

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform
and Islands
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Chùisean Dùthchail, Ath-
leasachadh Fearainn agus Eileanan
Mairi Gougeon MSP/BPA



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David Bunt
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Our Reference: 202300356896
Your Reference: Atlantic salmon becoming extinct

22 May 2023

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 4 May 2023 regarding the Institute of Fisheries Managements concerns on Atlantic salmon populations.

The Scottish Government takes the issue of Scotland's declining populations of Atlantic salmon very seriously and we are working with stakeholders to ensure the protection and recovery of this iconic species. Work to safeguard wild salmon is an example of our commitment to tackle the twin challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change.

The [Wild Salmon Strategy](#), published in January 2022, sets out our vision for flourishing populations of wild Atlantic salmon. As is outlined in the strategy, positive outcomes for wild Atlantic salmon in Scotland cannot be achieved by government acting alone. We worked closely with stakeholders to produce the accompanying [Implementation Plan](#) which was published in February 2023. Over sixty actions have been set out to be taken over the next five years, which will aid recovery of wild salmon populations. Implementing these actions will require input from government, business and charitable sectors such as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, NatureScot, and Scottish Forestry as well as District Salmon Fishery Boards and Trusts and other partners. The knowledge and expertise of various organisations has been and will continue to be invaluable as we collectively set about delivering the actions within the Implementation Plan.

In parallel with the actions we can take here in Scotland, we are committed to collaborating with our international partners through the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO), to identify and alleviate pressures affecting the survival of salmon at sea.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Institute of Fisheries Management for the training and support that you provide for Scotland's water bailiffs. Especially as water bailiffs are often the 'eyes and ears' on our riverbanks who, alongside their enforcement duties, often undertake a range of other activities to improve habitats and protect our aquatic environment.

I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON

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