

Marine Directorate

Aquaculture and Freshwater Fisheries Division

Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Branch

Policy Overview

Current Administration's Stated Purpose

To focus Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.

Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Branch Contribution

- Protection and promotion of sustainable Scottish Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries;
- Provide the Scottish Ministers with the best advice in order to achieve this

Pressures

- Local, Scottish, UK and international considerations;
- FRS look at the science – S&FF look at the interaction of Man and Fish
- **No fish – no fisheries.**

Specific Policy Drivers –At Home Current Administration

- The SNP supports a sustainable and vibrant freshwater fisheries sector. We will work with anglers and local communities to create a national freshwater fisheries policy that seeks to protect biodiversity and our environment as well as enhancing the economic benefit for our rural economy that results from angling.
- We will take forward the work of the Freshwater Fisheries Forum with a view to modernising the sector's management structures. We support the view that our rivers should be managed on a catchment area basis that includes all freshwater stocks.

Specific Policy Drivers – At Home

- Scottish Freshwater Fisheries Forum;
- Border Rivers issues;
- Making of SSIs (*Designation Orders, Salmon Conservation Regulations, Baits and Lures Regulations, Protection Orders etc, non-native fish*);
- Issue of licences to control predators;
- Issue of licences to use illegal methods;
- Issue of licences for non-native fish;
- SFCC;
- Fisheries Committee (future).

Specific Policy Drivers – At Home

- Read across to other Divisions e.g. Landscapes and Habitats, Sport, Energy etc, and other agencies e.g. SNH, SEPA ;
- Planning issues – pipelines, windfarms etc;
- Stakeholders – ASFB, DSFBs, AST, SANA, SFCA, S&TA, ASSF, SNFAS and many individuals.

Specific Policy Drivers Beyond our Borders

- NASCO – ensuring Scotland's voice is heard;
- EC – ensuring Commission is aware of Scotland's domestic salmon and freshwater fisheries management arrangements, Eel Management Plan;
- UK – ensuring proper and constructive liaison with Defra, CEFAS, EA.

What Do We Need?

- Good communication;
- Evidence – we need to make evidence-based policy;
- Risk analysis e.g. interpretation of catch statistics
- Development of better tools to assess salmonid and non-salmonid stocks
- High quality research
- SLA – advice to managers – publications;
- The truth – **not what you think we want to hear, but what we need to hear.**