

## Wild Fisheries Review – 2014/15

In January 2014, the First Minister announced that a Wild Fisheries Review would be undertaken during 2014. The aims of the review were to:

- develop and promote a modern, evidence-based management system for wild fisheries fit for purpose in the 21st century, and capable of responding to the changing environment;
- manage, conserve and develop our wild fisheries to maximise the sustainable benefit of Scotland's wild fish resources to the country as a whole and particularly to rural areas

The Chair of the Wild Fisheries Review was Andrew Thin, the current chairman of Scottish Canals and former chair of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The Review panel also included Jane Hope and Michelle Francis, and was supported by a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) drawn from Marine Scotland Science, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and the Institute of Fisheries Management. The remit and scope can be viewed [here](#).

The [report](#) and recommendations of the Wild Fisheries Review Panel were published on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

The Scottish Government announced its [Programme for Government](#) on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014. It referred to the review and provided an indication of the timetable for the rest of the current Parliamentary session:

***“...The independent review reported in October 2014 and the Scottish Government will now consider its conclusions and recommendations. We will consult in Spring 2015 on broad policy options for a new fisheries management system, followed by a public consultation on a draft Wild Fisheries Bill before the end of the parliamentary session.”***

## Wild Fisheries Reform – February 2016

The review has now moved forward into a reform process, and Scottish Government are began consulting on a draft Wild Fisheries (Scotland) Bill and draft Strategy on 8 February 2016. This consultation can be viewed [HERE](#). IFM Scottish Branch has been closely involved in developing the new proposals and will be asking members to input to the consultation which closes on 2 May 2016.

Scottish Branch will be in touch with members to seek views on the draft bill and strategy. This will also be discussed at the Branch AGM on 29 March (Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries 18.45 – all members welcome).