

Minister Eamon Ryan T.D.
Minister for Communications, Climate Action
and Environment



By email:
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C/O P O Box 679
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Your ref: CCAE-MO-01110-2023

www.ifm.org.uk

14 September 2023

Dear Minister Ryan,

Action to prevent the Atlantic salmon becoming extinct in your waters

Thank you for your comprehensive response of 27 July in response to our letter of 4 May, asking what actions you will take to prevent the further loss and possible extinction of the iconic Atlantic salmon in your waters.

We note your intentions and your acknowledgement that practically all of the pressures are associated with human activities. However, many of your salmon recovery activities have been in place for some time, yet populations continue to decline. Furthermore, whilst many of the proposed actions might be the right ones, delivery is just too slow. We agree that part of this decline is due to decreased sea survival over which you have little immediate control. However, this does not account for all of the decline. Decreased survival is occurring in freshwater as a result of the continuing deterioration in the quality of many of our salmon rivers with little progress in sorting out agricultural and sewage pollution. There is growing public awareness and indeed outrage at the declining quality of rivers on these islands and the loss of an iconic species such as the salmon would represent the absolute failure of any government to tackle this important issue.

As per our previous letter, time is not on our side, and we could see the extinction of the salmon in some of our rivers within the next 20 years. So we cannot afford to proceed with business as usual and we are pleased to note that steps are being taken. We hope that your government will continue to fully support these initiatives and ensure that the necessary resources will be made available.

We will be monitoring progress with these and alongside scrutinising the manifestos of all political parties at the next election to see what priority is put on these important issues. The EU and Westminster Governments have set targets for environmental improvement by 2030. We note that Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) has been in development since October 2021. 2030 is not far away, so what happens in the next parliament is critical.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Bunt', written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Bunt
Chief Executive Officer
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