 <b>Regulatory Policy Committee</b>		<b>Validation of the One-in, Two-out Status and the Net Direct Impact on Business</b>
<b>Validation Impact Assessment (IA)</b>		The Keeping and Introduction of Fish (England) Regulations 2014
<b>Lead Department/Agency</b>		Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
<b>IA Number</b>		Defra1091
<b>Origin</b>		Domestic
<b>Expected date of implementation</b>		April 2014 (SNR 7)
<b>Date of Regulatory Triage Confirmation</b>		N/A (Red Tape Challenge)
<b>Date submitted to RPC</b>		7 July 2014
<b>Date of RPC Validation</b>		19 August 2014
<b>RPC reference</b>		RPC14-DEFRA-2017(2)
<b>Departmental Assessment</b>		
<b>One-in, Two-out status</b>		OUT
<b>Estimate of the Equivalent Annual Net Cost to Business (EANCB)</b>		-£0.04 million
<b>RPC assessment</b>		<b>VALIDATED</b>
<b>Summary RPC comments</b>		
<p>The Validation IA is fit for purpose. The Department has addressed the concerns raised in the Committee’s previous opinion of 14 March 2014 (RPC14-DEFRA-2017). Based on the information provided, the RPC is able to validate the estimated equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB) of -£0.04 million.</p>		
<b>Background (extracts from IA)</b>		
<b>What is the problem under consideration? Why is government intervention necessary?</b>		
<p><i>“The management of native and non-native fish in English inland waters is necessary to reduce the likelihood of the introduction of invasive fish species and diseases, to protect biodiversity and to maintain and improve the performance of fish stocks... The introduction of fish, whether native or alien, into inland waters can result in negative externalities and be detrimental to local and/ or national biodiversity through competition, predation, disease transfer and hybridisation, or through impacts on the aquatic habitat.</i></p>		
<p><i>The current legislative framework does not differentiate between operations posing different risks, thereby regulating all fish movements to a similar extent irrespective of risk. It is burdensome on the industry and costly to the</i></p>		

*Environment Agency which regulates it.”*

### **What are the policy objectives and the intended effects?**

*“The key policy objective is to minimise the risk posed by inappropriate and illegal fish movements in inland waters in a more efficient and risk based way. The intended effect is to maintain the protection of local fisheries and biodiversity, while reducing the regulatory burdens on the angling and fish trade industry. The proposed legislation, for England and the Border Esk catchment in Scotland, reduces burdens on industry through a simplified risk based permitting regime so contributes to Government’s better regulation agenda.”*

### **RPC comments**

The Department is proposing to introduce a new permit scheme with a risk-based approach to controls on the keeping, releasing and removal of live fish in inland waters. There are two key changes:

1. It will reduce the number of separate permits required for the introduction of non-native fish into the wild, from three to one. Under the new system, fishery owners will require a single site permit (Live Fish Movement site permit) and fish suppliers will require a supplier permit to move fish between sites (Live Fish Movement supplier permit).
2. It will remove the requirement of one permit for every movement. Once the site and supplier permits are in place, the same fish movement operations would only require the fish supplier to give advanced notification for high risk movements (estimated to be 20% of all movements) rather than for all movements.

The savings to industry are calculated as the difference in the costs of the proposed new permit scheme compared to the costs to industry of the current arrangements. Currently the annual cost to industry is £124,000. Under the proposal, this annual cost will fall to £78,000.

The RPC is able to validate the estimated equivalent annual net cost to business (EANCB) of -£0.04 million. The Department has addressed the concerns raised in the Committee’s previous opinion of 14 March 2014 (RPC14-DEFRA-2017).

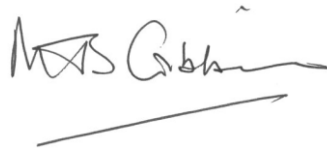
Specifically, the IA now includes further evidence underpinning the costs and benefits to business. The IA explains that the assumptions are based on information from the Environment Agency and the Cefas Fish Health Inspectorate, who have been responsible for processing these licences for 40 years. The assumptions have been tested through consultation and are considered to be reasonably robust.

The IA explains that familiarisation costs to business are considered negligible for three reasons-

1. The new process is very similar to the current process.
2. Industry is already aware of the changes to the permit scheme.
3. The Environment Agency will provide an initial set of new permits as opposed to businesses having to apply for the new permits themselves.

The Department has now presented the proposals as an OUT. The measure streamlines the existing licensing scheme and is beneficial to business by way of a reduction in the number of consents and notifications required for the movement of live fish.

**Signed**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Gibbons', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

**Michael Gibbons, Chairman**