

Item 12 - Question Time

To the Leader of the Council

“2019 is the focal year of the International Year of the Salmon with research and outreach continuing until 2022

Environmental change and human impacts across the Northern Hemisphere are placing Salmon at risk. The International Year of the Salmon aims to bring people together to share and develop knowledge more effectively, raise awareness and take action.

The Scottish component of IYS 19 was launched by the Scottish Government in October 2018, and the Scottish Government has committed to working with partners, to create a greater awareness of the ecological, social, cultural and economic value of salmon

Atlantic Salmon populations across their range are in a serious and consistent decline, yet this important and fascinating species has a relationship with humankind stretching back into prehistory.

The importance of Wild Atlantic Salmon to the Highlands is undisputed. However, phenomena such as climate change, acid rain, predation at sea, disease and sea lice infestation as a result of commercial salmon farming have taken their toll.

Measures such as restocking and catch limits have been put in place locally, nationally and globally, but with little or no effect. In short, the sustainability of Wild Atlantic Salmon is at a critical point.

The Wild Atlantic Salmon has a strong association with Scotland and in particular with the Highlands. The species is embedded and vitally important to both our culture and fiscal economy, but time is running out fast.

Will you recognise that this is a very serious issue and agree for Highland Council to call for, and organise, a Highland Seminar to include stakeholders and partners from Governmental, Education, Conservation and Angling interests as a matter of urgency?”

Response to Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair

The Council will work with local partners including the UHI's Institute of Rivers and Lochs to organise such an event.