

## **Written submission from Association of Scottish Stillwater Fisheries**

A request for appraisal information concerning the Wild Fisheries Review by the  
Association of Scottish Stillwater Fisheries February, 2015

The Association of Scottish Stillwater Fisheries would like to make some views known on a number of points raised by the recent Wild Fisheries Review. We took part in the review process earlier last year and we understand that full consultation with the angling sector will be entered into in the coming year when proposals are outlined, however, we feel that by raising some points and questions now that we can help shape the overall Review outcomes.

### **Resourcing**

Earlier in the Review process we stated :

*“The question of resourcing obviously brought up the controversial subject of rod licensing for which we had obvious concerns - studies in the past have shown that it was probably uneconomic to administrate therefore the case for any proposed licensing would have to be proven first and foremost; any proposed introduction would have to show obvious benefits to the angling community for it to be accepted or else we could end up with a situation like Ireland where anglers went on strike - this must be avoided at all costs; benefits would have to be for all and especially include angling development and all socially inclusive groups on all types of fisheries including stocked stillwaters; policing concerns/issues were highlighted.”*

To this we would add that the economic case for any rod licence must be made using robust figures and budgets, however, none were presented to us in the Review. Will we see the relevant economic parameters of any proposed licensing system? Can those figures be supplied with a breakdown for each relevant part of the angling sector (eg coarse, trout, salmon, stillwaters, lochs, rivers, etc) so that we would be in the best possible position to analyse them and therefore make comment?

To this analysis we would also ask that figures for any proposed sporting rates, or similar, are again backed up with economic argument. Will these figures be made available?

We emphasise again the economic argument for the above proposals must be made based on the best possible information. We would also ask that any proposed National Angling Development “body” is fully costed and appraised so that the angling community would understand the potential benefits that it could bring. Will this be the case and will the relevant figures be presented for comment?

### **Policing**

We feel that any policing of a proposed rod licence should be made consistently across all angling sectors – to achieve this would mean having a national policing body similar to the situation down south with the Environment Agency. Again, will any future proposals show us the make up of such policing arrangements backed up by the relevant economic parameters?