



Defra
Chetal Moghraby
Area 2D, Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

1st February 2010

Dear Ruth,

Consultation on Net and Trap Licences and Authorisations

This response to the consultation on the 'Net and Trap Licences and Authorisations' on behalf of the Salmon and Trout Association.

The Salmon & Trout Association (S&TA), which was awarded charitable status due to our work concerning fish stock management and aquatic conservation, has over 80,000 individual and club members. We represent the public interest over issues relevant to the management and conservation of fish, water, the aquatic environment and all its dependent species.

We support the proposals in the consultation on how to implement the changes to the licensing system and the introduction of authorisations, and in particular, the continued use of licences for salmon and sea trout net fisheries.

We support the Atlantic Salmon Trust's concerns about the sustainability of net fisheries on rivers and of some mixed-stock fisheries, that constantly fail to meet their conservation limits. The Environment Agency must take action in these cases, first to reduce the number of licences, and if this fails, the Agency must enforce its power, on conservation grounds, to close the fisheries by byelaw. The Agency must also use its new powers to regulate historic installations, which have a right to be issued with licences.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Knight

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