

Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill

Peebles Workshop

2 February 2006

1 Summary

This meeting was one of ten held throughout Scotland during January and early February 2006. Seventeen individuals attended the meeting, which followed a facilitated workshop format. The meeting was facilitated by officials from the Freshwater Fisheries and Aquaculture Division in the Scottish Executive. The team guided the discussion and recorded the points made.

Two key questions were put to the audience:

- 1 What proposals in the consultation paper **did you not like? Why?**
- 2 What proposals in the consultation paper **did you like? Why?**

2 Record of proceedings

The attached record of proceedings contains points made by attendees concerning not only the proposals for the aquaculture and fisheries Bill but also their views on the future of fisheries management. Please note that the views expressed in this, and other workshops do not necessarily reflect the views of the Scottish Executive.

2.1 Aquaculture

1 Regulator

The Regulator and enforcer should be different. Checks and balances are required. There should be an appeals process and safeguards for any decisions made by the regulator.

2 Charging

Concerned that charges may be applied more widely and will be open ended.

3 Parasite Control

Would welcome trigger levels for sea lice.

Where does the liability lie where a 3rd party is brought in to treat fish (where fish dies as a result of the treatment)

4 Containment

This should apply to hatcheries.

Fish farms should recover escaped fish.

5 General points

The CoGP and legislation should not overlap.

There should be a one stop shop for consents.

Seafisheries and aquaculture should be integrated and considered in development proposals.

2.2 Freshwater Fisheries

1 Gyrodactylus salaris (GS)

There should be compensation where GS is eradicated for all commercial fisheries.

There should be compensation for standstill notices on fish farms.

Consideration of the processor should be made in any contingency plan.

Provisions should cover all diseases not just GS.

2 Access

The flexibility is welcome, however the devil will be in the detail. Concerned that riparian owners will limit access, there should be thresholds for access even if it is more flexible to ensure that the PO is doing what it is supposed to.

Uniform charging should be a condition of a PO.

The role of the wardens on a PO should be questioned, they are amateur policemen.

Registering ownership may be very difficult.

The definition of access should be clarified.

There should be guidance on the membership of liaison committees.

There should be national coverage for advertising PO proposals.

3 Misc Amendments.

Who will enforce all aspects of the proposals covered under miscellaneous amendments

Prohibit Obstruction of fish

Prohibiting obstructions will not protect fisheries from the spread of non native species. This is inconsistent with the proposals on fish movements, GS etc. Barriers are a limit to the spread of signal crayfish. The detail needs to be refined, what species will this apply to, and the costs. The definition of 'where they would normally be expected to' needs to be clarified.

The use of live vertebrates as bait

The Ban of the use of live vertebrates is welcome, but there is nothing to stop the killing of fish bait on the bank and fishing with that. Enforcement is an issue. Ornamentals would be used as bait.

The use of dead fish are still a disease risk.

Definition of fishing with a rod and line

Rod Fishing needs to be defined, in terms of the number of rods allowed and the use of rod rests.

Foul Hooking

Welcome the total ban on deliberate foul hooking.

4 Fish Movements

The proposals are welcome. However SNH (in a designated area) already has the powers to approve introductions.

Tweed Order already includes s30 (E&W).

Exemptions for fish traps for management necessary.

5 General Points

Hatcheries should not be affected by the proposals where they are non commercial, that is, operate on a voluntary basis. There may some provisions that apply, and all hatcheries need to be inspected for health reasons.