**Cover Letter**

The corresponding sole author of this paper is Professor Anthony Donald Hawkins.

He was formerly the Director of Fisheries Research for Scotland, but is now retired and is currently the Managing Director of Loughine Limited, a fisheries consultancy company. Based at Kincraig, Blairs Aberdeen AB12 5YT, Scotland, United Kingdom.

This paper deals with the importance of involving stakeholders, including environmentalists and fishers, as well as scientists, in the preparation of advice on fisheries management, and even involvement in the taking of fisheries management decisions. Professor Hawkins was involved in the establishment and operation of the North Sea Commission Fisheries Partnership and for many years was the Rapporteur of the North Sea Advisory Council. He is currently an independent scientist, with no Conflict of Interest over the management of fisheries, or the subjects raised in the paper.