

## **Watt F (Fiona) (Marine)**

---

**From:** Eoina Rodgers <Eoina.Rodgers@snh.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 March 2014 11:32  
**To:** Watt F (Fiona) (Marine)  
**Cc:** Stewart Angus; Cathy Tilbrook; Liam Wright  
**Subject:** RE: Seaweed policy Statement consultation 2013 - Feedback

Dear Fiona,

### **DRAFT SEAWEED POLICY STATEMENT**

We recently submitted our response to the above consultation document. We wish to submit additional supporting evidence, in light of new information, within the context of Question 7 in the Draft Seaweed Policy Statement Response Form.

A series of posts from Twitter was passed to us by email on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014. These tweets indicated that a seaweed harvesting company was using Twitter in an attempt to recruit people to harvest directly, apparently without any prior training or guidance. Furthermore, particular locations within or close to coastal designated sites had been targeted, with retweets multiplying potential problems. We are concerned that uncontrolled situations such as this could lead to detrimental environmental effects (including effects on designated sites), and especially so if the harvesters employed are unacquainted with the issues surrounding the sustainability of seaweed harvesting.

This newly available information has increased our concerns with regard to the environmental effects and sustainability of a seaweed harvesting industry; we had hitherto believed that all harvesting, even picking, would involve some form of sustainability guidance on the part of the company involved. We feel that this recent development enhances our case for regulation of all commercial harvesting of marine algae. Our position on gathering remains unchanged.

Should you wish to discuss these comments in further detail, please contact me directly.

Yours faithfully,  
Eoina Rodgers

Marine Policy and Advice Officer  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
Great Glen House  
Leachkin Road  
INVERNESS  
IV3 8NW

Telephone : 01463 725 017  
Email: [Eoina.Rodgers@snh.gov.uk](mailto:Eoina.Rodgers@snh.gov.uk)