

## PRESS RELEASE

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Attention Newsdesks & Fishing Correspondents

### **ACCESS TO WATERS BASED ON HISTORICAL FISHING RIGHTS**

Speaking after today's vote in the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the Green Paper on the Future of the Common Fisheries Policy, SNP Euro-MP, Ian Hudghton, welcomed Parliament's support of relative stability as fundamental to the CFP and, congratulating the Scottish fishing industry for its efforts in achieving this goal, said;

"The extensive lobbying of the Scottish fishing industry has paid off. Today, the European Parliament unequivocally endorsed the retention of the 6-12 coastal zones and the Shetland Box, supported the principle of relative stability, and called for moves towards a decentralised CFP. The Commission should take this as the green light for setting out a comprehensive form of zonal management, delivered through zonal management committees where the fishing industry, processors, scientists, and so on, are all actively involved if the future of CFP is to deliver its aims.

"Spanish attempts to remove a key provision which I introduced calling for the maintenance of historical fishing rights and the principle of relative stability, were thwarted. I am delighted by this outcome and by Parliament's explicit rejection of individual transferable quotas – a free market in fishing rights. It is clear that the majority of EU Member States are keen to prevent a wholesale free for all in Europe's fishing grounds..

"The Commission must recognise that the common goal of conserving stocks for future generations remains THE most important objective of the CFP. It is imperative that the promotion of sustainable fisheries resources and the needs of fisheries dependent communities are at the forefront of the CFP. It is vital that we look at fisheries not just from an economic point of view, but rather from a sustainable socio-economic standpoint – more sustainable fishing for human consumption will bring the prospect of better economic returns, crucial in ensuring a long-term future for Europe's fishermen and safeguarding employment at sea and onshore.

“The European Parliament’s report has succeeded in conveying these views clearly to the Commission as part of the consultation process and I hope that these concerns will be reflected at the next stage of the reform process, when the Commission presents its proposals.”

- Ends.