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Scottish Salmon Catch Statistics, 1952-1969

by

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This report presents, in the same form as earlier reports, the most up-to-date information available on Scottish salmon catches. The appropriate values for the 1969 season have been added to the tables submitted in the last report (ICES/ICNAF Salmon Doc. 69/13) and new averages calculated for the period 1952-69. Due to late returns, minor amendments have also been made to most of the values submitted for 1968 in the last report, but these do not materially alter the status of the 1968 catches in relation to earlier years.

The total Scottish catch of salmon and grilse in 1969 (Table 1) was well above average, having only once been exceeded, in 1967, during the period for which full statistics are available. However, it is clear from this table that this was largely due to a record catch of grilse, as the salmon catch was below average, the total weight of salmon caught being the fourth lowest recorded since 1952. Further, it should be emphasised that the values given for the salmon catch in 1969 may not reflect the true level of this catch because there is evidence that, at least in 1969, significant numbers of grilse, which were unusually large in that year, may have been included in the returns as salmon.

The downward trend in spring catches, which has been a prominent feature of Scottish salmon catches in recent years, continued in 1969 (Table 2), the 'spring' catch (February to May) being only 39% of the long-term average for the net and coble fishery and 31% of that for the fixed engine fishery. In contrast, in 1969, salmon catches in July, August and September were among the highest so far recorded, the 'summer' salmon catch (June to September) being 43% above the long-term average. However, these high values in 1969 are again likely to be due, at least partly, to the inclusion of large grilse in the salmon catches for this part of the season.

The catches by areas, based on 64 districts having an average annual catch of 100 salmon and grilse and submitted in Tables 4-7, suggest that exceptionally, high grilse catches were confined mainly to the 'East' and 'North' coasts (Tables 4 and 5), grilse catches on the 'West' and 'Southwest' coasts (Table 6 and 7) being much closer to the long-term average.

The data on catch/unit effort, presented in Tables 8-13, indicate that the trends in the Scottish catch in 1969 were primarily due to changes in the numbers of fish available and not to changes in effort.

No detailed statistics for the Scottish catch in 1970 are available as yet. Preliminary estimates, however, indicate that the salmon catch is likely to be below 200,000 fish and, therefore, the lowest or second lowest recorded since 1952, while the grilse catch (about 220,000 fish), although about average, will be very substantially lower than in 1969. If these preliminary estimates prove accurate and the total catch is of the order of 400,000 fish, this will be the lowest total catch since 1961 and substantially below the average of about 495,000 for the period 1962 to 1969.

Table 1

Annual Scottish Catches 1952-1969

Year	Salmon		Grilse		Total	
	No.	Wt. (tons)	Av Wt. (lb)	No.	Wt. (tons)	Av Wt. (lb)
1952	236,285	1163.0	11.0	151,157	325.3	4.8
1953	211,935	980.4	10.4	141,782	339.1	5.3
1954	256,401	1184.4	10.3	117,916	286.9	5.4
1955	252,109	1100.6	9.8	136,015	302.7	5.0
1956	200,425	928.9	10.4	117,275	261.7	5.0
1957	217,572	939.0	9.7	196,974	452.2	5.1
1958	224,820	1033.7	10.3	202,703	462.0	5.1
1959	270,006	1224.5	10.2	115,962	270.0	5.2
1960	201,753	945.1	10.5	184,631	468.3	5.7
1961	179,926	807.0	10.1	156,257	369.6	5.3
1962	213,436	999.2	10.5	280,826	712.9	5.7
1963	267,280	1265.7	10.6	166,922	405.9	5.4
1964	269,566	1196.7	9.9	286,462	686.5	5.4
1965	219,999	1048.4	10.7	213,826	541.6	5.7
1966	227,707	1048.7	10.3	220,920	545.8	5.5
1967	261,534	1225.1	10.5	342,597	873.6	5.7
1968	213,993	1003.8	10.5	213,879	534.8	5.6
1969	209,965	971.5	10.4	348,781	938.7	6.0
Average 1952-69	229,706	1059.2	10.3	199,716	487.6	5.5
				429,423	1546.8	8.1

Table 2

Monthly Commercial Salmon Catches 1952-1969

<u>Year</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952	26,850	24,971	34,892	41,506	36,139	25,953	9,608	983	200,902
1953	20,644	21,971	23,455	35,997	25,060	29,200	10,670	695	167,692
1954	17,729	33,602	43,406	37,401	29,490	30,742	9,886	637	202,893
1955	6,438	24,679	34,961	33,088	44,762	41,631	18,339	1,517	205,415
1956	5,714	21,521	19,904	27,570	34,818	31,442	9,354	728	151,051
1957	6,497	20,642	20,935	31,525	33,557	31,105	10,019	544	154,824
1958	6,528	16,623	21,053	33,782	31,103	37,114	15,836	758	162,797
1959	34,218	27,140	27,083	30,686	40,356	39,056	21,608	2,308	222,455
1960	5,892	18,017	15,277	28,403	26,532	34,397	17,626	2,538	148,482
1961	6,048	15,789	16,674	22,482	25,934	26,833	14,880	2,232	130,872
1962	5,370	10,931	9,946	22,058	31,247	43,750	25,057	2,919	151,278
1963	11,023	34,363	22,774	32,100	33,675	33,363	26,527	3,461	197,286
1964	9,934	13,171	13,233	23,744	35,804	57,678	43,213	5,453	202,230
1965	7,884	15,823	14,911	18,167	30,517	43,407	22,285	2,549	155,543
1966	4,931	13,479	15,620	18,905	24,952	45,469	36,245	4,554	164,155
1967	4,755	10,809	10,912	14,372	37,178	65,862	48,012	6,736	198,636
1968	7,252	12,478	9,441	13,712	33,018	51,221	34,887	6,319	168,318
1969	3,237	4,796	7,731	10,746	21,779	60,406	50,576	7,940	167,211
<u>Average</u>									
1952-69	10,608	18,934	20,123	26,458	31,996	40,479	23,590	2,926	175,113

Table 3

Monthly Commercial Grilse Catches 1952-1969

<u>Year</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952		1	32	1,060	39,458	94,502	9,846	192	145,091
1953		5	14	583	18,098	96,622	19,728	459	135,509
1954	1		2	246	9,580	83,633	19,243	358	113,063
1955		1	3	134	15,556	89,467	26,228	581	131,970
1956			7	372	13,954	75,370	19,315	282	109,300
1957	33		13	677	32,339	116,231	37,378	307	186,978
1958		3	11	411	14,346	129,797	43,274	646	192,588
1959			6	311	5,841	67,847	37,623	890	112,518
1960		1	22	701	12,116	111,737	47,088	1,766	173,431
1961	13	3	83	344	11,538	96,198	40,476	1,372	150,027
1962	11	2	9	583	20,413	177,165	70,269	1,883	270,335
1963		26	55	207	5,471	91,218	58,908	1,790	157,675
1964	913	914	922	1,255	13,548	140,377	109,222	5,084	272,235
1965	8		7	309	12,475	142,857	47,623	1,835	205,115
1966	135		3	169	4,650	115,253	89,312	3,024	212,546
1967			8	300	26,657	197,199	100,395	3,588	328,147
1968	200	250	329	905	14,757	124,457	63,247	3,033	207,178
1969	7	1	36	902	34,963	226,105	74,185	4,492	340,691
<u>Average</u>									
1952-69	73	67	87	526	17,542	120,891	50,970	1,755	191,355

Table 4

Annual Catches 1952-1969

East Coast (Berwick-Kinnaird Head)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Salmon</u>	<u>Grilse</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952	147,069	66,470	213,539
1953	127,456	61,933	189,389
1954	157,580	51,056	208,636
1955	139,752	46,864	186,616
1956	114,612	47,059	161,671
1957	126,143	74,151	200,294
1958	121,645	81,164	202,809
1959	182,943	54,539	237,482
1960	119,297	82,083	201,380
1961	107,143	76,759	183,902
1962	118,170	147,764	265,934
1963	168,108	73,298	241,406
1964	151,655	134,471	286,126
1965	126,507	97,720	224,227
1966	140,176	109,525	249,701
1967	149,502	166,126	315,628
1968	130,668	100,250	230,918
1969	136,091	209,918	346,009
Average 1952-69	136,918	93,397	230,315

Table 5

Annual Catches 1952-1969

Moray Firth and North Coasts (Kinnaird Head-Kyle of Tongue)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Salmon</u>	<u>Grilse</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952	64,742	66,877	131,619
1953	60,378	55,889	116,267
1954	70,737	42,834	113,571
1955	80,459	64,874	145,333
1956	59,493	48,729	108,222
1957	57,860	77,404	135,264
1958	66,313	66,948	133,261
1959	55,826	39,196	95,022
1960	54,565	64,098	118,663
1961	47,584	55,049	102,633
1962	56,333	73,690	130,023
1963	62,138	47,142	109,280
1964	73,914	88,707	162,621
1965	57,765	66,222	123,987
1966	51,446	64,047	115,493
1967	68,675	111,480	180,155
1968	50,280	57,721	108,001
1969	45,913	92,775	138,688
Average 1952-69	60,246	65,760	126,006

Table 6

Annual Catches 1952-1969

West Coast and Islands (Kyle of Tongue-Loch Fyne)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Salmon</u>	<u>Grilse</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952	8,289	8,472	16,761
1953	10,405	16,033	26,438
1954	10,939	16,635	27,574
1955	11,002	15,930	26,932
1956	9,940	12,599	22,539
1957	12,632	29,325	41,957
1958	14,516	27,205	41,721
1959	8,352	9,334	17,686
1960	7,482	18,294	25,776
1961	7,468	12,762	20,230
1962	13,796	24,104	37,900
1963	11,179	22,791	33,970
1964	17,354	31,237	48,591
1965	13,300	24,003	37,303
1966	10,540	19,589	30,129
1967	17,907	29,301	47,208
1968	14,427	26,155	40,582
1969	11,144	19,590	30,734
Average 1952-69	11,704	20,187	31,891

Table 7

Annual Catches 1952-1969

Southwest and Solway Coasts (Loch Fyne-Solway)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Salmon</u>	<u>Grilse</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952	12,072	5,356	17,428
1953	10,756	4,740	15,505
1954	13,274	6,386	19,660
1955	15,192	8,272	23,464
1956	13,515	8,482	21,997
1957	16,032	15,999	32,031
1958	17,962	18,826	36,788
1959	20,731	11,045	31,776
1960	16,529	17,149	33,678
1961	15,316	10,435	25,751
1962	20,532	29,739	50,271
1963	22,234	20,188	42,422
1964	21,253	27,521	48,774
1965	19,202	23,480	42,682
1966	22,578	24,488	47,066
1967	22,919	33,218	56,137
1968	16,430	25,339	41,769
1969	14,478	23,374	37,852
Average 1952-69	17,279	17,446	34,725

Table 8

Net and Coble - Catch/Unit/Effort - Salmon + Grilse

Catch/Crew/Month

<u>Year</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Overall</u>
1952	170.0	162.5	121.0	108.3	177.4	286.0	60.1	17.8	152.4
1953	171.6	101.1	88.7	84.0	57.6	234.3	82.8	12.5	118.5
1954	194.7	271.5	194.7	107.5	95.7	236.9	99.7	12.8	156.8
1955	72.4	177.8	180.6	103.7	149.5	266.2	130.6	30.5	159.6
1956	52.3	182.0	93.0	66.4	96.7	214.4	77.6	17.8	114.7
1957	76.5	220.8	133.5	109.8	147.1	328.4	122.7	11.8	169.2
1958	84.0	158.8	135.0	104.5	104.9	312.4	136.9	20.7	156.2
1959	286.2	218.8	130.3	85.2	105.5	219.0	180.0	44.7	158.6
1960	64.0	157.5	77.9	87.8	90.0	340.2	197.0	60.5	161.5
1961	65.6	123.0	82.1	61.4	67.0	257.5	139.0	48.7	122.3
1962	64.2	76.6	59.3	75.5	126.8	509.6	270.9	65.0	218.5
1963	60.6	319.0	116.6	115.0	100.0	246.4	229.8	65.2	171.6
1964	89.9	102.0	59.4	63.5	96.3	420.0	397.5	116.1	212.4
1965	81.3	136.0	80.0	70.4	95.4	425.0	197.8	65.2	183.0
1966	53.4	130.0	113.7	70.5	78.1	342.5	359.0	130.4	199.0
1967	67.1	144.5	82.2	76.1	163.8	615.2	469.0	201.9	300.5
1968	74.4	117.6	55.6	56.8	103.5	373.7	267.6	159.5	188.6
1969	57.6	48.6	61.0	54.6	144.3	721.0	465.4	239.8	317.9
<u>Average</u>									
1952-69	99.2	158.2	103.6	83.4	111.1	352.7	215.8	73.4	181.2

Table 9

Net and Coble - Catch/Unit/Effort - Salmon

Catch/Crew/Month

<u>Year</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Overall</u>
1952	170.0	162.5	120.8	105.9	93.3	73.9	33.6	15.2	92.1
1953	171.6	101.1	88.7	83.5	54.8	65.1	29.5	7.8	69.6
1954	194.7	271.5	194.7	106.9	78.1	74.7	38.5	8.7	111.0
1955	72.4	177.8	180.6	103.6	120.2	107.0	65.5	23.9	108.0
1956	52.3	182.0	93.0	65.6	70.4	71.3	28.2	12.8	70.0
1957	76.0	220.8	133.5	108.5	82.1	84.0	34.1	8.8	89.0
1958	84.0	158.8	135.0	103.7	81.8	83.1	40.1	11.2	84.4
1959	286.2	218.8	130.3	84.8	96.9	88.5	68.0	33.8	111.8
1960	64.9	157.5	77.8	87.2	67.1	104.1	65.3	38.0	84.1
1961	65.6	123.0	81.7	60.8	53.5	61.7	40.9	32.5	60.9
1962	64.2	76.6	59.3	72.5	80.4	118.8	82.9	43.3	83.6
1963	60.6	319.0	116.6	114.9	93.8	88.6	89.8	49.7	109.3
1964	89.9	102.0	59.4	62.8	77.1	144.0	127.5	66.5	98.6
1965	81.3	136.0	80.0	70.0	75.0	108.0	72.8	38.4	84.0
1966	53.4	130.0	113.3	70.0	70.0	102.5	119.0	82.7	95.0
1967	67.1	144.5	82.2	75.3	109.0	172.4	173.8	133.0	130.1
1968	74.4	117.6	55.4	55.7	82.4	130.4	109.7	113.1	96.3
1969	57.6	48.6	60.7	51.3	67.6	180.6	212.0	153.9	123.4
<u>Average</u>									
1952-69	99.2	158.2	103.5	82.5	80.8	103.3	79.5	48.5	94.5

Table 10

Net and Coble - Catch/Unit/Effort - Grilse

Catch/Crew/Month

<u>Year</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May.</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Overall</u>
1952	-	-	0.2	2.4	84.1	212.1	26.5	2.6	60.3
1953	-	-	-	0.5	2.8	169.2	53.3	4.7	48.9
1954	-	-	-	0.6	17.6	162.2	60.7	4.1	45.8
1955	-	-	-	0.1	29.3	159.2	65.1	6.6	51.6
1956	-	-	-	0.8	26.3	143.1	49.4	5.0	44.7
1957	0.5	-	-	1.3	65.0	244.4	88.6	3.0	80.2
1958	-	-	-	0.8	23.1	229.3	96.8	9.5	71.8
1959	-	-	-	0.4	8.6	130.5	112.0	10.9	46.8
1960	-	-	0.1	0.6	22.9	236.1	132.6	22.5	77.4
1961	-	-	0.4	0.6	13.5	195.8	98.1	16.2	61.4
1962	-	-	-	3.0	46.4	390.8	188.0	21.7	134.9
1963	-	-	-	0.1	6.2	157.8	140.0	15.5	62.3
1964	-	-	-	0.7	19.2	276.0	270.0	49.6	113.8
1965	-	-	-	0.4	20.4	317.0	125.0	26.8	99.0
1966	-	-	0.4	0.5	8.1	240.0	240.0	47.7	104.0
1967	-	-	-	0.8	54.8	442.8	295.2	68.9	170.4
1968	-	-	0.2	1.1	21.1	243.2	157.9	46.4	92.4
1969	-	-	0.3	3.3	76.7	540.3	253.4	85.8	194.5
Average									
1952-69	-	-	0.1	1.0	30.3	249.4	136.2	24.9	86.7

Table 11

Fixed Engines - Catch/Unit/Effort - Salmon + Grilse

Catch/Net/Month

<u>Year</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Overall</u>
1952	10.0	12.2	23.4	26.0	38.4	61.7	10.8	2.7	29.9
1953	11.6	20.2	16.4	24.9	25.1	72.5	17.8	8.2	28.5
1954	4.4	12.5	29.2	21.8	21.4	63.5	15.4	4.3	27.8
1955	1.4	14.4	20.2	20.2	33.8	74.0	25.5	4.2	32.6
1956	6.1	12.8	13.4	18.9	29.3	54.5	17.1	2.5	25.4
1957	2.0	7.7	10.8	15.7	34.7	77.7	33.5	2.2	31.5
1958	2.8	10.2	12.1	22.7	25.6	95.0	39.7	1.8	36.1
1959	40.9	19.6	18.1	20.8	29.0	66.1	30.7	8.2	33.2
1960	4.4	10.0	12.7	21.9	24.3	81.2	34.4	8.2	33.1
1961	6.7	14.3	12.8	15.3	25.5	68.8	32.5	5.9	29.5
1962	6.5	13.9	7.3	16.9	35.7	119.7	51.7	10.6	43.6
1963	39.7	30.9	23.2	25.5	25.1	84.0	47.5	13.7	41.7
1964	16.6	14.0	13.3	22.7	39.3	130.7	99.5	17.7	58.8
1965	11.1	18.4	16.6	16.0	34.1	115.4	46.0	6.6	44.4
1966	9.4	14.6	15.9	13.5	22.6	121.6	80.1	9.3	49.8
1967	2.4	7.4	10.4	10.8	53.2	180.9	92.9	11.8	71.5
1968	15.2	13.8	9.4	11.6	39.7	113.3	51.6	10.7	47.4
1969	0.9	8.1	8.6	9.9	49.6	178.5	57.4	17.5	65.6
Average									
1952-69	10.7	14.2	15.2	18.0	32.6	97.7	43.6	8.1	40.6

Table 12

Fixed Engines - Catch/Unit/Effort - Salmon

Catch/Net/Month

<u>Year</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Overall</u>
1952	10.0	12.2	23.4	25.4	17.2	10.6	4.2	2.2	15.2
1953	11.6	20.2	16.4	24.6	13.3	14.6	5.8	4.5	14.0
1954	4.4	12.5	29.2	21.6	15.1	14.6	4.0	3.1	15.2
1955	1.4	14.4	20.2	20.1	23.4	18.6	7.2	3.7	16.9
1956	6.1	12.8	13.4	18.6	20.5	13.7	4.7	2.2	13.9
1957	2.0	7.7	10.8	15.4	16.6	13.1	4.6	1.2	11.2
1958	2.8	10.2	12.1	21.8	15.4	17.8	8.3	1.0	14.0
1959	40.9	19.6	18.1	20.6	24.0	21.1	9.9	4.9	20.4
1960	4.4	10.0	12.7	21.0	15.1	12.9	6.2	3.8	12.8
1961	6.7	14.3	12.8	15.0	15.8	12.4	6.9	1.8	12.3
1962	6.4	13.9	7.3	16.7	20.0	17.5	9.6	5.1	14.0
1963	39.7	30.8	23.1	25.2	19.3	15.6	9.1	7.0	19.9
1964	16.6	14.0	13.3	22.4	27.6	32.2	23.8	7.4	23.2
1965	11.1	18.4	16.6	15.6	22.0	24.2	11.2	3.7	17.8
1966	9.4	14.6	15.8	13.5	19.0	32.3	18.1	3.4	19.4
1967	2.4	7.4	10.4	10.4	26.3	39.2	22.3	7.2	21.6
1968	15.2	13.8	9.4	11.1	24.8	25.6	13.5	4.0	17.6
1969	0.9	8.1	8.6	9.0	15.5	28.8	16.1	10.7	15.9
<u>Average</u>									
1952-69	10.7	14.2	15.2	17.7	19.5	20.3	10.3	4.3	16.4

Table 13

Fixed Engines - Catch/Unit/Effort - Grilse

Catch/Net/Month

<u>Year</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Overall</u>
1952	-	-	-	0.6	21.2	51.1	6.6	0.5	14.7
1953	-	-	-	9.3	11.8	57.9	12.0	3.7	14.5
1954	-	-	-	0.2	6.3	48.9	11.4	1.2	12.6
1955	-	-	-	0.1	10.4	55.4	18.3	0.5	15.7
1956	-	-	-	0.3	8.8	40.8	12.4	0.3	11.5
1957	-	-	-	0.3	18.1	64.6	28.9	1.0	20.4
1958	-	-	-	0.3	10.2	77.2	31.4	0.8	22.1
1959	-	-	-	0.2	5.0	45.0	20.8	3.3	12.8
1960	-	-	-	0.9	9.2	68.3	28.2	4.4	20.3
1961	-	-	-	0.3	9.7	56.4	25.6	4.1	17.2
1962	0.1	-	-	0.2	15.7	102.2	42.1	5.5	29.6
1963	-	0.1	0.1	0.3	5.8	68.4	38.4	6.7	21.8
1964	-	-	-	0.3	11.7	98.5	75.7	10.3	35.6
1965	-	-	-	0.4	12.1	91.2	34.8	2.9	26.6
1966	-	-	0.1	-	3.6	89.3	62.0	5.9	30.4
1967	-	-	-	0.4	26.9	141.7	70.6	4.6	49.9
1968	-	-	-	0.5	14.8	87.7	38.1	6.6	29.8
1969	-	-	-	0.8	34.1	149.7	41.3	6.9	49.7

<u>Average</u>	-	-	-	0.4	13.1	77.5	33.3	3.8	24.2
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Table 14

Total Annual Effort

<u>Year</u>	<u>Net and Coble</u> <u>Total No. of Crew/Months</u>	<u>Fixed Engines</u> <u>Total No. of Net/Months</u>
1952	1015	4958
1953	1055	4919
1954	1022	4532
1955	1001	4384
1956	1031	5188
1957	958	4577
1958	1028	4907
1959	1107	4354
1960	1034	4147
1961	1189	4163
1962	1086	3688
1963	989	3800
1964	1017	3969
1965	998	3593
1966	917	3490
1967	946	3014
1968	1070	3200
1969	876	3211