

## **PE1558/D**

Petitioner Email of 12 April 2015

From RNBCC Ken Dee Catchment

This is the reply to the environment ministers submission to the appeals committee,

### **Risk**

Signal Crayfish can live out of water in damp / wet conditions indefinitely and travel up to 400 yards in two days. The risks involved in a Commercial trapping joint Scientific non-profit trapping in Loch Ken Catchment are minimal with 89 % of the waterways already infested with Crayfish at a density of 9.5 per SQ yard in parts, Under a non-profit enterprises removes the monetary incentive for deliberate spreading, by poaching or accidental spread by watercraft By dramatically reducing their numbers, For to do nothing is exacerbating the misbelief that it is some sort of control ,Where in fact it is just bad environmental.

Recommendation by Galloway fisheries trust 2009

A large trapping program was recommended to be started after the tests to see which traps were the most efficient on Loch Ken, this program lasted for 5 months. This was discarded by Scottish Natural Heritage as being not economically viable

### **Viability**

Business plans were presented to Marine Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage. These were all discarded as they put a value on trapping the Crayfish.

And was politely informed that the only way a license to trap the Crayfish for non-profit covering costs was to get the law changed .The Committee still have all the Telephone recordings and paperwork For Training Purposes

### **Longevity of Trapping**

No consideration is required in this as the point is the removal of as many Crayfish as quickly possible down to 10 mil. It is estimated this will take approximately 10 years to achieve over the 87 Square miles of rivers and lochs. This was in 2006 by independent advisers in crayfish trapping. It is now over 179 square miles requires trapping.

### **Environmental Benefits**

Thus allowing the natural predators to feed on the smaller ones, and by removing the breeding adult over a ten year period has shown that this had a dramatic effect on improving the natural balance back to the river as well as reducing the natural migration caused by reduction in food availability to support the increase in numbers. In having eaten all the Newt Frog Toad spawn Dragonfly eggs read beds for nesting waterfowl and fish eggs causing these species to be no longer present in parts.

Richard West Report 2001 / 2011 River Lark  
INNSA Controlling Crayfish on the River Derwent  
Lake Tahoe Nevada EPA

### Jobs/Education

This being a non-profit self-funding endeavour saves the Scottish Government expenditure. Allows students practical experience in a working environment in freshwater conservation and will create up to ten full time jobs for 12 months per year and another 20 to 30 jobs for 8 months of the year. This does not include the number of jobs generated in the tourist industry with the improvement in fishing or the jobs in the processing factories

### Economic Downturn

The down turn in the leisure fishing in the Loch Ken Dee Catchment started back in 2000 before the economic downturn as the numerous meetings with Marine Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency from the meetings held in 2001-2002 up until now and the numerous reports on the loss of job and the Social Welfare problems, that go with lack of employment environmental damage this was inducing. Thereafter by our MSPs, hotel owners, fishing clubs and now the farmers with the failure of flood defences flooding fields damaging crops. Closure of roads with lost days of employment

### Dalbeattie Reservoir

This was reported 3 years ago yet nothing has been done about it still looking at it which has allowed them to migrate out of the reservoir in to the river.

The check clean dry campaign that they have proposed will not work in its present form. This is due to the fact that canoes boats and other small watercraft in the Ken Dee Catchment have no facilities to carry out such a task at the end of the day no one is there to enforce it and a 16 inch by 20 inch sign every 8 miles is not going to inform the public. The agencies were informed of this at a meeting in the Cat Strand.

Present at that meeting were:

Mr A Fergusson MSP, Mr P Wheelhouse MSP, Councillor B Collins, Councillor J Prentis, Councillor F Carson, Community Councillor Mr J Thom, Mrs A Ingalls Dee Fishery Board, Mr G Gordon Kenmuir Fisheries, Mr J Munk, Loch Ken Management, Coarse Fishing Association Scotland, Dalbeattie Fishing Club

## Summary

If the law is not changed to allow non-profit commercial trapping the destruction of the marine environment of the rest of Scotland is going to be destroyed by this invader with a large economic impact on the future of Scotland's rural economies.

Yours,

Mr John Thom  
Chairperson  
RNbcc Ken Dee Catchment