

Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board.

Recommendations for the stocking of Trout.

This document is intended as a recommendation. A guide to best practise when considering and undertaking stocking with trout. All stocking presents us with complex questions. These need to be considered very carefully before any practical work is undertaken.

- Stock only Brown Trout, Rainbows are considered exotic.
- Consult neighbouring proprietors.
- Consult the local DSFB.
- Consult the local Fisheries Trust.
- Inform Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA).
- Buy or rear Trout from as close to the water body to be stocked as possible.
- Buy Trout from a reputable dealer.
- Ensure you have a fish health certificate from the dealer.
- Try to buy fish well away from any known outbreak of disease or non native species. Example – Cray Fish on the River Nairn. A possible transfer of *Gyrodactylus Salaris*.
- Inspect the fish before they are put into the water body. Any sign of disease and the fish should be returned to the dealer.
- Inspect the tank closely to ensure there is nothing in it other than fish. Example – Cray Fish have been transported from one catchment to another in tanks.
- If stocking a small water, there may have never been fish in it before, if this is the case do not stock it. A fragile eco-system could be endangered.
- Do not stock fish into a water that has native fish in it. Especially in Hill Lochs where relic populations have existed since the last ice age.
- Do not stock waters where trout can escape from into main salmon rivers. Take note of high water conditions.
- Make sure any water body has enough food and shelter to sustain the fish that are going to be placed in it.
- Ask your self “why are you stocking”? Make a list of potentially positive and negative effects. Then make a rational decision to undertake the work or not.
- “Salmon and Sea Trout: To Stock or Not”? 2003. Fisheries Research Services Scottish Fisheries Information Pamphlet No.22.

Available from:

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