

PE1386/J

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PETITION PE1386

Dear Ms Peat

I refer to Fergus Cochrane's letter of 25 March 2011 in which he asked for a response to the question set out below by 5 August 2011. I regret missing the deadline by a few days.

- Will you consider the written submissions received in respect of this petition and provide a further response to the Committee indicating whether your position on this matter has changed or whether there are any actions which you will take as a result and, if so when?

The situation remains so far as the Scottish Government is concerned unchanged, in that there are no current plans to pilot static gear only fisheries on a blanket or untargeted basis.

The issue of the interaction between mobile and static fishing gear and whether or not to favour one type of gear over another, either spatially or otherwise, is complicated and can be very contentious. Rather than fisheries management being driven on a sectoral basis or in light only of very specific circumstances, the preference is for an industry wide approach where the driver is the sustainability of stocks, communities, and the Scottish fishing industry working in partnership across sectors. On that basis the intention is that the newly established Fisheries Management and Conservation Group (FMAC) will be asked, together with Inshore Fisheries Groups, to develop and take forward thinking and policy on a range of issues, including mobile and static gear interactions, facing inshore fishing in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

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