



**Council**

**CNL(02)71**

***NGO Statement***

***Regulation of Aquaculture***

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NASCO

### Regulation of Aquaculture

*On behalf of the Salmonid Fisheries Forum (comprising the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards, the Association of West Coast Fishery Trusts, the Atlantic Salmon Trust, the Salmon & Trout Association and the Scottish Anglers' National Association)*

The NGOs welcome the growth of co-operation between some national aquaculture organisations and wild fishery interests. This co-operation is aimed at seeking environmental sustainability in the operations of salmon farming. Voluntary agreements are now in place in some EU member states, particularly with the target of eliminating the damage caused to wild salmon and sea trout stocks by sea lice infestation. Some codes of practice, including the co-ordination of stocking, fallowing and the use of therapeutants, have been developed to cover this and other aspects.

However, these agreements and codes of practice do not apply to all operators. They are not supported, where they have been established, by any means of enforcement. These deficiencies must be remedied.

It is considered that the voluntary approach must be underpinned by regulation. This regulation needs to be strategic, co-ordinated, coherent, intelligent and confident. In particular, it must be:

- i) Broad enough in scope to cover all relevant environmental factors.
- ii) Integrated in coverage so that there are neither regulatory gaps nor contradictions in the way that the regime is applied.
- iii) Flexible enough to ensure that the regulatory system can be kept fully up to date as knowledge and technology advance.
- iv) Flexible enough to encourage and enable pre-emptive solutions in order to prevent problems arising.
- v) Positive in encouraging and rewarding good environmental practice as part of an overall commitment to raising standards.
- vi) Supported by enforcement mechanisms adequate to ensure compliance, so that the environmental objectives may be delivered.

The NGOs commend the principle of working to manage the processes of aquaculture in order to prevent problems, rather than relying on curative action once a problem has arisen. This should be achieved by national regulatory regimes that require all operators in the industry to adhere, at all times, to an officially approved set of codes of Environmental Best Practice covering all environmental aspects of aquaculture. This should be a condition of obtaining and retaining authorisation to operate. Mechanisms are needed to monitor the implementation of these codes, in order both to respond to any shortfalls by the operators, and so that remedial action may be enforced if problems persist despite satisfactory observance of a code.

Finally, the NGOs reiterate their firm opposition to any application of transgenic techniques to salmon aquaculture, and trust that NASCO will continue to maintain a firm stance on this matter.

4 June 2002

**19<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of NASCO**

**JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN THE SALMONID FISHERIES FORUM AND  
SCOTTISH QUALITY SALMON**

The Salmonid Fisheries Forum is a group comprising the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards, the Association of West Coast Fisheries Trusts, the Atlantic Salmon Trust, the Salmon & Trout Association (Scotland) and the Scottish Anglers' National Association. Scottish Quality Salmon is a salmon farming industry representative organisation.

The attached Joint Statement represents an agreement, reached between the Salmonid Fisheries Forum and Scottish Quality Salmon, on the effective regulation of aquaculture. It is attached for the information of delegates, in the context of the statement on Aquaculture submitted by the Salmonid Fisheries Forum to the NASCO Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J B D Read', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

J B D Read  
For the Salmonid Fisheries Forum