Insert Address XXXXXXXX,

XXXXXXXX,

XXXXXX,

XXXXXX.

**Keith Main/Tom Hogg**

**Marine Scotland**

**Salmon and Recreational Fisheries Team**

**Area 1B North**

**Victoria Quay**

**Edinburgh**

**EH6 6QQ**

 **(Insert Date) 2017**

**Re – Objection to Conservation of salmon – Assessment for the 2018 fishing season**

Dear Sir,

With regards the above proposals I write to you in the strongest terms to object to the assessment for the River Leven (Dunbartonshire), Loch Lomond and River Endrick SAC.

My main point of objection is the River Leven and Loch Lomond having the actual category they would meet being lowered simply because of the R Endrick SAC which you have estimated should be a Cat 3.

Using catch data from anglers and wetted area guestimates is not what I consider a scientific arm of the Scottish Government to stand behind. I have the utmost respect for the Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Association that has managed the vast majority of the fishery for over 100 years and I would suggest they would also object to this crazy decision.

Salmon are wild species, affected by many unknown factors both in river and in the marine environment something which I see is not part of your “Calculations” nor does it look like the LLAIA have been asked for very specific data on the Lomond system as there must be many small burns and tributaries that fish populations are not known for. I’m not a particular great angler, I enjoy being out on the river to enjoy the scenery, meet fellow anglers and keep active in my retirement, I like many anglers I see put back my fish if Im lucky to get one, but if I wish to take one during the limited months the LLAIA allow me to do so I can, especially if the fish has been damaged by a predator such as a seal or otter. For the Government to take this away from me seems unjustified as although I don’t catch much, I see lots of fish when I’m out fishing particularly on the R Leven, I don’t fish the Endrick as it’s a spate river.

I don’t get out much so my angler pressure on the system is low, so how can rod catches be a critical factor in your calculation as I don’t see how you “measure” angling pressure?

Also the LLAIA have for many years introduced their own conservation rules, and after last year when again you attempted to make us a Cat 3 system which the LLAIA fought and overturned, the LLAIA introduced further stricter conservation methods for season 2017.

Please include this letter as my objection to your plans for the River Leven (Dunbartonshire), Loch Lomond and River Endrick SAC.

Yours Sincerely

(Insert Name!!XXXXXXXX)