

Annex 8. Management in Other Jurisdictions

1.1. The approach to salmon management and exploitation controls in England

In response to the widespread decline in stocks of early-running multi-sea-winter (MSW) salmon in England and Wales, national measures were introduced in 1999 to reduce the levels of exploitation of this stock component. Most nets were closed to salmon fishing before 1st June, with a small number allowed to continue where netting is predominantly for sea trout, on the basis that any salmon caught are returned alive. The national measures also introduced mandatory catch-and-release of salmon by anglers prior to 16th June and imposed other method restrictions. Following review and consultation, the total package of national spring salmon measures was renewed for a further 10 years in December 2008.

The status of individual river stocks in England is evaluated annually against stock conservation limits (CLs) and management targets (MTs) in line with the requirements of ICES and NASCO. A national assessment of the status of the salmon resource is also undertaken annually. This process is exactly the same as that applied in Wales and is described fully in Annex 4 and Annex 5.

Fishery regulation measures

Salmon fisheries in England and Wales are primarily regulated by effort controls, which specify the nature of the methods used and gear that may be operated, along with where, when and how it may be used.

Tables summarising some of the other current controls can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/525662/Annual_Salmon_Stock_Status_Report_2015_final.pdf

In response to ongoing concern about the status of salmon stocks, The Environment Agency held a public summit in November 2015 to discuss the future of salmon management in England, bringing together Government key stakeholders and principal NGOs. This initiative led to the development of a new approach to addressing the pressures impacting salmon fisheries across England:-

[salmon five point approach](#)

This document describes the high level commitments, and the actions and key measures considered necessary to improve the future for salmon in England.

This shared vision aims to address pressures at each of the different life stages of salmon and is considered a vital part of the action required to restore and maintain England's salmon populations. The 5 points are:

1. Improve marine survival
2. Further reduce exploitation by nets and rods
3. Remove barriers to migration and enhance habitat
4. Safeguard sufficient flows
5. Maximise spawning success by improving water quality

1.2. The approach to salmon management and exploitation controls in Scotland.

The Scottish Government has introduced a range of measures designed to improve the conservation status of salmon by managing the pressure of exploitation through fishing within Scottish waters:-

[\(<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/status>\)](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/status)

The measures are designed to complement, and not replace, other management activities being undertaken at local, national and international level in the interests of conservation. The objective of the measures is to ensure harvesting in Scottish domestic waters is sustainable and that fishing does not damage vulnerable stocks or cause damage to the network of Special Areas of Conservation in place across Scotland.

The conservation status of each stock is defined by the probability of the stock meeting its conservation limit over a five-year period. Rather than a simple pass or fail, stocks have been allocated to one of the following three grades, each with its own recommended management actions:-

Table 1 Conversation Categories

Category	Probability of Meeting CL	Effectively CL Met in:	Advice
1	At least 80%	4 out of 5 years	Exploitation is sustainable therefore no additional management action is currently required. This recognises the effectiveness of existing non-statutory local management interventions.
2	60-80%	3 out of 5 years	Management action is necessary to reduce exploitation; mandatory catch and release will not be required in the first instance, but this will be reviewed annually.
3	Less than 60%	≤ 2 out of 5 years	Exploitation is unsustainable therefore management actions required to reduce exploitation for 1 year i.e. mandatory catch and release (all methods).

1.3. Conservation Measures to Control the Killing of Wild Salmon - 2017 Assessment

Measures to regulate the killing of salmon for the 2017 season have been laid in the Scottish Parliament:–

[The Conservation of Salmon \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations](#)

and:-

[The Tweed Regulation \(Salmon Conservation\) \(No. 2\) Order 2016.](#)

Moving from the district approach in 2016, the new regulations have looked to progress conservation status, where rod catches and counter data have allowed, on an individual river or groups of river basis.

Key aspects of the regulations for the 2017 fishing season are:

- the prohibition on the retention of salmon caught in coastal waters remains in place due to the mixed stock nature of the fishery and limited data on the composition of the catch
- killing of salmon within inland waters is permitted where stocks are above a defined conservation limit – Category 1 rivers
- mandatory catch and release is introduced in areas rivers which fall below their defined conservation limit – Category 2 and 3 rivers
- the completion of a [Conservation Plan](#) for all areas that have been assessed [Carcass tagging](#) for net-caught fish for areas in categories 1 and 2 (including the [Tweed District](#)) continues. Further information on the detail of the scheme can be found in the [guidance note](#))

1.4. The approach to salmon management and exploitation controls in Ireland.

Fisheries managers and scientists in the Republic of Ireland have been concerned for a number of years about the declining numbers of salmon returning to the Irish Coast. Since 1996 a progressive series of conservation initiatives, largely based on fishing controls, has been introduced to address the decline in stocks:-

<http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Salmon-Management/wild-salmon-management-in-ireland.html>

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In 2002 Ireland introduced an annual quota for the angling and commercial salmon fishery and reduced that quota progressively on an annual basis from 219,000 salmon in 2002 to 62,000 in 2007. In order to align fully with ICES and NASCO advice, the Irish Government then closed the offshore mixed stock fisheries in 2007.

Harvest fisheries are now only allowed on stocks which are shown to have a surplus of fish over the conservation limit. Fisheries in estuaries are only permitted provided the stocks from individual rivers entering the estuaries are meeting conservation limits. A hardship scheme for drift net fishermen including all other commercial fishermen wishing to exit the fishery was introduced in 2007 providing a financial package for affected fishermen. The 2008 allowable harvest has shown an increase to 86,000 salmon which includes both a commercial and angling harvest and is distributed on an individual river basis.

Salmon are now managed on a river by river basis as opposed to a national or district basis. Rivers which have an identifiable surplus over the conservation limit are open for salmon & sea trout fishing. Rivers meeting in excess of 65% of the conservation limit are granted catch & release status subject to approval. Rivers for which there is insufficient scientific information or have a rod catch of less than 10 salmon remain closed. A scheme of rehabilitation of rivers was introduced with priority given to rivers which were below the conservation limit in areas of SAC's funded through the introduction of a salmon conservation component on all angling & commercial licence sales.

The core policy goal being pursued by Government is to conserve the resource and facilitate its exploitation on an equitable and sustainable basis. The main challenges over the period 2008 – 2010 are in maintaining the regime introduced in 2007 and monitoring closely its impact on salmon stocks in order to maintain an equitable balance between conservation and exploitation.