

Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill

Dundee Meeting, part of the Freshwater Fisheries Forum

31 January 2006

1 Summary

This meeting was one of ten held throughout Scotland during January and early February 2006 and was part of a day long Freshwater Fisheries Forum. Over 150 individuals were given the opportunity to offer their views to the Fisheries Bill Team. 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

Regulator should enforce minimum standards, the CoGP should be higher standards.

2 Parasite and disease control

The health of the stock should be addressed by vets or biologists.

There should be financial assistance for DSFBs and Trusts for recovering escaped fish.

3 Containment

The regulator should inspect equipment and ensure that the appropriate standards are applied.

4 General points

Welcome the proposals, aquaculture is also important to the rural economy but regulation is required for those that cut corners.

The aquaculture proposals are sensible.

2.2 Freshwater Fisheries

1 Access

The proposals for the liaison committees will help, although there should be thresholds in place for the PO

2 Fish Movements

Hatchery and Fish movement proposals at odds. Localised (within the catchment) hatcheries should be exempt from blanket coverage for fish movements.

The regime should be robust. Is there a definition of disease, what are we controlling.

The issue of fish movements goes beyond disease, there is also an impact on genetic stocks.

Transfers from England should have certification at source to ensure that the stock are disease free. SEERAD should work with DEFRA.

Any model based on section 30 in E&W is end of pipe.

3 Misc Amendments

Question of how the proposals will be enforced.

Prohibit eradication

Penalties for illegal eradication should be severe.

Prohibit obstruction of fish

Prohibition of obstructions should be limited to certain times for the passage of fish. This proposal could be duplicating or conflicting with existing legislation.

Close times

Types of fisheries should be redefined to enable close seasons for different fish species.

Definition of fishing with rod & line

Trolling should not be affected. It is not clear how the proposals on rods be applied in waters with both coarse and game fisheries (enforced). Rod rests need to be very clearly defined.

Use of live vertebrates as bait

There is a moral and ethical argument for the use of live bait. There is an anomaly, it is difficult for scientists to look into the effects of hooks on fish, the welfare argument is therefore flawed.

4 General points

The proposals meet many concerns, and are very welcome. Worried that the proposals will be watered down by Parliament.

Concerned that ornamental fish appear to be excluded from the proposals.

The issuing of licences to shoot birds and seals should reflect the situation elsewhere in the UK. Seals should be controlled using acoustic deterrent devices.

There should be public access to information from both wild fisheries and fish farms.

There is an existing ban on the sale of rod caught salmon, however there is a demand from restaurants for wild salmon and so an increase in poaching. There is no obligation on the person selling the salmon to prove source or method. This should be addressed. It should be an offence to buy rod caught salmon, or any other rod caught fish. Haaf netting provides a cover for the illegal sale of rod caught fish and fish that have been poached.

Gill nets in estuarial waters should be licenced as they impact on salmonids and other species.

There is no right of arrest for obstructing a bailiff in his duties, this should be addressed.

Where does the Bill start and the CoGP end?

2.3 Future Fisheries Management

PO's should be removed and replaced by a fast and reactive system.

All four options suggested should be rejected . Management must be kept on a catchment area basis (it is in the interests of every owner and every angler to work together – if not you lose all the voluntary work of anglers and owners. The proposals suggest that everyone will need paid, there will be lots of bureaucracy, it will be very expensive, with higher costs for the angler. What will be the net gain from a rod licence regime once the costs of administration are taken into account. Public money should be kept out of fisheries management (except where trusts can work to contract).

Why have SEPA and SNH been suggested as possible recipients for grant in aid funding for fisheries management?