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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

12 March 2018

ADDITION TO EVIDENCE TO RECC ON 7 MARCH
ref: Report for 7 March 2018, column 46

Dear Convenor

Towards the end of the evidence session on Wednesday 7 March, you asked the witnesses if we were convinced that that these targets could be met without detriment to the wider environment. Time being short, I gave a brief answer:

"Yes, they can be met, but there will need to be radical changes to the management and regulation of farming."

It might be helpful to the Committee if I expand on this. It seems to me that the expansion of Scottish salmon-farming could take place in two ways.

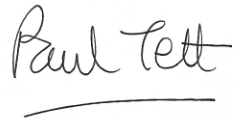
The first would be inshore, making greater use of Recirculating Aquacultural Systems and Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture to mitigate environmental impacts, under local authority planning, and with regulation under transpositions into Scots law of the Water Framework Directive. There could be an expanded role for the devolved Crown Estate and local communities in a strengthened form of Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

The second would be offshore, using more strongly engineered net-pens, perhaps in association with offshore wind-farms, guided by Marine Spatial Planning (still in its infancy in Scotland) and regulated by UK application (still in development) of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

In either case there will be challenges to overcome in relation to environmental constraints for salmon farming, and the management and regulation of the effects of salmon farming on the environment.

My suggestion is, therefore, that a task-force be set up to explore the economic, engineering, environmental, planning/regulatory and social implications of these options, with the aim of minimising risk of environmental harm while maximising economic and social benefits. The task-force, to work over several years, should represent the industry, government, natural and social science, and other stakeholders.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Tett". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Professor Paul Tett
Reader in Coastal Systems
Leader, Laurence Mee Centre for Society and the Sea