

Our ref: T&FGS letter – 08-04-25

Your ref:

Date: 25 April 2008

Dear Sir or Madam

Policy development on stocking brown trout in England and Wales

Last year, we reviewed the evidence on the impact of stocking domesticated fertile brown trout on wild trout stocks and on the potential alternative use of sterile fish.

We consulted widely on this evidence and our proposals for change. Thank you again for your contribution to this.

Taking everything into consideration, we have now decided to stop giving consent to stock rivers and most lakes with fertile (diploid) farm strain brown trout in England and Wales from 2015.

From this date we will only permit fisheries to stock infertile (female triploid) brown trout or the progeny of local brood-stock reared under a suitable regime. This is because inter-breeding between farmed and wild brown trout is likely to lower the ability of the offspring to survive in the wild, and could have serious implications for the long term future of wild brown trout (and sea trout).

The only exception will be for stocking applications into totally enclosed waters with no significant natural brown trout production. Totally enclosed waters are still waters with no outlet or inlet or where there are adequate measures to stop the escape of brown trout. We will still grant consents for stocking diploid fish into these waters.

We want to work with fishery owners and the fish farm industry over the intervening years to make this transition. We have set targets to encourage a progressive switch to using infertile triploid trout from now until 2015. We want to see:

- 30 per cent less than present of farm strain fertile trout stocked into English and Welsh rivers by 2010;
- 50 per cent less by 2013; and
- full compliance by 2015

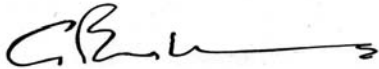
We are currently drawing up an implementation plan to help us achieve this and are

incorporating many suggestions made during the consultations into it. We will be pursuing further programs to improve the environment for trout and to implement the wider aims of our National Trout & Grayling Fisheries Strategy.

Many people sent us detailed submissions for which we are very grateful. We have addressed the main questions and concerns in our summary of the consultation, a copy of which I attach.

Thank you again for your help with this policy development.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Williams', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Godfrey Williams
Fisheries Policy & Process Manager

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