

PE2109/H: Halt any further pump storage hydro schemes on Scottish lochs holding wild Atlantic salmon

Edward Mounntain MSP written submission, 2 September 2025

I remind members of my entry in the register of members' interests, which shows that I own part of a wild salmon fishery. For clarity, I want to put on record that I managed fisheries on the Ness and Loch Ness until 2006.

Wild Atlantic salmon in Scotland are in serious decline, due to a combination of global warming and fish farming on the west coast. My view is that pump storage at Loch Ness has proven that there are real threats to the environment that have not yet been fully evaluated. The damage which could be caused to the eco-system could be immense. In freshwater lochs the pump storage hydro schemes will increase the temperature of the water that goes back into the loch. My view is that as a precaution, hydro pumped schemes should not be allowed unless it can be proved that the overall temperature of the loch and indeed the surface temperature does not increase, or affect migratory fish.