SUBMISSION FROM GALLOWAY STATIC GEAR FISHERMANS ASSOCIATION

TARGETS:

To achieve the 2020 renewable target the Scottish Government looks prepared to sacrifice small local communities who rely on Fishing and Tourism to exist, in, an already unstable Economy.

Scotland is a country of beauty with tourists flocking to the coast to experience the land and sea scapes, this will diminish with the continuous addition of Turbines on land and in the seas around our coasts.

It is already well known that Scotland has advanced the cleanliness of her air by removing the dependence of coal, the effect is that we no longer suffer the effect of smog and therefore we feel that we have made our contribution. It is also well known that cows give of enormous levels of CO2 emissions through their waste products and in addressing this as a priority the Government may be able to reach their targets without compromising peoples livelihoods and even make jobs for local people.

There is a suggestion that there are only 14% of the world who are actively interested in this proposal which minimises any effect we may sustain.

The proposed Outer Solway Wind Farm will cause financial hardship for many and bring many businesses to a close in an already highly unemployed area, which at the present boasts a very active fishing activity with Kirkcudbright ranking 6th in Scotland in landings out of the top 20 UK ports. 10th in the UK. This is based on landings of 7,400 tonnes of shellfish with a value of £4.4 million in 2010 with 79% Queen Scallops caught in UK waters and processed in South West Scotland. This is the tip of the iceberg with further landings being made by smaller shellfish boats into local harbours of lobster accounting for 10-15% of local catch.

Sea angling also provides a large tourist attraction with 79% charter fishing by visitors. The SSACN produced a paper which estimates that a revenue of £25 million per year is brought into the Solway.

Through increasing research into wind Turbines there is a growing concern about health aspects of living near wind Turbines.

The Waubra Foundation researching health effects from wind farms recommended until the recommended studies are completed, developers and planning authorities will be negligent if human health is damaged as a result of their proceeding, with, or allowing to proceed, further construction and approvals of turbines within 10km of homes…. To the risk of breaching a fundamental duty of care, thus attracting liability (Dr Sarah Laurie, Medical Director  http://www.waubrafoundation.com.au ).

The committee should take into account that the Scottish Government who before the last election were campaigning to be for the Scottish people are treading ever so heavily on the same peoples toes and are turning their green energy campaign into a blue anger campaign with the ballet box as the finish line.
Action is needed now to ensure that Scotland stays a democratic country. People are uniting and writing to their MSP’s, councilors and the media. The Scottish Government is aware that they are not taking people with them on this eco journey they do it at their peril.

CHALLENGES:

In a democratic society should the people of Scotland not have been approached and asked whether they wanted to pay through their electricity bills for a source of renewable energy which would ultimately be their destruction.

Public money pays for wind turbines:
Foreign companies are leased land and sea to develop these wind farms:
Foreign workers are brought in to work in the construction of these wind farms:

Money then goes to the foreign countries with crown estate getting leasing fees (offshore wind farms) and local land owners (land wind farms) benefiting, while the public have to pay with money, health and visually. Where is the positive feed back from this?

Wind turbines are paid for by the public through electricity bills and taxes, these turbines have to be switched off in certain circumstances i.e. high winds, no wind and national grid overload, with the government paying a higher rate for turbines that are off line.

How long can we (Scotland’s People) subsidise this?

The national grid is struggling already with the numbers of existing wind turbines how will it support the ever growing demand being on it by the Scottish Government’s 2020 deadline.

The government needs to address the needs of Scotland and to develop an industry to work for and develop a technology for Scotland with Scottish people and their welfare at heart.

PLANNING AND CONSENTS:

There are many instances locally where the council has refused a wind farm application only to have it overturned by the Scottish government on appeal. This cannot be right, local authorities must surely be able to draw up their own development plans and as an integral part, formulate guidelines for the sighting of wind farms within their respective areas.

NB. Galloway Static Gear Fisherman’s Association made a submission to Marine Scotland on the 25th September 2010 in commenting on their draft plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Scottish Territorial Waters.

The submission’s made then are particularly applicable to the current Call For Evidence.