

SALMON CONSERVATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2001

EXPLANATORY NOTES

THE ACT

Section 1: Conservation of salmon and sea trout

4. This section of the Bill inserts five new sections (10A, 10B, 10C 10D and 10E) into the Salmon Act 1986 (“the 1986 Act”).

Section 10A: Regulations to assist conservation of salmon

5. Subsection (1) gives those persons specified in section 6(4) of the 1986 Act the power to apply to Scottish Ministers for regulations to be made to conserve salmon and/or sea trout. Eligible applicants include the district salmon fishery board for a salmon fishery district, or, where there is no such board, two proprietors of salmon fisheries within that district.
6. Subsection (2) describes the form that an application shall take. The application should be in writing and should include a general description of the proposals, why they are deemed to be necessary, and statement of the general effect of the proposals.
7. Subsection (3) empowers Scottish Ministers to make such regulations either in response to an application under subsection (1) or of their own accord if they consider that conservation measures are necessary or expedient.
8. Subsection (4) makes clear that just because the regulations deal also with management, does not mean that they are not to do with matters of conservation.
9. Subsection (5) requires Scottish Ministers, when considering whether or not to make regulations, to take account of representations from persons with an interest in fishing for or taking salmon, or in the environment.
10. Subsection (6) makes clear that the new powers relate only to salmon fisheries and cannot be used to make provision which could be made under existing powers, except in the case of baits and lures, which are separately covered for the purposes of the provisions referred to in subsection (7)(b).
11. Subsection 7(a) confirms that the power conferred by the section extends to the making of provision in regulations to require a proprietor to provide information to a district salmon fishery board. This is intended to improve the information base of District Salmon Fishery Boards.
12. Together with subsection (6), subsection (7)(b) gives Ministers powers to make regulations in relation to baits and lures for the purposes of the provisions referred to in subsection (7)(b) without having to receive an application under section 8 of the 1986 Act.

Section 10B: Powers of enforcement, entry, search and arrest

13. This section extends current enforcement powers (including entry, search and arrest) under the Salmon Fisheries (Scotland) Act 1868 and the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Protection) (Scotland) Act 1951 (“the 1951 Act”) to cover any measures introduced under the provisions of section 10A, and provides scope for additional enforcement powers, which may be deemed necessary.

Section 10C: Offences penalties, forfeiture etc

14. This section creates offences and provides penalties in relation to a contravention of or failure to comply with any provision of regulations made under section 10A. It also extends certain provisions of the 1951 Act (sections 7(3) (evidence), 19(1) (forfeiture) and 20 (disposal of seized fish)) to cover such offences.

Section 10D: Regulations

15. Subsection (1) provides that any regulations made will be made by statutory instrument subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Parliament.
16. Subsection (2) makes clear that such regulations may make provision for a whole district or river or any part thereof, that they may apply in relation to any time or season and that they may apply to any class of fish e.g. salmon or sea trout.
17. Subsection (3) applies paragraphs 3-8 of Schedule 1 of the 1986 Act (i.e. provisions relating to consultation, publication and making of the Order) (with appropriate modifications) where regulations are to be made in response to an application to Scottish Ministers under section 10A.
18. Subsection (4) applies paragraphs 3-8 of Schedule 1 of that Act (with appropriate modifications) where regulations are to be made by Scottish Ministers of their own accord under section 10A.

Section 10E: Application to River Esk

19. This section applies the new provisions above to that part of the River Esk that lies in Scotland with a minor deeming provision.