

## Category 3 Conservation Policy 2021

**Atlantic Salmon are classified as an endangered species - if they were mammals or birds they would be protected and fishing would be banned.**

The Scottish Government review of the conservation status for the 2020 season has proposed retaining the category 3 status for the river Skiach, Allt Graad (River Glass) and Balnagown as category 3, which means full catch and release. This categorisation also extends to the estuary waters.

### **ENFORCEMENT**

- Proprietors and clubs are urged to make compliance with this policy a condition of their leases and permits.

### **SALMON**

- Due to the Scottish Governments categorisation there must be 100% catch and release.

### **SEA TROUT**

- Sea Trout over 1½lbs are particularly valuable and should be released. A maximum of one sea trout over 1½lbs per angler per week may be killed but it would be preferable to kill only smaller fish, preferably Finnock.

### **GENERAL**

- Use barbless hooks.
- Do not use treble hooks.
- The Board is concerned that fish caught by worming may be difficult to release unharmed. Where worming is permitted, only circle hooks should be used.
- When releasing fish, try to keep the fish in the water at all times and use knotless mesh landing nets.
- The Board is concerned that fish survival rates drop when water temperatures exceed 18.C and requests that all fishing be suspended whist such conditions prevail.

### **PINK SALMON**

Subject to any further Government advice any pink salmon caught should be killed and passed to a member of the Board staff for analysis. However, it is very important to identify that any fish are genuinely pink salmon, as killing an Atlantic Salmon would be illegal.