

## Fisheries Management Scotland

### Mapping Pressures on Wild Atlantic Salmon in Scotland

Date: 4 December 2019



To all Fisheries Management Scotland members,

At our AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> October we ran a workshop jointly with Marine Scotland to discuss the roll out of a web-based salmon pressures mapping tool. We are conscious that not all Fisheries Management Scotland Members were in the room, so the purpose of this message is to clarify the current state of play and ensure that everyone is content to proceed.

The purpose of the salmon pressures mapping tool is to provide fisheries managers with a common platform to share local knowledge and to identify and quantify the primary factors limiting Atlantic salmon production in Scotland. Ultimately, outputs from this process will be available for use by local managers to inform and target management action and also to provide important evidence for policy development at a national level. Marine Scotland are now keen to move this process forward in partnership with Fisheries Management Scotland's members.

Following the discussion at our AGM there was general agreement to engage with this process and contribute information relating to the pressures that Atlantic salmon face. We have applied for funding from the Scottish Government Maritime and Fisheries Fund and have had confirmation that our application has been successful. On that basis, there is now funding available to support our members to contribute to this process. Payments are based on the process taking a maximum of six days per District Salmon Fishery Board area to complete with a day rate of £300. Therefore, each board area will receive £1800 on completion of the work. This includes the Clyde, Loch Lomond and Irvine & Garnock catchments which do not have a DSFB.

The salmon pressures mapping tool has been trialled across six areas in Scotland and changes have been made to the process following the feedback received. An important message that came out of our AGM workshop was the importance of ensuring that all relevant expertise in the DSFBs and Trusts is utilised. On that basis, the grant payment may be provided to the DSFB or the Trust for a given board area, depending on who you consider is best placed to take the lead.

The lead organisation could be a DSFB or it may be more appropriate that a trust which already works with the local DSFB should take the lead on this project on the basis that they already hold the relevant information. We are keen to ensure that the process makes best use of the funding available and that we avoid duplication of effort. Those trusts which cover multiple boards may already have local arrangements, but please contact me if there are any issues that we should be aware of.

We are conscious that the web-based mapping approach utilised in the tool will be familiar to biologists within the Trusts but may be less familiar to the DSFBs. The mapping software behind the salmon pressures mapping tool is provided by Earth Systems Research Institute (ESRI). Most trusts already have access to this software through the Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre. We have also organised access for relevant DSFBs where required through Marine Scotland's subscription to ESRI.

**For all Board areas, in order for you to be given access to the salmon pressure mapping tools, we would appreciate if you could supply a single point of contact (Board or Trust) for the area. Please**

include a full name and email address. A user login will then be issued to you on that basis. We have developed guidance to support you in completing the process and Sean will be available to provide technical support. During the process in December and January Fisheries Management Scotland will be able to view contributions as they come in. It is our intention to provide a frequently asked questions page to help answer any queries.

Finally, the funding that is available via the Maritime and Fisheries Fund must be claimed by the end of March 2020. As we can only claim once the work is completed, we are requesting that you invoice us as soon as possible after completing the work. Within the guidance document we have set out basic criteria that must be met in order for payment to be issued to you by Fisheries Management Scotland. When we are satisfied that these criteria have been met, we will then pay you from Fisheries Management Scotland funds, in advance of claiming the money back from the Scottish Government. In order to allow us to manage our cashflow and provide sufficient time to process the payments and subsequent claims we need to set a fairly tight timescale for completing the salmon pressures mapping process. On that basis, **we request that the process is completed by 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. If you are able to complete the process earlier, that would allow us to process your payment more quickly and will help from a cashflow perspective.

During February 2020 contributions from across Scotland will be considered to ensure that a broadly consistent approach has been taken across all board areas. It is then our intention to provide summary maps and summary figures on our website before the end of March 2020. All of these outputs will also be made available at a local level in a convenient format.

I hope the above message is clear. If you would like to discuss any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact me. Log in details and guidance will be circulated to the named individuals requested above as soon as possible.