

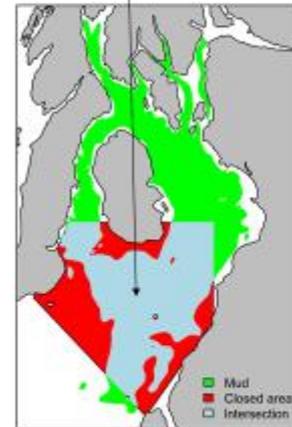
We were challenged to assess whether there was any way that the scale of the closure could be reduced to lessen impact on local fishing fleets whilst maintaining the objective of maximum protection to Cod during spawning activities. The answer would be the scale of the current closure is probably as a result of now less relevant historic reasons and a poorer understanding of habitats at the time. therefore we have reviewed all the science available and its clear from there that cod prefer spawning on coarse sand or mixed sediments. Mud, sandy mud and muddy sand is less attractive for them, although that isn't to say they will never spawn on those areas – just that they are unlikely to do so if there are coarse sand or mixed sediments in the vicinity. On that basis we are proposing adjusting the scale of the closed area whilst remaining confident that the policy objective is being fully maintained.

I would want MS scientists to be willing and able to stand up and say they agree with the proposed adjustments.

The new map below shows that we could potentially **go as far as freeing up 50%** of the proposed closed area which would be a huge mitigation and probably make the impact on nephrop fishing close to zero as nephrops are only found on mud. The map below shows red areas that definitely need closed. We would still run an urgent stakeholder exercise to confirm adjustments using local knowledge to complement our knowledge.



Intersection based on
 "mud + sandy mud + muddy sand"
 = 52% of closed area



Allan Gibb
 Head of Sea Fisheries Division

marine scotland: Fisheries Policy
 [REDACTED]
 Email : Allan.Gibb@gov.scot

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From: Gibb AG (Allan)
Sent: 19 January 2022 18:31
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Box
Importance: High

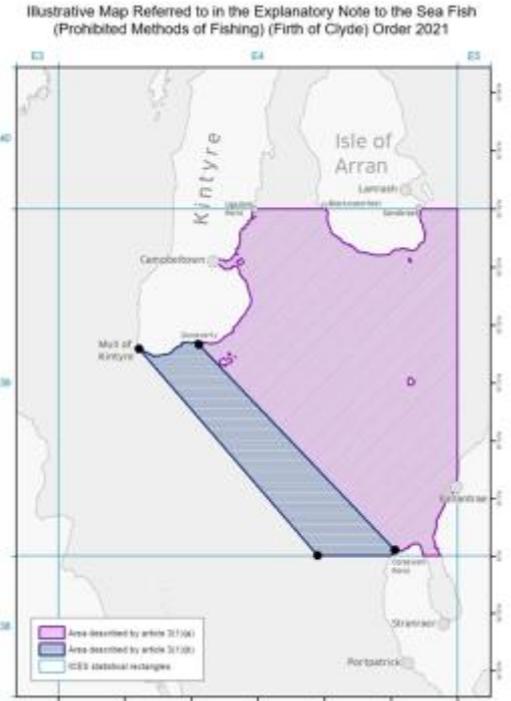
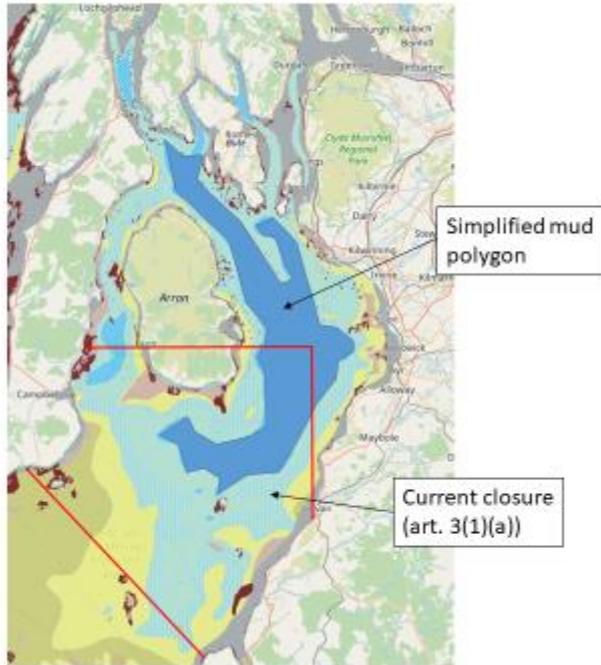
P/s cabinet Secretary

I have been working on a mitigation option, We may be able to reduce the closed area by about 25% I am getting a better handle on that number, we have the ecosystem team in Marine Scotland Science checking different types of mud such as including sandy mud, muddy sand etc (can't believe I typed that !!) to see connection with Cod spawning habitat so possibly a higher number than 25%. The picture below shows what we could do, the dark blue is mud and whilst Cod may be there occasionally they won't spawn there so we don't dilute the impact of the measure if we remove that from the closure and open it up to those boats gives them more opportunities for fishing elsewhere.

1. ENGOs can be reassured this has zero impact on the objective as the spawning grounds remain closed to all activities.
2. Listening to fishermen and coming up with mitigation on their behalf.
3. Process would be to ask fishermen to suggest what should be open whilst maintaining the objective and we cross check it and agree with them on a final version. I'd propose showing them this.
4. The area is big but it was their proposal and probably deliberately covers mud areas as it had different Clyde fleet objectives of 20 years ago in mind also.
5. The info we have on the spawning grounds is now more accurate than we had available 20 years ago.
6. [REDACTED – LEGAL ADVICE]
7. [REDACTED]. Also in the spirit of SGP agreement and consistency with other closures.
8. I would appreciate a separate chat on parliamentary handling.
9. I'm holding on sending out any more replies in case we choose this approach so I can adjust text accordingly.

If you think is a viable approach my next step would be to share this advice with Harry Huyton, SGP spad.

Happy to discuss if this is something that you wish to consider.



Allan Gibb
 Head of Sea Fisheries Division

marine scotland: Fisheries Policy
 [REDACTED]
 Email : Allan.Gibb@gov.scot

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 19 January 2022 15:08
To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: Clyde Cod Box

See below, I've sighted Cab Sec.

Not proposing to put on MiCase.

[REDACTED]

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[OUT OF SCOPE]

2. **Item 003**

From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot

Sent: 07 February 2022 16:29

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot

Subject: RE: RAINEC - The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) (No. 2) Order 2022 (SSI 2022/35)

Hi [REDACTED], Yes, that should be fine. Will be in touch again nearer the date to confirm.
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** CabSecRAI@gov.scot

Sent: 04 February 2022 13:29

To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot

Cc: CabSecRAI@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Allan.Gibb@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot

Subject: RE: RAINEC - The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) (No. 2) Order 2022 (SSI 2022/35)

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[REDACTED]

Noted and regarding possible evidence on 9 March, would it be possible to be first on the agenda? If so it would cause minimal impact on a large stakeholder event planned that morning.

Thanks and happy to discuss.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot
Sent: 04 February 2022 11:36
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot
Subject: RE: RAINEC - The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) (No. 2) Order 2022 (SSI 2022/35)

Dear all,

Thank you for the Cabinet Secretary's letter on 1 February relating to SSI 2022/35.

I wanted to draw your attention to the extended call for views the Committee published on the instrument this morning; the closing date is 23 February. The Committee intends to discuss the instrument with stakeholders at its meeting on 2 March and may wish to discuss this with the Cabinet Secretary on 9 March. Please can you let me know if this would cause any difficulties in terms of the Cabinet Secretary's diary. I wouldn't expect this session to last for more than approximately 30 minutes.

As before, I'll be in touch when the call for views has closed and happy to discuss further in the meantime.

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 January 2022 06:58
To: CabSecRAI@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; allan.gibb@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot
Subject: RAINEC - The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022 (SSI 2022/5)

Dear all,

The above negative SSI was laid on 13 January and the Cabinet Secretary wrote to the Committee on 17 January.

I wanted to draw your attention to a call for views the Committee published on the instrument yesterday and to inform you that the Committee may wish to discuss this with the Cabinet Secretary when she attends the Committee's meeting on 23 February. The

meeting is already in her diary in relation to the Good Food Nation Bill. I wouldn't expect this additional session to last more than 30 minutes. The Committee may take evidence on 9 February from stakeholders – decision to be taken after the call for views closes on 2 February.

I'll be in touch when the call for views has closed and happy to discuss further in the meantime.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]
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3. Item 004

[REDACTED – REPEAT OF CHAIN IN ITEM 003]

4. Item 005

From: Rural Affairs, Islands & Natural Environment <rural.committee@Parliament.Scot>
Sent: 08 February 2022 10:53
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: RAINEC - Cabinet Secretary appearances before Committee

Hi [REDACTED],

Just to confirm that the Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) (No. 2) Order 2022 (SSI 2022/35) will not be discussed at the meeting on 23 February.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** CabSecRAI@gov.scot
Sent: 03 February 2022 11:21
To: Rural Affairs, Islands & Natural Environment <rural.committee@Parliament.Scot>; CabSecRAI@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot
Subject: RE: RAINEC - Cabinet Secretary appearances before Committee

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Thanks [REDACTED].

The attached letter and previous emails indicated the committee wanted to discuss the Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) (No. 2) Order 2022 (SSI 2022/35). Where does that fit timings wise?

[REDACTED]

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From: Rural Affairs, Islands & Natural Environment <rural.committee@Parliament.Scot>
Sent: 03 February 2022 11:09
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot
Subject: RE: RAINEC - Cabinet Secretary appearances before Committee

Dear [REDACTED],

I would also like to confirm times for the Cabinet Secretary's appearance before the Committee on Wednesday 23 February.

The times for the two agenda items that the Cabinet Secretary is in attendance for are as follows:

- GFN Bill, 8.30-10.00 (90 mins)
- JFS, 10.10-10.55 (45 mins)

The early start to proceedings is required as the Committee must also agree its response on the draft NPF4 and committees need to finish early as the Conveners Group meeting is taking place that day.

We have capacity at this meeting for three accompanying officials in the room (a maximum of four accompanying officials in total, either in person or virtual). Officials attending virtually will be required to log on to BlueJeans at 8.00am for connection checks and set up.

Grateful if you can provide details of those accompanying the Cabinet Secretary.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

From: Rural Affairs, Islands & Natural Environment

Sent: 02 February 2022 17:03

To: CabSecRAI@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot; Rural Affairs, Islands & Natural Environment <rural.committee@Parliament.Scot>

Cc: MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot; Fiona.Simpson@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: RAINEC - Cabinet Secretary appearances before Committee

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for confirming the attendees for next week's NPF4 evidence session. It will be possible for two officials to join the session virtually.

Grateful if those attending virtually can provide the required details.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot > **On Behalf Of** CabSecRAI@gov.scot

Sent: 02 February 2022 13:01

To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; Rural Affairs, Islands & Natural Environment <rural.committee@Parliament.Scot>

Cc: CabSecRAI@gov.scot; MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot; [information redacted]; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: RAINEC - Cabinet Secretary appearances before Committee

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[REDACTED], [REDACTED]

For NPF4 next week Ms Gougeon and Mr Arthur will attend in person. Supported also in person by;

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Given the limitations on support in person is it possible for two colleagues to join virtual? That would be [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. If permissible they can provide separately job titles and contact details for joining BlueJeans.

Colleagues mentioned above are in copy to this email.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot

Sent: 01 February 2022 17:47

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Rural Affairs, Islands & Natural Environment <rural.committee@Parliament.Scot>

Cc: Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth <MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot

Subject: RE: RAINEC - Cabinet Secretary appearances before Committee

Jumping in here as [REDACTED] has just finished up for the day – virtual is an option, especially for the NPF4 panel where we're limited to four witness seats. Appreciate it may be difficult for the Cabinet Secretary to then hot-foot it down to CR2 for an affirmative instrument!

Hope that helps,
[REDACTED]

From: [information redacted]> **On Behalf Of** CabSecRAI@gov.scot

Sent: 01 February 2022 17:37

To: Rural Affairs, Islands & Natural Environment <rural.committee@Parliament.Scot>

Cc: CabSecRAI@gov.scot; MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot; [information redacted];

Subject: RE: RAINEC - Cabinet Secretary appearances before Committee

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Thanks Steven, appreciate that confirmation.

Can we just be clear that whilst it's the convenors *preference* for attendees to appear in person, is virtual participation an option?

[information redacted]

Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

2N.08

St Andrews House

[information redacted]

[information redacted]

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From: Rural Affairs, Islands & Natural Environment <rural.committee@Parliament.Scot>

Sent: 01 February 2022 17:34

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Public Finance, Planning & Community Wealth <MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot>

Cc: Rural Affairs, Islands & Natural Environment <rural.committee@Parliament.Scot>; [information redacted]; Johnston E (Emma) <Emma.Johnston@parliament.scot>; Gavin M (Mhairi) <Mhairi.Gavin@parliament.scot>

Subject: RE: RAINEC - Cabinet Secretary appearances before Committee

Dear [information redacted]

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly.

The Committee's schedule is rather tight on 9 February, therefore the Convener has agreed to bring forward the start time to ensure all business can be considered. This also means that the secondary legislation has been brought forward to 10.00, concluding by approximately 10.25.

The Convener's preference is for attendees to appear at committee, in person.

The Committee meeting will take place in Committee Room 2, which has capacity for up to four witnesses to appear in person.

Kind regards,

[information redacted]

[information redacted]

Committee Assistant
Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** CabSecRAI@gov.scot
Sent: 01 February 2022 16:18
To: CabSecRAI@gov.scot; MinisterPFPCW@gov.scot
Cc: Rural Affairs, Islands & Natural Environment <rural.committee@Parliament.Scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>
Subject: RE: RAINEC - Cabinet Secretary appearances before Committee

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[REDACTED]

Just bring your two separate emails together as this is a joint session with Ms Gougeon and Mr Arthur. Our offices will work together and one of us will provide the details of supporting SG officials in due course.

Can I just check the timings as we had previously agreed 09:00 – 10:30, although appreciate things change. We also have secondary legislation (Aquaculture and Fisheries etc. (Scheme for Financial Assistance) (Scotland) Regulations 2022) immediately after the NPF4 session, so has that also been brought forward from 10:30 to 10:00?

Happy to discuss.

[REDACTED]

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From: Rural Affairs, Islands & Natural Environment <rural.committee@Parliament.Scot>
Sent: 01 February 2022 16:05
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot
Subject: RAINEC - Cabinet Secretary appearances before Committee

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

In advance of your attendance at the RAINE Committee meeting on Wednesday 9 February, please be advised that the evidence session on the National Planning Framework 4 is scheduled to take place from 8.30-10.00am.

Grateful if you can provide a list of all SG officials that will be in attendance, along with their contact details.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Committee Assistant

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** CabSecRAI@gov.scot

Sent: 21 December 2021 15:07

To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot

Cc: CabSecRAI@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot

Subject: RE: RAINEC - Cabinet Secretary appearances before Committee

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[REDACTED]

Thanks for this advance notice and we'll hold both dates in our calendar meantime.

Couple of point on 9 February;

- Would it be possible to be on early in the agenda as we have an external engagement at noon, current restrictions dependent, and would need to leave Parliament about 11:00/15?
- When we went through a similar process for National Planning Framework 3 the Planning Minister attended each committee (4 in total) in a joint appearance with the relevant Minister or Cab Sec for the portfolio. That allows both the NPF / planning perspective and wider portfolio interests to be covered. Would this be appropriate?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot
Sent: 21 December 2021 14:10
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@parliament.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot
Subject: RAINEC - Cabinet Secretary appearances before Committee

Dear all,

The RAINEC considered its work programme for January to March on 15 December and agreed to invite the Cabinet Secretary to give evidence on the following dates and on the following issues—

09 Feb – NPF4; and
23 Feb – Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill, evidence at Stage 1.

In relation to the 12 Jan meeting, no change to the times etc as set out in my earlier email (attached again for info) but I'll confirm by cop 6 January.

Very happy to discuss any aspect of these two sessions with officials, if that would be helpful.

Many thanks – and warmest wishes for a good and relaxing Christmas,
[REDACTED]

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5. Item 006

From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot
Sent: 20 January 2022 06:58
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot; [REDACTED]@parliament.scot

Subject: RAINEC - The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022 (SSI 2022/5)

Dear all,

The above negative SSI was laid on 13 January and the Cabinet Secretary wrote to the Committee on 17 January.

I wanted to draw your attention to a call for views the Committee published on the instrument yesterday and to inform you that the Committee may wish to discuss this with the Cabinet Secretary when she attends the Committee's meeting on 23 February. The meeting is already in her diary in relation to the Good Food Nation Bill. I wouldn't expect this additional session to last more than 30 minutes. The Committee may take evidence on 9 February from stakeholders – decision to be taken after the call for views closes on 2 February.

I'll be in touch when the call for views has closed and happy to discuss further in the meantime.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

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6. Attachment 006_1

[REDACTED – ATTACHMENT PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE AT [The Sea Fish \(Prohibition on Fishing\) \(Firth of Clyde\) Order 2022 No. 5 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)]

7. Attachment 006_2

[REDACTED – ATTACHMENT PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE AT [The Sea Fish \(Prohibition on Fishing\) \(Firth of Clyde\) Order 2022 - Policy Note \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)]

8. Attachment 006_3

SSI No:	2022/5		
Title	Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022		
Responsible Minister			
Procedure	Negative	Lead Committee	Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee
Purpose of Instrument	To protect cod within a specified area (comprised of the two areas detailed below) of the Firth of Clyde (a recognised spawning ground) from being fished during the spawning period in 2022 and 2023. This is in response to the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES) advice on the poor state of cod stocks in ICES area 6a (west of Scotland).		
Tags			

Laid Date	13/01/2022	20 Day Date	01/02/2022
1st DPLR Meeting	18/01/2022	40 Day Date	02/03/2022
Lead Committee Report Due Date	28/02/2022		
Contact	,,		

Policy Note	✓	Impact Assessment	✓
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Additional information:

9. Item 008

[DUPLICATE – ITEM 009 BELOW]

10. Item 009

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 07 January 2022 12:17

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
<CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Minister for Green
Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: URGENT Submission - Clyde Cod Further considerations

Hi [REDACTED],

11 January will be fine for signing.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 07 January 2022 11:39

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Minister for Green
Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: URGENT Submission - Clyde Cod Further considerations

Now with Ms Slater's office in copy for information – apologies for oversight!

Best,
[REDACTED]

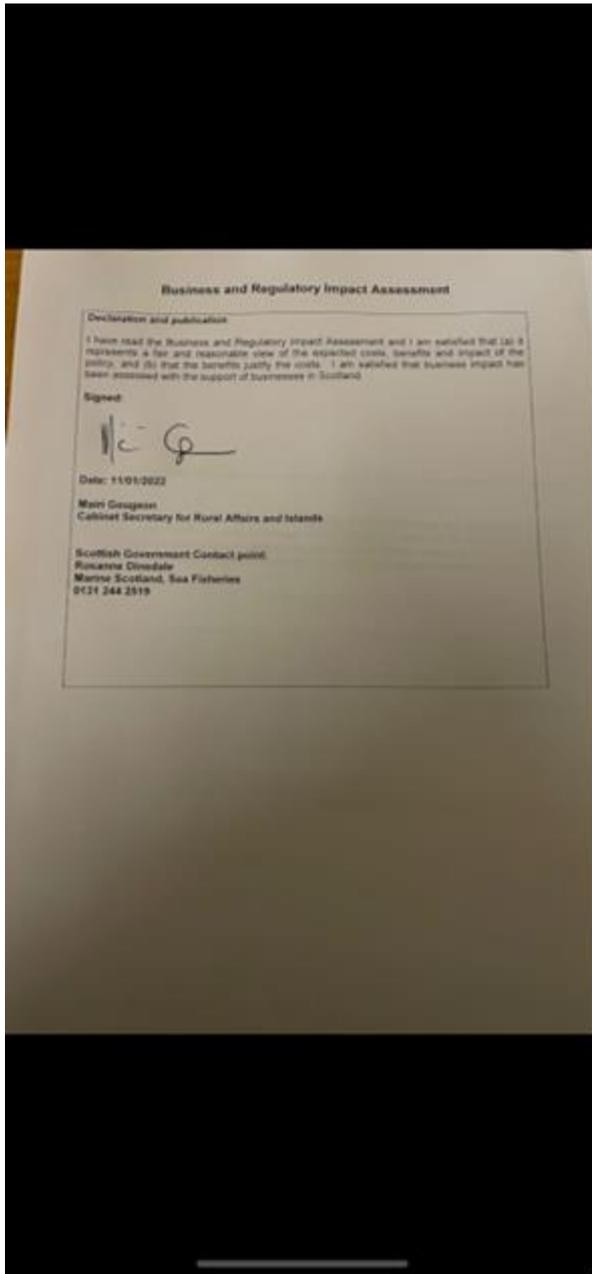
Allan Gibb
Head of Sea Fisheries Division
[REDACTED]
Email : Allan.Gibb@gov.scot

If you receive this email late at night, early in the morning, or at the weekend - it means I am working flexibly. Flexibility works for me, but please do not feel that you should have to pick this up outside of your own normal working hours

11. Item 010

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 11 January 2022 17:53
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Signed BRIA.



[REDACTED]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 11 January 2022 15:55

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

<CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

[Redacted] we have three options:

- 1) we ask another minister to sign the BRIA today;
- 2) we ask Cabsec to sign the BRIA tomorrow;
- 3) we ask another minister to sign the BRIA tomorrow

Look forward to hearing from you,

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 January 2022 15:43
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) (Allan.Gibb@gov.scot) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Hello [REDACTED]/ [REDACTED],

Echoing [REDACTED] apologies for the hassle this is causing – appreciate the constraints under which you are working.

Having spoken to legal, the SSI team and the PLU, it seems that we currently have two options with regard to this BRIA:

- 1) we ask another minister to sign the BRIA today;
- 2) we ask Cabsec to sign the BRIA tomorrow.

We are investigating a third option – that another minister signs the BRIA tomorrow – but that has not yet been confirmed as a possibility.

Grateful if you could advise what's feasible from your end. Apologies again,

Best,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 11 January 2022 15:30
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Thanks [REDACTED], appreciate the difficulty. We're looking into the available options. Do you think Cab Sec would be able to sign tomorrow?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 11 January 2022 14:58
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

It's highly unlikely to be signed today and can't guarantee when it will.

The Cab Sec is working remotely, at home in Brechin, and undertaking ministerial meetings. She doesn't have a printer at home so is reliant on a member of her constituency staff being in the office (mindful their guidance is also WFH), printing and taking out to her.

So getting things signed is far from a straightforward process...
[REDACTED]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 11 January 2022 14:54
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

It is now too late for me to do anything with this today so as long as it's signed as some point today I can pick it up on Thursday (I'm on leave tomorrow).

thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 11 January 2022 14:52

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Understood [REDACTED].

Is COP feasible?

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 11 January 2022 14:51

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Hi [REDACTED],

Confirming that it won't be possible to get a hard copy signature from Cab Sec by 15:00.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 11 January 2022 14:44
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Highly unlikely.

The Cab Sec is virtual, in Brechin, so it was challenging enough getting the SSI signed and we had most of the day.
[REDACTED]

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Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 11 January 2022 14:39
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

With apologies for the urgency, the SSI unit have asked that the BRIA is signed before 3pm. Is this feasible?

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 January 2022 14:25
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

<< File: 2022_ Parliamentary Handling Note_ Clyde Cod Closure 2022-23_ 7 January 2022.docx >> << File: 2022_ Policy note_ Clyde Cod Closure 2022-23_ 7 January 2022.docx >> << File: 2022_ BRIA_ Clyde cod spawning closure 2022-23_ 7 January 2022.doc >>

Good Afternoon,

With apologies for the delay, please find attached the BRIA (also for signing), along with the Parliamentary Handling Note, and Policy Note.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 11 January 2022 09:33

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Importance: High

Good morning,

The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Please find attached the above SSI for signing. I would be grateful if you could print off the attached SSI and have Ms Gougeon sign the instrument as soon as possible today, Tuesday 11th January 2022. The Cabinet Secretary must physically sign a hard copy, a digital signature is not acceptable.

Can you please advise when signed and, if possible, send us a photo or scan of the signed page?

<< File: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022.doc >>

The signed copy can then be returned to me at the address below in due course.

If there are any problems please let me know.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

12. Item 011

From: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>

Sent: 12 January 2022 18:48

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>

Subject: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Cabinet Secretary

I have just finished private stakeholder calls with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

Calls were courtesy and in advance of amendments to the Clyde Cod Spawning closure which will remove the exemptions for some fishing activities that were in place being laid in parliament tomorrow.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Allan Gibb

[REDACTED]

Email : Allan.Gibb@gov.scot

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13. Item 012

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 11 January 2022 09:33

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Importance: High

Good morning,

The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Please find attached the above SSI for signing. I would be grateful if you could print off the attached SSI and have Ms Gougeon sign the instrument as soon as possible today, Tuesday 11th January 2022. The Cabinet Secretary must physically sign a hard copy, a digital signature is not acceptable.

Can you please advise when signed and, if possible, send us a photo or scan of the signed page?

The signed copy can then be returned to me at the address below in due course.

If there are any problems please let me know.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

14. Item 013

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 10 January 2022 08:52
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT Submission - Clyde Cod Further considerations

Thank you [REDACTED],

To note that we will also be sharing a BRIA for Ms Gougeon to sign, in parallel with the SSI.

Best,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 07 January 2022 12:17
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT Submission - Clyde Cod Further considerations

Hi [REDACTED],

11 January will be fine for signing.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 07 January 2022 11:39
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterGSCEB@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT Submission - Clyde Cod Further considerations

Now with Ms Slater's office in copy for information – apologies for oversight!

Best,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 January 2022 10:35
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

If you receive this email late at night, early in the morning, or at the weekend - it means I am working flexibly. Flexibility works for me, but please do not feel that you should have to pick this up outside of your own normal working hours



15. Item 014

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 11 January 2022 14:08

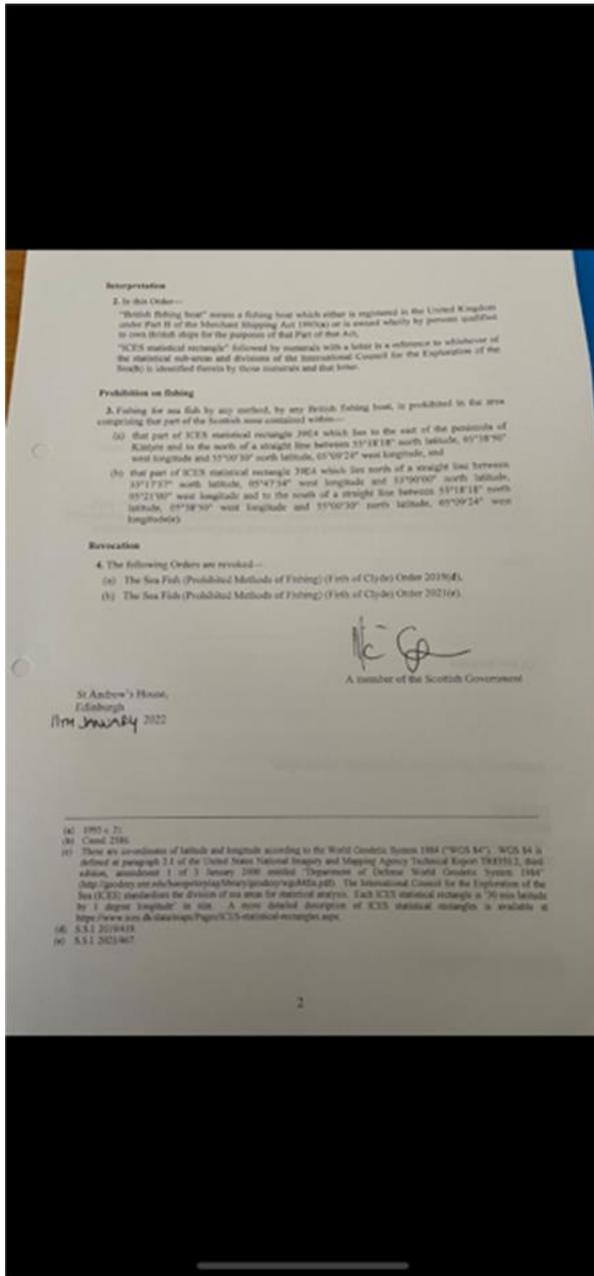
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find a photo of the signed SSI. Hard copy will follow in due course.



Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 11 January 2022 13:50

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Any time today is fine. Thanks.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 11 January 2022 13:45
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Hi [REDACTED],

Can I double check the deadline for signing the SSI?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 11 January 2022 09:33
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: SSI FOR SIGNING: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022
Importance: High

Good morning,

The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

Please find attached the above SSI for signing. I would be grateful if you could print off the attached SSI and have Ms Gougeon sign the instrument as soon as possible today, Tuesday 11th January 2022. The Cabinet Secretary must physically sign a hard copy, a digital signature is not acceptable.

Can you please advise when signed and, if possible, send us a photo or scan of the signed page?

<< File: The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022.doc >>

The signed copy can then be returned to me at the address below in due course.

If there are any problems please let me know.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

16. Item 015

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 12 January 2022 22:46

To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Allan

See attached request for an early meeting from The Clyde Fishermen's Association.

Grateful for advice.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

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[REMAINDER REDACTED – REPEAT OF ITEM 011]

17. Attachment 015_1

From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 12 January 2022 20:47
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: FAO Cabinet Secretary - Mairi Gougeon

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com
Sent: 12 January 2022 18:53
To: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>;
scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Subject: FAO Cabinet Secretary - Mairi Gougeon

Dear Cabinet Secretary Gougeon,

The Clyde Fishermen's Association would like to request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience regarding the survival of our local fishing fleets.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

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18. Item 016

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 13 January 2022 15:12
To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural

Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Hi Allan,

Please find attached correspondence from CFA. Grateful if this could be considered and let me know if you would like it to be added to MiCase.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>

Sent: 13 January 2022 10:02

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural

Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

[REDACTED]

This is on the back of early notification last night of changes to Clyde Cod closure and concerns over HPMAs and SGP agreement. Scotwind as yet unknown to them but will be added to concerns. We should accept. Clyde will be at FM round table on Scotwind I would imagine. So we will look for a date as soon as possible after that.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will deal with correspondence please

Allan Gibb

[REDACTED]

Email : Allan.Gibb@gov.scot

If you receive this email late at night, early in the morning, or at the weekend - it means I am working flexibly. Flexibility works for me, but please do not feel that you should have to pick this up outside of your own normal working hours

[REMAINDER REDACTED – REPEAT OF ITEM 015]

19. Item 018

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 13 January 2022 15:21
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Correspondance on Clyde Cod Box Closure from CFA for your Information.

For MiCase please for an urgent MR.

AO – [REDACTED]/ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com
Sent: 13 January 2022 15:06
Subject: Correspondance on Clyde Cod Box Closure from CFA for your Information.

Please find CFA correspondence below and Clyde Cod Box Consultation detail.

Kind regards,

CFA Executive Committee

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A’ toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba
www.parliament.scot : facebook.com/scottishparliament : twitter.com/scotparl

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20. Attachment 018_1

[REDACTED – INFORMATION PUBLICLY AVAILABLE AT [Clyde Fishermen Condemn Scottish Government Over Cod Box Closure | The Skipper](#)]

21. Attachment 018_2

[REDACTED – INFORMATION PUBLICLY AVAILABLE AT [A statement from the CFA... - Clyde Fishermen's Association | Facebook](#)]

22. Attachment 018_3

[REDACTED – ATTACHMENT PUBLICALLY AVAILABLE AT [Published responses for Firth of Clyde cod spawning closure for 2022/23 - Scottish Government - Citizen Space \(consult.gov.scot\)](#)]

23. Item 019

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 13 January 2022 08:55

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: To clear - BBC enquiry - Clyde trawling ban

Thanks [information redacted] , to confirm the lines have now issued

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 13 January 2022 08:45

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Provan G (Gillian) <Gillian.Provan@gov.scot>; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: To clear - BBC enquiry - Clyde trawling ban

Hi [REDACTED],

For completeness, Ms Gougeon is content with the lines.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 12 January 2022 23:10

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: To clear - BBC enquiry - Clyde trawling ban

Thanks [REDACTED]– Kate, are you content for me to issue?

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 12 January 2022 22:51

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: To clear - BBC enquiry - Clyde trawling ban

[REDACTED]

No response yet from Cab Sec. Given the time these may need to go on SpAds clearance, which I note from your email has already been sought.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 12 January 2022 22:13

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs

<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate)

<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: To clear - BBC enquiry - Clyde trawling ban

[REDACTED], PO

Duty comms have received a call from the BBC claiming they have had a 'tip' from the fishing industry that we plan to make an announcement tomorrow that we will ban bottom trawling in the River Clyde. The fishermen the reporter has spoken to are unhappy about this and the lack of consultation.

From what information we have, the BBC have had only half the story and not a very accurate account, so comms advice would be to put the full, accurate information in the public domain to counter any misinformation.

Policy and SpAds are content with this approach and with the lines below. SpAds have advised that we would not be breaking Parliamentary protocol by issuing these lines before the SSI has been laid.

Grateful for clearance.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"For the past 20 years, measures to protect spawning cod in the Firth of Clyde have been in place through the 11-week seasonal closure (between 14 February and 30 April) of the area to fishers. This will continue in 2022 and 2023.

"The annual closure of the spawning ground has previously included exemptions to allow Nephrops trawlers, creels and scallop dredgers to continue to use the area, due to the low numbers of cod that they catch. However, despite this, the stock has shown little sign of recovery and so we have decided to remove these exemptions to provide a higher chance of stock recovery and contribute to a more sustainable fishery in the West of Scotland in the medium to longer term. We intend to lay regulations in the Scottish Parliament tomorrow (Thursday) that seek to achieve this. This change to the seasonal closure aligns with the commitments in the policy programme of the Bute House Agreement between the Scottish

Government and the Scottish Greens and our shared aim to restore marine habitats in Scotland's inshore waters.

"During spawning, cod are extremely vulnerable to any activity impacting the seabed and limiting physical disturbance during the spawning period will minimise disruption to the spawning environment and promote cod reproduction.

"We appreciate this will have a short term impact on local fishers, but taking action now to try to replenish the stock for the longer term is ultimately beneficial for fishing as well."

Background

Removal of the exemptions will also create consistency with management in other areas, including the UK National North Sea Cod Avoidance Plan, which covers closure areas for all gear types (excluding pelagic), and the recent emergency Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation and related Marine Conservation Order in the Inner Sound, which includes prohibition on creeling and diving in order to protect the critically endangered flapper skate nursery area.

[REDACTED]

24. Item 020

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 13 January 2022 13:13

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: To clear - BBC enquiry - Clyde trawling ban

Hi [REDACTED],

Please see attached for the revised letter with the additional line requested by Ms Gougeon (line taken from submission previously cleared by Spads and the Cabinet Secretary).

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 13 January 2022 13:03
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: To clear - BBC enquiry - Clyde trawling ban

Hi [REDACTED],

Ms Gougeon has asked if we can add a bit about this being in keeping with other closures where all activity is excluded please, she thinks that's important to highlight.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 13 January 2022 11:54
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: To clear - BBC enquiry - Clyde trawling ban
Importance: High

Dear Private Office,

Please find attached a proposed courtesy letter from Ms Gougeon to the RAINE Committee, to coincide with the laying of the Clyde Cod SSI. Given that this is taking place today, it would be good to send this letter as soon as possible. Allan and Kate have approved this.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
[REDACTED]

From: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Sent: 13 January 2022 10:45

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: To clear - BBC enquiry - Clyde trawling ban

Also, as Allan and I discussed last night, can we do a short letter to RAINE committee as a courtesy alerting them to these new regs replacing the existing ones please? Thanks

Kate Higgins
Special Advisor to the First Minister
Rural Affairs, Islands and Transport
[REDACTED]

Please continue to follow the public health guidance on coronavirus at

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

Scottish Government

St Andrew's House, 2 Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 13 January 2022 10:30

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: To clear - BBC enquiry - Clyde trawling ban

Hi [REDACTED],

Ms Gougeon has asked for the second last paragraph to be changed to:

"This represents a change to our previous position – for sound environmental and biodiversity reasons. It will have a short-term impact on local fishers given that the full

closure of the fishery is for 11 weeks, but by taking action now, we hope to see the stock replenish which will ultimately be beneficial for fishing interests.”

She felt the wording previously was a bit dismissive of fishing concerns.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 13 January 2022 09:31

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs

<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: To clear - BBC enquiry - Clyde trawling ban

Please use this version!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 13 January 2022 09:24

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs

<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: To clear - BBC enquiry - Clyde trawling ban

PO Cab Sec Rural Affairs and Islands

In relation to this, I am re-sharing the factual blog sent yesterday. Please can you confirm if you are content for this to be published on the Marine Scotland blog page today?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REMAINDER REDACTED – REPEAT OF ITEM 019]

25. Item 021

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 13 January 2022 15:36

To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Urgent Meeting

All,

Aware there has been some discussion in the inbox today surrounding this, so for awareness we have received the below request from Jenni Minto MSP. Will look to arrange this early next week and keep you updated when confirmed.

Best,

[REDACTED]

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[REST OF CHAIN REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

26. Attachment 021_1

[REDACTED – REPEAT OF ATTACHMENT 018_1]

27. Attachment 021_2

[REDACTED – REPEAT OF ATTACHMENT 018_2]

28. Attachment 021_3

[REDACTED – REPEAT OF ATTACHMENT 018_3]

29. Item 022

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 14 January 2022 20:43
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
<CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate)
<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

[REDACTED]

Ms Gougeon was keen to have an earlier meeting so now 14:30 on Thursday 20 January.
Offer made to CFA, attached.

Internal diary invites issued.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 14 January 2022 14:07
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate)
<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Dear Private Office,

Please find below a proposed MR for [REDACTED]. Allan has reviewed and Kate has signalled that she is happy for us to send to you for Ms Gougeon to clear.

Given the political dynamics around this, I would like to issue this today to [REDACTED] and the CFA, rather than leaving until after the weekend, so would be grateful for a rapid reply if possible.

Please let me know if any questions,

Best,
[REDACTED]

Thank you for sharing the statement and response to the recently announced The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022. I appreciate and understand that this has elicited strong feelings and reaction among the fishing communities of the Clyde.

The Scottish Government is committed to sustainable fisheries and has a record of working constructively with industry to achieve this. Our aim is to restore marine habitats in Scotland's inshore waters, to provide a higher chance of stock recovery and contribute to more sustainable fisheries in the future. This is a key tenet of both the Bute House Agreement and the Scotland's Fisheries Management Strategy 2020 – 2030.

Although we note the points you have made on this, it is the government's considered view that removal of the exemptions will create consistency with management in other areas, including the UK National North Sea Cod Avoidance Plan, which covers closure areas for all gear types (excluding pelagic), and the recent emergency Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation in the Inner Sound and related Marine Conservation Order, which includes prohibition on creeling and diving in order to protect the critically endangered flapper skate nursery area.

I will be happy to meet with you on Wednesday 26 January at 10 am in order to discuss the rationale behind this policy at greater length, as well as the concerns which you have raised on behalf of your members and their communities.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 14 January 2022 12:02

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

<CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate)

<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks again – Yes would be grateful to have Allan in attendance on the 19th, will ensure he is invited in the copy list when this slot is confirmed.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 14 January 2022 11:59
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Thanks [REDACTED],

We can confirm that this proposed slot works for us. Allan will support Ms Gougeon at that meeting. He also wonders if Ms Gougeon would like him to support during the meeting on the 19th with Jenni Minto MSP?

Noted re factoring date, time and Ms Gougeon's sole attendance into the MR to CFA.

Best,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 14 January 2022 11:48
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Good morning [REDACTED],

Reaching out regarding our conversation last night just to follow up. For awareness we are provisionally holding Wednesday 19th from 11:00 – 11:30 for the meeting between Jenni Minto MSP, Ms McAllan and Ms Gougeon.

Regarding responding to the CFA's communication, we can offer 10:00 – 10:45 on 26th January – however would be grateful for policy advice on this date regarding the timescale. Additionally, it would be appreciated if Ms Gougeon is keen is the only minister in attendance in the meeting on the 26th, if this can be factored in the response.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 13 January 2022 17:31
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for this. Wonder if we could speak briefly? I'm available on Teams or the phone number below

Thanks,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 13 January 2022 17:28
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Hi [REDACTED],

Even though the request of a meeting is mentioned already in the letter, it would still be standard practice in the MR for us to offer our cab sec email address and ask them to get in touch with us rather than include the specific date/time. It is more appropriate if they come to us direct for the meeting specifically and we can liaise with them what is suitable.

Happy to discuss if that would be easier.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 13 January 2022 17:13

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>

Cc: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Thanks [REDACTED]

Apologies for not being clearer in my email. In their correspondence, they have already asked for a meeting with Ms Gougeon, so any MR which goes back would need to acknowledge this and propose a date and time.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 13 January 2022 17:09

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>

Cc: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Afternoon [REDACTED],

That's helpful thank you. Grateful if you can include a line in the MR offering them to get in contact with us at CabSecRAI@gov.scot to arrange the meeting/discussion. From there we will liaise with CFA for a suitable date/time noting the importance of arranging soon.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 13 January 2022 16:42
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Dear Private Office,

On the back of the CFA's communication, we would like to find a slot for them to meet with Ms Gougeon within the very near future, and certainly before 14 February (when the SSI comes into effect). This date and time would be part of our priority MR to them.

Best,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 13 January 2022 15:12
To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

Hi Allan,

Please find attached correspondence from CFA. Grateful if this could be considered and let me know if you would like it to be added to MiCase.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>
Sent: 13 January 2022 10:02
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>; Hall K (Kate) <Kate.Hall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

[REDACTED]

This is on the back of early notification last night of changes to Clyde Cod closure and concerns over HPMAs and SGP agreement. Scotwind as yet unknown to them but will be added to concerns. We should accept. Clyde will be at FM round table on Scotwind I would imagine. So we will look for a date as soon as possible after that.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will deal with correspondence please

Allan Gibb
Head of Sea Fisheries Division
[REDACTED]
Email : Allan.Gibb@gov.scot

If you receive this email late at night, early in the morning, or at the weekend - it means I am working flexibly. Flexibility works for me, but please do not feel that you should have to pick this up outside of your own normal working hours



[REMAINDER REDACTED – REPEAT OF ITEM 015]

30. Attachment 022_1

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 14 January 2022 20:40

To: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: FAO Cabinet Secretary - Mairi Gougeon

[REDACTED]

Thank you for sharing the statement and response to the recently announced The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022. I appreciate and understand that this has elicited strong feelings and reaction among the fishing communities of the Clyde.

The Scottish Government is committed to sustainable fisheries and has a record of working constructively with industry to achieve this. Our aim is to restore marine habitats in Scotland's inshore waters, to provide a higher chance of stock recovery and contribute to more sustainable fisheries in the future. This is a key tenet of both the Bute House Agreement and the Scotland's Fisheries Management Strategy 2020 – 2030.

Although we note the points you have made on this, it is the government's considered view that removal of the exemptions will create consistency with management in other areas, including the [UK National North Sea Cod Avoidance Plan](#), which covers closure areas for all gear types (excluding pelagic), and the recent emergency [Marine Protected Area \(MPA\) designation](#) in the Inner Sound and related [Marine Conservation Order](#), which includes prohibition on creeling and diving in order to protect the critically endangered flapper skate nursery area.

I will be happy to meet with you on Thursday 20 January at 14:30 in order to discuss the rationale behind this policy at greater length, as well as the concerns which you have raised on behalf of your members and their communities.

Kind regards

Mairi Gougeon MSP

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

[REDACTED]

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From: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 12 January 2022 20:47

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: FAO Cabinet Secretary - Mairi Gougeon

From: [REDACTED]@clydefish.com
Sent: 12 January 2022 18:53
To: Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.Gougeon.msp@parliament.scot>; scottish.ministers@gov.scot
Subject: FAO Cabinet Secretary - Mairi Gougeon

Dear Cabinet Secretary Gougeon,

The Clyde Fishermen's Association would like to request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience regarding the survival of our local fishing fleets.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

The Scottish Parliament: Making a positive difference to the lives of the people of Scotland
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

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The information in this email may be confidential. If you think you have received this email in error please delete it and do not share its contents.

31. Item 023

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 14 January 2022 13:29
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Clyde cod closure



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 14 January 2022 08:52
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Clyde cod closure

For MR please

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com

Sent: 13 January 2022 22:40

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: Fwd: Clyde cod closure

Dear Mairi I write regarding your announcement in parliament earlier today regarding the Clyde cod closures. We have significant concerns as to the nature and implications of the announced legislation and although we are yet to assess the true scale and impact of your announcement we are confident that what has happened here is not something to celebrate by anyone.

We have some specific concerns regarding the soundness of several elements of this decision, especially the fact that activities not known to substantially impact cod recruitment, like creeling and diving, have been included in the list of prohibited activities. We have requested background information from marine Scotland so that we might make better informed representations to yourself and have copied you into this request below so that in the interim you might better understand our concerns.

Outwith copying you into our request for information so that we might understand the process that has led to this, we also would like to make representations regarding the nature of this announcement.

- At this stage we can not understand why creeling and diving have been included in the restrictions. We know of no good reason why those activities would be restricted, unlike is the case with trawl and dredge, no scientific studies or other information that we know of implicates creel or dive fisheries in meaningfully impacting cod recruitment.
- We see no provision for financial mitigations for the fishermen and their families whom have potentially lost significant amounts of income. Be they creel, dredge, dive or trawl.
- We see no recognition or provision for the fact that unlike most trawlers and dredgers which are to some extent nomadic, some of the creelers due to the very nature of their fishery being "static" will not be in a position to fish elsewhere at all, and accordingly the ability of their businesses to survive, and all of their families income, could be utterly devastated for the whole period of the closure. If those fishermen lose either their grounds or gear the impacts could persist long after the closure.
- Another issue peculiar to the creel fishery is that the creel fishing gear (the creels themselves) usually reside and fish on the seabed full-time, and unless they are

being hauled and baited the stay on the seabed. The gear however is not abandoned, it requires regular servicing, emptying and re baiting else it can get tangled and lost to potentially become ghost gear. It is neither pragmatic and certainly it's never been done before to take all the gear out of the southern Clyde and store it ashore. Nor is it pragmatic to abandon it at sea for nearly three months. We keenly await the details of the proposals and mitigations that have been arranged to address this challenge.

- We are quite aghast that considering the significance and scale of the impacts of this move we only learned about it after it was announced on twitter. Other than knowing the so called 'cod closure' (its never even been closed to trawling before now!) was subject to ongoing consultation, we have had no forewarning and opportunity to put mitigations in place or otherwise advise our members that their industry and livelihoods may be imminently devastated and worse still, from what we can see, devastated for no good reason.

We fully support the need to recover the Clyde cod stocks and accordingly we support the introduction of fisheries management measures to achieve this, nevertheless we would expect at the very least that any measures were evidence based, ecosystem based and proportionate. Furthermore we would expect the socio economic implications to have been well mapped and suitable mitigations prepared. We respectfully tender that this announcement fails that standard on all counts. We will be writing to you again once we have a better understanding of the situation. In the interim we are politely requesting that you ensure the information we have requested, and copied below, from Marine Scotland is forthcoming and also that you give consideration to how we might address the above representations

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Scottish Creel Fisherman's Federation

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]@icloud.com

Sent: Thursday, 13 Jan, 2022 At 15:23

Subject: Clyde cod closure

Dear [REDACTED],

We have just become aware (via twitter!) that you have decided to close a significant area of the Clyde to creeling, we are aware there is an annual cod spawning event in this area, however we question the rational behind the decision prohibiting creeling. Quite obviously it was utter madness (arguably another example obvious bias) for Marine Scotland to allow

an exemption during the annual spawning event for trawling and dredging. It is pretty obvious to any observer (excepting of course marine Scotland) that this exemption to dredging and trawling during the spawning event in no small way contributed to the dismal failure of the “closure” to meet the objectives of recovering the cod stocks in the Clyde, however we find it hard to imagine the same conclusions can be derived as to the exemption to allow creeling to continue in the area.

We are of the understanding that the Scottish government have committed to both an evidence based approach to fisheries management and an ecosystems based approach, we appreciate there is a significant by-catch and disturbance issue associated with trawling and a disturbance and habitat altering issue associated with dredging, however we fail to see how any impacts from creeling can be considered in any way of a comparable magnitude.

Like with the Longay Skate spawning area your apparent inability to differentiate between higher and lower impact fishing methods or offer preferential access to fishing opportunity on the basis of either their likelihood to undermine the management objectives of the site or allocate preferential access on account of social, economic or environmental performance is frankly very worrying and again indicative of the degree to which you appear to ignore the commitment to evidence based and ecosystems based fisheries management.

Obviously we are not arguing that creels can have no impact, quite obviously creeling is capable of having some sort of impact (I guess a creel could land on a fishes head), however considering that you have seen fit to allow trawling and dredging in all previous years and creeling is several orders of magnitude less likely to impact the management objectives of the site. We question on what basis this decision has been made.

From our understanding it is not likely, if it is even possible, for a creel to catch an adult spawning age cod and therefore there is no by-catch issue, accordingly we can only conclude that you must have made some sort of assessment as to the likelihood of disturbance from creels falling on the spawning fishes heads? I appreciate this sounds ridiculous, however we can not fathom how else you might have come to such a ridiculous conclusion that creels might otherwise undermine the management objectives of the closure?

We look forward to being better apprised as to the evidence that informed your decision, including gaining an understanding of how you calculated the socio economic impacts on the creel sector and we look forward to seeing the environmental assessments you will have no doubt undertaken as to the relative impacts of dredging, trawling and creeling on the site and their respective likelihoods of undermining the management objectives of the closure.

- Can you please supply copies of the assessments you have made as to the relative likelihood of creeling, dredging and trawling on impacting the sites objectives.
- Can you please supply copies of correspondence and copies of all minutes of meetings internal and external that would assist us in understanding the rational behind these decisions including records of meetings with fisheries representatives and copies of advice issued to ministers.

- Over and above the preceding two requests can you please furnish ourselves with any further information we may have inadvertently omitted to request, that might inform ourselves as to how this announcement is either evidenced or ecosystems based or that might offer insight as to on what alternative basis this decision was made.

We thank you in advance for your time in this matter and look forward to gaining a better understanding of the processes and events that conspired to allow this situation to arise.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Scottish Creel Fisherman's Federation

32. Item 024

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 14 January 2022 14:03
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod Stakeholder Feedback

[REDACTED]

See attached correspondence just received from Jenni Minto MSP.

I'll put on MiCase now and allocate to you.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

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[REMAINDER AND ATTACHMENT – OUT OF SCOPE]

33. Item 025

[REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 14 January 2022 08:53

To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Request for explanation - Creel boats included in cod recovery zone in the Clyde

For MR please

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Sent: 13 January 2022 20:41

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: jenni.minto.msp@parliament.scot

Subject: Request for explanation - Creel boats included in cod recovery zone in the Clyde

Dear Ms Gougeon,

cc. Jenni Minto, MSP for Argyll and Bute

I was shocked to read on the Marine Scotland website today that, with no prior warning, you have taken away my livelihood for three months, not only this year but next year as well. This, following the turbulent years we have had as a creel fishing family due to Brexit and then the COVID-19 pandemic, has been very hard to take.

As creel fisherman, we care deeply about sustainable fishing practises and the environment. We support actions to protect the industry for the future and act to always improve our own work. The ban on creel boats within the cod recovery zone in the Clyde is completely unfounded and unscientific, not to mention unjustifiable.

I would sincerely appreciate an explanation on why creel boats have been included in this ban, with evidence on how you understand our fishing methods to interfere with cod spawning. We are aware that this decision has come following consultation with the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), who themselves have expressed concern on the ban of creel boats on their social media.

We are small boats and can not simply 'relocate' our creels, as everything within our reach is included in the ban. Eleven weeks of no fishing means that I will not have an income for 25% of 2022, as mentioned above, a hard blow after the difficult 2 years we have all experienced. [PERSONAL DATA REDACTED]. To announce this with no mention of how this will affect families and communities, and with no mention of compensation for small businesses like mine, is truly disgusting.

I expect to hear from either or both of you at your earliest convenience, with an explanation or your plan of action with how you will resolve this. My phone number is [REDACTED].

Kind Regards
[REDACTED]

34. **Item 026**

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 17 January 2022 10:41

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Clyde trawling ban - Letter to RAINE

Hi [REDACTED],

The letter has now been issued – see attached.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 17 January 2022 08:42
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: Clyde trawling ban - Letter to RAINE

[REDACTED]

Please see attached updated letter attached. Ms Gougeon didn't feel it reflect what we'd already published in the blog so edited to better align the two.

Grateful if you can check over before we issue.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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[REMAINDER REDACTED – REPEAT OF ITEMS 20 & 19]

35. Attachment 026_1

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 17 January 2022 10:40
To: rural.committee@Parliament.Scot
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: Correspondence from Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands - Clyde Cod

Dear Convener,

Please see attached correspondence from Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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36. Attachment 026_1_A

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Mairi Gougeon MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Finlay Carson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

17 January 2022

Dear Finlay,

Clyde Cod Seasonal (February to April) Closure for 2022 and 2023

I am writing to inform you of the Order being laid today regarding the seasonal closure in the Firth of Clyde which aims to protect spawning cod and promote recovery of the West of Scotland stock. This seasonal closure, in place since 2001, spans an 11 week period between February and April each year.

As you will be aware, the Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2021 was laid in December 2021 with the previous exemptions in place for certain fishing methods and the intention was to review these exemptions in 2022. However, upon further reflection, I believe that this approach is no longer appropriate. Despite the ongoing seasonal closure, the stock has shown little sign of recovery and as such the Scottish Government has removed the exemptions to maximise numbers.

I have therefore taken the decision to revoke The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2021 and replace it with The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2022 which continues the spawning closure for 2022 and 2023 without any exemptions.

This will create consistency with management measures in other areas, including the UK National North Sea Cod Avoidance Plan, which covers closure areas for all gear types (excluding pelagic), and the recent emergency Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation in the Inner Sound and related Marine Conservation Order, which includes prohibition on creeling and diving in order to protect the critically endangered flapper skate nursery area.

This is also in line with the commitments set out in the Bute House Agreement between the Scottish Government and the Scottish Greens and our shared aim to restore marine habitats in Scotland's inshore waters.

I hope that this information is helpful.

Yours Sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON

37. Attachment 026_1_B

[REDACTED – REPEAT OF ATTACHMENT 026_1_A]

38. Item 027

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 17 January 2022 08:46

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs

<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Clyde trawling ban - Letter to RAINE

Thanks [REDACTED] – happy for this to be issued.

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 17 January 2022 08:42

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Subject: Clyde trawling ban - Letter to RAINE

[REDACTED]

Please see attached updated letter attached. Ms Gougeon didn't feel it reflect what we'd already published in the blog so edited to better align the two.

Grateful if you can check over before we issue.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

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[REMAINDER REDACTED – REPEAT OF CHAIN IN ITEMS 020 &19]

39. **Item 028**

[REDACTED – REPEAT OF CHAIN IN ITEMS 27 & 20]

40. **Attachment 28_1**

[REDACTED – REPEAT OF ATTACHMENT 026_1_A]

41. **Item 029**

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 18 January 2022 18:12

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
<CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox
<Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED];
MacKinnon D (Donna) <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: For Clearance: Media Query - Clyde cod spawning closure - Argyllshire
Advertiser

[REDACTED]

Ms Gougeon is content.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 18 January 2022 18:05
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
Palmer MR (Mike) <Mike.Palmer@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox
<Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED];
MacKinnon D (Donna) <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: For Clearance: Media Query - Clyde cod spawning closure - Argyllshire Advertiser

PO;

Argyllshire Advertiser has approached us with a host of questions on the Cod spawning closure – detailed query below.

The following lines have been agreed by comms, policy and SpAds.

For awareness: I'll also reference Cab Sec's meeting with Clyde reps scheduled for this week in my email to the journo.

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

“For the past 20 years, measures to protect spawning cod in the Firth of Clyde have been in place through the 11-week seasonal closure (between 14 February and 30 April) of the area to fishers. This will continue in 2022 and 2023.

“The annual closure of the spawning ground has previously included exemptions to allow Nephrops trawlers, creels and scallop dredgers to continue to use the area, due to the low numbers of cod that they catch. However, despite this, the stock has shown little sign of recovery and so we have decided to remove these exemptions to provide a higher chance of recovery for cod and potentially other stock, contributing to a more sustainable fishery in the West of Scotland in the medium to longer term. This change to the seasonal closure aligns with the commitments in the policy programme of the Bute House Agreement between the Scottish Government and the Scottish Greens and our shared aim to restore marine habitats in Scotland’s inshore waters and is supported by the most up-to-date scientific evidence. In addition this creates consistency with all other cod spawning closures which does not permit fishing that can cause any disturbance to the spawning cod including creels.

“During spawning, cod are extremely vulnerable to any activity impacting the seabed and limiting physical disturbance during the spawning period will minimise disruption to the spawning environment and promote cod reproduction. We have published a report which looks at the behaviours of cod and why creel fishers have been included to help protect the cod stock. The report states that all fishing or activity within 5m to 10m of the seabed is likely to cause disturbance to spawning stocks.

“We appreciate this will have a short term impact on local fishers, but taking action now to try to replenish cod and potentially other stock for the longer term is ultimately beneficial for fishing as well. The overall availability of quota that is available to be caught will remain unaffected by this measure.”

Background:

Removal of the exemptions will also create consistency with management in other areas, including the UK National North Sea Cod Avoidance Plan, which covers closure areas for all gear types (excluding pelagic), and the recent emergency Marine Protected Area (MPA) designation and related Marine Conservation Order in the Inner Sound, which includes prohibition on creeling and diving in order to protect the critically endangered flapper skate nursery area.

More information is available on the Marine Scotland blog.

Grateful for Ms Gougeon’s views/ consent **by 9:30 am tomorrow** please.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

Original Query:

- What recent research has been carried out in the Firth of Clyde area regarding cod spawning behaviours and trends to inform government policy?
- I have been told that much of the Clyde seabed is mud, which is not conducive to cod spawning. Is this correct?
- It is said that the Clyde cod population has not recovered in recent years. How much of this trend can be put down to the species moving north as waters warm due to climate change?
- Re the question above - what research has been carried out into this phenomenon?
- Is it the case that the fishing industry was not contacted before the announcement of the Clyde cod spawning closure last week?
- What weight did the Scottish Government lend to the social, economic and mental health implications of the decision to apply an 11-week ban to these waters - particularly following two years of pandemic hardship and the repercussions of Brexit?
- What plans does the cabinet minister have to come to Argyll to speak to fishermen about this decision?
- Did politics come into play in making this decision - ie did the Scottish Greens influence in the Holyrood balance of power sway Ms Gougeon's view?
- What would Ms Gougeon's comment be to Argyll coastal communities who are already struggling economically and socially, and where population is in decline and jobs are precious?

42. **Item 030**

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 18 January 2022 09:06

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox

<Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

<CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs

<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate)

<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Director of Marine

Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; MacKinnon D

(Donna) <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Addition to Clyde cod spawning blog and Tweet

[REDACTED]

Ms Gougeon is content.

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Sent: 17 January 2022 16:22

To: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate)

<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; MacKinnon D (Donna) <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Addition to Clyde cod spawning blog and Tweet

Importance: High

PO Cab Sec Rural Affairs and Islands

Hello,

Please find below a proposed update to the Clyde cod spawning closure blog below, following reaction from industry being puzzled why creelers are included in the closure.

We will also put out a Tweet from the Marine Scotland account, linking to the updated blog.

Please can you let me know if you have any comments ASAP for updating imminently on the back of social media commentary over the weekend?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Tweet

We've updated our blog on the Clyde cod spawning closure to explain a bit more about the behaviours of cod and why creel fishers have been included to help protect the cod stock
[LINK](#)

Blog update

Some of the industry have queried why creel fishers have been included in the Clyde Cod spawning closure. This is a complex issue and evidence shows disturbance by any fishing

method on or near the seabed could negatively impact or prevent cod spawning. Closing the fishery to everyone maximises its potential beneficial impact on protecting cod stocks.

This report was developed for North Sea Cod Discussions but is relevant here too as behaviours of West of Scotland Cod during this spawning period will be very similar.

The Clyde is now in-line with all of the seasonal area closures for spawning cod in the North Sea, which already prohibit all fishing that can cause any disturbance.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

43. Item 033

[REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 18 January 2022 09:34

To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Cod Spawning closure, Firth of Clyde

Importance: High

For MiCase please.

AO – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@arrancoast.com>

Sent: 18 January 2022 09:31

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: Cod Spawning closure, Firth of Clyde

Importance: High

18th January 2022

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

The Sea Fish (Prohibition on Fishing)
(Firth of Clyde) Order 2022

I should like to offer my thanks to you for presenting the Order in Parliament last week; after more than twenty years, it is quite likely that this Order and its precursors will begin to achieve the results originally intended as a consequence of the banning of demersal trawling and scallop dredging within the scheduled areas.

However, as one of those who initially requested a review of the preceding orders, I am saddened to see that it has been thought necessary to prohibit the use of creels and other lower impact methods of fishing, which are closer to the idea of sustainable fisheries for which we are all striving.

I do not think that creeling for crustaceans, or diving for shellfish, in the periphery of the areas would have a material affect on the ability of cod to spawn successfully; the main issue has always been the use of dragged equipment over large areas causing longer-term disruption.

I am concerned that a blanket ban on all commercial fishing will cause financial hardship to fragile communities, and is likely to diminish support from the static fisheries sector for other restoration, conservation and management measures.

I therefore respectfully ask that the Order be modified so that the low-impact methods be permitted (where otherwise allowed) within the scheduled areas; if necessary being restricted to within two or three nautical miles of the shore – this being where most small vessel operators would normally be fishing.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]



Old Pavilion, Lamlash
Isle of Arran, KA27 8LS

Company No. SC299917
Registered Charity in Scotland No. SCO42088

[REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 18 January 2022 14:34
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Clyde Cod Recovery Box

For MiCase please and an OR.

AO – [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com
Sent: 18 January 2022 13:38
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: Clyde Cod Recovery Box

Dear Madam,

I was shocked last week with your announcement that the exemptions for creel fishermen to fish in the Clyde Cod Recovery Box were to be lifted.

Since [REDACTED] I have fished sustainably for crab and lobsters exclusively in this area and have never landed a fin fish like cod or haddock. I feel unfairly singled out for the failure of another species that I have never fished for.

In the order that you signed last week it states that the closure will have little impact financially on the fishing industry. However last year during the same 11 week period I made [REDACTED – PERSONAL DATA]. This year with the ban in place and no offer of financial compensation I will earn nil.

Unlike the larger mobile trawlers and scallop dredgers who can relocate to other areas this is not an option for me. [REDACTED – PERSONAL DATA], it will take me [REDACTED – PERSONAL DATA] boat loads to move the gear safely at a time of year when storms are all too common. I have been instructed by Marine Scotland that I am not permitted to simply leave my creels where they are and would risk having the gear confiscated, plus a fine of up to £50,000. The only option left would be to hope for a suitable weather window to transport

the gear back to shore. Due to the large volume of fuel used this does not seem environmentally sensible.

I hope you can see the worry and financial stress this has put on myself and family all to protect a species that I have had no interest, or limited impact on, during my [REDACTED – PERSONAL DATA] of making a living from this area. I am asking you to either reinstate the exemptions allowing creel boats continue to make a sustainable living from this area or compensate us financially to see us through a difficult time.

Regards

[REDACTED]

45. Item 035

[REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 18 January 2022 10:33

To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: Letter for Cab. Sec. Mairi Gougeon, Minister Lorna Slater - Clyde fishing issue

[OFFICIAL]

For MiCase please and an MR.

AO – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

46. Item 036

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 19 January 2022 09:20

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
<CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry)
<Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Gibb AG (Allan)
<Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clyde Cod closure: FMQ + MRs for MSPs

Good morning,

Both letters have been issued ahead of today's meeting, as attached.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 18 January 2022 16:09
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Huyton H (Harry)
<Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Gibb AG (Allan)
<Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Clyde Cod closure: FMQ + MRs for MSPs

Dear Private Office,

Please find attached an FMQ for the Clyde Cod closure, in advance of Ms Gougeon's meeting tomorrow. I also attach two MRs for Jenny Minto MSP and Elena Whitham MSP (including the original letters for convenience). These have been reviewed by Allan and SGLD. Spads have not cleared but are in copy of this email.

SGLD are currently reviewing the Q&A and we will aim to submit that later today.

Any questions, please let me know. As agreed, Allan will be supporting Ms Gougeon in her meetings with MSPs and MPs tomorrow.

Best,
[REDACTED]

[ATTACHMENTS REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

47. Item 037

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 19 January 2022 14:53
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: (Case Ref: ER2231)

FYI

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 18 January 2022 10:30
To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: (Case Ref: ER2231)

AO – [REDACTED]

FOR MR please,

[REDACTED]

[ATTACHMENT REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

48. Item 038

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 19 January 2022 12:57
To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: SCFF - Clyde Cod

FYI – going on MiCase.
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]@btinternet.com
Sent: 19 January 2022 12:53
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: Clyde cod scff

Dear Mairi. Please find attached representations on behalf of the Scottish creel fisherman's federation. Please acknowledge receipt.
Cheers [REDACTED]

49. Attachment 038_1

19/01/2022

Dear Mairi,

We are disappointed that despite our best attempts we are yet to be furnished by yourselves with any more details on the evidence or process that has led to the inclusion of creel and dive fishers in the Clyde cod closure. This appears inconsistent as Clyde Fisherman's Association were supplied advance notice of the announcement and furnished with a copy of the BRIA, which we are grateful that they have taken the time to forward to ourselves.

We very much maintain that the inclusion of creelers and divers in the ban on fishing in the area is neither evidence based, reasonable nor proportionate. We have written to Marine Scotland requesting the opportunity to tender evidence and to request if a process exists to apply for an exemption. Indications are that despite the BRIA stating there is an option for a "post implementation review", Marine Scotland appear unwilling to advise how we engage in that process.

The BRIA informs us that despite the option to exempt creel fisheries being chosen by many of the respondents to the consultation, Marine Scotland did not consider this as an option. Why they did not consider only excluding those fisheries methods known to have a significant impact on cod recruitment is still a mystery. For some reason best known to Marine Scotland they only considered the 3 options of either (a) scrapping the cod box, (b) maintaining the existing (trawl and dredge dominated) free for all or (c) a total ban on all methods, as the only options available to them. We find it hard to imagine, considering the substantial divergence in impacts associated with those fishing methods, why this approach was chosen. We question on what basis reducing their options to only those 3 can be considered as a reasonable approach to evidence based fisheries management!

We find it bizarre and very frustrating that Marine Scotland consistently refuse to differentiate between the impacts associated with creel and dive fisheries as compared to dredge and trawl. We have experienced this via the Gairloch herring spawning area where we sought, commensurate with ICES advice, restrictions on trawling and dredging. And again in the course of the Inner Sound pilot saga where we sought to compare those relative impacts, again in the Longay emergency MPA process, where again without explanation diving for scallops became subject to the same management measures as dredge, and yet again here, where for reasons best known to Marine Scotland, creel and dive are being subjected to the same management measures as trawl and dredge. It's like Marine Scotland are determined to ensure that they don't acknowledge any of the differing impacts or management opportunities associated with those very different fishing methods!

Now that we have had sight of the Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment we would like to draw your attention to several issues evident within. There appears to be a significant and material misunderstanding by the writer of the BRIA as to how fishing income, especially static gear fishing income is generated. The BRIA acknowledges that ...

"While some vessels may be able to move into other grounds, smaller vessels are likely to struggle to do so. More details are given in the impact section below."

But then goes onto suggest that, as quota levels will not be affected, the vessels annual income will remain the same and any financial impacts will be in relation to short term cash flow.

“The SSI will not affect quota levels and should not prevent fishermen catching their full quota over the course of the year, although there may be some short term effect on cash flow during the closure.”

It does at least acknowledge that creel boats will not be in a position to fish elsewhere, it however neither attempts to quantify the impact on the creel fishery or propose any mitigations!

“Nearby areas, such as the North Channel and the remainder of the Firth of Clyde will remain open, with the aim of enabling fishermen to work elsewhere during the closure. However, Option C will have an impact on fishing vessels used to working in the closed area, particularly small creel vessels who may struggle to move on, due to increased fuel costs and the existing high levels of activity in static ground in surrounding areas.”

The people writing these reports and the people making these decisions appear to not understand that access to nephrops quota (quota does not apply to the other shellfish species targeted by creels) is not the determining factor in how this proposal impacts individual creel business income. The factor impacting the incomes is catch and catch is not presently, nor has it been for many years, restricted by quota. The variable affecting catch, and therefore income, is the ability to access fishing grounds, i.e. The amount of fishing days is the key variable. The report explicitly acknowledges that the creel boats can not just move elsewhere, implying they will directly lose the 11 weeks fishing, and that's not to mention the time and effort involved in either taking the gear in or taking the gear back out to the fishing grounds.

Considering this report acknowledges creel boats will be more significantly impacted than any other sector and also mistakenly concludes that having access to quota will somehow mitigate those losses, we politely request that on this basis alone reconsideration should be given to the appropriateness of excluding of creel vessels.

We also note that although not mentioned in the BRIA nor in any of MS's announcements or consultation documents, scallop diving has in effect been banned. The legislation states that *“Fishing for sea fish by any method, by any British fishing boat, is prohibited in the area”*.

We question if this is an oversight by Marine Scotland or perhaps by those framing the legislation, either way we politely suggest if the intention was to also prohibit scallop diving then that should have been made clear during the consultation process and be included in the BRIA and if the intention was not to prohibit scallop diving this oversight should be remedied at the soonest opportunity!

We have written previously to both Marine Scotland and yourself to highlight our many other areas of concern, especially regarding the lack of evidence and proportionality in excluding creel and dive fishers in these measures, we politely request that you add today's representations to those already made by ourselves.

We are of the opinion that as there are significant discrepancies, and irregularities in the BRIA and consultation process, as well as significant evidential questions regarding the appropriateness of including dive and creel fishers in the prohibitions, that there is a strong case for either postponing the implementation of the measures or that consideration be given to allowing us to present evidence with a view to seeking an exemption for creel and dive fishers.

Lastly we tender for your consideration that over and above marine Scotland founding on the weight of consultation responses and the alleged no financial impact claim. Marine Scotland's remaining arguments for including creel and dive appear to found on *“disturbance”* and *“consistency with existing measures”*. The consistency argument surprisingly cites the temporary

emergency Longay MPA as an example of consistency. It should be noted that the temporary Longay Flapper skate "emergency" MPA is very controversial in its present inclusion of prohibitions on diving, is relatively small compared to the Clyde area, is for a very different species, has not been subject to consultation and is therefore quite a strange example to cite for an example of the Clyde cod measures requiring consistency with.

The last argument we have seen Marine Scotland tender on social media (they have tendered nothing directly to ourselves!), is "*disturbance*" of the spawning cod. To be clear we are not claiming that diving or creeling can't disturb spawning cod, what we are saying is that there is no evidence that the impacts associated with creeling and diving are a substantive factor in cod recruitment and we maintain that any possible impacts are of several orders of magnitude lower than that which is required to affect the areas management objectives.

There have been several scientific peer reviewed papers written on the collapse of the Clyde's fish stocks and a few specifically on the Clyde cod. None of those studies implicate creel or dive fishing as a variable worthy of mention. They all mention the extensive impacts associated with trawling and dredging. Some even suggest the solution to the problem is to transition the Clyde towards lower impact fisheries such as creel and dive fisheries.

We maintain the restrictions on diving and creeling are clearly not evidence based, proportionate or necessary. We think the consultation process and BRIA are clearly flawed for not mentioning diving and misrepresenting the financial impacts on creel fishers. Furthermore we also question why consideration was not given to allowing creeling and diving to continue, especially since a substantial (but unknown %) of consultation responses thought that was an option and those respondents were invited to make representations on that basis!

Considering the seriousness and significance of the issues raised in our previous representations and those made above we respectfully request that consideration be given to either postponing the implementation of the measures and/or consideration be given to allowing us to present evidence (possibly via the "*post implementation review*" process) with a view to seeking an exemption of creel and dive fishers.

Yours sincerely

Scottish Creel Fisherman's Federation
info@scottishcreelfishermensfederation.co.uk

50. Item 039

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 20 January 2022 18:52

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

<CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs

<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>;

Grateful for Ms. Gougeon's views/ consent.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

51. Item 040

From: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 January 2022 10:02
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Immediate for this morning: Clyde Cod Box
Importance: High

In Confidence and to bring you up to speed, see below. We have now engaged SGP meeting spads this morning.

Allan Gibb
Head of Sea Fisheries Division
[REDACTED]
Email : Allan.Gibb@gov.scot

If you receive this email late at night, early in the morning, or at the weekend - it means I am working flexibly. Flexibility works for me, but please do not feel that you should have to pick this up outside of your own normal working hours



[REMAINDER REDACTED – REPEAT OF ITEM 001]

52. Item 045

From: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 January 2022 19:19
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate)

<Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Clyde Cod Final proposal

Cabinet Secretary

For your awareness below and attached are to be sent this evening to the group of stakeholders we met with this morning to discuss amendments to the Clyde Cod closed area. I also attach the presentation we gave this morning which will form the bulk of a handout we are working on.

As reported earlier the meeting was mixed. Written views have now come in from most also and unfortunately the ENGOs seem to have stepped back a bit into mobile is bad, creels are good as opposed to dealing with the issue of disturbance. One even asking for the area to remain closed to all but made larger. Currently I don't see a way through bridging that difference of views and I suspect other issues are at play here such as continual campaign for a trawling band and precedent setting for HPMA and MPA discussions. I do however think and some mentioned it that it is a significant step forward having all these challenging voices in the room at the same time.

We have been offered the 28th as a date to lay an amended SSI and will provide a letter to the Presiding Officer tomorrow. We will issue the email tonight and once I hear final views it would be good to discuss and confirm you are content to carry on with this approach which we do wholeheartedly believe delivers the policy objective.

Dear All

Once again thanks for your time and constructive comments this morning at such short notice. Firstly there has been a query about why the powerpoint shared with you was not identical to the one presented. If you recall Coby mentioned he had spotted an error on a boundary line and said he would correct when sending out. That is where the difference is generated. It was in any event an indication of our proposal and rationale for adjusting the closure from an entire area to more focussed on objective.

Having listened to comments and received further feedback please now see attached (with co-ordinates) our final proposal which we feel accommodates the majority of concerns and issues raised. To reiterate again this is designed to give maximum protection from any disturbance from any fishing method in areas where Cod are likely to or spawn or on habitat where spawning may take place. From the old Clyde Cod Closure with exemptions this provides significantly increased protection whilst using a more focussed approach to location.

I would welcome any final comments by 12 noon tomorrow.

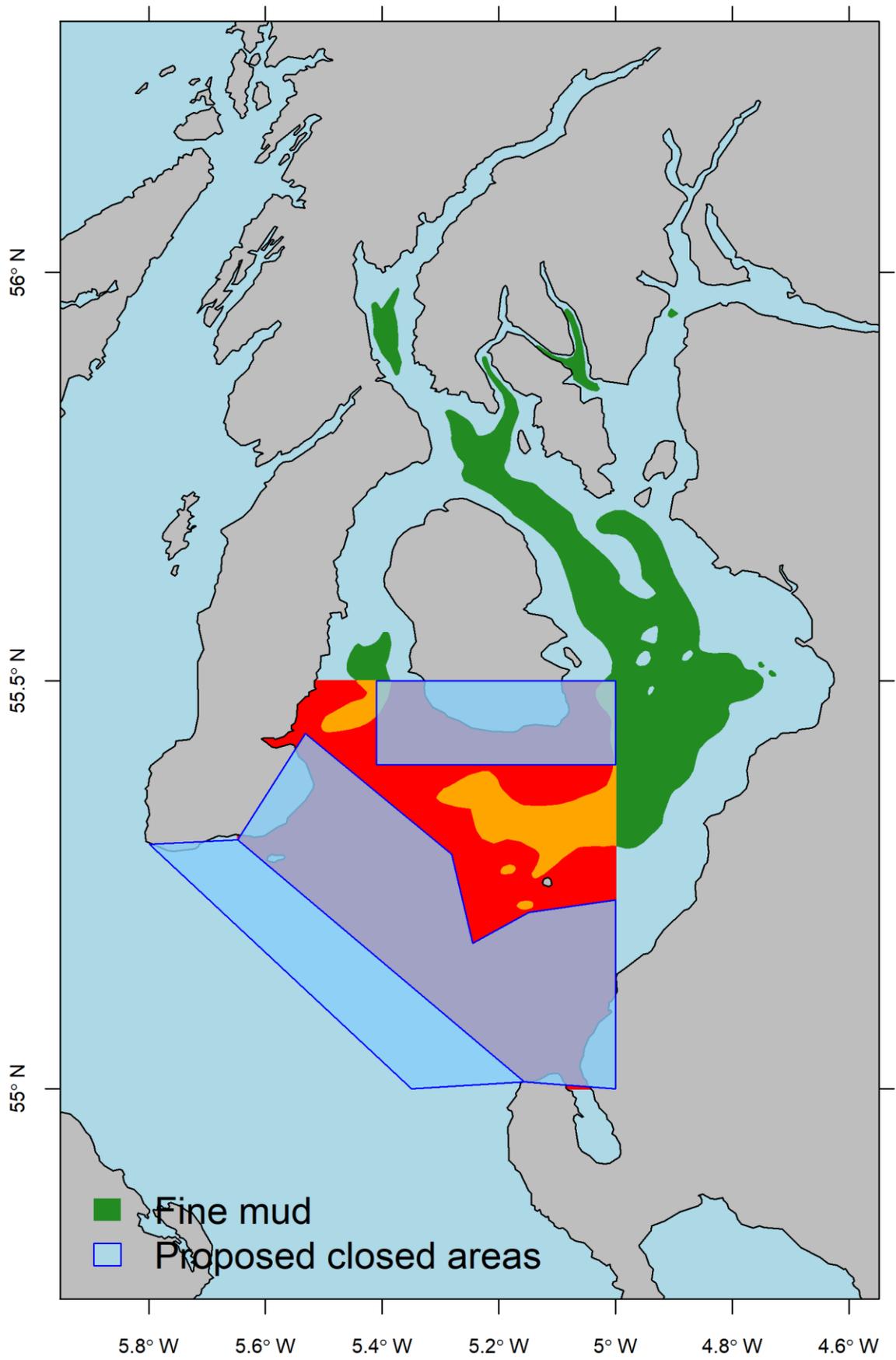
Many thanks again for your input as we work through this at speed to get the best possible measures in place.

Allan Gibb
Head of Sea Fisheries Division
[REDACTED]
Email : Allan.Gibb@gov.scot

If you receive this email late at night, early in the morning, or at the weekend - it means I am working flexibly. Flexibility works for me, but please do not feel that you should have to pick this up outside of your own normal working hours



53. Attachment 045_1



54. Attachment 045_2

Area	Latitude_decimal _degrees	Longitude_decimal _degrees	Latitude_ sexagesimal	Longitude_ sexagesimal
Area 1 - North	55.5	-5.41	55°30' 0.0'' N	5°24'36.0'' W
Area 1 - North	55.397	-5.41	55°23'49.2'' N	5°24'36.0'' W
Area 1 - North	55.397	-5	55°23'49.2'' N	5°0' 0.0'' W
Area 1 - North	55.5	-5	55°30' 0.0'' N	5°0' 0.0'' W
Area 2 - Southwest	55.435	-5.532	55°26' 6.0'' N	5°31'55.2'' W
Area 2 - Southwest	55.305	-5.64722	55°18'18.0'' N	5°38'50.0'' W
Area 2 - Southwest	55.112	-5.335	55°6'43.2'' N	5°20' 6.0'' W
Area 2 - Southwest	55.287	-5.281	55°17'13.2'' N	5°16'51.6'' W
Area 3 - Southeast	55.231	-5	55°13'51.6'' N	5°0' 0.0'' W
Area 3 - Southeast	55.216	-5.149	55°12'57.6'' N	5°8'56.4'' W
Area 3 - Southeast	55.048	-5.224	55°2'52.8'' N	5°13'26.4'' W
Area 3 - Southeast	55.00833	-5.15667	55°0'30.0'' N	5°9'24.0'' W
Area 3 - Southeast	55	-5	55°0' 0.0'' N	5°0' 0.0'' W
Area 2_3 merged - South	55.435	-5.532	55°26' 6.0'' N	5°31'55.2'' W
Area 2_3 merged - South	55.305	-5.64722	55°18'18.0'' N	5°38'50.0'' W
Area 2_3 merged - South	55.00833	-5.15667	55°0'30.0'' N	5°9'24.0'' W
Area 2_3 merged - South	55	-5	55°0' 0.0'' N	5°0' 0.0'' W
Area 2_3 merged - South	55.231	-5	55°13'51.6'' N	5°0' 0.0'' W
Area 2_3 merged - South	55.216	-5.149	55°12'57.6'' N	5°8'56.4'' W
Area 2_3 merged - South	55.178	-5.245	55°10'40.8'' N	5°14'42.0'' W
Area 2_3 merged - South	55.287	-5.281	55°17'13.2'' N	5°16'51.6'' W
Area article b	55.305	-5.64722	55°18'18.0'' N	5°38'50.0'' W
Area article b	55.29917	-5.79833	55°17'57.0'' N	5°47'54.0'' W
Area article b	55	-5.35	55°0' 0.0'' N	5°20'60.0'' W
Area article b	55.00833	-5.15667	55°0'30.0'' N	5°9'24.0'' W

55. Attachment 045_3

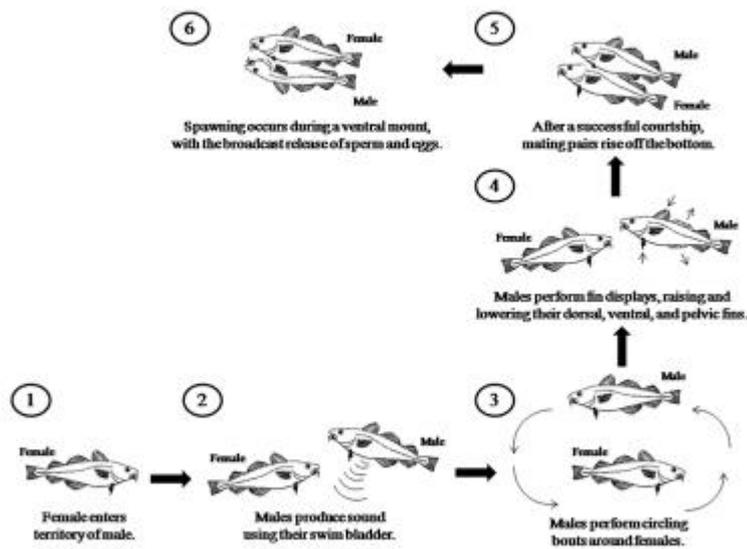
Clyde Cod Spawning Presentation



Spawning biology of Atlantic cod

- Cod mate using a “lekking” system
- Males will take possession of seabed areas, protect these against other males, and attract females by “grunting”
- Males may also follow females through the water column up to 10 metres off the seabed while mating

Spawning biology of Atlantic cod



D. Zemeckis (2016) Spawning dynamics, seasonal movements, and population structure of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) in the Gulf of Maine. Thesis for Ph.D. Marine Science and Technology, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST)

Potential impact of fishing

- Cod are focussed on mating at this time and very vulnerable to fishing
- If disturbed, they are unlikely to return and may not mate that year
- Any fishing within 10 metres of the seabed may cause disturbance
- Therefore any spawning closure should apply to all gears that approach within 10 metres of the seabed

References:

- González-Irujo, J. M. and Wright, P. J. (2016). Spawning ground of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) in the North Sea. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, 73(2), 304-315.
- Grabowski, T. B., Thorsteinsson, V. and Marteinsdóttir, G. (2009). Assessing the lekking hypothesis for the mating system of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) using electronic data-storage tags. *ICES CM 2009/B:01*.
- Nordeide, J. T. and Folstad, I. (2000). Is cod lekking or a promiscuous group spawner? *Fish and Fisheries*, 1, 90-93.
- Slabbekoorn, H., Bouten, N., van Opzeeland, I., Coers, A., ten Cate, C. and Popper, A. N. (2010). A noisy spring: the impact of globally rising underwater sound levels on fish. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, 25, 419-427.

Sediment types

- Cod prefer to spawn on harder substrate (coarse sand, gravel)
- But may also spawn on softer ground (sand, muddy sand, sandy mud)
- The least preferred sediment type is fine mud, but spawning right next to muddy areas has been observed
- Any closure should therefore cover at least the sand and gravel areas, but with a precautionary buffer to ensure that spawning is not affected by nearby fishing activity

References:

González-Irusta, J. M. and Wright, P. J. (2016). Spawning ground of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) in the North Sea. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*, 73(2), 304-315.

Grabowski, T. B., Thorsteinsson, V. and Marteinsdóttir, G. (2009). Assessing the lekking hypothesis for the mating system of Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) using electronic data-storage tags. *ICES CM 2009/B:01*.

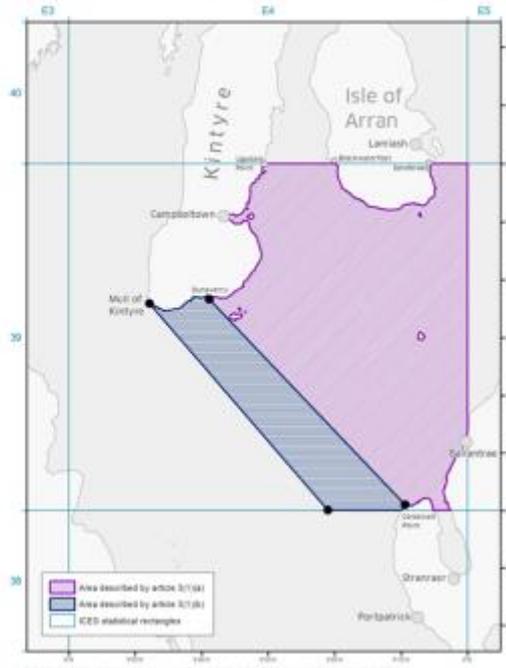
Nordeide, J. T. and Folstad, I. (2000). Is cod lekking or a promiscuous group spawner? *Fish and Fisheries*, 1, 90-93.

Slabbekoorn, H., Bouten, N., van Opzeeland, I., Coers, A., ten Cate, C. and Popper, A. N. (2010). A noisy spring: the impact of globally rising underwater sound levels on fish. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution*, 25, 419-427.

Clyde cod spawning closure

- Existing closure

Illustrative Map Referred to in the Explanatory Note to the Sea Fish (Prohibited Methods of Fishing) (Firth of Clyde) Order 2021



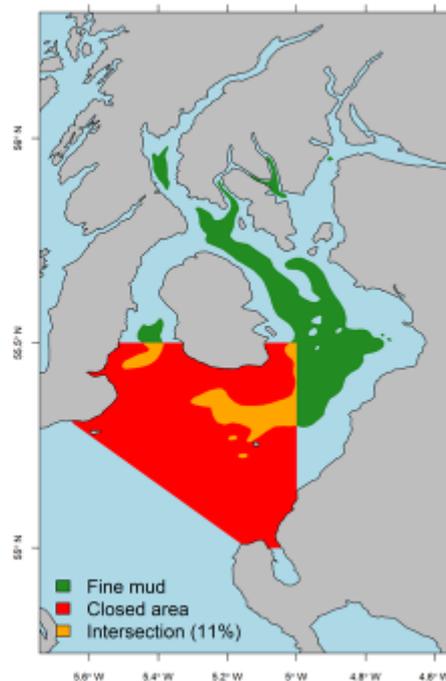
Clyde cod spawning closure

- Sediment map
- Red lines = existing closure
- Darker blue = fine mud
- Lighter blue = muddy sand / sandy mud
- Yellow = sand
- Beige = coarse sediment
- Pink = mixed sediment



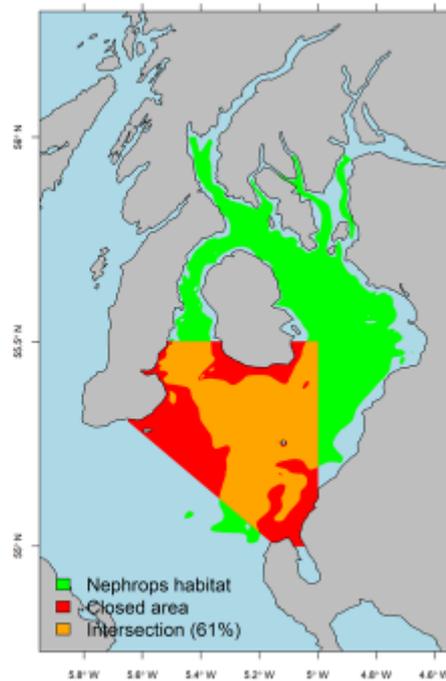
Closure suggestions

- This plot shows:
 - Closed area (red)
 - Fine mud (green)
 - Fine mud within the closed area (orange)
- Fine mud covers 18% of closed area
- The red area is then the maximum plausible closure, as cod will not spawn on fine mud (although they may spawn nearby)



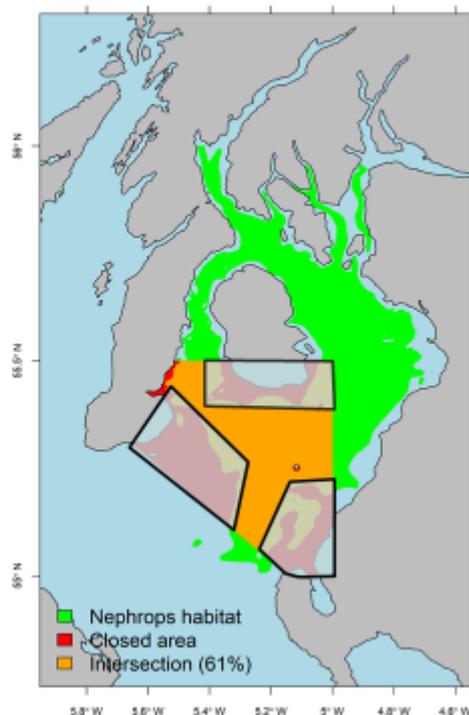
Closure suggestions

- This plot shows:
 - Closed area (red)
 - *Nephrops* habitat: sand + muddy sand + sandy mud (green)
 - *Nephrops* habitat within the closed area (orange)
- Mud + muddy sand + sandy mud covers 61% of closed area
- The red area is then the minimum plausible closure, as it only covers the most likely spawning habitat (sand and gravel) with no buffer



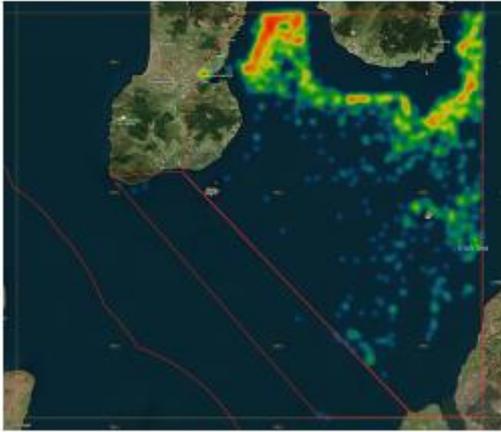
Closure suggestions

- First draft of suggested closures (3 areas) marked on sediment map for comparison
- Covers all non-muddy areas and provides a precautionary buffer

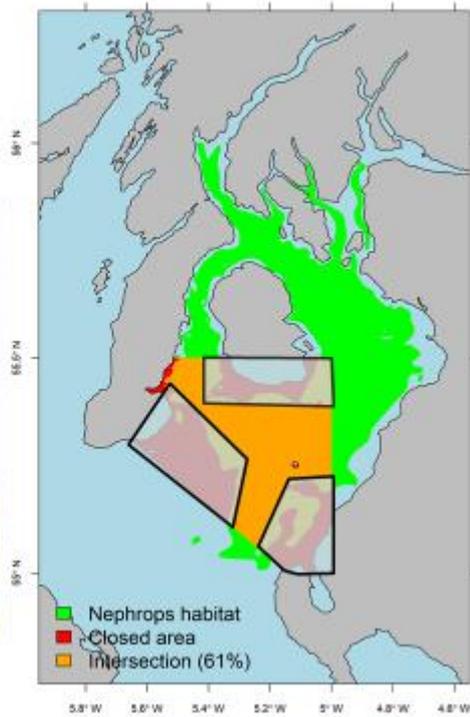


Closure suggestions

- Comparison with 2021 fishing activity (>12m)



2021 VMS



56. Item 046

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 24 January 2022 17:16

To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Immediate - Clyde Cod

Hi Allan,

Ms Gougeon has noted and appreciates the update.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>

Sent: 24 January 2022 16:46

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Cc: Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;

[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Immediate - Clyde Cod

Importance: High

Cabinet Secretary

We will provide a reply to that correspondence. [REDACTED – INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS ON ONGOING POLICY]. As for the initial maps being different to what we presented and what we sent out (as some on the call asked for copies of the presentation) there was an error on an Eastern boundary that was simply corrected. Not a sign of prior decisions and agreements.

The meeting itself was mixed, positive from the mobile sector, creel reps still challenging why they and divers are included and ENGOs trying to challenge the science to have a little or no trawling taking place. Interestingly a process we have used on many other occasions and never experienced this kind of challenge, it does seem somewhat unique to this geographic area.

We have listened to all views and are just finalising a proposal with co-ordinates that we think will be acceptable to the trawlers and deals with many of the issues raised by ENGOs and I think gets us through committee process. I will send that up for awareness in next hour or so.

We are proposing that we maintain a prohibition on all activity in the closed areas as per our evidence on disturbance. One of the areas overlaps the Arran MPA in which part of that does permit creeling, though the MPA wasn't introduced for spawning Cod. Again here and for only 11 weeks we propose that there is no fishing in the MPA to maximise the objective and match with other closed areas.

Allan Gibb
Head of Sea Fisheries Division
[REDACTED]
Email : Allan.Gibb@gov.scot

If you receive this email late at night, early in the morning, or at the weekend - it means I am working flexibly. Flexibility works for me, but please do not feel that you should have to pick this up outside of your own normal working hours



From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

Sent: 24 January 2022 15:36

To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Immediate - Clyde Cod
Importance: High

Allan

Ms Gougeon is keen to get a readout, even just an initial one, of the discussion this morning.

You will also want to be aware of the attached just received from Open Seas. Grateful for a draft response if necessary.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

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[REMAINDER REDACTED – REPEAT OF ITEM 063]

57. Item 047

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Sent: 25 January 2022 15:59
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: Clyde Cod Update

From: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>
Sent: 25 January 2022 15:43
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; Wallace I (Iain) <Iain.Wallace@gov.scot>; MacKinnon D (Donna) <Donna.MacKinnon@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Clyde Cod Update

Cabinet Secretary

To provide you with feedback to our final proposal that was sent to a wide group of stakeholders last night.

We shared the final proposal that you saw also last night and have had responses from numerous stakeholders.

- [REDACTED – PERSONAL DATA]

In response to this and in developing comms lines I would see the [REDACTED] response as being pragmatic and realistic. The request to make the area bigger or add in more spawning areas is not necessarily bad. However we are clearly looking at adjustments to the existing scale of the Clyde Cod closure, the proposal reduces the overall size of the original closure by 28%. We should however always keep things under review (without committing resource publicly) and expect these issues will be picked up under the HPMA process. Without pre judging that process we would expect this to be a candidate for an HPMA which as per the cooperation agreement we have a working assumption HPMA's will prohibit all human activity.

On the exemption for creelers and divers we have evidence which is published that states any disturbance and within 10m of the seabed is detrimental to spawning Cod in that area. They are of course clearly less impactful than towed gear however clearly also have the ability when being hauled and shot every day to generate disturbance. We have one local creeler who claims there will be between 4000 and 5000 creels being fished, clearly all these being shot and hauled every day will create some disturbance. An all fishing ban is in line with existing Cod closures and HPMA expectations.

Clearly split views and I suspect a flavour of what will come during the HPMA process.

Spads and comms colleagues will consider stakeholder handling, GIQ again perhaps when laid. Also we will publish our handout at the same time which is nearing completion.

I have talked to Kate and Harry who are considering further.

Allan Gibb
Head of Sea Fisheries Division
[REDACTED]
Email : Allan.Gibb@gov.scot

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58. Item 063

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 24 January 2022 15:36
To: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: Immediate - Clyde Cod
Importance: High

Allan

Ms Gougeon is keen to get a readout, even just an initial one, of the discussion this morning.

You will also want to be aware of the attached just received from Open Seas. Grateful for a draft response if necessary.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

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59. Attachment 063_1

From: [REDACTED]@openseas.org.uk
Sent: 24 January 2022 15:26
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Correspondence from Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands - Open Seas

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

As you will be aware we supported your move to instigate meaningful protection of spawning cod in the Clyde Spawning Cod Closure - this is bold action much needed for the all but collapsed west coast cod stock. However, we acknowledge that there are concerns regarding fishing activity and so I attended a meeting hosted by Marine Scotland this morning to discuss variation of the closures, seeking to engage with this meeting in a proactive manner to discuss rational amendments. Regrettably I am writing to express serious concern about the procedural improprieties at this meeting.

1. During the course of the meeting the Chief Fisheries Advisor admitted the core research relevant to this issue has not been shared with him. The October 2021 consultation on this closure stated *"a study was undertaken by the Scottish Oceans Institute and Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA) during the spawning period with demersal and pelagic gears... Early results from the study show the presence of spawning cod in the closed area during the closure period, indicating that the closure is in the right place at the right time."* (Para 11 here <https://www.gov.scot/publications/clyde-cod-spawning-closure-2022-23-consultation/pages/4/>). Clearly this paper is directly relevant to the issue at hand. Neither Marine Scotland nor CFA have been able to provide us with it when we have asked. I asked during the meeting whether its findings were reflected in the proposals - Mr Gibb indicated he had seen the report but was unclear on the results, [Redacted] stated he had not seen the report. That is to say [REDACTED] who is advising on the location of spawning cod habitat has not been shared the latest advice on the location of spawning cod. This is somewhat incredible. That environment policy is being developed without public access to justifying evidence is in clear breach of the Aarhus Convention, however, that this lack of transparency also spans to Government scientific advisors is of deep concern and raises serious questions about due process.
2. The proposal shared during the meeting and discussed is not Marine Scotland's proposal. During the meeting a proposal was shown to participants, to allow trawling to continue in 64% of the Clyde Cod Closure area but with a short extension to the site eastward. This was discussed amongst workshop participants and views were collated by Marine Scotland officials. However, around 30 minutes after the meeting a new proposal was shared in an email, claiming to simply be the same as the slides shown during the meeting but actually being manifestly different. This voids any discussion had during the meeting and effectively means we now have wholly new proposals to consider. This is a clear procedural impropriety.
3. The meeting was constrained so as participants were only allowed to ask questions "about the location" of proposals. Questions about supporting evidence, issues of sustainable fisheries and wider ecosystem health were prevented. This is clearly counter to the principles of the Future Fisheries Strategy, as well as Bute House Agreement and National Marine Plan. It is counter to good governance.

I hope these issues may simply be a consequence of the short time frame associated with this issue. However, we have concerns that some of them are part of a broader pattern.

We will continue to engage in this issue in as proactive a way as possible and hope for a positive outcome for cod populations and our seas. Thank you for your time considering these issues.

[REDACTED]

[REMAINDER REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

On Mon, Nov 8, 2021 at 2:42 PM <CabSecRAI@gov.scot> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see attached correspondence from Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

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[REDACTED]

60. Item 064

[REDACTED – REPEAT OF ITEM 001]

61. Item 065

[REDACTED – REPEAT OF ITEM 001]

62. Item 066

[REDACTED – REPEAT OF ATTACHMENT 063_1]

63. Item 067

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 20 January 2022 16:02
To: Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Immediate - Clyde Cod Box

Ms Gougeon is content with this approach.
[REDACTED]

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[REMAINDER REDACTED – OUT OF SCOPE]

64. Item 068

From: Gibb AG (Allan) <Allan.Gibb@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 January 2022 15:51
To: Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Higgins K (Kate) <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Immediate - Clyde Cod Box

Harry

The attached is the developing map we have and rational. It will get tweaked when we speak to fishers obviously but not by much. ENGOs certainly invited.

The attached can easily be edited into a short publication on MS website once finalised

Allan Gibb
Head of Sea Fisheries Division
[REDACTED]
Email : Allan.Gibb@gov.scot

If you receive this email late at night, early in the morning, or at the weekend - it means I am working flexibly. Flexibility works for me, but please do not feel that you should have to pick this up outside of your own normal working hours



[REMAINDER REDACTED – REPEAT OF CHAIN IN ITEM 067]

65. Attachment 068_1

[REDACTED – information already available:

[Marine Scotland Targeted and focused approach to strengthen Clyde cod recovery - Marine Scotland \(blogs.gov.scot\)](#)