

# KILLING OF A SEAL TO ALLEVIATE SUFFERING

## Background

Under Section 107 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (hereafter 'the Act'), it is an offence intentionally or recklessly to kill, injure or take any seal.

Section 108 of the Act allows exceptions for seals killed under specific licence or to alleviate suffering of a seriously disabled animal through humane killing.

The Act allows a person to end a seal's life humanely in the following circumstances:

- if it has been seriously disabled, and,
- it has no reasonable chance of recovering, and,
- ending its life is the only satisfactory way to end its suffering.

The Act places a duty on anyone who kills a seal in the above circumstances to report the matter to Scottish Ministers as soon as reasonably practical after doing so.

## What you need to do

1. Contact the Strandings Co-ordinator based at Scottish Agricultural College

The contact number is **01463 243030** or **07979 245893** outside office hours.

Or email: [stranding@sac.co.uk](mailto:stranding@sac.co.uk)

The Strandings Co-ordinator may arrange to collect the carcass for post mortem as part of their research programme for Marine Scotland. See Topic Sheet 78 for more information on this.

2. Complete a 'Seal Killed to Alleviate Suffering - Reporting Form'

If you have had to kill a seal for this reason, you will need to complete a '*Seal Killed to Alleviate Suffering - Reporting Form*' found on our website at the following link [www.scotland.gov.uk/seallicensing](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/seallicensing)

A copy of the form can also be found overleaf.

Please return the completed form to:  
**Marine Scotland,  
Marine Planning and Policy,  
Area 1-A South, Victoria Quay,  
EDINBURGH,  
EH6 6QQ.**

Or email it to Marine Scotland:  
[marine.environment@gov.scot](mailto:marine.environment@gov.scot)

The information will be collated by Marine Scotland and passed to scientists at the Sea Mammal Research Unit to feed into the overall seal population data they collect as part of their statutory duty.





## Marine (Scotland) Act 2010: Part 6 – Conservation of Seals

### SEAL KILLED TO ALLEVIATE SUFFERING – REPORTING FORM

Section 108 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 allows a person to end a seal's life humanely if it has been seriously disabled, has no reasonable chance of recovering, and ending its life is the only satisfactory way to end its suffering. It is the duty of a person who kills, injures or takes a seal in a manner which is lawful by virtue of this section to report the matter to the Scottish Ministers as soon as reasonably practical after doing so.

If you have had to kill a seal for the reasons set out above, please complete the following form and return to Marine Scotland, Marine Planning and Policy, Area 1-A South, Victoria Quay, EDINBURGH, EH6 6QQ.

<b>Name:</b>
<b>Address:</b>
<b>Postcode:</b>
<b>Phone Number:</b>
<b>E-mail Address:</b>
<b>Date:</b>
<b>Time:</b>
<b>Species of Seal:</b> (Common, Grey, Other please specify)
<b>Method of Dispatch:</b>
<b>Location:</b>
<b>OS Grid Reference:</b>
<b>Carcase Recovered:</b>
<b>Carcase Reported to Strandings Scheme:</b>
<b>Carcase Collected by Stranding Scheme:</b>
<b>Please describe the circumstances that led you to conclude that ending the seals life was the only satisfactory way to end its suffering:</b>

