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.

I only fish the River Leven and have a season permit from the LLAIA, yet looking at your proposals for 2018 the R Leven would be at least a Cat 2 but some river the Endrick SAC which I don’t fish affects my own fishing.

I believe this is all about conservation of Atlantic Salmon, yet I haven’t seen any of your scientists or those from SNH down at the R Leven looking at the increasing number of seals that now are almost year round present in the lower reaches of the Leven, in fact they do enter Loch Lomond, so how many fish do they take? What about poaching? The water bailiffs have a tough job given the area they have to patrol, but I don’t believe the authorities give them any extra funding or staff to assist in these prevention activities. The LLAIA do their very best from what I see within their control.

The amount of sawbill birds are getting more and more, yet when talking to the water Bailiffs they indicate the Scottish Government would never give them a licence to cull to appropriate number these birds, yet these birds gobble up parr in the R Leven but also have a frenzy when the smolts descend into the estuary. I’m afraid these sawbills don’t know one smolt from another so they don’t just eat smolts they will eat Endrick SAC smolts as well.

I have fished the Leven for many years and some years are good some bad, that’s fishing, plus weather and water flows affect things so how can you just have a single calculation for a tributary river that affects my River Leven, the whole system should be classed together.

I think anglers not only on the R Leven but across all rivers in Scotland are a easy target for Scottish Government to tick a box to satisfy European legislation, but I don’t see any other conservation or fishery improvement measures taken by government agencies.

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)