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APPLICATION FOR ACCESSION TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SALMON IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

I am writing to you in your capacity as President of the Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (“NASCO”) in order to inform you of the enclosed application, which has been submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the “United Kingdom”) to the Council of the European Union, in its capacity as Depository for the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean (the “Convention”) and (the “Application”).

The Application formally requests the NASCO Council to approve the United Kingdom’s accession to the Convention in accordance with Article 17(3) of the Convention. As explained in the Application, and consistent with the United Kingdom’s obligations under the Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (“the Withdrawal Agreement”), the United Kingdom intends to deposit its instrument of accession during a time-limited transition period, which expires at 2300 GMT on 31 December 2020 (“the Transition Period”).

I understand that, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Convention, approval requires a decision of the NASCO Council to be taken by a three-quarters majority vote of members present and casting an affirmative or negative vote.

I further understand that votes are generally to be taken at meetings of the NASCO Council but that Rule 9 of NASCO’s Rules of Procedure provides for votes to be taken by mail or by other means of textual communication between meetings of the Council in case of special necessity to be determined by the President.

I also understand that the face-to-face NASCO Annual Meeting in Edinburgh in June was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, NASCO’s business for that month was conducted by correspondence and video conference, and I understand that a small meeting is scheduled for the autumn.



Therefore, it is against this background that I would like to take this opportunity to request that the NASCO Council engage the process under Rule 9 of NASCO's Rules of Procedure on the basis that, in light of the United Kingdom's intent to accede to the Convention during the Transition Period, the United Kingdom's request constitutes a case of special necessity. This would allow the relevant decisions of NASCO to be taken in time to enable the United Kingdom, if approved to do so by NASCO, to deposit its instrument of accession to join NASCO by the autumn meeting.

The United Kingdom intends to accede to the Convention in a manner consistent with its obligations under the Withdrawal Agreement and with the approval required under Articles 17(3) and 6(3) of the Convention. Further, if this application is approved and the United Kingdom accedes to the Convention, the United Kingdom intends to apply for membership of the West Greenland and North-East Atlantic Commissions of NASCO in accordance with Article 10(3) of the Convention.

The United Kingdom is committed to upholding its international obligations relating to the conservation and management of salmon in the North Atlantic. We consider the work of NASCO to be of the utmost importance and we look forward to continuing and strengthening our active participation.

I would be most grateful for your assistance and my officials would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have about this letter or the enclosed Application.



VICTORIA PRENTIS MP