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River Eden & District Fisheries Association (Est 1949)

11th April 2018

G.Eustice MP
Fisheries Minister,
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA
ps.george.eustice@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Copy to Rory Stewart MP
rory@rorstewart.co.uk

Dear Minister,

Re: National Salmon byelaw proposals - REDFA request for an Inquiry

REDFA has been notified that you are expected to make a decision imminently on the regulation of exploitation of salmon by anglers.

We are advised that under schedule 26 of the Water Resources Act 1991, no byelaw shall have effect until confirmed by the Minister. The Minister may, with or without an inquiry refuse or confirm with or without modification the proposed byelaw.

Clearly, the proposed byelaws, are of national significance and we feel that we have credible evidence that challenges the scientific and factual basis relied upon by the E.A. for the byelaw.

These proposals are threatening the viability of many fisheries and the activities fisheries organisations, clubs and anglers undertake to protect and enhance fish stocks. The proposals will actually lead to greater threat and pressure on fish stocks.

These impacts to fish stocks, rod fisheries and related businesses have not been presented in the Environment Agency conservation case or taken into consideration in their justifications for introducing the mandatory proposals that will be applied to "At Risk" Rivers.

As Secretary of REDFA and Chairman of its regional consultative body NWATFCC – North West Angling Trust Fisheries Consultative Council I must inform you that all North West River fisheries representative bodies are fiercely opposed to these measures. As one of five national Angling Advisory Group representatives tasked with developing the national proposals in direct discussions with the EA and Angling Trust, mandatory measures are not what the Angling group or the Angling Trust recommended on completion of 18 months of consultations.

For these reasons, REDFA is formally asking that an Inquiry is held, subject to the EA recommending implementation of the proposed mandatory measures.

We ask that you carefully consider the recommendations made by NWATFCC through the Angling Trust letter to yourself on the 9th April 2018 (attached) and the Independent Statistician`s Evaluation Reports (attached), requesting suspension of the proposed 2018 measures, introduction of agreed interim measures whilst revised cross border (England & Wales) conservation measures and C & R targets are finalised.

The EA have acknowledged that internationally, common conservation principles and regulations have to be introduced in the foreseeable future to protect stocks.

The draft interim proposals and pausing of the proposed Consultation Bylaw measures gives all parties the opportunity to engage and frame a constructive partnership approach that will conserve and benefit fish stocks, fisheries and communities for the long term.

Would you please confirm by return that this communication and request has been received and actioned.

Yours faithfully

Mike Ashwin

*Secretary, REDFA River Eden & District Fisheries Association,
Chairman, NWATFCC North West Angling Trust Consultative Council*

Paul Davidson, Chairman REDFA & CAA

Adrian Brown, Vice Chair REDFA

*Attacheded: Angling Trust letter to E.A. Welsh Gov, NRW, Cefas & NASCO
Consultants Statisticians Evaluation Statement & Report*

The Secretary
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