

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO REPORT YOUR SALMON CATCH

FISHERIES STATISTICS
COLLECTED SINCE

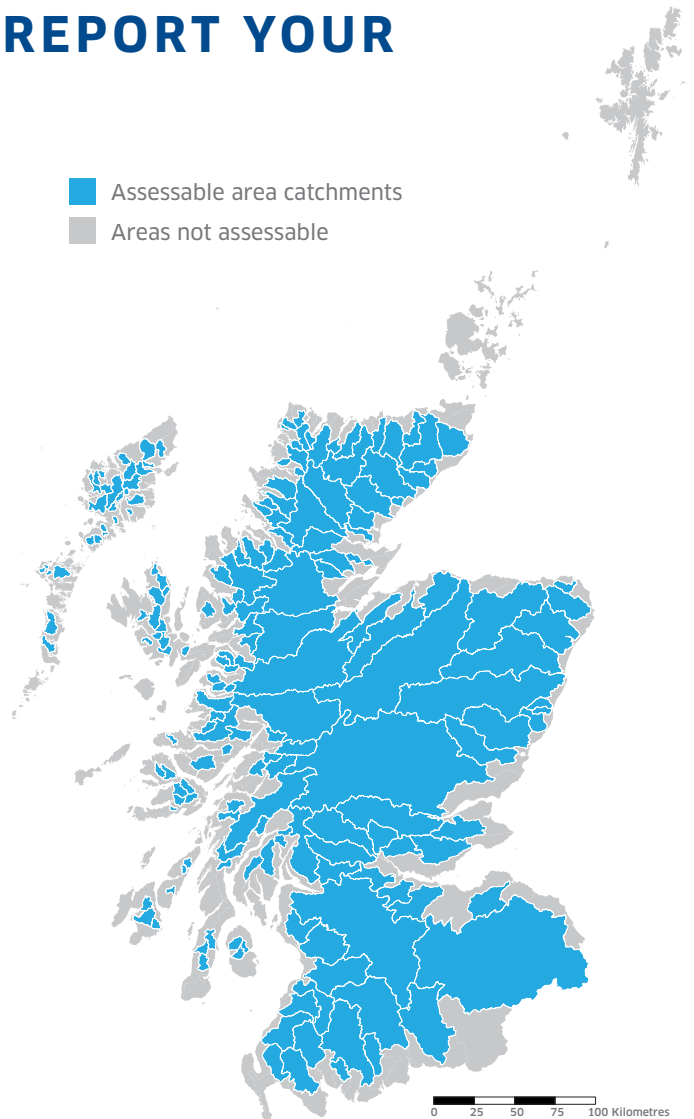
1952



OVER
2000
FORMS ISSUED
ANNUALLY



Assessable area catchments
Areas not assessable



SCOTTISH SALMON STOCK ASSESSABLE AREA CATCHMENTS

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Scottish salmon and sea trout fishery statistics

Returns from Scottish salmon and sea trout fisheries have been collected since 1952, providing a unique picture of trends in these fisheries throughout the country. Currently over 2,000 forms are issued annually of which over 90% are returned. This topic sheet explains why it is important that catches from all Scottish fisheries are accurately represented in the final statistics.

Between 1997 and 2017, catch form return rates have ranged between 93% and 96%. While this is a good level of return we are keen to improve on it, particularly given the importance of reported catch and effort data in the assessment of Scottish salmon stocks.

The Law

Under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003, wilful refusal to return a completed catch form or the making of a return which is false in a material respect constitutes an offence under the Act. Persons found guilty of such an offence may be liable to a fine.



Photo David Hay, © Crown copyright

Conservation measures to control the killing of wild salmon

Under these regulations salmon may only be retained within inland waters where stocks are above a defined conservation limit
www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/status

The numbers of fish returning to an area are estimated largely using reported catches. Effort data and nil returns are important in helping us understand the intensity of fishing that produced the reported catch. Reliable catch data is therefore a key requirement if we are to accurately assess the status of Scotland's salmon stocks.

Given the importance of reported catch in the assessment process, failure to report catch will result in an underestimate of the stock and may affect whether salmon may be legally retained in subsequent years. The effects of unreported catch may be felt most strongly in smaller rivers where relatively few fisheries are active.

Contacts

Catch forms are issued and the returns collated and published annually by Marine Scotland. If you have any queries regarding the forms or wish to report catches but are not currently in receipt of a form please get in touch, details below:

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