

## **Press release**

Cherbourg, 10/28/2020

### **London Government Fisheries Bill: The Normandy Regional Fisheries Committee is taking a stand on the introduction of a last-minute amendment concerning the Channel Islands ...**

*In the context of the Brexit and the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union, the Common Fisheries Policy will no longer apply on 31 December 2020. The British government is preparing a bill to regulate fishing in its waters. The study of the law by the House of Commons has resulted in a number of amendments, including one proposed by the government on October 13<sup>th</sup> concerning the British Crown Dependencies. An amendment which calls on the Regional Committee for Maritime Fisheries and Marine Farming (CRPMEM) of Normandy...*

The London Government introduced a last-minute amendment to the Fisheries Bill to introduce a permissive extent clause in respect of Crown Dependencies (Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Man). Thus, the Government leaves itself open to extend legislation to Crown Dependencies in order to meet their international obligations if the Dependencies do not legislate to do so.

We question the objective pursued by the London Government since the Bailiwicks have made known their opposition to the introduction of this clause since this summer. Indeed, the current arrangements for access to waters for fishing in the Channel Islands are the result of the longstanding relations between the Bailiwicks and their Norman and Breton neighbours.

This amendment constitutes a threat to the Granville Bay Treaty at a time when the Jersey government has reaffirmed its attachment to it.

On reading the British press it would appear that consultation has been reduced to a minimum.

This amendment questions us about the possibility offered to London to introduce, under cover of international agreements, large fishing vessels. In this respect, we once again refute the lies that would have the Jersey public believe that French vessels can access the waters of the island of Jersey in unlimited numbers. The Treaty of Granville Bay limits access to local vessels with a contingent. It should be noted that we are ahead of the management of most species in comparison with Jersey's regulations.

We regret this on behalf of the CRPMEM of Normandy, all the more so as our relations with our neighbours are very old and proximity to France has provided services to the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey.

We support the willingness of the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey to maintain good neighbourly relations. We wish to continue the joint management of the waters of the Normandy-Breton Gulf independently of a potential more global agreement between London and Brussels that would not take into account local issues.

The CRPMEM of Normandy, in its tradition of peaceful coexistence with its neighbours, fears this escalation.

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