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The Depositary
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

6 July 2020

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 Depositary for the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean of 2 March 1982 (“the Convention”) to request the approval of the Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (“NASCO”) for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the “United Kingdom”) to accede to the Convention. This application is submitted in accordance with Article 17(3) of the Convention.

On 31 January 2020, the United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union and, in accordance with 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”), entered a time-limited transition period, which expires at 2300 GMT on 31 December 2020 (“the Transition Period”).

Article 129(4) of the Withdrawal Agreement provides that “[...] during the transition period, the United Kingdom may negotiate, sign and ratify international agreements entered into in its own capacity in the areas of exclusive competence of the Union, provided those agreements do not enter into force or apply during the transition period, unless so authorised by the Union.” On 3 April 2020 the United Kingdom began the process of seeking European Union authorisation to accede to the Convention during the Transition Period. That process is currently ongoing.

In accordance, therefore, with Article 17(3) of the Convention, the United Kingdom makes this application to accede to the Convention in its own right. The United Kingdom’s intention is to deposit its instrument of accession to take effect during the Transition Period, in a manner consistent with its obligations under the Withdrawal Agreement.

The purpose of taking this approach is to enable the United Kingdom to give full effect to its international obligations, in particular those set out in Articles 63 and 64 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and Articles 7 and 8 of the United Nations Fish Stocks



Agreement¹, with respect to the conservation and management of fish stocks to which the Convention applies. Moreover, and as to the timing of accession, the United Kingdom considers it vital to accede to the Convention as soon as possible to be able to engage fully on matters affecting the United Kingdom beyond the Transition Period, including attending all relevant meetings.

The United Kingdom wishes to take this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to its international obligations relating to the conservation and management of fish stocks. The United Kingdom Government is committed to the effective implementation of the Convention and binding recommendations adopted in accordance with its terms. 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.

I am most grateful for your assistance in this matter. My officials are available to discuss any questions that you might have.



VICTORIA PRENTIS MP

¹ The United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish stocks, done at New York on 4 December 1995