NORTH EAST SCOTLAND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

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Fergus Ewing MSP

Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity Parliamentary Office The Scottish Parliament. Edinburgh EH99 1SP

6 February 2018

Dear Mr Ewing

Pelagic landings

I write as Chair of North East Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership (NESFDP), a cross party, cross-sectoral group hosted by Aberdeenshire Council which seeks to provide a communication channel between the wider fisheries industry in NE Scotland and its political representatives at all levels including MEPs, MPs, MSPs and local councillors.

At the most recent meeting of the Partnership, members expressed their concerns over the continuing lack of supply of pelagic landings which is impacting adversely upon local pelagic processing businesses and which has already led to job losses in Aberdeenshire.

Now that the Economic Link Consultation has closed, members urge that a solution be found as soon as possible to secure higher levels of pelagic landings to safeguard the future of the domestic processing sector.

Yours sincerely

Clir John Cox

Chair

North East of Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership

Chairman Councillor John Cox

> Vice Chairman Ian Gatt