



Association of Salmon Fishery Boards

News Release

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ASFB welcomes continuing restraint of anglers in 2010's record rod catch of salmon

The Association of Salmon Fishery Boards (ASFB) has welcomed today's publication by Scottish Government of the official 2010 catch statistics for salmon, confirming that the rod catch for 2010 was the highest since consistent records began in 1952.

Alan Williams, Chairman of ASFB, commented: "Last year's rod catches of salmon and grilse in Scotland represented a major boost for the country's angling industry and the associated benefits for rural areas. We are also particularly encouraged by the high and increasing percentage of fish released by anglers. This has been largely achieved on a voluntary basis and is testimony to the conservation-minded approach of the majority of anglers".

Mr Williams added: "We need to be cautious about what catches are telling us about fish stocks. It is important, when drawing comparisons with the past, that we compare like with like. For example in the 1960s, before salmon got anywhere near the Scottish rod fishery, half a million fish or more could be caught annually in Scottish coastal and estuary nets. There was also a catch of over 3000 tonnes at Greenland and the Faroes. The clear message here is that despite strong grilse and summer salmon runs in many parts of Scotland in 2010, salmon are still nowhere near as abundant as they were 50 years ago".

Mr Williams continued: "We should also recognise that 2010 was another poor year for spring salmon. In addition the southern part of the West Highlands saw no improvement in catches".

ENDS

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Editors' Note

The Association of Salmon Fishery Boards is the representative body for Scotland's 41 District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs) including the River Tweed Commission (RTC), which have a

statutory responsibility to protect and improve salmon and sea trout fisheries. Conservation of fish stocks, and the habitats on which they depend, is essential and many DSFB's operate riparian habitat enhancement schemes and have voluntarily adopted 'catch and release' practices, which in some cases are made mandatory by the introduction of Salmon Conservation Regulations. ASFB creates policies that seek where possible to protect wider biodiversity and our environment as well as enhancing the economic benefits for our rural economy that result from angling.

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ASFB

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