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Marine Directorate  
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04 December 2008

Dear Sirs

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE MIXED STOCK FISHERY  
REVIEW GROUP**

Please find enclosed two pieces of information, which I believe would be useful background to the discussions which are ongoing within the above group.

The first item is a DVD, giving some useful insight and information relating to the very considerable history of salmon netting in Scotland. Indeed, I would contend that netting for this iconic species, is part of the very fabric of Scotland.

The second enclosure is an extract from Hansard during 1988. While much of the article is both interesting and relevant, of particular note is the fact that Mr Forsyth, the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland clearly thought it appropriate to introduce measures which effectively reapportioned catches from netsmen to anglers! This is evidenced by his comment that "I can think of no logical reason for not shifting the balance of exploitation from netting to angling to some extent, which makes a greater contribution to the Scottish economy". Clearly this is blatant discrimination and the admission merely confirms our long held belief that the 1988 decision was more about economics rather than conservation.

My reason for highlighting the above, is to point out that this is still the argument being put forward today by angling interests. Any future decisions taken in relation to reducing exploitation must be based on robust scientific evidence alone. As is now accepted, that it is not for the Government to apportion catches, any measures must apply equally across all methods, in order to avoid discrimination. I would also argue that it is important to look at the national holistic picture of fish stocks rather than focussing on district level data, which undoubtedly provides a more blinkered view.

Yours faithfully

George S Pullar  
Director  
Usan Salmon Fisheries Limited

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