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Dear [REDACTED]

Fisheries Management Scotland is the representative body for Scotland's District Salmon Fishery Boards, the River Tweed Commission and Rivers and Fisheries Trusts. Collectively, our members are the local managers of native fish and fisheries in Scotland. Fisheries Management Scotland, in partnership with our members, Marine Scotland, University of Glasgow and the Atlantic Salmon Trust are proposing to conduct a fish tracking project to inform management of stocks of Atlantic salmon on a local and national basis.

The work will be undertaken by inserting an acoustic tag (VEMCO V7) into young salmon and subsequently detecting them in freshwater and marine arrays of listening devices. On behalf of the project partnership I am writing to clarify the position with regards to the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (the 1986 Act). It is our view that this work will fall outside the scope of the Act, as set out below. However, we want to ensure that we are operating correctly as the work involves the surgical implantation of an acoustic tag into the abdominal cavity of the fish.

The purpose of the project is to understand salmon smolt migration patterns as they leave their natal rivers and migrate to sea. At a local level this is to inform planning responses to coastal developments such as marine finfish farms and renewable energy installations. District Salmon Fishery Boards and Fisheries Trusts play a key role in the planning process for finfish aquaculture and marine renewables. Information on the migratory pathways of Atlantic salmon, in relation to new and existing developments is a vital element of informing this input. The results of this project will be used by DSFBs and Fisheries Trusts to inform their assessments of the suitability of specific locations for such developments, and hence there is a distinct local management end-point that will result from the work. Marine Scotland will also benefit ultimately from the work through building a progressive picture of salmon migration to inform development of policy.

All staff involved in the project will be required to undergo extensive training in advance of the project starting. The training programme will be developed and delivered by Marine Scotland and University of Glasgow in early 2020 to ensure that all personnel involved in the tagging procedure are trained to a

standard in excess of that required by the 1986 Act. Each member of staff will subsequently be required to demonstrate post-training competence to Marine Scotland and University of Glasgow.

To ensure that standards are maintained Fisheries Management Scotland will, through the partnership, ensure that two members of suitably qualified staff are engaged to co-ordinate and review the tagging practices of the District Salmon Fishery Boards and Fishery Trusts on a weekly basis throughout the tagging period.

I would welcome your views on the interpretation set out above and in particular, confirmation as to the status of this project in relation to the 1986 Act. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Wells". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Alan Wells
Chief Executive