Review of certain access restrictions in the Common Fisheries Policy, Shetland Box and Plaice Box

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The committee adopted the own-initiative report drawn up by Catherine STIHLER (PES, UK) in response to the Commission's review of certain access restrictions in the Common Fisheries Policy, namely the Shetland Box and the Plaice Box in the North Sea. The report welcomed the Commission's decision to maintain the Shetland Box for a further three years while further evaluations are undertaken and to retain the Plaice Box and associated restrictions pending further study. It noted that the Commission's Expert Working Group formed to assess the effectiveness of the Shetland and Plaice Boxes had highlighted the socio-economic importance of the Boxes and had stated that one of the objectives of the Shetland Box was to provide protection for fisheries-dependent communities in the north of Scotland .