

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE
27th October, 2002

MEP SUPPORTS FIFE FISHING COMMUNITIES

Scottish National Party MEP Ian Hudghton addressed the Annual General Meeting of the SNP Mid Scotland and Fife Regional Association in Burntisland, today (Sunday 27th).

A member of the European Parliament Fisheries Committee, Mr. Hudghton outlined the current political challenges facing Scotland's coastal communities as part of the review of the European Common Fisheries Policy.

“With around 70% of the UK's fishing fleet based in Scotland, and many coastal communities still heavily dependent on the industry, including a successful prawn fishery around the East Neuk of Fife, it is essential that our interests are strongly defended in the EU Council of Ministers.

“The ongoing crisis in the cod fishery could have major repercussions on all types of fishing, unless a sensible balance is reached between legitimate cod recovery measures and the economic and social well-being of our coastal communities. I am not convinced that Scottish/U.K. Ministers have yet demonstrated the strength of commitment needed at European level if we are to achieve the aim of long term sustainability for our fisheries.”

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