



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Finlay Carson
Convener
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee
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Dear Convener and Committee Members,

RURAL AFFAIRS & ISLANDS COMMITTEE

CONSERVATION OF SALMON (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENT) SCOTLAND REGULATIONS 2024

I am grateful that the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the above noted regulation to take evidence from the Cabinet Secretary.

I have worked with Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Association (LLAIA) for a number of years and many of their members live in Dumbarton constituency.

Essentially the concern that they raised with me is that the regulation which downgrades the Conservation Category for 2025 from Moderate to Poor is based on incomplete and flawed data for the Endrick Water SAC.

I contacted the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands in November and December 2024 and LLAIA have been in discussion with the Marine Directorate over a number of months with little progress.

The paucity of data first arose in 2017 when similar regulations were proposed. LLAIA has worked with the Scottish Government to provide information since then, but regrettably the data remains incomplete.

They have continuing concerns that catch data is not being submitted by other riparian owners or their tenants to the Marine Directorate, which appears to be supported by FOIs submitted; and, that where nil catches were declared, water bailiffs have both seen and recorded catches on other stretches of the Endrick, not owned by LLAIA.

The Endrick Water SAC Category impacts all the other water courses in the Loch Lomond catchment which, when measured in their own right, would be Moderate for 2025, but would be downgraded to poor because of the status proposed for the Endrick Water SAC in this regulation.

I am happy to elaborate on these points at committee but hope that members recognise that downgrading the category of the Endrick Water SAC is not based on sufficient evidence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackie Baillie', written in a cursive style.

Jackie Baillie MSP

Dumbarton Constituency