

# SEPA position and good practice guidance on the removal of Pink Salmon redds

## SEPA position

SEPA recognises concerns over the spread of invasive non-native species. This guidance explains how action can be taken to impede the spread of Pink Salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*, also known as pacific or humpbacked salmon) without impact on the environment.

Concern over the potential for non-native Pink Salmon to establish in Scotland has prompted action to disturb their spawning redds, either to collect eggs for research purposes, or to disrupt them in order to prevent egg survival. This activity has the potential to impact on the environment as it involves disturbing the river bed.

SEPA will not normally require an authorisation where individual pink salmon redds are removed provided good practice is followed. Where the good practice requirements below are fulfilled, you do not need to contact SEPA.

**Good practice** requires that:

1. Equipment used for redd removal and disruption is limited to hand tools only, and does not involve the use of any powered machinery.
2. Redd removal is not undertaken during sensitive periods for native fish species (from the time of spawning to the emergence of the juvenile fish). Redd removal should therefore not be carried out between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> May where Atlantic salmon and trout are present, with this exclusion period extended to 30<sup>th</sup> June where river and sea lamprey are present. For information on what fish are present, please consult with your local Fisheries Trust or District Salmon Fisheries Board (contact details available at <http://fms.scot>).
3. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is consulted and their advice followed where any protected areas or protected species, in particular freshwater pearl mussels or sea lamprey, may be affected.

SEPA should be contacted if you plan to use any approaches which do not follow the good practice above, as this may require an application for authorisation under the Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR), and will need a detailed method statement and justification for the works.