



Briefing on the Wild Fisheries Review December 2014

The following briefing is designed to explain the current situation with regard to the Wild Fisheries Review. We will endeavour to keep you updated as the process progresses.

- In January 2014, the First Minister announced that a Wild Fisheries Review would be undertaken during 2014. The aims of the review were to:
 - develop and promote a modern, evidence-based management system for wild fisheries fit for purpose in the 21st century, and capable of responding to the changing environment;
 - manage, conserve and develop our wild fisheries to maximise the sustainable benefit of Scotland's wild fish resources to the country as a whole and particularly to rural areas

The Chair of the Wild Fisheries Review was Andrew Thin, the current chairman of Scottish Canals and former chair of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The Review panel also included Jane Hope and Michelle Francis, and was supported by a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) drawn from Marine Scotland Science, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Institute of Fisheries Management. The remit and scope can be viewed [here](#).

- The [report](#) and recommendations of the Wild Fisheries Review Panel were published on 8th October 2014.
- The Scottish Government are currently considering the recommendations from the review and will consult further on firm policy propositions in due course. These may encompass primary or secondary legislation and also areas of policy development which do not require legislation.
- The Scottish Government announced its [Programme for Government](#) on 26th November. Paragraph 266 relates to the Wild Fisheries Review and gives an indication of the timetable for the rest of the current Parliamentary session:

...The independent review reported in October 2014 and the Scottish Government will now consider its conclusions and recommendations. We will consult in Spring 2015 on broad policy options for a new fisheries management system, followed by a public consultation on a draft Wild Fisheries Bill before the end of the parliamentary session.

- We understand that the Scottish Government will set up an external stakeholder reference group to discuss the detail of the forthcoming consultation and subsequent draft Bill.
- ASFB and RAFTS have circulated a questionnaire to our respective memberships to allow us to fully understand the detailed views of the DSFBs and Fishery Trusts across Scotland. This will inform our approach to the WFR going forward.
- ASFB and RAFTS have set up a Joint Working Group to develop ideas, as appropriate, on how best to respond to any Government initiative to take forward recommendations from the Review. The JWG will also consider how best to ensure that any transition period between current, and any potential new arrangements, is efficiently managed.
- The Scottish Government have announced that they intend to consult on a conservation measure to ban killing wild salmon except under licence, along with an accompanying carcass tagging scheme to help enforcement. This was a recommendation of the Wild Fisheries Review.