

## Introducing fish, fry or ova

The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003

### Guidance notes

Please read these guidance notes, the form and notes on the back of the form carefully before you start to fill it in.

If you need any advice on introducing fish or any aspects of fisheries management, please

- **get in touch with the FRS Freshwater Laboratory on 01796 472060**

#### Why you need to apply for consent

Under Section 33A of the The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003 as amended by the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007, the Scottish Government regulates the introduction of fish into all inland waters in Scotland, other than when the fish are salmon or sea trout being introduced to waters in a salmon fishery district where there is a District Salmon Fishery Board in place when the regulator is the District Salmon Fishery Board, or for any fish being introduced to waters in the Tweed District when the regulator is the River Tweed Commission.

The powers are to protect the native biodiversity from the consequences of indiscriminate introductions of fish into Scottish freshwaters.

If the regulator is the local District Salmon Fishery Board or the River Tweed Commission, you must seek their permission in writing. Otherwise, you must have written permission (consent) from Scottish Government before you introduce any fish into any inland water.

*If you do not comply with the regulations you may be liable for prosecution.*

We have produced form *SG35 Application to introduce fish, fry or ova* to help you give us the information we need to decide if we can issue a consent. Please read these guidance notes, and the notes on the back of the form, before you start to fill it in.

The information in these guidance notes includes

- how to fill in the application form
- the consents you need to stock fish
- the risks associated with stocking a site with fish.

#### Other relevant documents

As well as these guidance notes and the application form SG35S (single introductions) or SG35B (block introductions), you may find the recent Scottish Fisheries Research Report "Hatchery Work in Support of Salmon Fisheries" useful (not just for salmon)

If you would like a copy contact us on 01796 472060 or download it from:

[http://www.marlab.ac.uk/Delivery/Information\\_resources/information\\_resources\\_view\\_document.aspx?resourceId=23700&documentId=1860](http://www.marlab.ac.uk/Delivery/Information_resources/information_resources_view_document.aspx?resourceId=23700&documentId=1860)

#### Making an application

This application should relate to *one receiving water* only. Separate applications are needed for introductions at other receiving waters or different locations in the same river.

#### Information about the fish you plan to introduce

We need to know exactly where the fish came from (the *supplier* and *source*), where you plan to introduce them (the *receiving water*) and the number and species of fish involved.

#### Trout introductions

It is important that we know the sex of the fish, and if they are triploid or diploid. Certain classes of fish e.g. female triploid brown trout are extremely unlikely to breed with existing populations and therefore offer a level of protection for your fishery.

#### Identifying the source of the fish and the receiving water

Please give us the Ordnance Survey national grid reference (OSNGR) for both sites when you answer the questions about the source and the receiving water.

*If you are not sure how to find the OSNGR, please contact us.*

You can also send us a map of the area with the site marked clearly on it, using its full name. The map should show the location of the *source* or *receiving water* in relation to

- the nearest town or village
- major roads
- any other water courses such as rivers or streams.

#### Sites with a special conservation designation

We aim to process most applications within 10 working days. However it may take longer if you plan to introduce fish into a site with a nature conservation designation such as

- a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- a Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

If you need to check the status of the site, please ask.

*We will consult the appropriate organisations about your application if the site has a conservation status.*

## Changes to the consent

The written consent only applies to the date, the site and the fish you specify in your application form. If any of the details change, you must get in touch with us in advance. You will be required to make a new application for the introduction.

*If you send in a form with information missing or incomplete, we will not be able to process it.*

## Changing the date of introduction

If you need to change the date you introduce the fish, once we issue your written consent, you should contact us on 01796 472060 as soon as possible, allowing at least 1 working day before the new introduction date.

If the new introduction is due to take place within 4 weeks of the original date, you may not need to re-apply.

When the date of introduction has been changed, we will send you a letter and a new consent. You should have these and the old consent with you when you introduce the fish.

## Multiple (block) introductions

It will be possible to issue a consent which covers more than one date, or a specific period. For example,

1 If you plan to make repeated introductions of trout or coarse fish bought from a registered fish farm or supplier into

- commercial stillwater fisheries or
- certain rivers where the FRS considers the ecological risks are minimal.

2 If you plan to introduce coarse fish into a water from another fishery e.g. if

- you were moving large carp by rod and line from a water where netting or electrofishing was not possible
- the source water is being drained.

*Please give the dates for the beginning and end of the period in Section 5 of the form. If you are not sure if you can apply for a multiple consent, please get in touch with us.*

## Risks associated with introducing stocks of fish and fish welfare issues

Scottish Ministers are responsible for ensuring that

- the introduction of fish into Scottish freshwater systems minimises the threat to native biodiversity
- damage to the receiving water is minimised by avoiding the introduction of too many fish or the wrong type of fish
- Donor waters are not denuded of fish

We strongly recommend that you ensure the fish you buy are healthy and do not carry the risk of introducing disease into the site. Wherever possible, you should purchase your fish from a registered fish farm or those that are operating to a code of good practice or Quality Assurance Schemes. More details about preventing the spread of fish diseases can be found in the Fisheries Research Services leaflet on Notifiable Diseases <http://www.frs-scotland.gov.uk/FRS.Web/Uploads/Documents/AAAH09Notifiable%20FH10.pdf>

If you suspect a notifiable disease could be present in the fish to be introduced you must inform Fisheries Research Services fish health inspectorate (01224 876544) and resolve any issues before any fish are moved.

In addition non-native passengers such as North American Signal Crayfish can be brought in inadvertently, either with fish or with transport water. Although not currently part of the licensing process it is very important that introductions of fish do not result in any possibility of this occurring. Therefore, we recommend, where possible, that the discharge of transport water into the receiving water is minimised.

## NB:

It is an offence under The Prohibition of the Keeping or Release of Live Fish (Specified Species) (Scotland) Order 2003 to be in the possession of or to release North American Signal Crayfish into Scottish Freshwaters.

It is an offence under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to release or allow to escape into the wild North American Signal Crayfish

Further information on crayfish can be obtained at:

[http://www.marlab.ac.uk/Delivery/Information\\_resources/information\\_resources\\_view\\_document.aspx?resourceId=23700&documentId=1626](http://www.marlab.ac.uk/Delivery/Information_resources/information_resources_view_document.aspx?resourceId=23700&documentId=1626)

<http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/wildlife/crayfish.pdf>

## Introducing certain non-native fish species

If the application is for a fish species listed in the Prohibition of Keeping or Release of Live Fish (Specified Species) (Scotland) Order 2003 you must also have a licence from the Scottish Government Marine Directorate.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47133/0009766.pdf>

The requirements regarding non-native fish are set out in

- the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- the Import of Live Fish (Scotland) Act 1978

## Definitions of types of receiving water

**Fully Enclosed Stillwater:** water body has no physical connection whatsoever with a river system, either permanent or temporary

**On-line Stillwater:** water body with any sort of physical connection, permanent or temporary, with a river system

**Stillwater in flood plain:** The water body lies on a flood plain, so could conceivably become connected to a river system in flood events

**Screened stillwater:** The water body has some sort of screen on outflow to prevent exit by all or some sizes of fish.

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## Data protection notice

The Scottish Government is required to comply with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004. Any information supplied to the Scottish Government in connection with a request for consent will be treated in accordance with these provisions.