

PERSPECTIVE / LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Suggestions of a Brexit bonanza for Scotland's fishermen are way out of line

I refer to your article "Fishing industry hails Brexit bonanza", based on a forecast in a new report by Marine Scotland (6 June).

Your article places great emphasis upon only the very rosier of the four scenarios presented by Marine Scotland's analysts.

And even in this scenario

the majority of the "bonanza" will accrue to fish processors rather than actual fishermen. The other scenarios are much more mixed, with one showing alarming, widespread declines in employment and output.

But what is especially concerning is that the fisheries which support our inshore

fleet will not experience anything like a bonanza, essentially because they won't get extra quota to compensate for the new trade barriers they will have to face.

This matters. Inshore fisheries support some three quarters of the Scottish fishing fleet and provide crucially important employment in

many small coastal communities.

The history of Scotland's inshore fisheries has been one of recurrent missed economic opportunities. Modern management methods, including such basic measures as universal Vessel Monitoring Systems which show where the boats are fishing, are long

overdue. As we all know, you can't manage something until you can measure it.

The stark warning from this Marine Scotland report should prompt Scottish Ministers to finally make good on Nicola Sturgeon's promise in her 2016 Programme for Government to develop a new Inshore Fisheries Bill.

This could introduce measures that, for the first time, would mean our inshore waters are well managed and able to support a sustainable inshore fishery.

CHARLES MILLAR

Executive Director
Sustainable Inshore
Fisheries Trust
Rose Street, Edinburgh

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something really needs to be done now beyond spouting the same old SNP rhetoric that lots of new doctors and nurses have been taken on in the last

costly and gruelling that only the most desperate undertake it. It seems there is a Catholic cultural bias in Ireland which resists any liberal legisla-

had even warned that "Home Rule is Rome Rule" prior to 1922 and subsequent events proved it right. Far from trying to win over the North and

is slowly emerging as a modern secular state, but the tragic blunders which created the situation from which it is now trying to escape should be a

Who's left wing?

Andrew Wilson's roadmap for separating Scotland from the rest of the UK blows apart the illusion that Scottish nation-