

Press release by e-mail from: John F. Robins, Campaigns Consultant, Animal Concern, Post Office Box 5178, Dumbarton G82 5YJ. Tel: 01389-841-111, Mobile: 07721-605521. Animal Concern incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which has been Campaigning for animals since 1876
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The Scottish Government has been asked to remove someone convicted of wildlife crime from a group established to advise the Government on wildlife conservation. Mr. George Pullar is a Director of Usan Salmon Fisheries Limited. Last month he admitted nine breaches of salmon conservation legislation. Yesterday Usan was fined £7,000 for these serious crimes against wildlife conservation law. Mr. Pullar is one of nine people chosen by the Government to be part of the Stakeholder Reference Group established to advise Ministers on proposals for new legislation to manage and protect wild fisheries in Scotland. Not one conservationist was chosen to participate in this advisory group. Government Environment Minister Dr. Aileen McLeod has also been asked to immediately revoke the licences which allow Usan to kill seals near their many salmon netting stations.

John Robins of Animal Concern said; "It is ludicrous that the Government is taking advice on wildlife conservation from convicted wildlife criminals. There's not one person or organisation dedicated to conservation or animal welfare on this advisory group. Does the Scottish Government prefer taking advice from wildlife criminals rather than wildlife conservationists? George Pullar must be removed from this Stakeholder Group immediately and replaced by someone whose remit is wildlife protection. At the same time Usan should lose their Government permission to shoot seals at their many salmon netting stations.

EDITORS NOTES: Details of the wild fisheries reform advisory group can be found here:

[Wild Fisheries Stakeholder Reference Group](#)

A copy of our e-mail to Dr. Aileen McLeod MSP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform is copied below.

Dr. Aileen McLeod MSP,
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform,
St Andrew's House,
Regent Road,
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Minister,

I write concerning Usan Salmon Fisheries Ltd. which trades as The Scottish Wild Salmon Company. Last month at Forfar Sheriff Court Usan Director Mr George Pullar admitted 9 breaches of salmon conservation legislation. Yesterday Usan was fined £7,000 for these serious crimes against wildlife conservation law.

Mr. George Pullar is a member of the Stakeholder Reference Group established to advise you on the detailed proposals for new legislation on wild fisheries in Scotland arising from the Wild Fisheries Reform consultation.

Nine organisations were chosen by the Scottish Government to form this Stakeholder Reference Group. Regretfully and astonishingly not one of those nine organisations has fish conservation, fish welfare or wildlife protection as their main remit.

I ask you to immediately remove Mr. George Pullar from the Stakeholder Reference Group and replace him with someone whose main concern is fish conservation, fish welfare and wildlife protection.

Failure to do this would indicate that the Scottish Government prefers to take advice from wildlife criminals rather than conservationists and animal welfarists. Are people who commit wildlife crimes really the type of people who should be advising the Scottish Government on wildlife conservation legislation?

Now that Usan Salmon Fisheries Limited has been convicted and sentenced on numerous counts of wildlife crime I also request that you immediately rescind all seal shooting licences issued to USAN and/or Directors and employees of the Company.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,
Animal Concern