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Finlay Carson MSP
The Convener
Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment
Committee
Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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3 May 2022

Dear Finlay,

AQUACULTURE REGULATORY REVIEW – PHASE 2 ANNOUNCEMENT

You may already be aware that I will make an announcement to Parliament today by way of an answer to a Parliamentary Question issued this afternoon, regarding the next phase of our aquaculture regulatory review. The announcement details several packages of work that are planned in response to Professor Griggs' independent report, published 10 February this year. This is a brief courtesy note to ensure that you and the RAINE committee are aware of these developments.

In summary, I have launched and will lead a new Ministerial Aquaculture Strategy Forum, which will oversee implementation of Professor Griggs recommendations and development of the new Vision for sustainable aquaculture. I have asked my officials to form a consenting task group to make rapid progress on streamlining the aquaculture consenting system, including making an immediate change to the marine licence validity period from 6 to 25 years to align it with Crown Estate Scotland sea bed lease cycles. In response to Griggs' references to the use of science and evidence in the consenting process, I have today asked the Scottish Science Advisory Council to give consideration to the relevant recommendations.

I will be making a public announcement of these next steps at the Aquaculture UK 2022 conference later today.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON

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