



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01558

Name of petitioner

John Thom on behalf of RNBCC Crayfish Committee, Ken Dee Catchment

Petition title

American Signal Crayfish

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to amend the existing licencing regime to allow for the commercial trapping of American Signal Crayfish in Scotland.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

Licencing applications have been submitted to Marine Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage with the support of two local MSPs and Dumfries and Galloway Council, including Community Councils in the Ken Dee Catchment Area.

Over the last 15 years, meetings have been held with Scottish National Heritage, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Marine Scotland, Galloway Fisheries and Ministers for the Environment.

Petition background information

At the moment, trapping of this invasive species is only allowed under a scientific licence. The agencies mentioned above are all in agreement that trapping is the only way of dealing with this invasive species. This view is also supported by the scientific research that has been carried out.

Over the last 20 years, the population of this invasive species has grown out of control causing many on-going problems. The costs in carrying out a large trapping and control are prohibitively high for the said agency to commit to funding it. At the moment, the cost to Dumfries and Galloway is in the region of £1.2m per year in lost revenue and 130 jobs.

Other costs include the destruction of salmon, sea trout and brown trout spawning beds, the loss of river walks, farm land, dragonfly's nesting areas, wild fowl and the complete destruction of the marine biosphere in the affected areas.

At the last survey carried out, the contaminated area has increased from 35 square km to 87 square km and will eventually cover the whole of Scotland's inland waters if left unchecked.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/americansignalcrayfish>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

1

Closing date for collecting signatures online

19 / 02 / 2015

Comments to stimulate online discussion