



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Mr Angus Collingwood-Cameron
Northern Farmers & Landowners Group
Old School
Glanton
Alnwick
Northumberland
NE66 4BA

Our ref: PO357373/MW

30th September 2014

From George Eustice MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Farming, Food and Marine Environment

Dear Mr Collingwood-Cameron

Thank you for your letter of 1 September about Atlantic salmon and the management of commercial and recreational salmon fishing.

In England, our aim is to manage our salmon stocks sustainably with an objective of meeting defined management targets for each individual stock, and in so doing to strike a balance between the management of recreational and commercial fishing, acknowledging the social and economic importance of both.

It is very promising that anglers are releasing more and more of the salmon that they catch. This is an important step contributing to the conservation of salmon stocks. I would like to both thank them and continue to encourage them to continue to practice 'catch and release'. This enables the social and economic benefits of the fishery to be realised whilst ensuring that as many salmon as possible reach their upstream spawning grounds. It was in this vein that the Environment Agency recently wrote to salmon and sea trout rod licence holders across the country asking them to play their part.

Catch and release would of course not be practicable in commercial fisheries given that fishermen need to retain their catch to sell. However, they too must play their part in salmon conservation. Effectively managing such fisheries is very important and a number of steps have been put in place for the North East coast net fishery that you mention.

