

## Scottish Overview

Scottish salmon and sea trout face many threats. S&TC Scotland is the only independent campaigning organisation in Scotland working to protect them.

There is overwhelming evidence that the number of salmon surviving their ocean migrations is far less than was the case 50 years ago – down from 20 % or more to 5 % or less. ([See \*Declining Wild Fish Runs\*](#)) Most of the factors driving this decline are impossible to address, so it is all the more important that we tackle those issues affecting salmon abundance in which human intervention can play a part.

Probably the biggest issue for our wild salmon and sea trout stocks – within our control – is industrial-scale salmon farming. Today's highly industrialised fish farms impact on wild stocks in the west Highlands and Islands and can affect wild fish numbers in areas far removed from the farms themselves. For example, wild salmon smolts from east and north coast rivers must migrate past concentrations of fish farms in Orkney and Shetland ([See \*Salmon Farming Overview\*](#))

We apply pressure – without fear or favour – on the Scottish Government, public bodies and commercial companies to act to protect wild stocks. It was largely S&TC Scotland's pressure that prompted the close of coastal salmon netting in Scotland ([See \*Mixed Stock Netting: The Facts\*](#)).

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