



## Association of Salmon Fishery Boards

---

Capital Business Centre, 24 Canning Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EG  
Tel: 0131 272 2797 [www.asfb.org.uk](http://www.asfb.org.uk)

John Swinney MSP  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Roseanna Cunningham MSP  
Minister for the Environment  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

21 March 2011

Dear

### **Recapture of feral beavers – Tayside**

You will be aware of the current action, co-ordinated through Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), to recapture feral beavers that have escaped from captivity or have been deliberately released in the Tayside Region.

ASFB fully supports the position of SNH in this matter, on the basis that these animals have either been released illegally by irresponsible people trying to undermine current wildlife legislation or have been allowed to escape from poorly secured private collections.

A principal concern of ASFB, and others, is that irresponsible and illegal releases such as these only serve to undermine the existing trial in Knapdale, which is being conducted on a legal, licensed basis and which is being undertaken in a scientific context with appropriate monitoring. In parallel to the Knapdale trial, you will also be aware that SNH have formed an independent Beaver/Fish study group, within the structure of the National Species Reintroduction Forum, to examine potential interactions between fish and beavers in a Scottish context. ASFB contribute to this Group and have facilitated a modelling project to examine how beaver and migratory salmonid habitat may overlap. This is necessary as the Knapdale trial, due to site characteristics, would be unable to inform how beavers and migratory fish may interact. This Group is expected to conclude its deliberations and provide a report later this year.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Davidson  
Operations Director  
ASFB/RAFTS