Graeme Dey MSP  
Convener  
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

1 March 2018

Dear Graeme

The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2018

I understand that the committee will soon discuss the Scottish Government’s proposals for the provisions which will regulate the retention and killing of salmon in inland waters for the 2018 fishing season.

I write to highlight my concerns, and the concerns of my constituents, regarding the proposals to classify the Leven, Loch Lomond and Endrick waters as Grade 3 conservation status.

The Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Association (LLAIA) believes that the proposals will have a detrimental impact on club membership and any reduction in income will put local bailiffs and conservation projects at risk.

The main criticism of the proposal is the fact that the decision lacks an evidence base, the data is incomplete and the methodology is flawed.

There have been dry autumns over the past three years and the Endrick is a spate river, so it is not unusual that catch numbers are down compared to the five year catch average. Marine Scotland also confirmed that the only evidence used to determine the classification of the Lomond system was the catch data provided by LLAIA and that data from other riparian owners on the River Endrick was not considered. LLAIA only operates along 16km of water, yet the River Endrick is 49km long so the calculations are not based on the correct data.

I arranged a meeting with the Environment Secretary, officials from Marine Scotland and representatives of LLAIA in December 2017 to discuss the situation and secured an agreement that officials would locate the missing data and get back to LLAIA to inform them of the results by Christmas. Unfortunately the
LLAIA has not received any further information from Marine Scotland and the regulations have remained unchanged.

I would therefore respectfully ask the Committee to reject the proposed regulations to prevent the Leven, Loch Lomond and Endrick waters being classified as Category 3 without any evidence base to support such a classification.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Baillie MSP