



INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF THE SALMON

A changing world for salmon

#wildsalmonmatter

Alan Wells



Fisheries
Management
Scotland



Fisheries management in Scotland
A changing world for salmon
International Year of the Salmon

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Simon Andrew McKelvey

June 17 1962 – December 2 2018



'No one will protect what they don't care about;
and no one will care about what they have never experienced'

Sir David Attenborough

Fisheries management in Scotland



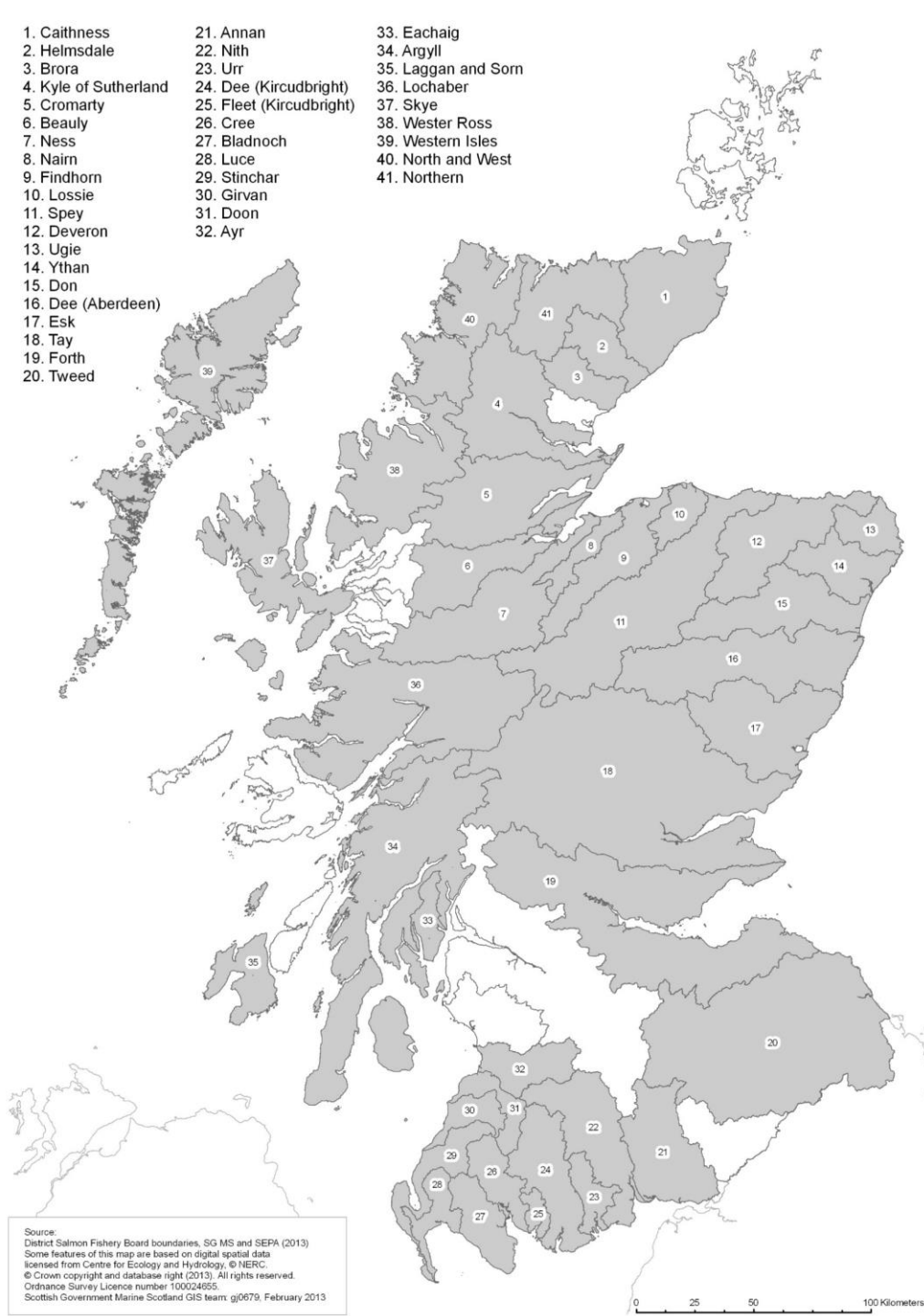
Representative body for DSFBs and Trusts

Three staff members

Promote and ensure the best fisheries management for the protection, preservation and development of Scotland's wild salmon and freshwater fish, along with their fisheries and environment.

Represent the interests of our member organisations





District Salmon Fishery Boards and River Tweed Commission

Powers and duties set out in law

Power to raise a salmon levy for the purposes of funding management

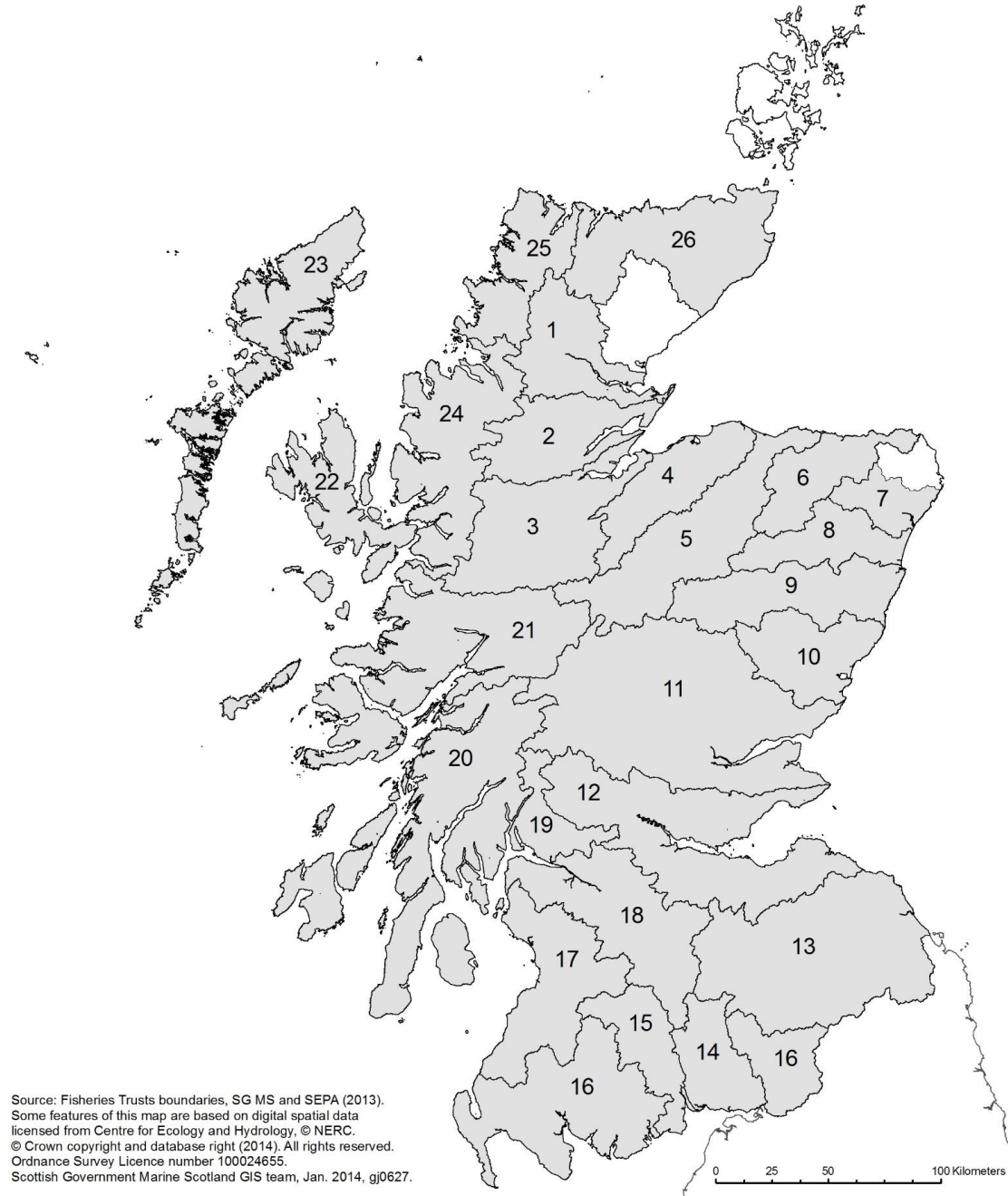
Power to appoint fisheries enforcement officers - water bailiffs

Remit limited to salmon and sea trout

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Rivers and Fisheries Trusts
Research and monitoring
River restoration works
Education initiatives
All species remit

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What is fisheries management?

Managing impacts, pressures and people to ensure that the environment on which the fish depend is optimal

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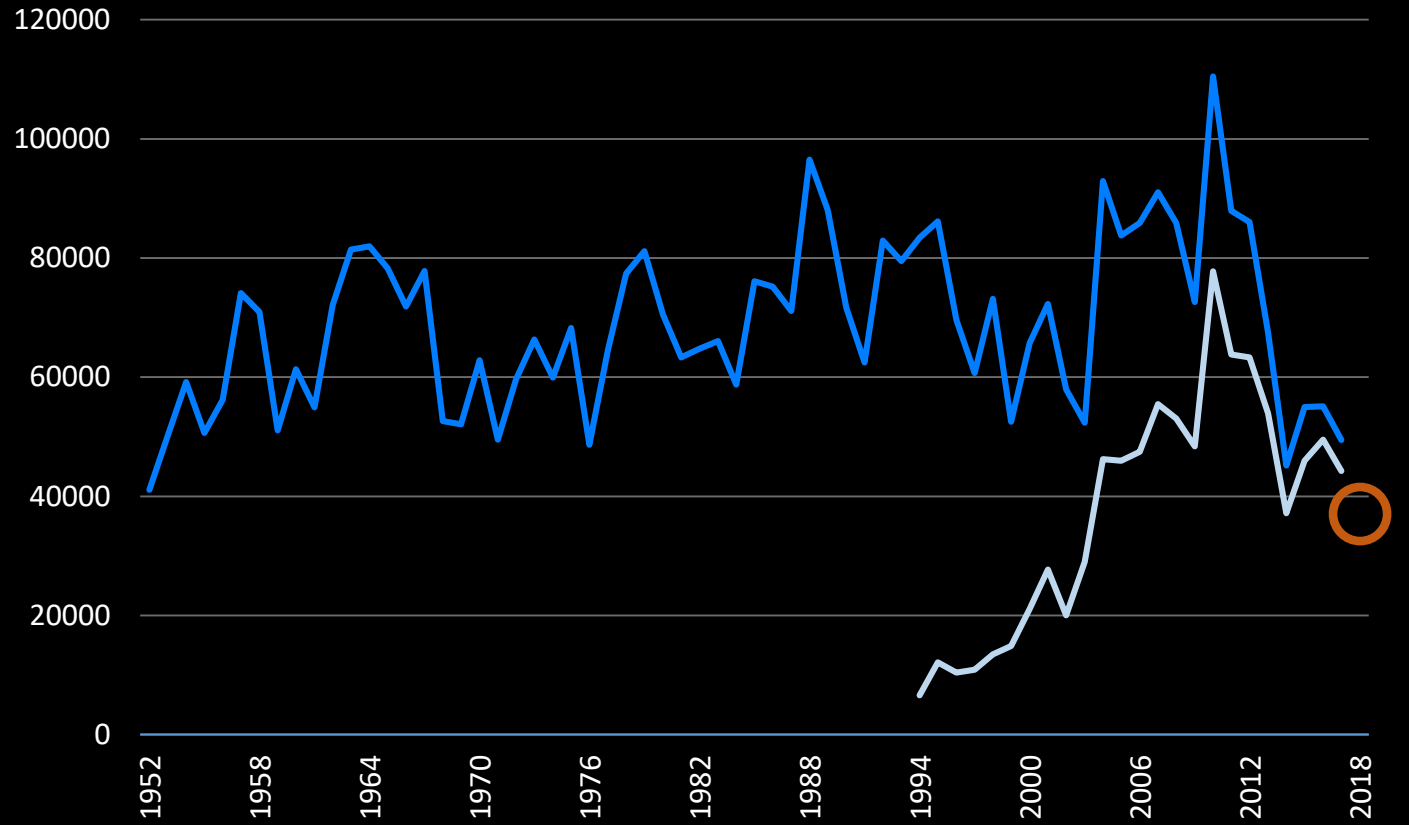


2019
ANNUAL REVIEW

A changing world for salmon



Atlantic salmon catches (rod and line)



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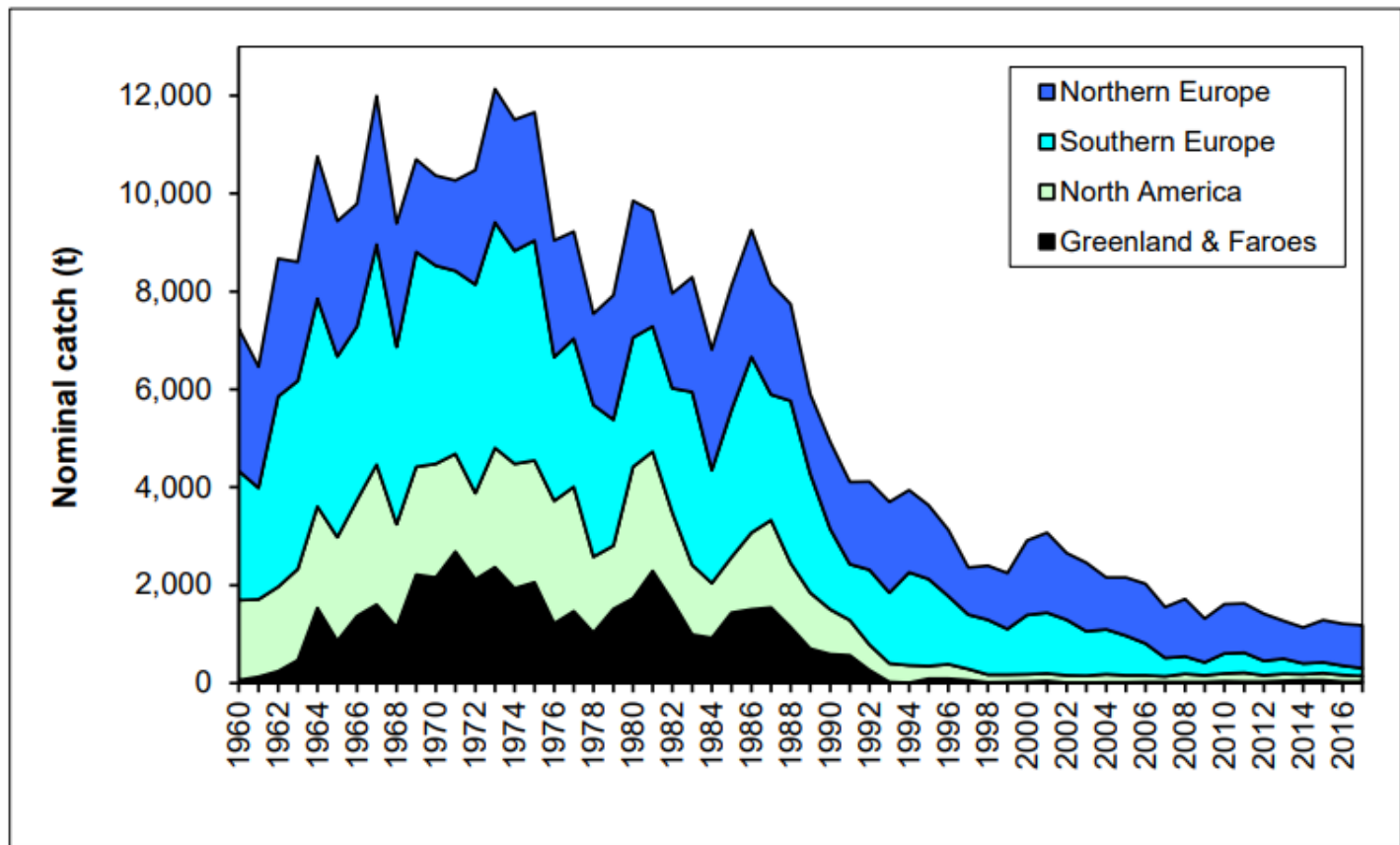


Figure 2.1.1.1. (a) Total reported nominal catch of salmon (tonnes round fresh weight) in four North Atlantic regions, 1960–2017.



ICES

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

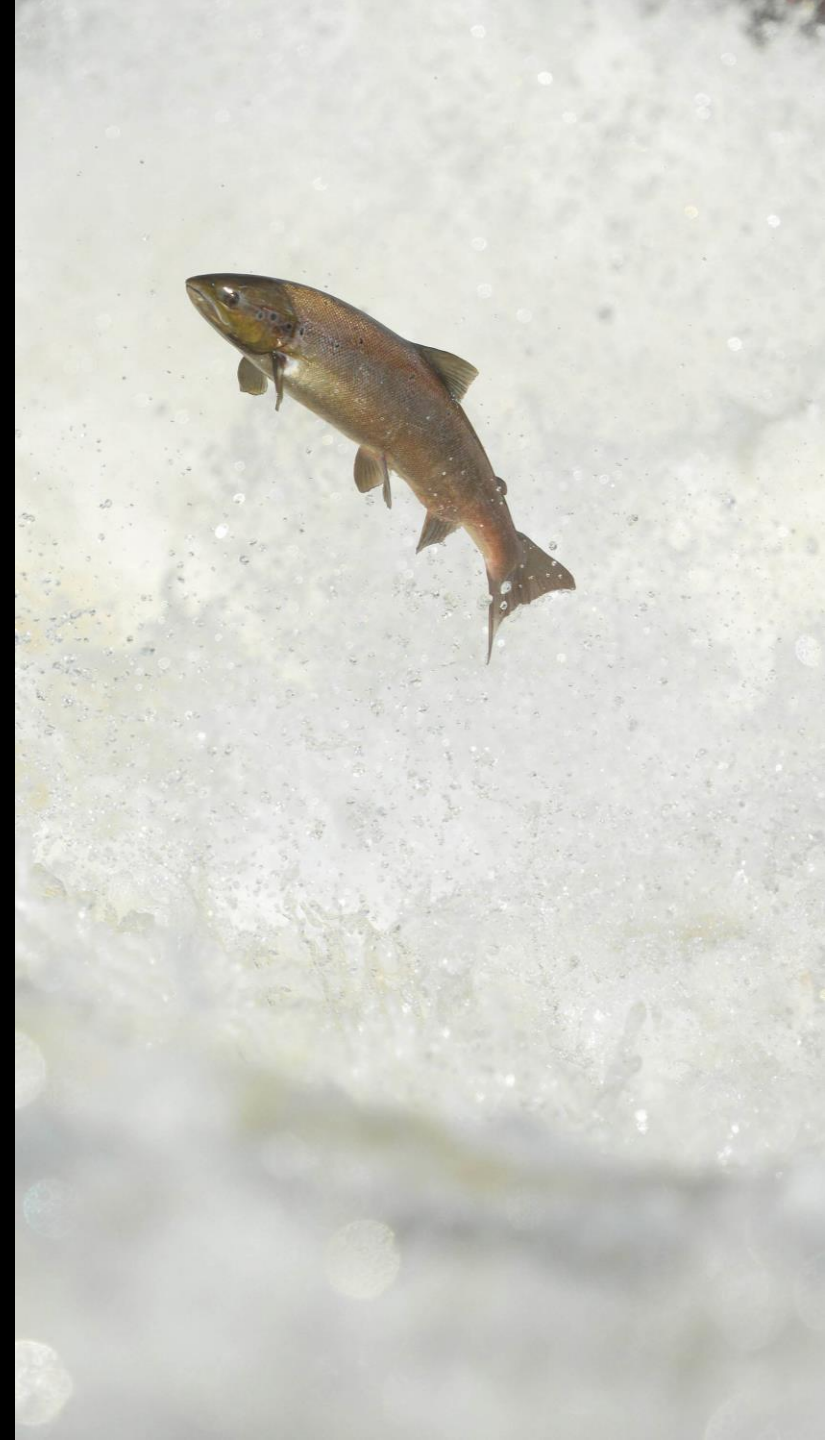
CIEM

Conseil International pour l'Exploration de la Mer

Report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (2018)

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Marine survival down
Pre-fisheries abundance down
What can be done to address impacts?
Where do managers focus their efforts?





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What do wild salmon mean to me?

Peter Hutchinson



Prior to his retirement in late 2017, Dr Peter Hutchinson was the Secretary of the inter-governmental North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO). He was Chairman of NASCO's Standing Scientific Committee for more than 20 years. His work for NASCO over more than thirty years involved international collaboration with all the North Atlantic countries/jurisdictions with Atlantic salmon interests and the large network of Inter-Government and Non-Government Organisations accredited to NASCO, including Fisheries Management Scotland.

About fifty years ago during a family holiday, I joined a crowd of people which had gathered to witness one of nature's greatest spectacles, salmon migrating upstream. It was the late 1960s and salmon abundance was high, perhaps anomalously high, and the sea pool was teeming with fish. There was talk of an epic ocean odyssey and precise navigation back to the natal river. I was enthralled and captivated but certainly did not imagine that I would have the great privilege of spending virtually my entire career working on this magnificent animal. The Atlantic salmon is a truly international species and one of a small number of fish with an international treaty devoted to its conservation and restoration.

I have been very fortunate to witness the vitally important work being undertaken all around the North Atlantic by the many organisations and devoted individuals committed to conserving Atlantic salmon and protecting the 2,300 rivers they frequent. Each one of those rivers, although very different in nature and scale, would be immeasurably poorer without the wild Atlantic salmon. But survival at sea and abundance of salmon are currently low all around the North Atlantic, in some areas critically low, diversity is threatened and there is increased uncertainty associated with a changing climate. The wild Atlantic salmon and those committed to

its conservation face many challenges.

The American astronaut, Neil Armstrong, once said 'I think we're going to the moon because it's in the nature of the human being to face challenges. It's by the nature of his deep inner soul... we're required to do these things just as salmon swim upstream'. Salmon, perhaps now more than ever, need our help in meeting the challenges it faces. We need to work to ensure the maximum number of healthy wild salmon smolts can go to sea and that means focusing and enhancing our efforts on the factors affecting salmon that are under our control including fisheries, habitat and salmon farming.

The need for cooperation at all levels, including internationally, has never been greater and the International Year of the salmon is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges facing the wild Atlantic salmon and increasing our conservation efforts.

Our actions can make a difference. Salmon rivers affected by acidification, barriers to migration and parasites have been restored and the salmon populations in those rivers have responded. Urban rivers now have salmon returning to them for the first time since the Industrial Revolution. These examples should inspire stronger actions to conserve and restore this wonderful, iconic species. The Atlantic salmon deserves nothing less and an international treaty requires it.

What do wild salmon mean to me?

Video logs

Members' activities

<https://yearofthesalmon.org/>

Discover more about the importance of wild Atlantic salmon at:
www.fms.scot/what-do-wild-salmon-mean-to-me/
[#wildsalmonmatter](https://twitter.com/wildsalmonmatter)



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“We are at an important moment. When countries now understand that protecting the environment is not something that is done at the expense of jobs and the economy but is essential to securing jobs and economy for the future.”

Nicola Sturgeon, 2018 Scottish Forum on Natural Capital