



Council

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NGO Statement

Joint Statement with Scottish Quality Salmon

Joint Statement between:

The Salmonid Fisheries Forum (Association of Salmon Fishery Boards, Association of West Coast Fisheries Trusts, Atlantic Salmon Trust, Salmon & Trout Association [Scotland], Scottish Anglers National Association,)

and

Scottish Quality Salmon

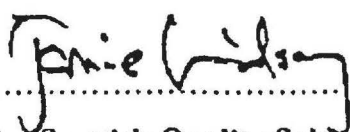
Achieving a more effective regulatory system is inevitably linked to the development of an aquaculture strategy for Scotland, so that objectives and priorities are set and delivered within an appropriate regulatory framework. As well as enforcing regulation, any review of regulatory systems should also consider how best to secure a long-term, sustainable future for the Industry.

An effective regulatory regime must 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 foregoing requirements should be met by a regulatory regime that requires the whole Industry to operate at all times in accordance with a set of Codes of Environmental Best Practice similar to those that are currently advocated by Scottish Quality Salmon. Mandatory implementation of such codes places the emphasis on measures that are pro-active and preventative rather than solely on those that are reactive and curative.

This would have the beneficial effect for the Industry of placing all its members on a level playing field in terms of the resources needed for compliance. Moreover, the Codes of Practice would be amenable to amendment, as and when appropriate in the light of scientific and technological development. Such a regime would represent a solid foundation on which the environmental sustainability of the Aquaculture Industry could then be built. We believe that the Scottish Executive must now deliver regulation of this kind as a keystone of its "Strategy for Aquaculture".


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For Scottish Quality Salmon


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For The Salmonid Fisheries Forum

Dated 18th April 2002