

## **FOOD SAFETY – “FROM SEA TO PLATE”**

Ian Hudghton MEP, the SNP’s European Fisheries and Aquaculture spokesperson, is meeting representatives of Scottish Quality Salmon in Perth tomorrow (Friday 22 November 2002). Among the items on the agenda, Mr Hudghton is inviting Scottish Quality Salmon to comment on the draft of an EU Fisheries Committee report on food safety, for which he is rapporteur. Speaking in advance of the Perth meeting, Mr Hudghton said:

“My report forms the Fisheries Committee’s response to a wide-ranging Commission White Paper on food safety – an issue of ever increasing importance to consumers across Europe. The proposals emphasise the need to create a risk-based and integrated approach to food safety. In the case of fisheries this means a “sea to plate” approach where, at each and every stage, consumer safety is given paramount importance.

“Scottish Quality Salmon have a proven track record of linking high standards of food safety to the marketing of high quality and healthy food through its own quality assurance scheme. Given the importance of the aquaculture industry to so many of Scotland’s coastal and island communities, this serves as a successful model on which future quality assurance schemes can be built.

“In the European Parliament we recognise that Fisheries and Aquaculture do, however, present distinctive challenges when it comes to food safety and that measures applicable to farm-reared animals are not always appropriate to food harvested from the sea. It is only right therefore that we treat this sector separately in the European Parliament. I welcome the opportunity to discuss the impact of these proposals with Scottish Quality Salmon and will be happy to discuss them with other interested parties in the industry.”

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Mr Hudghton’s meeting is at the head office of Scottish Quality Salmon, Durn, Isla Road, Perth at 2 pm tomorrow, Friday 22 November 2002.