

AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES BILL CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

SECTION 4

SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

2 March 2012

On reading Section 4 and comments on its content, what powers it would give and who to, it is very transparent that it would give power to stop all stocking of coarse fish, enable the killing and eradication of all coarse fish. It would also give fishermen the right to kill these fish should they be caught. It is also claiming that there are no coarse fish with breeding populations above the River Tay but this is not so. I personally know this for a fact as I have seen the following species breeding – roach, rudd bream, carp, ide, tench, gudgeon, pike and perch. If required I can show where they are located.

Coarse fish should be protected and people who want to kill or eat them should be educated on how coarse angling is conducted in this country. To go forward in the way salmon and trout interests want to go, ie Section 4, would spell the end of coarse fishing in Scotland. It should be remembered that when legislation is put in words the threat of it being implemented is enormous and such legislation should not exist in a democratic society as it affects people's rights.

The social side of coarse fishing and the physical side are admirable. 80% of the time people fish from one place on the bank using a seat. For disabled, infirm by age and children it provides safer fishing with adults at hand and coarse fishermen are always delighted to teach children and adults how to fish. The code of using barbless hooks which do not rip the mouths of fish is at about 90% usage and the code of releasing all fish alive back into their environment is 100%. A great factor is that that is affordable to all walks of life.

Referring to Section 4, is the only form of fishing in Scotland going to be by people who have more money and are physically more able? People's rights again? - the arrogance being it's our sport, our country, not yours, is coming to the fore. I believe this comes from a hard core who have monetary interests, who in the past have over-harvested the resource of salmon and trout. There is also this idea that coarse fish do not belong in Scotland. So if that is the case should we get rid of them along with rainbows, brook trout and farm salmon and open all the salmon rivers to the general public at prices similar to that of coarse fishing, say £5 - £8 per day? I certainly would not like to see that happen. It would be abhorrent as it would be virtually impossible to operate and control as in Section 4.

No protection of coarse fish is wrong. Coarse fishing requires accessible lochs and ponds to be stocked and screens fitted where water is coming in or out. Fish have to be stocked in numbers needed for pleasure and match fishing, after all there are Scottish coarse team and International teams and the way to get into a team is to practise by fishing in waters that are well stocked. Salmon and trout interests know nothing or care about coarse fishing. They should **not** be given a free rein on something they largely do not want. There are some who are enlightened and have great knowledge of both types of fishing and are willing to listen.

In 2004 coarse fishing was responsible for 5% of £112 million of revenue in Scotland. Section 4 would virtually make any decision to start up a commercial coarse fishery a no go. In doing so it would deprive the country of a good revenue take away the fishing rights of disabled, children and people who do not have the financial means to fish for salmon and trout.

Never in my life did I think I would read such disheartening proposals in Scotland. It would appear that coarse fishing is simply not wanted. The body which wants to push this through should **not** have input on coarse fishing as Section 4 and other elements in the consultation could be used to end coarse fishing completely, destroying an abundance of fish as well as destroying a wonderful affordable hobby.
DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN!

FOOTNOTES

Marine Fisheries being able to decide what coarse fish to stock, if any, is strange to say the least?

In case anyone wishes to know, I have fished for 55 years for salmon, trout, coarse and also sea fishing so I do think I have an insight into fishing and the attitudes of different people within the sport. The most important part is that coarse fishing exists all over Scotland and should be nurtured for the people of Scotland who wish to partake.

In Elgin alone there is a community of around 20,000 eastern Europeans and they love coarse fishing and it would be a good social connection for all communities to interact.

I can say without fear that all commercial coarse fisheries and coarse clubs would hold free tuition for all that wished to learn.

