

## AMENDMENT TO THE TWEED REGULATION ORDER 2007 ANNUAL CLOSE TIME AND CATCH AND RELEASE

In terms of paragraph 9 of schedule 2 of The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006 ("the 2006 Order") notice is hereby given that, following an application to them by the River Tweed Commission, the Scottish Ministers propose to make an order under articles 36 and 54 of the 2006 Order to protect early running spring salmon in the Tweed District. The Tweed District is defined in article 2 of the 2006 Order.

The proposed conservation measure would require the release of all salmon caught during the period from 1 February to 31 May each year and delay the start of the net fishing season until 1 June within the Tweed District.

Salmon face many pressures including weather conditions; habitat degradation; diffuse pollution; obstruction of spawning grounds; predation; and survival at sea. The conservation status of salmon stocks in Scotland is reviewed annually: details of the most recent assessment can be found at <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/status> .

Catches of early running spring salmon have generally declined in recent years and the River Tweed Commission application seeks to protect spring salmon in the future. The general effect of the proposal would be to ensure that no salmon is taken and retained before 1 June offering increased protection to salmon during the early part of the season. This will be achieved through:

- the extension of the end of the annual close time to 31 May
- permitting spring fishing by rod and line during the extended annual close time on a mandatory catch and release basis

Details of the proposals can be found at [http://rtc.org.uk/html/spring\\_conservation.html](http://rtc.org.uk/html/spring_conservation.html)

The effectiveness of the conservation measure will be monitored by Marine Scotland.

Anyone wishing to make any representations or objections with respect to the proposal should submit them in writing by 12 July 2018 to:

Marine Scotland  
Salmon and Recreational Fisheries Team  
Area 1B North  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

and they should be marked for the attention of Keith Main. Alternatively representations or objections can be sent by email to [salmonandrecreationalfisheries@gov.scot](mailto:salmonandrecreationalfisheries@gov.scot) with a subject line beginning "TWEED". All representations should include, where relevant, details of any financial implications particularly related to loss of income.