

ESK DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
MEMO TO ALL PROPRIETORS

The following information is enclosed:

- The Esk Board's recommendations for the conservation of spring salmon and sea trout stocks for the year 2010
- Details of the Triennial Elections 2010
- Catch return form for 2009

Conservation Measures 2010:

As I am sure you are aware, the Board has reached agreement with Usan Fisheries and Kinnaber Fisheries for both to delay the start of their netting until 1st May in 2010. This will provide an element of protection to our spring salmon. Furthermore, Usan Fisheries have agreed not to sell any seatrout in 2010, and to return as many as possible. They will receive compensation for this, as they will for delaying the start of their season.

The Board has withdrawn the application for statutory regulations, but clearly there remains a necessity for restraint by anglers. At its meeting on the 30th November, the Board agreed to issue the following recommendations taking account of the different situations prevailing on each river. These recommendations are based on established conservation practices and reflect the fact that the South Esk spring salmon stocks and seatrout stocks are in a more vulnerable state. Furthermore, as the majority of sea trout are female, the killing of these has a direct effect of egg deposition.

Esk Board Recommendations:

North Esk:

Spring salmon stocks:

- Catch-and-release until the 1st May
- If absolutely necessary, then the practice of killing the second fish and fourth fish etc. should be adopted between the 16th February and 31st May

South Esk:

Spring salmon:

- Total catch-and-release until the 1st May.
- If absolutely necessary, then the practice of killing the second fish and fourth fish etc. should be adopted between the 1st May and 31st May

Seatrout- District wide:

- Total catch-and-release is encouraged throughout the angling season
- If absolutely necessary, then the practice of killing the second fish and fourth fish etc. should be adopted

Fishing Methods – District wide:

- Use barbless single or barbless double hooks only for the entire season

- Cease the practice of worming

Clearly there is a strong element of trust required in order for this agreement to work. There must be trust that the netsmen are delivering on the commitment to return seatrout, and trust that anglers are not taking advantage of the lack of statutory controls. The agreement is for one year only, and its renewal is dependent on cooperation from all.

Marshall M Halliday
Clerk To The Board
3rd December 2009