

Help to Save Livebaiting in Scotland

The Scottish Executive is currently in the middle of a Freshwater Fisheries Review, this is being done by the Environment and Rural Affairs Department (ERAD). They expect a bill to be passed in late 2006 or 2007 and there are a number of issues in the review that will affect us as pike anglers.

The most important of these issues is the right to use live fish as bait, at a fisheries forum near Perth earlier this year 87 out of 105 delegates voted in favour of a total ban on livebaiting. Although this vote is not binding it points the steering group in a direction we don't want the new laws to go.

There was a presentation by Prof. Peter Maitland which could have been written by PETA or some other anti-angling group, claiming that fish hooked as livebait "thrash around in agony". This statement was not based on any of the recognised scientific fact on fish not feeling pain by the likes of Prof James D. Rose.

There is a need to control fish movements to prevent non-native species being introduced to waters and some form of law will be introduced similar to the section 30's in England and Wales. If fish movement laws are followed and anglers are allowed catch livebaits from the water being fished then there is no valid reason for livebaiting to be banned.

There are some good points up for discussion for inclusion in the new bill, those affecting pike angling are as follows:

- Fish may only be removed using rod and line.
- Pike gags, gaffs and knotted nets should be banned.
- While Coarse fishing the use of 2 rods is permitted on each angling permit, the use of 4 rods permitted if a second permit is purchased.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR YOU TO REGISTER YOUR OPINION

All you have to do is add your name and address to the enclosed letter, sign it and post it to Mr. Dunkley at the address on the letter.

If you don't use livebait and think this has nothing to do with you, then remember what happened in the Lake District. By the time the new laws were put in place they had also banned dead freshwater baits as well.

If you live in England or Wales and don't go pike fishing in Scotland, bare in mind that a total ban on livebaiting in Scotland would be another step to a ban in England and Wales. There is a Freshwater Fisheries Review due in England and Wales and the new laws in Scotland will be taken into account, as they want all angling laws in the whole of Great Britain to be the same.

It is important that you make your opinion known.



**YOUR OPINION DOES COUNT
COMPLETE THE LETTER AND POST IT TODAY!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date: _____



Mr. David Dunkley

Scottish Executive Freshwater Fisheries Forum
Environment and Rural Affairs Department
Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh
EH14 1TY

Re: Proposed legislation on the use of live fish as bait

Dear Mr. Dunkley,

I am writing to you to inform you of my support for the above method of angling for predators, as this is the most natural method. This method should not be lost to predator anglers as it is a very important and legitimate method whether fishing for pike, perch, eels, brown trout or ferox trout. All of these species hunt live prey and at times will not be caught on any other bait or method.

I was concerned at the tone of the speech of the first speaker on the use of live fish as bait at the fisheries forum near Perth on the 4th of February this year. All respected research has proven that fish do not feel pain, so a live fish used as bait would not in his words "be thrashing around in agony". That sort of statement is inflammatory and is regularly seized on by anti-anglers and used in their efforts to have all angling banned.

I appreciate the need to prevent none native species being introduced into waters and fully support the controls on fish movements proposed in the fishery review. If these new fish movement rules are policed effectively and the Pike Anglers Club of Great Britain's "Livebaiting recommended code of conduct" is followed then there is no need to ban the use of live fish as bait. Anglers can catch their baits from the water they are fishing or fishery owners can supply health checked baits for anglers to purchase as required.

Other aspects of the review I support are:

- Fish may only be removed using rod and line.
- Pike gags, gaffs and knotted nets should be banned
- While coarse fishing the use of 2 rods is permitted on each angling license, the use of 4 rods permitted if a second license is purchased.

Yours Sincerely
