

## IFM Involvement In Scottish Wild Fisheries Reform

IFM has been actively contributing to the Scottish Wild Fishery Reform process since the start of the Andrew Thin review in 2014. Throughout this time we have promoted the importance of evidence based and sustainable management for Scottish Fisheries. We have also promoted the importance of investing in staff development and training. Both of these themes are strongly reflected in the draft National Strategy and draft Wild Fishery Bill.

Scottish Branch has prepared a series of responses to the consultations associated with Wild Fishery Reform and these can be viewed on the IFM website. IFM Scottish Branch members have contributed to the Wild Fishery Reform process through the various committees we have been invited to attend. These include; technical advice to the Andrew Thin review, Wild Fishery Reform Stakeholder Reference Group, National Strategy Group, Association of Fisheries Boards / Rivers and Fisheries Trusts Scotland Joint Working Group, River Directors Group, IFM Training Committee, Bailiff Development Group and local consultation meetings. This has required a considerable voluntary contribution of time and effort by Scottish Branch members.

With help from Paul Coulson a start has been made on scoping the training and CPD needs for Scottish Fishery management, this will be taken forward in the next phase of the Wild Fishery Reform process and input from Scottish Branch members will be essential. A series of technical working groups are to be set up which will give branch members wider opportunities to contribute their experience. The current consultation on the provisions for the draft Wild Fisheries Bill and National Strategy is open until the 2nd of May and members may respond individually.