



Association of Salmon Fishery Boards

Comments on the Consultation on Priority Marine Features November 2013

Introduction

The Association of Salmon Fishery Boards is the representative body for Scotland's 41 District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs) including the River Tweed Commission (RTC), which have a statutory responsibility to protect and improve salmon and sea trout fisheries. The Association and Boards work to create the environment in which sustainable fisheries for salmon and sea trout can be enjoyed. Conservation of fish stocks, and the habitats on which they depend, is essential and many DSFB's operate riparian habitat enhancement schemes and have voluntarily adopted 'catch and release' practices, which in some cases are made mandatory by the introduction of Salmon Conservation Regulations. ASFB creates policies that seek where possible to protect wider biodiversity and our environment as well as enhancing the economic benefits for our rural economy that result from angling. An analysis completed in 2004 demonstrated that freshwater angling in Scotland results in the Scottish economy producing over £100 million worth of annual output, which supports around 2,800 jobs and generates nearly £50million in wages and self-employment into Scottish households, most of which are in rural areas.

General comments

We welcome the opportunity to comment on this consultation. We support the Scottish Government's three-pillar approach as set out in the Marine Scotland's Marine Nature Conservation Strategy. We are particularly supportive of the continued inclusion of the marine phase of the life cycle of Atlantic salmon and sea trout.

Specific Comments

Q1. Do you agree with the recommended list of Priority Marine Features as the basis for targeting future marine conservation action in Scotland's seas?

Yes/ We particularly support the continued inclusion of the marine phase of the life cycle of Atlantic salmon and sea trout on the list of PMFs. Whilst there are clearly some issues with the health of these stocks relating to the freshwater environment, it is widely recognised that marine survival of these species has declined massively over recent decades. We believe that inclusion of these species in the list of PMFs will help address some of the issues in the marine environment. We also support many of the other species listed, as we believe that in many cases Atlantic salmon and sea trout would also benefit from additional protection afforded to these other species.

Q2. Are there other issues that have not been highlighted in this consultation that you would like to mention?

No comment.



Consultation on Priority Marine Features

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

Association of Salmon Fishery Boards

Title Mr Ms Mrs Miss Dr *Please tick as appropriate*

Surname

Wells

Forename

Alan

2. Postal Address

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3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual

/

Group/Organisation

Please tick as appropriate

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(d) 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?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No