

Text of SANA letter to Scottish Government July 2011.

*"In some parts of the EU, Great Cormorant populations have grown significantly over the last 20-30 years (mainly the subspecies sinensis) which has led to a rise in reported damages to commercial fisheries, aquaculture and sport-fishing.*

*A (EU) consultation on draft guidance entitled "Great Cormorant Derogations under article 9 of the Birds Directive" was held in 2010. The UK input was led by Defra as the increase in inland breeding cormorants and the subsequent conflicts with fisheries have been greatest in England. Inland breeding in England is thought to have been sparked by birds of the continental race 'sinensis' from the Netherlands and Denmark, although many nominate 'carbo' from coastal colonies in Wales and England have contributed to its development.*

*The UK position is that the facility to derogate as provided in Article 9 of the Birds Directive is sufficient for our purposes at the moment.*

*On this basis, the Scottish Government will continue to consider licence applications to kill cormorants on a case by case basis to solve specific problems at fisheries or inland waters. The granting of a licence to kill cormorants, whether to aid scaring or to reduce numbers at the site, will only be considered if the applicant has tried all other non-lethal anti-predation measures and found them to be either ineffective or impracticable at the site."*