Written submission from the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards

Please find below some comments on the National Marine Plan. We have discussed these with Marine Scotland, but wanted to bring these to the attention of the RACCE Committee. The comments primarily relate to Chapter 7 and 8.

Our response to the 2013 consultation can be viewed at: http://www.asfb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/ASFB-Marine-Plan-Consultation-Reponse-2013.pdf

There is inconsistency between the two chapters in relation to the potential impacts of aquaculture on wild salmonid fish. Section 7.18 makes reference to sea lice and escapes, whereas section 8.6 makes reference to sea lice, escapes **and disease**. The latter is correct and could easily be incorporated into section 7.18.

Section 8.7 Makes reference to the research being undertaken by Marine Scotland in relation to offshore wind and marine renewable energy. This section could also make reference to the National Research and Monitoring Strategy for Diadromous Fish (NRMSD) and link to this at: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marineenergy/Research/NatStrat. It would also be useful to make reference to this in Chapter 11 (which does not currently mention salmon, despite the clear reference in section 8.6).

Section 8.11 makes reference to climate change effects on salmonid fish, but only in relation to the freshwater phase of their lifecycle. However, given that this is a marine plan, it is strange that the document does not make reference to climate change effects in the marine phase of the lifecycle. Marine survival in salmon has decreased markedly in the last few decades and this has been attributed to changes in sea surface temperature and changes in food availability in the marine environment. I would suggest an additional sentence as highlighted in bold italics below:

- The effects of climate change on wild salmon and freshwater fisheries is largely unknown. However, research has shown that salmonids, and some other diadromous species such as eels, are vulnerable to changes in water temperature and river flows. Both factors are affected by a changing climate and may affect population distributions and the timing of migration and reproduction. ***In addition, there is a link between decreases in marine growth and survival in salmon and changes in oceanic climate.*** Smaller populations are likely to be less resilient to these changes. Adaptation in this sector can be facilitated by building and supporting healthy, robust marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems.