

By email to [REDACTED] [sift-uk.org](mailto:[REDACTED]@sift-uk.org)

[REDACTED]
Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust
5 Rose Street
Edinburgh
EH2 2PR

19th December 2019

Dear [REDACTED],

It was good to meet you and [REDACTED] last month and thank you for taking the time to meet us to discuss our mutual interest in a sustainable wrasse fishery in Scotland. It was good to hear that you wish, like us, to help supports stocks and the environment as well as ensure a thriving wrasse fishing sector.

I thought I might be helpful to set out the areas of mutual interest we agreed on so we can take them forward together.

Firstly, on data gathering and publication, we discussed our aim to publish the first year's data arising from the Voluntary agreement which we have collated and have now analysed. I am pleased to say that we published the information yesterday and it is available on our website, though I attach a summary of it for ease of reference.

We hope that you find the data helpful, though as we discussed, it is simply a snapshot of the fish caught in 2018 by wrasse fishermen supplying the salmon farming sector and is only part of the many data sets that could usefully be joined up to help understand the Scottish wrasse fishery. Currently, given that our members require wrasse fishermen to return small and oversize wrasse caught, and anecdotal evidence from those fishermen is that the fishery shows good signs of health, we remain assured that as with other fisheries without detailed stock assessments such as lobster and razor clams, the signs are that fishing these stocks can continue to be sustainable.

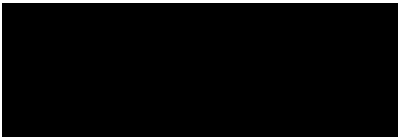
The information you are collating with the support of Glasgow University, off Arran, is another part of the data jigsaw that will help our understanding and contribute to the fuller picture of the stock assessment. Thank you for your commitment to reciprocate and share the outcomes of that study with us. We share your frustration that it simply takes time, though once the raw information is available, the analysis can be managed more quickly and do let us know if there is any assistance we can offer you to ensure that the analysis is robust and timely.

We agreed when we met that it would be helpful, once our data is published and you have offered a timeline for your own data to be available, that we should meet with the Scottish Government to work collaboratively to identify some ideas for demonstrating the health of the Scottish wrasse fishery, identifying good practice for its management and consider potential projects or work to take discussions and practice forward.

I am copying this letter to [REDACTED] Stock & Fishery Science Group Leader in Marine Scotland and [REDACTED], Head of Sea Fisheries Policy for awareness and in order that we might arrange for a meeting in the new year to take our discussions forward together with them.

Our Executive Assistant Suzanne Smith will be in touch after the Christmas break to seek a mutually convenient date.

With best wishes,



Julie Hesketh-Laird
Chief Executive

Cc:

[REDACTED] [@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)
[REDACTED] [scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED].scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Summary Table of 2018 Wild Caught Wrasse Data

Species	Undersize	Target	Oversize	Total
<i>Ballan</i>	1130	3187	573	4890
%	23.11	65.17	11.72	
<i>Corkwing</i>	2458	2306	380	5144
%	47.78	44.83	7.39	
<i>Cuckoo</i>	1107	1315	436	2858
%	38.73	46.01	15.26	
<i>Goldsinney</i>	5801	4759	104	10664
%	54.40	44.63	0.97	
<i>Rock Cook</i>	4290	2684	34	7008
%	61.21	38.30	0.49	
<i>All</i>	14786	14251	1527	30564
%	48.38	46.63	4.99	