

Llyr Gruffydd MS

Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

29 September 2023

Dear Llyr,

You will be aware that the ~~Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee~~ is responsible for monitoring the implementation of non-trade international agreements in the Sixth Senedd.

During our meeting on ~~11 September 2023~~, we considered the Protocol amending the International Convention on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (the "Palma Protocol"). The Palma Protocol amends the scope of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (the "Convention") to cover sharks and other elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory found in the Atlantic Ocean. It also makes changes to the working procedures of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (the "Commission").

Although international relations is a reserved matter, changes made by the Palma Protocol to the Convention could affect devolved matters, for example, if devolved governments were required to observe and implement recommendations of the Commission relating to devolved matters.

During our consideration of the agreement, we agreed to draw it to your Committee's attention for information. We also intend to write to Welsh Government to request information on:

- its view of the Protocol;

- what internal arrangements are in place to monitor, observe and implement recommendations of the Protocol's Commission in devolved areas; and
- its assessment of whether any steps, including changes, are needed at this stage to ensure Wales is compliant with the amendments made by the Protocol in devolved areas.

Our latest report is [available here](#).

Yours sincerely,

*Huw Irranca-Davies*

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Chair

