

PE1558/B

Petitioner Email of 17 February 2015

Whilst we do agree with SNH and SEPA that commercial crayfish farmers are not in any way going to control the spread of crayfish.

This is not the reason we require the change in the law.

The reason is that with such a large trapping programme required it is cost prohibitive for SNH or SEPA to carry out such a programme. This we do agree on. And safeguards will have to be written in to the license on how the trapping would be carried out.

Bringing in a commercial company to carry out the trapping will then allow a large scale scientific study to be carried out. No company will do this for nothing with such a large investment required.

Working with SNH and SEPA and removing all crayfish from the waters will reduce the numbers and reduce the spread by natural migration.

As It stands at the moment the illegal trapping and the non-existence of control of boats canoes or decontamination protocols it is just exacerbating the situation.

The trapping report on Loch Ken carried out for the Scottish Government and Dumfries and Galloway council by Galloway fisheries trust recommended that a trapping program be started for 3 years but was turned down by SNH as not being economically viable.

The reports from Lake Tahoe by Dr Sudeep Chandra, for the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, N R C research in to the consequences of long -term invasive crayfish control demonstrates that trapping all crayfish can reduce the numbers by as much as 90 percent over an 8 year period,

River Lark / West Stow Country Park / Chimney Mill And Hengrave Lock Reports in to crayfish and the damage they do, 2002

Richard West report 2010 showed that taking out the large crayfish did induce the younger crayfish to breed earlier, and in doing so the eggs were infertile. More research required in to this.

All these reports recommend trapping, the costing numbers may be larger than the figures given. In the Ken Dee Catchment as we are still waiting on the sum figures

from the fire brigade, Tesco insurance and Dumfries and Galloway council for their costings on flood damage and repairs.

Yours,

Mr John thom
Chair
RNBCC Ken Dee Catchment