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CNL23.064

24 July 2020

Victoria Prentis MP
c / o Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

Dear Ms Prentis,

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

Thank you for your letter dated 6 July 2020, requesting that the NASCO Council approves the United Kingdom's accession to the Convention in accordance with Article 17(3).

I am delighted that The United Kingdom wishes to accede to the Convention and is committed to upholding its international obligations relating to the conservation and management of salmon in the North Atlantic.

In your letter, you state that 'The United Kingdom intends to accede to the Convention in a manner consistent with its obligations under the Withdrawal Agreement...'

The application to the Depository states '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.'

The NASCO Council plans to discuss the United Kingdom's application at a meeting starting on 9 September 2020. In order to facilitate this discussion it would be helpful if you would let me know whether the process of seeking European Union authorisation to accede to the Convention during the Transition Period has concluded.

In the meantime, if you or your officials wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Doucet', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Serge Doucet
President