

Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill

Ayr Workshop

1 February 2006.

1 Summary

This meeting was one of ten held throughout Scotland during January and early February 2006. Nineteen 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 Parasite Control

Welcome the proposals.

2 Containment

The escapes proposals are very welcome, although difficult to police.

3 General points

Welcome the proposals for aquaculture

2.2 Freshwater Fisheries

1 Gyrodactylus salaris (GS)

Welcome proposals for GS

Anglers should be disinfected upon entry to the UK.

2 Fish Movements

Disagree with the proposals for fish movements.

3 Miscellaneous Amendments

Use of live vertebrate as bait

Disagree with the ban on live vertebrates as bait. This is unenforceable. There should be exceptions, e.g. for trout farm suppliers.

This will have a great consequence for coarse fisheries especially pike angling.

How will this be enforced?

Dead fish can spread disease too. However any ban on the use of dead bait would be disaster for coarse fishing.

Agree with the ban on live vertebrates as bait. It is essential to halt the introduction of non indigenous species. A good local example is the spread of the stoneloach, which can now be found in five out of the six principal rivers in Ayrshire, we would not want stoneloach to be introduced to the sixth river.

Prohibit obstruction of fish

Massive investment would be needed to widen fish passes.

Definition of fish

Welcome the proposals to extend the definition of fish to include American signal crayfish.

4 General points

The sale of gill nets should be regulated or licenced.

Live fish imports should be banned.

Regulator should have powers to enter fish farms in the course of their duties.

DSFBs should not be regulators.

Should be aware when working up proposals of the huge volunteer contribution of bailiffs, local knowledge of the DSFB and the importance of communicating with the DSFB.
Proposals unenforceable without extra funding.

Should be able to net non indigenous species to protect native fish stocks where fish have been introduced.

There is a need to regulate estuary fishing and coarse fishing.

DSFBs should have access to agricultural grant schemes, or at the very least recipients (tenants or land owners) who obtain grants to improve fisheries should come under boards.

The Executive should be doing more to raise the profile of angling.

Predation by piscivorous birds and seals is a problem. Conservationists underestimate the total populations of these predators.

2.3 Future Fisheries Management

DSFBs are much more representative than they were.

Management must be carried out by local people. They have the commitment, local knowledge and culture.

There is great value to be had from the independence of river trusts, their income and charitable status.

The current management regime works, no need for change.

Funding should be collected efficiently, with all proceeds going back into fishing.