



The Scottish  
Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

TOPIC SHEET NO. 94 V3 2014

## // PROVISIONAL SALMON FISHERY STATISTICS – 2013 SEASON

### Summary

- Total reported rod catch (retained and released) for 2013 is 66,387 salmon. It is the lowest reported catch since 2003, and is 74% of the previous 5-year average.
- The proportion of the rod catch accounted for by catch and release is the highest recorded. In 2013, 92% of rod caught spring salmon was released, as was 80% of the annual rod catch.
- Trends in rod catch vary among individual stock components. Reported catch of spring salmon shows a general decline since records began and, although there is some indication that catch has stabilised in recent years, it remains at a historically low level. Overall catch of salmon and grilse in later months, on the other hand, has generally increased over the same period.
- Catch and effort for both fixed engine and net & coble fisheries remain at historically low levels. Reported catch in each fishery was 16,732 and 7,579; 7% and 3% of the maximum reported in the respective time series. Fishing effort in these fisheries was 238 trap months and 57 crew months; the sixth lowest and lowest, respectively, since records began in 1952.

### Publication of provisional salmon fishery statistics

Provisional salmon fishery statistics are published to provide an early indication of the performance of the fishery. The status of salmon stocks, largely as derived from fishery data, will be considered with the publication of the final statistics later in the year.

The provisional statistics for the 2013 season are a summary of the data from 1,869 forms returned from 2,021 forms originally issued (92% return rate). Return rates for the final published statistics for the previous 10 years have been between 92% and 96%

Topic sheet no. 67 explains how we collect the catch statistics and is available for download at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science/Publications/Topicsheets/tslist>

Provisional data for the 2013 fishing season are available for download by following links from the main Scottish Salmon and Sea Trout Fishery Statistics page at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science/Publications/stats/SalmonSeaTroutCatches>

The data provided for download are the best available at the time of publication. Our records are amended when further information is provided and the most accurate data may be obtained directly from us. If you have a specific request for Scottish salmon and sea trout fishery information, please contact us directly at [ms.catchform@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ms.catchform@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

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## // CATCH & EFFORT REPORTED BY SCOTTISH SALMON FISHERIES IN 2013

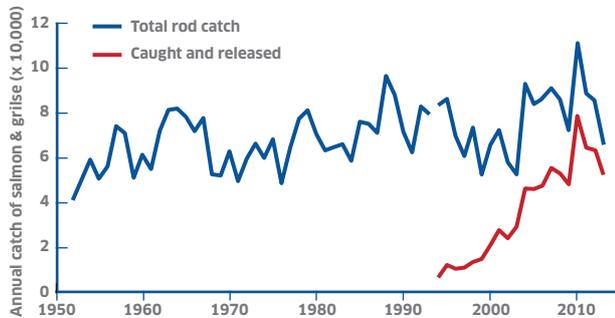


FIGURE 1  
ROD AND LINE FISHERY.

### The rod and line fishery

13,269 wild salmon and grilse were reported caught and retained in the rod and line fishery. A further 53,118 wild salmon and grilse were reported caught and released. The combined retained and released rod catch was 74% of the previous 5-year average.

There are no comprehensive time series of fishing effort data associated with the rod and line fishery.

Trends in rod and line catch are shown in Figure 1. The total rod catch (retained and released) has shown a slight increase since records began in 1952 which, together with the decline in the net fisheries, has resulted in the rod and line catch comprising 73% of the total Scottish catch in 2013 compared to 11% in 1952. In 2013, rod fisheries accounted for 35% of the all methods retained catch.

Trends in total rod catch vary among individual stock components. Reported catch of spring salmon (for the purposes of this report defined as multi sea-winter fish taken before 1 May) shows a general decline since records began and, although there is some indication that spring salmon catch has stabilised in recent years, it remains at a historically low level. Overall catch of salmon and grilse in later months, on the other hand, has generally increased over the same period.

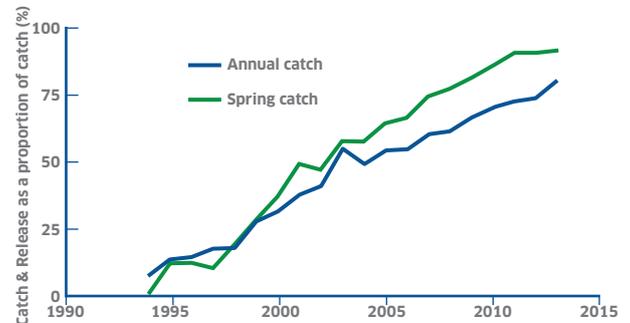


FIGURE 2  
CATCH AND RELEASE, ROD AND LINE FISHERY.

### Catch and release

The proportion of the rod catch accounted for by catch and release has generally increased since 1994, when such information was first recorded. In 2013, 80% of the annual rod catch was released compared to less than 8% in 1994. Similarly, less than 1% of rod caught spring salmon were released in 1994 while 92% were released in 2013 (Figure 2).

### The net fisheries

16,732 wild salmon and grilse were reported caught and retained in the fixed engine fishery, and the national index of netting effort was 238 trap months. 7,579 wild salmon and grilse were reported caught and retained in the net & coble fishery, while the reported effort was 57 crew months.

Reported catch and effort have declined in both net fisheries over much of the period covered by our records and remain at historically low levels. Fishing effort in the fixed engine and net & coble fisheries were respectively the sixth lowest and lowest since records began in 1952. Catches in these fisheries were 7% and 3% of the maxima recorded in the respective time series.

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ISBN : 978-1-78412-437-3  
ISSN : 0264-116X

APS Group Scotland  
DPPAS28849 (04/14)