

Response ID ANON-MZ2Y-MT47-X

Submitted to **The Future of Forestry in Scotland**
Submitted on **2016-11-09 19:26:39**

Introduction

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your name or your organisation's name?

Name/orgname:

Association of Salmon Fishery Boards

What is your email address?

Email:

alan@asfb.org.uk

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

Please indicate which category best describes your organisation. If you are a representative or umbrella body, please tick the category you represent:

Private sector

If 'other', please state here::

New organisational arrangements in Scotland

1 Our proposals are for a dedicated Forestry Division in the Scottish Government (SG) and an Executive Agency to manage the NFE. Do you agree with this approach?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer:

2 In bringing the functions of FCS formally into the SG, how best can we ensure that the benefits of greater integration are delivered within the wider SG structure?

In bringing the functions of FCS formally into the SG, how best can we ensure that the benefits of greater integration are delivered within the wider SG structure? :

What additional benefits should we be looking to achieve? :

The Scottish Government is in the process of reforming the management of wild fisheries. An important theme of this process, as set out in the National Wild Fisheries Strategy is that of promotion and development of fisheries and fishing opportunities. We are aware that the national forest estate includes a significant number of fisheries, including salmon fisheries, which could play an important role in improving public access to fisheries in the future. It may be possible that the proposed Fisheries Management Organisations could manage these fisheries on behalf of Scottish Ministers, with a view to developing the promotion of angling and ensuring continued public access to such fisheries.

3 How should we ensure that professional skills and knowledge of forestry are maintained within the proposed new forestry structures?

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4 What do you think a future land agency for Scotland could and should manage and how might that best be achieved?

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Effective cross-border arrangements

5 Do you agree with the priorities for cross-border co-operation set out above, i.e. forestry research and science, plant health and common codes such as UK Forestry Standard?

Not Answered

6 If no to question 5, what alternative priorities would you prefer? Why?

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7 Do you have views on the means by which cross-border arrangements might be delivered effectively to reflect Scottish needs?

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Legislation and regulation

8 Should the Scottish Ministers be placed under a duty to promote forestry?

Not Answered

9 What specifically should be included in such a general duty?

What specifically should be included in such a general duty?:

10 Recognising the need to balance economic, environmental and social benefits of forestry, what are your views of the principles set out in chapter 3?

Recognising the need to balance economic, environmental and social benefits of forestry, what are your views of the principles set out in chapter 3?:

We support the commitment to maintain international standards of good forestry (sustainable forest management). We are unclear about how 'reasonable balance' will be defined and interpreted - we seek an outcome where the development of afforestation, the management of forests and the production and supply of timber do not have a negative impact upon the riparian and aquatic environment. The use of native trees to improve and restore riparian habitat and the appropriate balance between commercial and native forestry, according to local circumstances, will be key to achieving this outcome.

Natural riverbanks with a fringe of native woodland are important to maintaining healthy river systems. Native trees provide dappled shade which allows light to reach rivers but protects from excessive heating, they also; stabilise banks, reduce erosion, provide food, create shelter for fish and once mature form large woody debris within the river.

Native riparian woodland also gives benefits for natural flood management, particularly when combined with peatland restoration and the blocking of historical drainage.

Assessing impact

11 Are there any likely impacts the proposals contained in this consultation may have on particular groups of people, with reference to the 'protected characteristics' listed in chapter 4? Please be as specific as possible.

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12 Do you think that the proposals contained in this consultation are likely to increase or reduce the costs and burdens placed on any sector? Please be as specific as possible.

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13 Are there any likely impacts that the proposals contained in this consultation may have upon the privacy of individuals? Please be as specific as possible.

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14 Are there any likely impacts that the proposals contained in this consultation may have upon the environment? Please be as specific as possible

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Any other comments

15 Do you have any other comments that you would like to make, relevant to the subject of this consultation, that you have not covered in your answers to other questions?

Do you have any other comments that you would like to make, relevant to the subject of this consultation, that you have not covered in your answers to other questions?:

As stated above, The Scottish Government is in the process of reforming the management of wild fisheries. An important theme of this process, as set out in the National Wild Fisheries Strategy is that of promotion and development of fisheries and fishing opportunities. We are aware that the national forest estate includes a significant number of fisheries, including salmon fisheries, which could play an important role in improving public access to fisheries in the future. It may be possible that the proposed Fisheries Management Organisations could manage these fisheries on behalf of Scottish Ministers, with a view to developing the promotion of angling and ensuring continued public access to such fisheries.

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.: