

# **THE SALMON CARCASS TAGGING (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2016 AND THE TWEED REGULATION (SALMON CARCASS TAGGING) ORDER 2016**

## **GUIDANCE NOTES FOR THE 2017 SEASON**

The above regulations came in to force on 31 March 2016 and took effect from 1 April 2016.

The following links will access both the main Carcass Tagging Regulations and the Tweed Regulation.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2016/117/contents/made>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2016/116/contents/made>

A review of the first year of the carcass tagging regulations was carried out by Marine Scotland and breaches of the regulations identified – this document can be accessed via - <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/status>

Please note that there will be rigorous enforcement of the regulations in the second year of the scheme and fisheries to whom tags are issued should ensure compliance.

References in these guidance notes are to sections in the carcass tagging regulations.

### **WHO DO THE REGULATIONS APPLY TO?**

- Any salmon taken in inland waters (defined as above estuary limits) must be tagged. Fisheries to whom tags are issued must ensure that they have a system in place which enables them to comply with the regulations if they then issue the tags to someone else. Anyone netting must be in possession of tags. A copy of the guidance notes should be issued to anyone netting within the fishery.

### **WHO PAYS FOR THE TAGS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEME?**

- Scottish Government.

### **WHERE DO I GET MY TAGS? (Section 8)**

- Marine Scotland will issue the tags.

### **WHAT WILL BE ON THE TAG? (Section 6)**

- The name of the Fishery and a unique number. A list of the fisheries and tag numbers will be put on the Scottish Government web-site and will be notified to both the River Tweed Commission and the boards in the areas in which tags have been issued. It is strongly recommended that the tag numbers be put on any boxes of fish going to market.

#### WHEN MUST THE TAG BE PUT ON THE CARCASS? (Section 4)

- No later than when the salmon is brought to the shore or bank.

#### HOW MUST THE TAG BE PUT ON THE FISH? (Section 5)

- Through the mouth and out the gill opening and then secured with the cable tie and lock.

#### WHEN CAN I REMOVE THE TAG? (Section 7)

- If you are preparing the salmon for cooking or smoking; if you are cutting it up in to portions immediately before it is offered or exposed for sale or if you are preparing it for your own consumption.

#### WHAT RECORDS MUST I KEEP AND WHERE DO I SEND THEM? (Section 9)

The following must be kept for each week:

- Total number of carcasses which have been tagged including nil return.
- Unique reference numbers of any tags used
- Name of the Salmon fishery within which the salmon was taken
- Unique reference number of any damaged tags which cannot be affixed
- Unique reference number of any lost tags.

It would be helpful if you would keep the records in a spread-sheet. Please remember to keep them for each week. Returns for the season to Marine Scotland.

#### WHAT IF I AM RUNNING OUT OF TAGS?

- You should be issued with more than enough tags but in the event that you can see that you are running out please contact Marine Scotland at the mailbox below.

#### WHERE MUST I KEEP THE TAGS?

- They should be kept under lock and key in a secure building. Please notify tag numbers of any lost or stolen tags as soon as practicably possible (within 8 hours preferably) to the relevant DSFB or the River Tweed Commission. These numbers need to be recorded in the record sent to Marine Scotland at the end of the season.

#### WHEN MUST I SEND MY RECORD?

- The record made under Section 9 (1) must be sent to Marine Scotland, Salmon Assessment Group, Freshwater Field Station, Inchbraoch House, South Quay, Ferryden, Montrose DD10 9SL within 2 weeks of the start of the annual close time for the salmon fishery district – for the purpose of this section a week starts on a Monday and ends on a Sunday

## WHAT DO I DO WITH ANY UNUSED TAGS AT THE END OF THE SEASON?

- Any unused tags must be returned to Marine Scotland along with your record for the season. This enables a complete reconciliation of the tags issued with the tags returned and tags recorded as used to be completed by the Salmon Assessment Group. No tags for the new season will be issued until the unused tags for the previous season are returned to the Salmon Assessment Group

## 2018 SEASON

- Marine Scotland will carry out a review of the operation of the carcass tagging scheme for the 2017 season and if necessary make adjustments for the 2018 season.

## WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE PROBLEMS?

- [salmonandrecreationalfisheries@gov.scot](mailto:salmonandrecreationalfisheries@gov.scot) for general queries
- [ms.catchform@gov.scot](mailto:ms.catchform@gov.scot) for queries about the return of the tags/for more tags