Written submission from Mark Pattinson

At the risk of repeating my submission to the Wild Fishery Review, the following is also relevant to the Land Reform Bill.

Assuming that Salmon River angling is a vital element to the Scottish Economy, it is disastrous for the Scottish Economy that the recent Wild Fisheries Act and the Andrew Thin review have not proposed a solution to the continuing decline in salmon returning to Scottish waters. The result is that more and more anglers are supporting this wealthy industry, hobby, by taking their industry to overseas countries which have reversed the decline in salmon returning to their salmon rivers.

The Scottish problem is that the management of the Scottish rivers inadequately represents the actual stakeholders. These are those who contribute wealth to this rural industry---- the Time Share Owners,and syndicates. These anglers are so far geographically spread that it is essential for Government, assuming that the rivers should contribute more to the Scottish economy, to direct a strategy. This strategy should be after consultation with those who earn their livelihood from the rivers, the Ghillies , river maintenance staff and successful entrepreneurs in achieving market expansion. They are not the fishery biologists who place the importance of the salmon's genetic integrity before the anglers' support and the Economy. With so many owners of the same once famous salmon rivers, with different agendas, it is also difficult for central management to achieve a target of maximum value.

Salmon rivers are the most valuable rural geographical asset in Scotland. It is essential that Land Reform should include an agenda which in the future will assist in balancing the Scottish Economy.