



INTERNATIONAL
YEAR ^{OF} THE SALMON

Predation of salmon: a Scottish fisheries management perspective

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Fisheries
Management
Scotland

Broad focus is on birds and seals

Predation has received greater attention in recent years

Overview of regulatory system in Scotland



Birds

Key species are cormorant, goosander and merganser

Possible to get a license to shoot as an aide to scaring - 3 tests:

- purpose - conservation/ preventing serious damage to fisheries/ science and education;
- must be no other satisfactory solution, and;
- the activity must not have an impact on conservation status of the bird population;

Extensive bird counts required to inform licensing decisions - significant resource and investment

Birds – key knowledge gaps

What is the impact of birds on fisheries?

What is the impact of management action on fisheries?

What is the impact of management action on bird populations?

Are birds observed on rivers associated with SPAs?

Conservation status of salmon – context for 'serious damage'.

Seals

Common/ Harbour seals and Grey seals

Moray Firth project – small number of 'specialists' move in-river – efforts are focused on these individuals

Increased focus on 'pinch points' during fish migration

Ultimately want to protect vulnerable fish and identify acceptable means of dissuading seals from entering rivers