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To the member states of the North Western Waters Group, the North Western Waters Advisory Council, and the European Commission.

05 April 2017

Dear Sir or Madam

I would like to thank you for your engagement and collaboration in the development of fisheries management measures for the following UK Marine Protected Areas in the North Western Waters:

- Anton Dohrn Seamount SAC
- East Rockall Bank SAC
- Geikie Slide and Hebridean Slope MPA
- Rosemary Bank Seamount MPA
- Solan Bank Reef SAC
- The Barra Fan and Hebrides Terrace Seamount MPA
- West Shetland Shelf MPA
- Wyvile-Thomson Ridge SAC

The initial proposals were published on 21 September 2016 for a 12 week consultation period. All member states, the advisory councils, and wider stakeholder interests were given the opportunity to comment. In addition a workshop was held on 27 October 2016 to which you were all invited.

The proposals have now been updated in line with comments received, and are published on the following webpage:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork/SACmanagement/Offshore2017>

I respectfully invite member states to confirm that you have a direct management interest, and that these proposals have sufficient information to begin the formal negotiations. If you do not have a direct management interest then confirmation of that is requested. I would be obliged for confirmation of sufficient information by 30th April 2017 please. If you have minor drafting issues I propose that these are addressed during the formal negotiations.

Moving forward I propose the following process:

02 May 2017 – Letter to member states with a direct management interest initiating the 6 month formal negotiation period.

02 June 2017 – deadline for any drafting issues to be submitted.

23 June 2017 – I have provisionally reserved this date for a meeting of the Article 11 sub-group. However, in order to save all parties resources, the meeting will only go ahead if there is a clear need for it. Please indicate whether you think this is necessary when confirming there is sufficient information.

31 July 2017 – Final version sent to member states.

By 31 October 2017 – Agreement of the high level North Western Waters Group, and submission to the European Commission.

6 – 10 November 2017 – Potential consideration by STECF meeting.

By 31 January 2018 – Implementation of the measures by the European Commission through a delegated act.

If you have any questions or issues then please do not hesitate to get in touch

Best wishes



Michael McLeod
Head of Marine Conservation
Directorate for Marine Scotland
The Scottish Government