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**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk> **Confidential**  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 11:13 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@marinemanagement.org.uk> **Confidential**  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@marinemanagement.org.uk>  
**Subject:** Sandeel Update **Confidential**

[REDACTED] cc [REDACTED] **Confidential**

I spoke with [REDACTED] earlier today, and I think I may owe you an update on sandeel. Last Wednesday (31<sup>st</sup>), SofS has announced the closure of English waters of the North Sea to fishing for sandeel. The EU notification letter is being finalised and will be sent before 8<sup>th</sup> February next week. That will be my trigger for formally asking the MMO to amend licences to implement the closure.

On the effective date of the closure, I previously told you from 1st April 2024. Is it possible please to have an effective date of 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024? The reason for this change is that Marine Scotland have now announced that they will close all Scottish waters including areas 4 and 6 and the exclusive economic zone that extends to 200 nautical miles from 26<sup>th</sup> March. It would be in the overall UK interest to have a common closure date.

Thank you.

[REDACTED] **Confidential**  
[REDACTED] | Quota Policy and Negotiations Team | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | [REDACTED] **Confidential**