



**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010: PART 6 – CONSERVATION OF SEALS**

**Seal Licence**

***Licence authorising the killing of seals to prevent serious damage to fisheries or fish farms in Scotland***

Licence Number: WS22/2020/D

The Scottish Ministers (hereafter referred to as “the Licensing Authority”), in exercise of the powers conferred on them by sections 110(1)(g) and 112 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 (hereafter referred to as “the Act”), and in accordance with section 116(1) of the Act following consultation with the Natural Environment Research Council, hereby license:

**North West Salmon Management Group** (hereafter referred to as “the Licensee”)

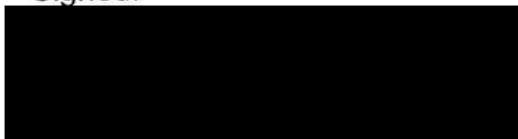
to kill and take seals for the purpose of the prevention of serious damage to fisheries or fish farms in Scotland subject to the conditions set out in the licence.

The licence shall be valid from **01 February 2020 to 31 January 2021**.

In accordance with section 110(2) of the Act, the Licensing Authority have, before granting this licence, had regard to information they have about–

- (a) damage which seals have already done to the fishery or fish farm concerned or to any other fishery or fish farm which is in the vicinity of, or which is of a similar type to, the fishery or fish farm concerned, and
- (b) the effectiveness of non-lethal alternative methods of preventing seal damage to the fishery or fish farm concerned or to any other fishery or fish farm which is in the vicinity of, or which is of a similar type to, the fishery or fish farm concerned.

Signed:



For and on behalf of the Licensing Authority

Date: 31 January 2020

## LICENCE CONDITIONS

1. A maximum of **8** grey seals and **10** harbour seals may be killed under the authority of this licence.
2. The licence authorises the killing of seals for the purpose of the prevention of serious damage to fisheries or fish farms in Scotland only by the use of a firearm by a nominated marksman. Nominated marksmen are named, and their firearm certificate numbers and issuing authority of such certificates are given, in Annex A.
3. The licence only authorises the shooting of seals in waters within the area which is indicated in Annex B.
4. The Licensee must report any killings, and takings, of seals to the Licensing Authority within 48 hours of the seal being killed or, as the case may be, taken.
5. The Licensee must submit to the Licensing Authority a quarterly report within 10 days of the end of each quarterly period (the terms "quarterly report" and "quarterly period" have the meanings given in section 113(2) and (3) of Act, respectively). If no seals have been killed a nil return must be submitted.
6. The only means by which seals may be killed under this licence is by the use of a rifle, using ammunition with a muzzle energy of not less than 600 foot pounds and a bullet weighing not less than 45 grains.
7. The Licensee must ensure that any nominated marksman is in possession of a current firearm certificate for the rifle that is proposed for use and valid for the purpose and the area in respect of which the licence applies before any seal may be killed and taken under the authority of this licence.
8. The Licensee must provide a copy of this licence to all nominated marksmen before they may commence activity under the authority of this licence.
9. The Licensee must ensure that the nominated marksmen does not shoot more than the maximum number of each species of seal given in condition one of the licence.
10. The Licensee must ensure that any nominated marksman, when acting under this licence, takes all reasonable steps to take away any suffering of injured seals, by locating and humanely killing such animals as soon as possible, and without delay, following their being injured.
11. The licence only authorises the shooting of seals in suitable weather conditions which is when there is sufficient visibility and sea conditions are such as to allow a clear shot in the opinion of the nominated marksman on a reasonable assessment.
12. The licence only authorises the shooting of seals when nominated marksmen, acting under this licence, are within a range of no more than 150 metres of the seal being shot.

13. The licence does not authorise the shooting of seals by a nominated marksman when such person is present upon anything which might, in the opinion of the nominated marksman and Licensee, on a reasonable assessment, be considered an unstable platform.
14. The licensee must, provided that it is safe to do so, ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to recover the carcasses of seals. This includes searching a reasonable area of coastline for carcasses within the days immediately following their killing for the purpose of their recovery.
15. The Licensee must produce this licence on demand to a police constable, Marine Scotland Marine Enforcement Officer, any person authorised by the Licensing Authority, or any occupier of land which the Licensing Authority has, under section 121 of the Act, granted authority to the Licensee to enter upon for the purpose of killing seals under this licence.
16. The Licensee must ensure that the Scottish Seal Management Code of Practice is adhered to at all times.
17. The licence does not authorise the shooting of seals when they are on land.
18. The licence does not allow the killing of seals at netting stations.
19. In the event that this licence is revoked then the Licensee must surrender the licence to the Licensing Authority without delay

**Failure to comply with a licence condition is an offence under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 Part 6 Section 112 (5).**

**It is a defence for the person charged to prove that the person took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.**

Notes

A. Nothing in this licence may be taken to absolve the Licensee from compliance with any Act of Parliament (including any Act of the Scottish Parliament), Rules or Regulations, Orders or byelaws relating to the use and/or possession of firearms.

B. This licence does not confer any authority to enter land for the purposes authorised by the licence.

C. The licence may be revoked at any time by written notice sent by post to the Licensee at the address given by him in the application for the licence or delivered personally to the licensee by an officer of Marine Scotland in which case the licence must immediately be surrendered to the Licensing Authority.



**Annex B**

Areas where licensed shooting is permitted are listed and the North West Management area is shown in the map below submitted with the application.

Applecross River  
Glendhu River  
River Sheildaig  
River Duart  
River Cuaig  
River Laxford  
River Balgy  
Sanwood River  
River Torridon  
Rhiconich River  
River Badachro  
Manse Loch River  
River Kerry  
River Inver  
Sand River  
River Kirkaig  
River Sguod  
River Garvie  
River Ewe  
River Polly  
Tournais River  
Oldnay River  
Allt Beithe River  
Glenleraig River  
Little Gruinard River  
Culag River  
Gruinart River  
Geisheil River  
Dundonnell River  
Clashfearn River  
River Broom  
Bad a t-seabhaig River  
River Lael  
Loch na thull River  
Achriesgill Water  
River Kannaird  
Loch Innes na ba Buidhe River

Fish Farms in respect of which this Licence relates:

FS0067 Badcall Bay  
FS0068 Calbha  
FS0621 Loch A Chairn Bhain  
FS0065 Loch Laxford  
FS0933 Oldany  
FS0671 Outer Bay (Loch Droighniche)  
FS0056 Ardmair  
FS0057 Corry Farm  
FS0517 Ardessie A  
FS0675 Ardessie B



Figure 1: The North West Salmon Management Area A = Cape Wrath (lat 58.631355 long -5.035233) and B= AppleCross (lat 57.431224 long -5.812589) OS 1:50 000.