

## **BAN ON THE KILLING OF WILD SALMON AND ACCOMPANYING CARCASS TAGGING SCHEME – RE-ADVERTISEMENT PROVIDING CLARITY ON THE EXTENT OF THE PROPOSED ORDER**

1. Over the past 6 months the Scottish Government has conducted a series of linked consultations on proposals to deliver a kill licence system. These have identified a range of key stakeholder concerns; perhaps the most common theme has been the request for a straight forward, clear and consistent system which can be effectively managed with minimal additional bureaucracy and cost. Scottish Ministers have listened to, and acted upon, these concerns while still retaining the fundamental principle that any killing of wild salmon - a protected species – must be licensed, is sustainable and does not present a threat to vulnerable stocks.
2. In terms of paragraph 9 of Schedule 2 to The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006 (the 2006 Order) notice is hereby given that the Scottish Ministers propose to make a salmon conservation order under article 54 of the 2006 Order to regulate the killing of wild salmon in the Tweed District<sup>1</sup> including a prohibition on the taking of salmon out-with inland waters.
- 3 The general effect of this proposal will be:
  - a. to prohibit the taking of Atlantic salmon out-with inland waters which will be reviewed after 3 years
  - b. to permit the killing of wild salmon within inland waters where stocks are above a defined conservation limit
  - c. to introduce mandatory catch and release in areas which fall below their defined conservation limit following the annual assessment of salmon stocks
  - d. to require the production of a conservation plan in conjunction with Marine Scotland in areas which fall below their defined conservation limits following the annual assessment of salmon stocks i.e. in areas where the conservation limit has been met in 3 out of the 5 years or less.
4. Under article 54(7) of the 2006 Order it is an offence to act in contravention of the salmon conservation order or fail to take any action required to comply with a requirement of the order. If a person is found guilty of such an offence they will be liable to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.
5. Salmon continue to face many pressures in the marine and freshwater environment and the latest Marine Scotland Science stock status report for 2014 shows a decline in stocks over the last few years [www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/04/6918/downloads](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/04/6918/downloads). The proposed measures will provide a new mechanism for the Scottish Ministers to control the killing of wild salmon ensuring that where harvesting of stocks takes place it is sustainable.

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<sup>1</sup> The Tweed District is defined in article 2 of the Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006.

6. Carcass tagging will be introduced for commercially caught fish only.
7. Representations or objections in respect of the proposed salmon conservation order should be submitted by 12 November 2015 using the contact details below. Representations shall include, where relevant, details of any financial implications particularly related to loss of income.

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