

Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill Consultation

I would like to respond to the following questions in the Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill consultation:

9. What in your view is the most appropriate approach to be taken to the collection and publication of sea-lice data?

I support full public access to fish farm sea-lice data. In order to fully assess strategies for the control of sea lice and gain a broader understanding of the impacts on wild fish, results of sea lice monitoring from individual farms should be made publicly available.

12. Do you agree that Scottish Ministers should have powers to require SEPA to reduce a biomass consent where it appears to them necessary and appropriate – for example to address concerns about fish health and welfare?

Yes, in order to address emerging concerns relating to the health and welfare of both farmed and wild fish, Scottish Ministers should be given a power to require SEPA to reduce biomass consents.

22. Do you agree that there should be additional powers for Scottish Ministers to take or require samples of fish from fish farms, for tracing purposes?

Yes. In order to improve accountability, Ministers should be given powers to take or require samples from fish farms, so that escaped fish can be traced back to the farm of origin.

26. Do you agree that Scottish Ministers should have powers to introduce a statutory system of carcass tagging for wild Atlantic salmon and sea trout?

Yes. Statutory carcass tagging and an offence for selling untagged fish would significantly reduce the market in illegally caught fish and help the conservation of salmon and sea trout.

Tony King