

Salmon Fishing: Proposed River Gradings For 2024 Season - Consultation

August 2023

Responding to this Consultation

We are inviting responses to this consultation by 8 September 2023.

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space (<http://consult.gov.scot>). Access and respond to this consultation online at <https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/salmon-fishing-proposed-river-gradings-for-2024>. You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date of 8 September 2023.

If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, please complete the Respondent Information Form and send to:

Wild Salmon and Recreational Fisheries
Marine Directorate
Scottish Government
Area 1B North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Handling your response

If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the Respondent Information Form included in this document.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.gov.scot>. If you use the consultation hub to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or at SalmonandRecreationalFisheries@gov.scot.

Scottish Government consultation process

Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our consultations online: <http://consult.gov.scot>. Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.

Salmon fishing: proposed river gradings for 2024 season



Respondent Information Form and Consultation Questionnaire

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:

<https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
- Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email Address

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
- Publish response only (without name)
- Do not publish response

Information for organisations:

The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes
- No

Overview

We are seeking views on the proposed river gradings for the 2024 salmon fishing season, which have been calculated from the annual assessment of the conservation status of wild Atlantic salmon populations in rivers across Scotland.

Why your views matter

Your views inform the process of finalising the river gradings for the 2024 fishing season, which are used in the annual amendment to The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Regulations 2016.

Proposed river gradings for the 2024 fishing season

An [assessment of the conservation status of salmon](#) in inland waters in Scotland is carried out each year and each river or assessment group is assigned a grading depending on the outcome of that assessment. As a result of the latest assessment, we are proposing that the grading of a number of rivers or groups of rivers will change for the 2024 fishing season. A [summary of these changes](#) and a [full overview of the proposed river gradings](#) for the 2024 fishing season are available.

The detailed changes for the coming year are:

Seven river systems rise one grade from the previous year, including four rivers which will no longer require mandatory catch and release:

- Laxdale and Blackwater (Lewis)
- Laxford and Gleann Dubh
- Lussa River (Jura)
- Soval Estate

Four river systems fall one grade, including three rivers which will become mandatory catch and release fisheries in 2024. These are:

- Laggan and Sorn
- Urr Water
- Varragill River

As in previous years, we propose that the River Leven (Dunbartonshire), assessed at grade 1, should be awarded grade 2 status to reflect the lower grading of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in the catchment – Endrick Water.

We propose that the River Ness, assessed at a grade 1, should be awarded grade 2 status to reflect the lower grading of an SAC in the catchment – River Moriston SAC.

The River Teith SAC is assessed at grade 1 while the Forth is a grade 2. However, the situation is complicated by the overlap between the areas (the Teith SAC extends into the River Forth) and we again propose that we should use the lower of the two grades for both areas, as we did for 2023.

Question 1

Do you agree with the proposed river gradings for the 2024 season?

- I agree with the proposed changes
- I disagree with the proposed changes
- I neither agree or disagree with the proposed changes

Please explain your answer

Question 2

Please indicate your particular area of interest in the conservation assessment.

- I am interested in the whole assessment process
- I am interested in the proposed gradings for all of Scotland
- I am interested in the proposed gradings for a number of districts and/or river areas
- I am interested in the proposed gradings for a particular district or river area
- I am interested in all of the above
- I am not interested in any of the above

Please explain your answer

Question 3

If you are mainly interested in a specific region, district, river or area please specify your area(s) of interest. You can use the examples below to help describe your area.

Definitions and examples

By region, these are as outlined in the supporting pdf documents. Examples include: Moray Firth, North East, Outer Hebrides, Skye etc.

By district, these are as outlined in the river gradings tables. Examples include: Ewe, Gour, Loch Roag, Ythan etc.

By river, these are as outlined in the river grading tables as river name. Examples include: Balnagowan River, River Doon, River Garnock, Wick River etc.

Please give details below

Question 4

Do you have any concerns about missing or incorrect data, such as catch returns or fish counter information, for your area of interest?

- Yes
- No

Please give details below

If you would like to submit further evidence to support your answer, such as word documents or pdf files etc., please send this to salmonandrecreationalfisheries@gov.scot. Please include your unique ID, which will be provided once you have submitted your response.

Please make sure your file is under 25MB. If you wish to send material larger than 25MB then please break this into two or more files (each under 25 MB) and send these across in multiple emails.

Question 5

Do you have any concerns about being financially impacted by the proposed river gradings?

- Yes
- No

Please give details below

If you would like to submit further evidence to support your answer, such as word documents or pdf files etc., please send this to salmonandrecreationalfisheries@gov.scot. Please include your unique ID, which will be provided once you have submitted your response.

Please make sure your file is under 25MB. If you wish to send material larger than 25MB then please break this into two or more files (each under 25 MB) and send these across in multiple emails.

Question 6

Do you foresee the changes to the river gradings having an impact on you or your business?

Yes

No

Please explain

If you would like to submit further evidence to support your answer, such as word documents or pdf files etc., please send this to salmonandrecreationalfisheries@gov.scot. Please include your unique ID, which will be provided once you have submitted your response.

Please make sure your file is under 25MB. If you wish to send material larger than 25MB then please break this into two or more files (each under 25 MB) and send these across in multiple emails.

Question 7

What, if any, information did we not provide that would have been helpful in preparing an informed response to this consultation?

Please give details below

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the respondent to provide details in response to the question above. The box is currently blank.

Further Comments

Question 8

Do you have any further comments that you wish to add?

Please provide any further comments

Thank you for providing your views

Should you wish to provide further information you can contact us via email at salmonandrecreationalfisheries@gov.scot or write to:

Wild Salmon and Recreational Fisheries

Marine Directorate of Scottish Government

Area 1B North

Victoria Quay

Edinburgh

EH6 6QQ



© Crown copyright 2023



This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3 or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at www.gov.scot

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-83521-120-5 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, August 2023

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
PPDAS1324262 (08/23)

W W W . g o v . s c o t