



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

From the Minister's Private Office

W Rickett Esq
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

1 July 1983

Dear Willie ^{mw} 4/7

COUNCIL OF FISHERIES MINISTERS: 30 JUNE 1983

... I attach a copy of the statement which Mr Jopling hopes to make in the House today. I would be grateful for immediate clearance.

/ I am copying this letter to Bernard Ingham; David Heyhoe (Leader of the House's Office); Murdo Maclean (Whip's Office, Commons); David Beamish (Whip's Office, Lords); David Wright (Cabinet Office); Keith Long (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office) and to Private Secretaries of the other Agriculture Ministers and members of the OD(E).

Yours sincerely

Robert Lawson

ROBERT LOWSON
Private Secretary



FISHERIES COUNCIL, 30 JUNE 1983 - DRAFT STATEMENT

Together with the Minister of State at the Scottish Office and my hon Friend the Minister of State in my Department, I represented the United Kingdom at the Council of Fisheries Ministers on 30 June. Discussion concentrated on herring quotas.

After a long and, at times, difficult discussion, nine member states were prepared to agree to arrangements for interim quotas for herring in the Northern and Central North Sea, equivalent to two thirds of the total quotas proposed by the Commission for each member state for 1983, in order to permit fishing to continue until the next Council meeting. This would also have permitted the Council to agree to the Norwegians continuing to fish on a similar basis. Unfortunately the Danish delegation were unable to agree and when the matter was put to the vote they invoked the Luxembourg compromise.

This meant that no agreement on member states' quotas was possible. In these circumstances a number of member states, including the United Kingdom, felt that they could not agree to the Norwegians' continuing to fish if the member states' fishermen were prevented from doing so.

The situation now is therefore that fishermen from Norway and those member states who have used up their 'interim' quotas will have to stop fishing. United Kingdom fishermen have not yet used up their quotas though they are likely to do so soon. If so, continued opportunities to fish herring are likely to be available at the West of Scotland and

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we will be in touch with the Industry shortly about possible opening dates.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 11 July but it may be brought forward.