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Dear Charlina,

I wanted to pass on my thanks to Eva, Fabrizio and Norman for taking the time and engaging in such constructive discussions during my visit on 8 June. One of the points I committed to following up on was with regards to the management of sandeel in Scottish waters. I am aware of the Commission's interest in this fishery.

I can confirm that on Friday 21 July, the Scottish Government launched a 12-week public consultation on proposals to close fishing for sandeel in all Scottish waters. Such measures have the potential to provide wider ecosystem benefits to the marine environment, which could also deliver potential benefits to seabirds impacted by avian flu, as well as improving resilience to changes in the marine environment.

For anyone who wishes to provide a response to the consultation, the documents can be found here: <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/consultation-on-proposals-to-close-fishing>

We also discussed the Commission's research on the sandeel fishery and the potential for that to be available this summer. I would of course welcome sight of the research findings once these are available.

Yours sincerely,

MAIRI GOUGEON

