

Category 3 Conservation Policy 2022

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 2022 season has proposed retaining the category 3 status for the Allt Graad (Glass) and Balnagown rivers, which means full catch and release. This categorisation also extends to the estuary waters and to the unclassified River Skiach (Sgitheach)

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 only use knotless mesh landing nets as per Scottish legislation
- 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.

RED SKIN DISEASE

Fish caught displaying signs of red 'rash', bleeding and/or ulceration should be photographed and reported to Board staff.