

Wild Fisheries Review

MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2014

Welcome to the first progress bulletin to be issued by the panel appointed by Paul Wheelhouse, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, to conduct an independent review of wild fisheries management in Scotland. Full details of the panel's remit and membership can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/wildfisheriesreview. Bulletins will be issued monthly, and if you would like to be put on the circulation list please send your email address to the contact point below. The panel will report to the Minister in early October.

The first meeting of the panel took place in Pitlochry on 17 March. Meetings will be held monthly, with members of the panel and associated Technical Advisory Group undertaking specific pieces of work in between times. A work programme has been agreed that will provide the review with a robust logical basis for its work –

- Stage 1, to be completed by April, will define clearly and succinctly the main outcomes that the panel considers should result from effective fisheries management in Scotland.
- Stage 2, to be completed by May, will define the key elements of an effective fisheries management system designed to ensure delivery of these outcomes.
- Stage 3, the main component of the review, will develop an integrated package of detailed recommendations as to what these key elements should look like in practice.

In their preliminary discussions, panel and advisory group members were at some pains to emphasise the importance of developing a collaborative review process, involving all the main stakeholder organisations and also significant input from individual fisheries managers working at a practical level on the ground. There is a high level of awareness that the panel's eventual recommendations must fulfil the remit and also be capable of practical implementation with a minimum level of disruption to ongoing management operations.

Meetings with stakeholder organisations have already commenced, and the panel chair has had useful initial discussions with leading figures from the Association of Salmon Fisheries Boards, Rivers and Fisheries Trusts for Scotland, Salmon Netting Association for Scotland, Scottish Federation of Coarse Angling, Scottish Anglers National Association, and the Atlantic Salmon Trust. Discussions with these and several other relevant organisations will continue throughout the period of the review in order to ensure effective collaboration between all interested parties.

The panel is also keen to solicit written contributions to the review from as wide a range of organisations and individuals as possible. To this end a formal call for written submissions will be issued in April, and this will include some indication of the areas where the panel would find input and advice particularly helpful. Over the summer the panel chair will also host a series of regional roundtable discussions with invited individuals, the purpose of which will be to ensure direct involvement in the review by practitioners working in fisheries management at a local level.

The next monthly progress bulletin will be issued in April. If you would like further information about the review, or if you would like to contact the panel chair, please email wildfisheriesreview@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or telephone Naeem Bhatti on 0131 244 7061 or write to Wild Fisheries Review, Area 1B North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.