

RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

SALMON FARMING IN SCOTLAND

SUBMISSION FROM FLOW COUNTRY RIVERS TRUST

The Trustees of the Flow Country Rivers Trust are pleased to submit comments to the REC Committee in connection with the enquiry into Salmon Farming in Scotland.

As members of Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) we support the view that there should be a presumption against the development of fin-fish farming on the north and east coasts of Scotland so as to safeguard migratory fish species, particularly the endangered wild Atlantic salmon, which pass along these coasts in significant numbers.

We also support FMS's position that current regulations on fish farming do not adequately protect the wild Atlantic salmon towards whose protection the UK has significant international commitments.

As the REC Committee will know and will need to bear in mind, twelve rivers flow into the north and east coasts of Scotland that are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for Atlantic salmon or for which the Atlantic salmon is a qualifying feature in the designation. The migration routes for these fish are as yet largely unknown. Although some research has been completed, or is ongoing as part of more strategic research relating to offshore renewable energy installations, the risk of potential impacts on wild Atlantic salmon and sea trout populations from open pen sea cages appears high.

We thank the REC Committee for the opportunity to make these comments

Flow Country Rivers Trust
April 2018