

## REPORTING ROD FISHING EFFORT



Photo: Desmond Dugan, © Crown copyright, Marine Scotland

### Background

Marine Scotland has been compiling data regarding catches of salmon and sea trout since 1952 but to date, very little information has been collected with regard to rod effort.

Partly in response to feedback from fishery managers, fisheries will be required to collect and report the number of rod days spent fishing for salmon in each month from the 2019 season onwards. Information on fishing effort is valuable because it helps with the interpretation of patterns in salmon catch data; changes in reported rod catch could be due, in part, to changes in the amount of time spent fishing for salmon (i.e. 'rod effort').

### What is rod fishing effort?

Effort is a measure of how much time was spent fishing, **whether or not fish were caught**. The number of 'rod days' each month is the number of rods fished each day, across the whole month. Effort data is particularly informative with respect to assessment of the abundance of underlying stocks and to the sizes of fisheries in different rivers.

### How we will use the data





Rod fishery data form a key part of the assessments which determine the conservation status of rivers under the Salmon Conservation Regulations.

### Note

**This information is required for salmon fishing only. No rod effort data from sea trout fisheries are yet required.**



## Calculating rod days: one angler icon is equal to one rod day

	Weekly total
<b>Week 1</b> 	8 rod days
<b>Week 2</b> 	2 rod days
<b>Week 3</b> 	7 rod days
<b>Week 4</b> 	3 rod days

**Monthly total = 20 rod days for salmon**

Data on rod fishing effort can be used to estimate catch per unit effort or to allocate individual rivers into groups representing heavily fished (higher exploitation rate) to lightly fished (lower exploitation rate) rivers. While recognising a number of factors may affect the relationship between catch and effort, our aim is to use these data to increase accuracy of estimates of the total number of fish returning to rivers and to help explain trends in rod catch data, in line with work undertaken in Ireland, England and Wales.

## What you should do

From the 2019 season onwards, the catch form will require the reporting of rod effort as the total number of rod days fished for salmon in each month. It is important to report months when fishing did not take place, by recording zero rod days. If you do not already collect such data, you will need to do so.

## Contact us

If you have any questions regarding the information in this leaflet, please get in touch at:

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## The Law

You should note that, under Section 64 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 2003, failure to return a completed form within the required timescale, or to make a false statement is an offence.