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Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of 23 June 2026 regarding your report “Protecting Scotland’s seafloor: an assessment of Scottish Ministers’ implementation of the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010”.

The Scottish Government will give careful consideration to the report and engage constructively with ESS in the coming weeks and months towards agreeing an appropriate action plan within the suggested timescale. I have asked officials to continue work on the issues raised, with action on them already well underway in implementing existing policy. They will be in touch with your colleagues in ESS shortly.

As you know, we have a range of policies in place to support the sustainable management of our seas, including Scotland’s Marine Protected Area network, legislation underpinning sustainable fisheries management, and marine planning and licensing frameworks.

The challenges facing the marine environment also require coordinated action across borders. We therefore continue to work closely with the other governments of the UK and international partners in our efforts to safeguard our marine ecosystems.

The Scottish Government is determined to keep working hard to protect and, where appropriate, restore our precious marine environment as part of our response to the twin crises of nature loss and climate change.

I look forward to working with ESS and our partners across Scotland and the UK to continue this work going forward.

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Yours sincerely,



GILLIAN MARTIN

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