

# **Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill**

## **Dumfries Workshop**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2006**

## **1 Summary**

This meeting was one of ten held throughout Scotland during January and early February 2006. Fifty eight 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 should be adequately resourced to do their job, with robust regulations to enable this.

Should be within SEPA and based in their network of offices so that they can react quickly.

#### **2 Relocation**

The Costs of compulsory relocation will have wider knock on effects.

#### **3 Fish Movements**

Why replicate existing monitoring? Aquaculture already has detailed logs, coupled with the fact that there isn't the funding or resources available.

## **2.2 Freshwater Fisheries**

### **1 Gyrodactylus salaris (GS)**

Compensation should be applicable to all sectors, not just aquaculture.

Movements of people should be looked at when preventing and tackling GS.

Replacement stocks where action is required should reflect the current gene pool as far as is possible. Natural recovery should be looked at as an option when considering stocking.

Birds must be considered in any SI for GS – preventing spread.

Other parasites should be covered.

### **2 Access**

If PO's are not working then make PO's for all of Scotland otherwise they should not be in the Bill.

### **3 Fish Movements**

S30 of the 1975 Act should be considered as the basis for a fish movements regime.

### **4 Miscellaneous Amendments**

#### **Definition of fishing with rod and line**

Four rod rests are fine.

The proposals for rod rests should be dropped.

#### **Close times**

There is no need to introduce a catch all for closed seasons. It needs to be species specific, and locally based. There should be enabling powers to do this.

#### **Prohibit Obstruction of fish**

In England and Wales it is an offence to obstruct migratory fish, this needs to be tightened up in Scotland, akin to the English situation.

### **5 General points**

Who will enforce much of what is proposed on the freshwater side? Coarse fisheries are not covered by DSFBs at the moment. If DSFBs are to be responsible for coarse fisheries then there are resource implications for DSFBs, because current funding for DSFBs is not derived from coarse fisheries.

If DSFBs are to have their remit extended they should be called DFBs.

The theft of all fish should be criminal, not just Salmon.

Gill Nets should be licenced to prevent the salmon being bycatch. In Scotland the law does not require a licence for Gill Nets. At the moment anyone can walk down the beach and set one. The definition of taking should be like England and Wales. Discussions should be had with DEFRA to ensure that there is parity in this area between Scotland and England.

In Scotland if you take fish away you are committing an offence, but you may still have legally caught them, this needs to be tightened up.

DSFB should be a statutory consultee for all developments that impact upon water courses.

Funding/compensation should be made for any damage to the fishery resulting from inappropriate development. (remediation).

Powers of netters as recreational fisheries to sell salmon should be addressed.

Executive website should be easier to access. (address too difficult)

### **2.3 Future Fisheries Management**

DSFBs should not be used as a model for the future of fisheries management, or at the very least their powers should be curbed. Any future fisheries management body should be transparent and accountable with rights of appeal for those affected by the decisions made by a fisheries management body.

Should take account of good practice in fisheries management to inform the future of fisheries management. For Example the work of the Galloway Fisheries Trust. The voluntary basis of management must be recognised in the future.

DSFBs are best placed to deal with any new management structure.

Management should be catchment based.

Netsmen are not proportionally represented on DSFBs at the moment, should be considered when looking to the future of fisheries management.

The Roadshow format should be applied when working up thinking on Fisheries Management as this should be developed at a grass roots level.

There should be a unified approach to fisheries management. Fisheries management should reflect the differences between coarse/game fishing as they have evolved differently.

Rod licence must evolve on a national basis.