Written submission from the Esk District Salmon Fishery Board

The Esk Board’s comments are limited to those sections of the Bill dealing with fisheries as there are no significant aquaculture developments within the Esk District

(i) Governance issues

We endorse the concepts of openness and good governance and therefore support the proposals incorporating:

- Codes of practice for good governance
- Public meetings and open Board Meetings
- Publishing Annual Reports and Accounts
- A formal complaints procedure

(ii) Monitoring and changes to orders

We would add that any decisions (orders) which might impact on the status of salmon stocks should be based on appropriate peer-reviewed scientific evidence. If such evidence is not available then the precautionary principle should apply. Monitoring requirements should be proportionate to the expertise and resources available to Boards and agreed in advance with Marine Science Scotland. As advisors to Ministers, Marine Science Scotland should support the task of monitoring with Boards. These points are consistent with evidence-based management which is strongly supported by the Esk Board.

(iii) Carcass tagging

We support the concept of carcass tagging for all salmon killed. A sequentially numbered system is essential to ensure full accountability.

(iv) Board funding;

Current inequalities in respect of the valuation of salmon fisheries should be addressed to ensure a more equitable funding regime for Boards. In particular, a system of assessment with a greater orientation towards catch would be fairer and ensure that those who take most fish contribute proportionately.