7 February 2018

Dear Graeme,

**Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Regulations**

You will recall that I wrote to you on 14 September 2017 when we launched our public consultation on the proposed gradings for salmon rivers for the 2018 fishing season.

The assessment for the 2018 season shows that, while many of Scotland’s large salmon rivers, where the majority of salmon are caught, are still in good conservation status, there is a significant downward trend in the conservation status of stocks overall. As a result, we have proposed that mandatory catch and release should apply to a higher number of rivers than was the case for 2017.

The public consultation took place between 15 September and 13 October 2017 and we received almost 200 representations from angling clubs, district salmon fishery boards, river trusts and individuals. While we have considered all of the points raised carefully, we believe that our overall assessment remains broadly correct.

I am therefore writing to let you know that I will be laying The Conservation Of Salmon (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2018 for Parliamentary scrutiny on Thursday 8 February 2018.

Yours

Roseanna Cunningham