

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform 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 and Islands Committee

By Email: rural.committee@parliament.scot

30 January 2025

The Sea Fisheries (Remote Electronic Monitoring and Regulation of Scallop Fishing) (Scotland) Regulations 2024 – publication of the technical specifications and guidance for pelagic vessels

Dear Finlay,

I am writing to make the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee aware that we have published our remote electronic monitoring (REM) [technical specifications](#) and [guidance](#) for pelagic vessels today. These documents will support pelagic vessels as they prepare for the introduction of REM requirements as set out in [The Sea Fisheries \(Remote Electronic Monitoring and Regulation of Scallop Fishing\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2024](#) as passed on 6 June 2024.

In developing the two documents we have taken onboard, and where possible addressed, comments and concerns raised by the Committee and stakeholders and have consulted with other jurisdictions to support interoperability of REM systems and requirements.

The technical specifications that have been published today detail the exact technical requirements needed for REM systems and are the result of extensive consultation with stakeholders. At my evidence session on 1 May 2024, I outlined to Committee that the technical specifications for the REM systems sit separately from the regulations for the purpose of enabling the Scottish ministers to specify and amend them from time to time without the need to formally revisit the legislation. We do not anticipate using this power regularly or lightly and any future changes to the technical specifications will be made only when operationally necessary and

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

VESTORS IN PEOPLE™
invest in people Silver



following consultation with stakeholders. I will ensure that Committee are kept updated on any future amendments to the technical specifications.

The guidance document provides an overview of the REM legislation as it will apply to relevant pelagic fishing boats and aims to support vessels as they prepare for REM. The document also sets out the practical steps that pelagic masters, owners and charterers (if a boat has any charterers) need to take to ensure their vessels are prepared for REM ahead of the commencement of remote inspections and system test trips on 7 September 2025 and the mandatory REM requirements for pelagic fishing trips coming into force on 7 March 2026.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

VESTORS IN PEOPLE™
invest in people Silver

