

I recognise the potential impacts that the proposed measures could have on European fleets operating in the concerned areas. Let me reassure you that the Commission is treating this matter with the utmost attention. I have personally raised these concerns with the United Kingdom at the time of the announcement and during the UN Ocean Conference, and have emphasised the importance of transparency, balance, and early engagement with affected Member States.

While the United Kingdom is entitled under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) to adopt conservation measures in its waters, those measures must comply with the principles and the obligations under the TCA.

We are closely monitoring the United Kingdom's proposal and are engaging directly with the Member States, with particular attention to potential impacts on EU vessels operating in the areas concerned. This includes reviewing the consultation documents and the management options set out for achieving conservation objectives. Further assessments will be undertaken once the resulting byelaws are formally notified under the TCA.

I encourage all Member States and stakeholders to submit robust, evidence-based responses to the consultation by 29 September. We are maintaining close coordination with Member States and are preparing to convene a technical meeting with United Kingdom authorities in early September, ahead of the consultation deadline.

We welcome your intention to submit proposals for alternative measures underpinned by robust scientific evidence. We will ensure that these are raised in the upcoming discussions with the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom has indicated a willingness to engage further, and it is essential that the EU speaks with a strong voice during this process.

Let me assure you that we are fully committed to defending the interests of EU fishers, while also upholding our environmental obligations, which were affirmed in the recently adopted European Ocean Pact. We greatly appreciate your active engagement and will keep the Advisory Councils informed as this file evolves.

Yours sincerely,



Costas Kadis

