

# PE2110/D: Protect wild wrasse stocks

## Petitioner written submission, 28 October 2024

The Cabinet Secretary mentions a paper called "*Assessing the implications of wrasse fishing for marine sites and features*", saying "there was [previously] no evidence that showed wrasse fishing have a significant impact on rocky reefs". That paper was commissioned by NatureScot and provided to them in 2020. It is unclear to us why that paper has not been acted on previously, not published, and not even sent to the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee. We believe that where the Cabinet Secretary's submission states "We are now in receipt of ..." implies the paper is new, rather than work the Scottish Government have failed to act on for four years.

With regard to the minor (helpful but inadequate) changes the Cabinet Secretary is discussing for wrasse fishery, we understand those changes have in fact been set out in a ruling against Scottish Ministers on this subject by Environmental Standards Scotland. In our view, Scottish Ministers are not being transparent about this key fact with the Committee. ([ruling in response to representation IESS.24.029](#), not from SIFT).

Members may also wish to note recent media coverage of this petition, including from The Herald<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Herald, October 2024, 'Ministers urged to act to protect 'keystone species' of inshore waters', <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24681565.ministers-urged-act-protect-keystone-species-inshore-waters/>