Wild Fisheries Reform
Stakeholder Reference Group
Remit of the Group

Background

1. The Scottish Government is committed to reforming the current wild fisheries management system with the aim of:
   • creating a modern management system for wild fisheries fit for purpose in the 21st century and capable of responding to our changing environment;
   • managing, conserving and developing 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; and
   • promoting evidence-based management of fisheries

The first stage of this process was the Wild Fisheries Review which reported in October 2014. The next stage is to develop the recommendations arising from the review into the detail of a new system. A Stakeholder Reference Group will inform detailed proposals for legislation arising from the forthcoming consultation on the broad policy principles on the reform of the management system.

Remit

2. To inform the process of reform including:
   • Advise the Scottish Government about the opportunities and challenges presented by the reform of wild fisheries management;
   • Inform the development of detailed legislative proposals from the consultation on the broad principles of the wild fisheries reform agenda;
   • Inform consideration of the potential impact (positive and negative) of proposals on operational practice;
   • Inform the development of a formal transition programme for fisheries management at a local level in due course.

How the group will work

3. The group will inform the development of the reform process and advise Ministers as to the detail, cost / benefits and impacts of policy and legislative proposals prior to detailed legislative drafting. All members of the group will work constructively to deliver an outcome which is in the best interests of wild fisheries management in its widest sense.

4. The working methods for the group will be as follows:
   • The organisations and individuals represented on the group will bring their expertise to inform the development of the proposals for reform;
   • Members will constructively challenge, and bring support, advice and guidance to the Scottish Government;
   • Members will communicate and consult with colleagues in their organisations prior to and following meetings of the group;
• Members should expect to receive and respond to reports on both the progress with the proposals and on the substance of those proposals;
• Notwithstanding the collective role of the Group, members will retain their right to hold independent views on the consultation, and the resulting Bill, or constituent parts of these. In addition to the work of this Group, organisations will wish to submit detailed views on any formal consultations in relation to the Bill.

Final decisions on the shape and content of the consultation and draft Bill will be a matter for Scottish Ministers. The group is not a decision-making body.

Governance

5. The group will operate as part of the arrangements for the Scottish Government’s project on Wild Fisheries Reform.

Membership

6. The group comprises the following organisations and individuals.

Willie Cowan (Chair) Scottish Government
Carole Barker-Munro Scottish Government
Alan Wells Scottish Government
Mark Bilsby Association of Salmon Fishery Boards
Jonathan Swift Association of Scottish Stillwater Fisheries
Simon McKelvey Institute of Fishery Management
Chris Hoorill Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland
George Pullar Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland
Craig Campbell Scottish Anglers National Association
Ron Woods Scottish Federation for Coarse Angling
Duncan Ferguson Scottish Gamekeepers Association

• The group will be chaired by Scottish Government
• Other officials from the Scottish Government will attend discussions on relevant policy areas
• Subject to the agenda, the core group may be supplemented by invited specialists, or specific subgroups may be created to consider specific issues.

Frequency of meetings and duration of the Stakeholder Reference Group

7. We envisage the group meeting as needed to inform the development of detailed proposals for legislation. We anticipate the group meeting prior to the consultation exercise on the broad principles of the reform agenda. It is anticipated that this consultation will take place in the spring, followed by consultation on draft legislation before the end of the current parliamentary session. Following the Scottish Parliamentary election in May 2016 we would anticipate that a Bill might be introduced to the Parliament early in the next parliamentary session, subject to the views of the incoming Government. Subject to a final decision from the
incoming Government, the group will remain in place until the Bill completes the Parliamentary process.

Publication of Minutes and Communications

8. The membership and remit of the Stakeholder Reference Group will be posted on the Wild Fisheries Reform website, as will all agenda and minutes from the group's meetings.