



02 July 2019

Martin Salter
Policy Lead
Angling Trust
6 Rainbow Street
Leominster
Herefordshire
HR6 8DQ

Dear Martin

RSPCA hardliners ‘to seek a ban on angling’

Many thanks for your letter regarding the articles in the Telegraph and Times last weekend. I am sorry that these inaccurate stories have caused problems for you and your members. May I take this opportunity to reassure you, and your members, that the RSPCA has no plans to campaign for a ban on angling.

The article refers to changes to our governance, which will be voted on at our AGM this weekend and this has been taking up much of my time of late. These changes are designed to modernise the charity’s governance, bringing us in line with other large national charities, as shown by the recent appointment of three new co-opted trustees with diverse experience and skills from the business, public and charity sector. There will also be a smaller board, with the time trustees can serve limited to nine years, which will be applied retrospectively.

We work constructively with many relevant organisations in various sectors to improve animal welfare standards and angling is no exception. The press article you referred to is one of the results of a meeting between the RSPCA’s Head of Wildlife, Adam Grogan, and the Angling Trust’s Mark Lloyd and Emily Smith in April. Unfortunately, we do rescue and rehabilitate many wild animals caught and entangled in old fishing line and tackle, and we arranged a meeting in order to discuss how the two organisations could work better together to reduce, if not eliminate, this problem. Mark explained the measures that Angling Trust were doing, including the Take 5 campaign, and we have now started to use that as standard messaging when we issue a press release about an animal rescued from fishing litter.

Emily also joined us for one of our Keep Britain Tidy litter collection events in Yorkshire and she is currently reviewing our leaflets relating to fishing litter to

Patron HM The Queen

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see if we can produce a co-branded leaflet as we feel that such collaborative messaging will have a greater impact.

This is an area where we can work collaboratively in order to improve the welfare of wild animals and I trust that we can continue to do so. In the meantime, please accept my assurances that we have no plans to campaign to ban angling.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Sherwood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and the last name "Sherwood" clearly distinguishable.

Chris Sherwood
Chief Executive