



Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975

CHAPTER 51

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Corrections

Errors appear in the first impression (August 1975) of this Act and the following corrections have been incorporated into this reprint.

Page 30, para. 3, table 6,

Close season for fishing trout with rod and line,

for "242 days"

read "153 days"

Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975

CHAPTER 51

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Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975

1975 CHAPTER 51

An Act to consolidate the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923 and certain other enactments relating to salmon and freshwater fisheries, and to repeal certain obsolete enactments relating to such fisheries. [1st August 1975]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

PART I

PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN MODES OF TAKING OR DESTROYING FISH, ETC.

- 1.—(1) Subject to subsection (4) below, no person shall—
- Prohibited implements.
- (a) use any of the following instruments, that is to say—
- 1968 c. 27.
- (i) a firearm within the meaning of the Firearms Act 1968 ;
- (ii) an otter lath or jack, wire or snare ;
- (iii) a crossline or setline ;
- (iv) a spear, gaff, stroke-haul, snatch or other like instrument ;
- (v) a light ;
- for the purpose of taking or killing salmon, trout or freshwater fish ;
- (b) have in his possession any instrument mentioned in paragraph (a) above intending to use it to take or kill salmon, trout or freshwater fish ; or
- (c) throw or discharge any stone or other missile for the purpose of taking or killing, or facilitating the taking or killing of any salmon, trout or freshwater fish.

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(2) If any person contravenes this section, he shall be guilty of an offence unless he proves to the satisfaction of the court that the act was done for the purpose of the preservation or development of a private fishery and with the previous permission in writing of the water authority for the area in which the act was done.

(3) In this section—

“crossline” means a fishing line reaching from bank to bank across water and having attached to it one or more lures or baited hooks;

“otter lath or jack” includes any small boat or vessel, board, stick or other instrument, whether used with a hand line, or as auxiliary to a rod and line, or otherwise for the purpose of running out lures, artificial or otherwise;

“setline” means a fishing line left unattended in water and having attached to it one or more lures or baited hooks;

“stroke-haul or snatch” includes any instrument or device, whether used with a rod and line or otherwise, for the purpose of foul hooking any fish.

(4) This section shall not apply to any person using a gaff (consisting of a plain metal hook without a barb) or tailer as auxiliary to angling with a rod and line or having such a gaff or a tailer in his possession intending to use it as aforesaid.

Roe, spawning
and unclean
fish, etc.

2.—(1) Subject to subsection (5) below, any person who, for the purpose of fishing for salmon, trout or freshwater fish—

(a) uses any fish roe; or

(b) buys, sells, or exposes for sale, or has in his possession any roe of salmon or trout,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Subject to subsections (3) and (5) below, any person who—

(a) knowingly takes, kills or injures, or attempts to take, kill or injure, any salmon, trout or freshwater fish which is unclean or immature; or

(b) buys, sells, or exposes for sale, or has in his possession any salmon, trout or freshwater fish which is unclean or immature, or any part of any such fish,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) Subsection (2) above does not apply to any person who takes a fish accidentally and returns it to the water with the least possible injury.

(4) Subject to subsection (5) below, any person who, except in the exercise of a legal right to take materials from any waters, wilfully disturbs any spawn or spawning fish, or any bed, bank or shallow on which any spawn or spawning fish may be, shall be guilty of an offence.

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(5) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under this section in respect of any act, if he does the act for the purpose of the artificial propagation of salmon, trout or freshwater fish or for some scientific purpose or for the purpose of the preservation or development of a private fishery and has obtained the previous permission in writing of the water authority for the area.

3.—(1) Any person who shoots or works any seine or draft net for salmon or migratory trout in any waters across more than three-fourths of the width of those waters shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) below, any person who, except in a place where smaller dimensions are authorised by byelaw, takes or attempts to take salmon or migratory trout with any net that has a mesh of less dimensions than 2 inches in extension from knot to knot (the measurement to be made on each side of the square), or 8 inches measured round each mesh when wet, shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) In subsection (2) above "net" does not include a landing net in use as auxiliary to angling with rod and line.

(4) The placing of two or more nets the one behind the other or near to each other in such manner as practically to diminish the mesh of the nets used, or the covering of the nets used with canvas, or the using of any other device so as to evade subsection (2) above, shall be deemed to be a contravention of that subsection.

4.—(1) Subject to subsection (2) below, any person who causes or knowingly permits to flow, or puts or knowingly permits to be put, into any waters containing fish or into any tributaries of waters containing fish, any liquid or solid matter to such an extent as to cause the waters to be poisonous or injurious to fish or the spawning grounds, spawn or food of fish, shall be guilty of an offence.

Poisonous matter and polluting effluent.

(2) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under subsection (1) above for any act done in the exercise of any right to which he is by law entitled or in continuance of a method in use in connection with the same premises before 18th July 1923, if he proves to the satisfaction of the court that he has used the best practicable means, within a reasonable cost, to prevent such

PART I matter from doing injury to fish or to the spawning grounds, spawn or food of fish.

(3) Proceedings under this section shall not be instituted except by the water authority for the area or by a person who has first obtained a certificate from the Minister that he has a material interest in the waters alleged to be affected.

Prohibition of use of explosives, poisons or electrical devices and of dams etc.

5.—(1) Subject to subsection (2) below, no person shall use in or near any waters (including waters adjoining the coast of England and Wales and within the exclusive fishery limits of the British Islands) any explosive substance, any poison or other noxious substance, or any electrical device, with intent thereby to take or destroy fish.

(2) Subsection (1) above shall not apply to the use by a person of any substance or device—

- (a) for a scientific purpose, or for the purpose of protecting, improving or replacing stocks of fish; and
- (b) with the permission in writing of the water authority for the area;

but as respects the use of any noxious substance such permission shall not be given by a water authority otherwise than with the approval of the Minister.

(3) No person shall, without lawful excuse, destroy or damage any dam, flood-gate or sluice with intent thereby to take or destroy fish.

(4) A person who contravenes subsection (1) or (3) above or who, for the purpose of contravening subsection (1) above, has in his possession any explosive or noxious substance or any electrical device, shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) The use of any substance in any waters for a purpose falling within paragraph (a) of subsection (2) above, and with the permission mentioned in paragraph (b) of that subsection, shall not constitute an offence under—

- (a) section 4 above;
- (b) any byelaws made under paragraph 31 of Schedule 3 below;
- (c) section 2(1)(a) of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act 1951; or
- (d) section 22(1)(a) of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) (Scotland) Act 1951.

1951 c. 64.

1951 c. 66.

1974 c. 40.

(6) On the coming into force of section 31 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974, subsection (5) above shall have effect as if the following paragraph were substituted for paragraph (c):—

“(c) section 31(1)(a) of the Control of Pollution Act 1974”.

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OBSTRUCTIONS TO PASSAGE OF FISH

6.—(1) Any person who—

Fixed engines.

- (a) places a fixed engine in any inland or tidal waters ; or
- (b) uses an unauthorised fixed engine for taking or facilitating the taking of salmon or migratory trout or for detaining or obstructing the free passage of salmon or migratory trout in any such waters.

shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) A person acting under directions to that effect given by the water authority for the area may take possession of or destroy an engine placed or used in contravention of this section.

(3) In subsection (1) above “unauthorised fixed engine” means any fixed engine other than—

- (a) a fixed engine certified in pursuance of the Salmon 1865 c. 121. Fishery Act 1865 to be a privileged fixed engine ; or
- (b) a fixed engine which was in use for taking salmon or migratory trout during the open season of 1861, in pursuance of an ancient right or mode of fishing as lawfully exercised during that open season, by virtue of any grant or charter or immemorial usage.

7.—(1) No unauthorised fishing weir shall be used for taking or facilitating the taking of salmon or migratory trout.

Fishing weirs.

(2) Where a fishing weir extends more than halfway across any river at its lowest state of water, it shall not be used for the purpose of taking salmon or migratory trout unless it has in it a free gap or opening situated in the deepest part of the river between the points where it is intercepted by the weir, and—

- (a) the sides of the gap are in a line with and parallel to the direction of the stream at the weir ; and
- (b) the bottom of the gap is level with the natural bed of the river above and below the gap ; and
- (c) the width of the gap in its narrowest part is not less than one-tenth part of the width of the river.

(3) A free gap need not be more than 40 feet wide and must not be less than 3 feet wide.

(4) If any person uses a weir in contravention of this section or makes any alteration in the bed of a river in such manner as to reduce the flow of water through a free gap, he shall be guilty of an offence.

PART II (5) In subsection (1) above "unauthorised fishing weir" means any fishing weir which was not lawfully in use on 6th August 1861, by virtue of a grant or charter or immemorial usage.

Fishing mill
dams.

8.—(1) No unauthorised fishing mill dam shall be used for taking or facilitating the taking of salmon or migratory trout.

(2) A fishing mill dam shall not be used for the purpose of taking salmon or migratory trout unless it has attached to it a fish pass of such form and dimensions as may be approved by the Minister, and unless the fish pass is maintained in such a condition and has constantly running through it such a flow of water as will enable salmon and migratory trout to pass up and down the pass.

(3) If any person—

(a) uses an unauthorised fishing mill dam as mentioned in subsection (1) above; or

(b) uses or attempts to use a dam in contravention of subsection (2) above,

he shall be guilty of an offence.

(4) If a fishing mill dam has not a fish pass attached to it as required by law, the right of using the fishing mill dam for the purpose of taking fish shall be deemed to have ceased and be for ever forfeited, and the water authority for the area may remove from it any cage, crib, trap, box, cruive or other obstruction to the free passage of the fish.

(5) In subsection (1) above "unauthorised fishing mill dam" means any fishing mill dam which was not lawfully in use on 6th August 1861, by virtue of a grant or charter or immemorial usage.

Duty to make
and maintain
fish passes.

9.—(1) Where in any waters frequented by salmon or migratory trout—

(a) a new dam is constructed or an existing dam is raised or otherwise altered so as to create increased obstruction to the passage of salmon or migratory trout, or any other obstruction to the passage of salmon or migratory trout is created, increased or caused; or

(b) a dam which from any cause has been destroyed or taken down to the extent of one-half of its length is rebuilt or reinstated,

the owner or occupier for the time being of the dam or obstruction shall, if so required by notice given by the water authority for the area and within such reasonable time as may be specified

in the notice, make a fish pass for salmon or migratory trout of such form and dimensions as the Minister may approve as part of the structure of, or in connection with, the dam or obstruction, and shall thereafter maintain it in an efficient state.

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(2) If any such owner or occupier fails to make such a fish pass, or to maintain such a fish pass in an efficient state, he shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) The water authority may cause to be done any work required by this section to be done, and for that purpose may enter on the dam or obstruction or any land adjoining it, and may recover the expenses of doing the work in a summary manner from any person in default.

(4) Nothing in this section—

(a) shall authorise the doing of anything that may injuriously affect any public waterworks or navigable river, canal, or inland navigation, or any dock, the supply of water to which is obtained from any navigable river, canal or inland navigation, under any Act of Parliament; or

(b) shall prevent any person from removing a fish pass for the purpose of repairing or altering a dam or other obstruction, provided that the fish pass is restored to its former state of efficiency within a reasonable time; or

(c) shall apply to any alteration of a dam or other obstruction, unless—

(i) the alteration consists of a rebuilding or reinstatement of a dam or other obstruction destroyed or taken down to the extent of one-half of its length, or

(ii) the dam or obstruction as altered causes more obstruction to the passage of salmon or migratory trout than was caused by it as lawfully constructed or maintained at any previous date.

10.—(1) Any water authority may, with the written consent of the Minister, construct and maintain in any dam or in connection with any dam a fish pass of such form and dimensions as the Minister may approve, so long as no injury is done by such a fish pass to the milling power, or to the supply of water of or to any navigable river, canal or other inland navigation.

Power
of water
authority to
construct
and alter
fish passes.

(2) Any water authority may, with the written consent of the Minister, abolish or alter, or restore to its former state of efficiency, any existing fish pass or free gap, or substitute another fish pass or free gap, provided that no injury is done to the milling power, or to the supply of water of or to any navigable river, canal or other inland navigation.

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(3) If any person injures any such new or existing fish pass, he shall pay the expenses incurred by the water authority in repairing the injury, and any such expenses may be recovered by the water authority in a summary manner.

Minister's
consents and
approvals for
fish passes.

11.—(1) Any approval or consent given by the Minister to or in relation to a fish pass may, if in giving it he indicates that fact, be provisional until he notifies the applicant for approval or consent that the pass is functioning to his satisfaction.

(2) While any such approval or consent is provisional, the Minister may, after giving the applicant not less than 90 days' notice of his intention to do so, revoke the approval or consent.

(3) Where the Minister revokes a provisional approval given to a fish pass forming part of or in connection with a dam or other obstruction, he may extend the period within which a fish pass is to be made as part of or in connection with the obstruction.

(4) The Minister may approve and certify any fish pass if he is of opinion that it is efficient in all respects and for all purposes, whether it was constructed under this Act or not.

(5) Where a fish pass has received the approval of the Minister, and the approval has not been revoked, it shall be deemed to be a fish pass in conformity with this Act, notwithstanding that it was not constructed in the manner and by the person specified in this Act.

Penalty for
injuring or
obstructing
fish pass or
free gap.

12.—(1) If any person—

- (a) wilfully alters or injures a fish pass ; or
- (b) does any act whereby salmon or trout are obstructed or liable to be obstructed in using a fish pass or whereby a fish pass is rendered less efficient ; or
- (c) alters a dam or the bed or banks of the river so as to render a fish pass less efficient ; or
- (d) uses any contrivance or does any act whereby salmon or trout are in any way liable to be scared, hindered or prevented from passing through a fish pass,

he shall be guilty of an offence, and shall also in every case pay any expenses which may be incurred in restoring the fish pass to its former state of efficiency ; and any such expenses may be recovered in a summary manner.

(2) The owner or occupier of a dam shall be deemed to have altered it if it is damaged, destroyed or allowed to fall into a state of disrepair, and if after notice is served on him by the water authority in whose area the dam is or was situated he fails to repair or reconstruct it within a reasonable time so as to render the fish pass as efficient as before the damage or destruction.

(3) If any person—

- (a) does any act for the purpose of preventing salmon or trout from passing through a fish pass, or takes, or attempts to take, any salmon or trout in its passage through a fish pass ; or
- (b) places any obstruction, uses any contrivance or does any act whereby salmon or trout may be scared, deterred or in any way prevented from freely entering and passing up and down a free gap at all periods of the year,

he shall be guilty of an offence.

(4) This section shall not apply to a temporary bridge or board used for crossing a free gap, and taken away immediately after the person using it has crossed.

13.—(1) Subject to subsection (3) below, unless permission in writing is granted by the water authority for the area, any sluices for drawing off the water which would otherwise flow over any dam in waters frequented by salmon or migratory trout shall be kept shut on Sundays and at all times when the water is not required for milling purposes, in such manner as to cause the water to flow through any fish pass in or connected with the dam or, if there is no such fish pass, over the dam.

(2) If any person fails to comply with this section, he shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) This section shall not prevent any person opening a sluice for the purpose of letting off water in cases of flood or for milling purposes or when necessary for the purpose of navigation or, subject to previous notice in writing being given to the water authority, for cleaning or repairing the dam or mill or its appurtenances.

14.—(1) Where water is diverted from waters frequented by salmon or migratory trout by means of any conduit or artificial channel and the water so diverted is used for the purposes of a water or canal undertaking or for the purposes of any mill, the owner of the undertaking or the occupier of the mill shall, unless an exemption from the obligation is granted by the water authority for the area, place and maintain, at his own cost, a

PART II grating or gratings across the conduit or channel for the purpose of preventing the descent of the salmon or migratory trout.

(2) In the case of any such conduit or artificial channel the owner of the undertaking or the occupier of the mill shall also, unless an exemption is granted as aforesaid, place and maintain at his own cost a grating or gratings across any outfall of the conduit or channel for the purpose of preventing salmon or migratory trout entering the outfall.

(3) A grating shall be constructed and placed in such a manner and position as may be approved by the Minister.

(4) If any person without lawful excuse fails to place or to maintain a grating in accordance with this section, he shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) No such grating shall be so placed as to interfere with the passage of boats on any navigable canal.

(6) The obligations imposed by this section shall not be in force during such period (if any) in each year as may be prescribed by byelaw.

(7) The obligations imposed by this section on the occupier of a mill shall apply only where the conduit or channel was constructed on or after 18th July 1923.

Power of water authority to use gratings etc. to limit movements of salmon and trout.

15.—(1) A water authority, with the written consent of the Minister—

(a) may cause a grating or gratings of such form and dimensions as they may determine to be placed and maintained, at the expense of the authority, at a suitable place in any watercourse, mill race, cut, leat, conduit or other channel for conveying water for any purpose from any waters frequented by salmon or migratory trout; and

(b) may cause any watercourse, mill race, cut, leat, conduit or other channel in which a grating is placed under this section to be widened or deepened at the expense of the authority so far as may be necessary to compensate for the diminution of any flow of water caused by the placing of the grating, or shall take some other means to prevent the flow of water being prejudicially diminished or otherwise injured.

(2) If any person—

(a) injures any such grating; or

(b) removes any such grating or part of any such grating, except during any period of the year during which under a byelaw gratings need not be maintained; or

(c) opens any such grating improperly ; or

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(d) permits any such grating to be injured, or removed, except as aforesaid, or improperly opened ;

he shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) A water authority, with the written consent of the Minister, may adopt such means as the Minister may approve for preventing the ingress of salmon or trout into waters in which they or their spawning beds or ova are, from the nature of the channel or other causes, liable to be destroyed.

(4) Nothing in this section shall—

(a) affect the liability under this Act of any person to place and maintain a grating ; or

(b) authorise a grating to be so placed or maintained during any period of the year during which under a byelaw gratings need not be maintained ; or

(c) authorise any grating to be placed or maintained so as to obstruct any conduit or channel used for navigation or in any way interfere with the effective working of any mill ;

and nothing in subsection (3) above shall authorise the water authority prejudicially to interfere with water rights used or enjoyed for the purposes of manufacturing or for milling purposes or for drainage or navigation.

16.—(1) Any person who uses a fishing weir or fishing mill dam for the taking of salmon or migratory trout by means of boxes or cribs shall be guilty of an offence unless the boxes or cribs satisfy the requirements specified in subsection (2) below. Boxes and cribs in weirs and dams.

(2) The requirements mentioned in subsection (1) above are—

(a) the upper surface of the sill of the box or crib must be level with the bed of the river ;

(b) the bars or inscales of the heck or upstream side of the box or crib—

(i) must not be nearer to each other than 2 inches ;

(ii) must be capable of being removed ; and

(iii) must be placed perpendicularly ;

(c) there must not be attached to any such box or crib any spur or tail wall, leader or outrigger of a greater

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length than 20 feet from the upper or lower side of the box or crib.

Restrictions on taking salmon or trout above or below an obstruction or in mill races.

17.—(1) Any person who takes or kills, or attempts to take or kill, except with rod and line, or scares or disturbs any salmon or trout—

- (a) at any place above or below any dam or any obstruction, whether artificial or natural, which hinders or retards the passage of salmon or trout, being within 50 yards above or 100 yards below the dam or obstruction, or within such other distance from the dam or obstruction as may be prescribed by byelaw ; or
- (b) in any waters under or adjacent to any mill, or in the head race or tail race of any mill, or in any waste race or pool communicating with a mill ; or
- (c) in any artificial channel connected with any such dam or obstruction,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Nothing in this section shall apply to any legal fishing mill dam not having a crib, box or cruive, or to any fishing box, coop, apparatus, net or mode of fishing in connection with and forming part of such a dam or obstruction for purposes of fishing.

(3) Where a fish pass approved by the Minister is for the time being attached to a dam or obstruction, this section shall not be enforced in respect of the dam or obstruction until compensation has been made by the water authority to the persons entitled to fish in the waters for that right of fishery.

Provisions supplementary to Part II.

18.—(1) If any person obstructs a person legally authorised whilst he is doing any act authorised by section 9, 10 or 15 above, he shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) The Minister shall not give a water authority his consent—

- (a) to the construction, abolition or alteration of a fish pass or the abolition or alteration of a free gap in pursuance of section 10 above ; or
- (b) to the doing of any work under section 15 above,

unless reasonable notice of the authority's application under the relevant section has been served on the owner and occupier of the dam, fish pass or free gap, watercourse, mill race, cut, leat, conduit or other channel, with a plan and specification of the proposed work ; and the Minister shall take into consideration any objections by the owner or occupier, before giving his consent.

(3) If any injury is caused—

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- (a) to any dam by reason of the construction, abolition or alteration of a fish pass or the abolition or alteration of a free gap in pursuance of section 10 above ; or
- (b) by anything done by the water authority under section 15 above,

any person sustaining any loss as a result may recover from the water authority compensation for the injury sustained.

(4) The amount of any compensation under section 10, 15 or 17 above shall be settled in case of dispute by a single arbitrator appointed by the Minister.

(5) In any case in which a water authority are liable to pay compensation under this Part of this Act in respect of injury or damage caused by the making or maintaining of any work, compensation shall not be recoverable unless proceedings for its recovery are instituted within two years from the completion of the work.

PART III

TIMES OF FISHING AND SELLING AND EXPORTING FISH

19.—(1) Schedule 1 to this Act shall have effect in relation to the close seasons and close times for the descriptions of fish there specified.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) below, any person who fishes for, takes, kills or attempts to take or kill salmon—

- (a) except with a rod and line or putts and putchers, during the annual close season or weekly close time ; or
- (b) with a rod and line during the annual close season for rod and line ; or
- (c) with putts and putchers, during the annual close season for putts and putchers,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under subsection (2) above in respect of any act done for the purpose of the artificial propagation of fish, or for some scientific purpose, if he has obtained the previous permission in writing of the water authority in whose area the act was done.

(4) Subject to subsection (5) below, any person who fishes for, takes, kills or attempts to take or kill trout other than rainbow trout—

- (a) except with a rod and line, during the annual close season or weekly close time for trout ; or

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(b) with a rod and line during the annual trout close season for rod and line, shall be guilty of an offence.

(5) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under subsection (4) above in respect of any act done for the purpose of the artificial propagation of fish or the stocking or restocking of waters, or for some scientific purpose, if he has obtained the previous permission in writing of the water authority in whose area the act was done.

(6) Subject to subsection (8) below, any person who, during the annual close season for freshwater fish, fishes for, takes, kills, or attempts to take or kill, any freshwater fish in any inland water, or fishes for eels by means of a rod and line in any such water, shall be guilty of an offence.

(7) Subject to subsection (8) below, any person who, during the annual close season for rainbow trout, fishes for, takes, kills or attempts to take or kill, any rainbow trout in any inland water, or fishes for eels by means of a rod and line in any such water, shall be guilty of an offence.

(8) Subsections (6) and (7) above do not apply—

- (a) to the removal by the owner or occupier, from any several fishery where salmon or trout are specially preserved, of any eels, freshwater fish or rainbow trout not so preserved;
- (b) to any person fishing with rod and line in any such fishery with the previous permission in writing of its owner or occupier;
- (c) to any person fishing with rod and line for eels in any waters in which such fishing is authorised by a byelaw;
- (d) to the taking of freshwater fish or rainbow trout for scientific purposes;
- (e) to the taking of freshwater fish for bait—
 - (i) in a several fishery with the permission in writing of its owner or occupier, or
 - (ii) in any other fishery, unless the taking would contravene a byelaw.

Close seasons and close times—fixed engines and obstructions.

20.—(1) Subject to subsections (4) and (5) below, immediately after the commencement of the annual close season and the weekly close time, the occupier of any fixed engine for taking salmon or migratory trout shall cause it to be removed or rendered incapable of taking them or obstructing their passage.

(2) Subject to subsections (4) and (5) below, where in pursuance of subsection (1) above a fixed engine has been rendered incapable (whether by removal or otherwise) of taking salmon or migratory trout or obstructing their passage, its occupier shall not replace it or otherwise render it capable of taking

them or obstructing their passage until the end of the close season or close time. PART III

(3) If any person—

- (a) fails to comply with subsection (1) or (2) above ; or
- (b) during the annual close season or weekly close time places any obstruction, uses any contrivance or does any act, for the purpose of deterring salmon or migratory trout from passing up a river,

he shall be guilty of an offence.

(4) Subsections (1) to (3) above only apply to putts and putchers in relation to the close season for putts and putchers.

(5) It shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under subsection (3)(b) above to show that he placed the obstruction, used the contrivance or did the acts in question in the course of legally fishing for fish other than salmon or migratory trout.

(6) In this section “ migratory trout ” does not include rainbow trout.

21.—(1) Subject to subsection (2) below, any person who— Eel baskets etc.

- (a) before 25th June in any year, hangs, fixes or uses in any waters frequented by salmon or migratory trout any baskets, nets, traps or devices for catching eels, or places in any inland water any device whatsoever to catch or obstruct any fish descending the river ; or
- (b) at any time places upon the apron of any weir any basket, trap or device for taking fish, except wheels or leaps for taking lamperns between 1st August and the following 1st March,

shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Subsection (1) above does not prohibit—

- (a) the use of eel baskets not exceeding in any part 10 inches in diameter constructed so as to be fished with bait, and not used at any dam or other obstruction or in any conduit or artificial channel by which water is deviated from a river ; or
- (b) any device for taking eels in such places, during such time and subject to such conditions as may be authorised by the water authority for the area with the consent of the Minister.

22.—(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) below, any person who buys, sells, or exposes for sale or has in his possession for sale— Sale of salmon and trout.

- (a) any salmon between 31st August and the following 1st February ; or

PART III

(b) any trout other than rainbow trout between 31st August and the following 1st March, shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Subsection (1) above shall not apply to any person buying, selling or exposing for sale, or having in his possession for sale—

- (a) any salmon or trout which has been canned, frozen, cured, salted, pickled, dried or otherwise preserved outside the United Kingdom, or
- (b) any salmon which has been canned, frozen, cured, salted, pickled, dried or otherwise preserved in the United Kingdom between 1st February and 31st August; or
- (c) any trout which has been canned, frozen, cured, salted, pickled, dried or otherwise preserved within the United Kingdom between 1st March and 31st August; or
- (d) any salmon or trout (other than an unclean salmon or trout) caught outside the United Kingdom; or
- (e) any salmon or trout (other than an unclean or immature salmon or trout) caught within the United Kingdom, if its capture by any net, instrument or device was lawful at the time and in the place where it was caught.

(3) A person shall not be guilty of an offence in respect of trout under this section for any act done for the purpose of the artificial propagation of fish, or the stocking or restocking of waters, or for some scientific purpose.

(4) The burden of proving that any salmon or trout bought, sold, exposed for sale or in the possession of any person for sale between the dates mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (1) above is not bought, sold, exposed for sale or in the possession of that person for sale in contravention of this section shall lie on the person buying, selling or exposing it for sale, or having it in his possession for sale.

Export of salmon and trout.

23.—(1) No person shall export or enter for export any unclean salmon or trout or any salmon or trout caught during the time at which the sale of salmon or trout is prohibited where the salmon or trout was caught.

(2) All salmon or trout intended for export between 31st August and the following 1st May shall before shipment be entered for that purpose with the proper officer of Customs and Excise, at the port or place of intended export.

(3) If any salmon or trout is entered for export, or exported or brought to any wharf, quay or other place for export, contrary to this section, or is not entered as required by this section, the

salmon or trout and any package containing it shall be deemed to be goods liable to be forfeited under the enactments relating to customs, and the person entering or exporting the salmon or trout, or bringing it for export, or failing to enter the salmon or trout as required by this section, shall be guilty of an offence.

PART III

(4) Any officer of Customs and Excise may, between 31st August and the following 1st May, open or cause to be opened any parcel entered or intended for export, or brought to any quay, wharf or other place for that purpose, and suspected by him to contain salmon or trout, and may detain or cause to be detained any salmon or trout found in the parcel until proof is given of the salmon or trout being such as may be legally exported; and if the salmon or trout becomes unfit for human food before such proof is given, the officer may destroy it or cause it to be destroyed.

(5) The burden of proving that any salmon or trout entered for export between 31st August and the following 1st May is not so entered in contravention of this section shall lie on the person entering it.

24.—(1) A person who consigns or sends a package containing salmon or trout by any common or other carrier shall be guilty of an offence unless the outside of the package containing it is conspicuously marked "salmon" or "trout", as the case may be. Consignment of salmon and trout.

(2) An authorised officer may open any package consigned or sent by a carrier, or brought to any place to be so consigned or sent, and suspected to contain salmon or trout.

(3) If any such package is found to contain salmon or trout and is not marked in accordance with this section, or if there is reasonable cause to suspect that the salmon or trout contained in any marked package is being dealt with contrary to law, an authorised officer may detain the package and its contents until proof is given that the salmon or trout is not being so dealt with.

(4) The power to detain salmon or trout conferred by subsection (3) above shall be exercisable also in relation to salmon or trout not packed in a package.

(5) If any salmon or trout detained under this section becomes unfit for human food before the proof required by subsection (3) above is given, an authorised officer may destroy it or cause it to be destroyed.

(6) If any person refuses to allow an authorised officer to exercise the powers conferred by this section, or obstructs such an officer in their exercise, he shall be guilty of an offence.

PART IV

FISHING LICENCES

Licences to
fish.

25.—(1) A water authority shall by means of a system of licensing regulate fishing for salmon and trout in their area and, except so far as excused by the Minister, shall by such means regulate fishing for freshwater fish of any description or eels in their area.

(2) Subject to the following provisions of this section, a licence granted for the purposes of this section (hereafter in this Act referred to as a "fishing licence") shall entitle the person to whom it was granted and no others to use an instrument specified in the licence to fish for any fish of a description, in an area and for a period so specified.

(3) A fishing licence for the use of an instrument other than a rod and line to fish for salmon or trout shall also authorise the use of the instrument for that purpose by the duly authorised servants or agents of the person to whom it was granted, but not exceeding the number permitted by paragraph 13 of Schedule 2 to this Act.

(4) A fishing licence for the use of a rod and line shall entitle the licensee to use as ancillary to that use a gaff, consisting of a plain metal hook without a barb, or a tailer or landing net.

(5) A fishing licence for the use of any instrument for fishing for salmon shall authorise the use of that instrument for fishing for trout.

(6) A fishing licence in respect of any instrument for fishing for salmon or trout shall authorise the use of that instrument for fishing for freshwater fish and eels.

(7) Any person or association entitled to an exclusive right of fishing in any inland waters may be granted a general licence to fish in those waters subject to any conditions agreed between the water authority and the licensee, and the licence shall entitle the licensee and, subject to paragraph 9 of Schedule 4 below, any person authorised by him in writing, or in the case of an association, by its secretary so to fish.

(8) Schedule 2 to this Act shall have effect with respect to fishing licences.

1923 c. 16. (9) Any licence in force under any provision of section 61 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923 immediately before 29th June 1972 shall be treated as having been granted under the corresponding provision of this section.

26.—(1) A water authority may by order confirmed by the Minister—

PART IV

Limitation
of fishing
licences.

- (a) limit for a period not exceeding ten years from the coming into operation of the order the number of fishing licences to be issued in any year for fishing in any part of their area for salmon or trout other than rainbow trout with any instrument so specified other than rod and line ; and
- (b) provide for the selection of the applicants to whom such licences are to be issued where the number of applications exceeds the number of licences which may be granted.

(2) Where the Minister proposes to confirm an order under this section, he shall require the water authority to publish the order and notice of his intention to confirm it in such manner as he may require, together with a notification that within a period specified in the requirement written objections to the order may be made to him.

(3) The Minister shall consider any such objections received by him within the said period, and—

- (a) if the number of licences as proposed to be limited by the order is less than the number of licences issued in any of the three years preceding the year in which the order is to come into operation ; and
- (b) any such objection is made by any person who has during each of the two years preceding that year held a licence of the same description as the licences which it is proposed so to limit in number ;

he shall cause a local inquiry to be held before confirming the order.

(4) Subject to subsection (5) below, the Minister shall not confirm an order under this section unless he is satisfied that the terms of the order relating to the selection of applicants for licences are such as to secure that any person who during the year preceding that year held a fishing licence to use an instrument of any description and who is dependent on fishing for his livelihood will be able to obtain a fishing licence to use an instrument of that description.

(5) If it appears to the Minister that the operation of subsection (4) above would be detrimental to the conservation of any fishery, he may direct that the subsection shall in its application to that fishery have effect with the substitution for the words " the year " of the words " the two years " or, if in his opinion special circumstances justify it, " the three years ".

PART IV

(6) The Minister may with the consent of the water authority vary an order submitted to him under this section before confirming it and may require the water authority to publish the terms of the proposed variation in such manner, if any, as he may specify in the requirement.

(7) An order under this section may be revoked by the Minister, or by an order made by the water authority and confirmed by the Minister.

1923 c. 16.

(8) Any order limiting the number of licences in force in a water authority area under section 62 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923 immediately before 29th June 1972 shall be treated as having limited the number of licences in that area for a period of ten years from that date.

Unlicensed fishing.

27. A person is guilty of an offence if, in any place in which fishing for fish of any description is regulated by a system of licensing, he—

- (a) fishes for or takes fish of that description otherwise than by means of an instrument which he is entitled to use for that purpose by virtue of a fishing licence or otherwise than in accordance with the conditions of the licence; or
- (b) has in his possession with intent to use it for that purpose an instrument other than one which he is authorised to use for that purpose by virtue of such a licence.

PART V

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Regulation of fisheries etc.

General powers and duties of water authorities and Minister.

28.—(1) It shall be the duty of every water authority—

- (a) to maintain, improve and develop the salmon fisheries, trout fisheries, freshwater fisheries and eel fisheries in the area for which they exercise functions under this Act;
- (b) to establish advisory committees of persons who appear to them to be interested in any such fisheries in that area and consult them as to the manner in which the authority are to discharge their duty under paragraph (a) above.

(2) The duty to establish advisory committees imposed by paragraph (b) of section (1) above is a duty to establish a regional advisory committee for the whole of the area mentioned in paragraph (a) of that subsection and such local advisory committees as the water authority consider necessary to represent

the interests referred to in paragraph (b) of that subsection in different parts of that area. PART V

(3) Subject to subsection (4) below, the Minister may by statutory instrument make an order for the general regulation of the salmon, trout, freshwater and eel fisheries within an area defined by the order.

(4) An order under subsection (3) above shall not apply to any waters in respect of which the Minister has granted a licence under section 29 below.

(5) An order under subsection (3) above may amend or revoke any previous order made under that subsection or under section 38 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923 or any Act 1923 c. 16. repealed by that Act.

(6) Schedule 3 to this Act shall have effect in relation to the Minister's power to make orders under subsection (3) above, to the powers of water authorities under this Act and to byelaws.

(7) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with a byelaw shall be guilty of an offence.

(8) Section 36(3) of the Water Act 1973 and Schedule 7 to 1973 c. 37. that Act (byelaw procedure) shall have effect in relation to byelaws under this Act.

29.—(1) The Minister may grant a licence to carry on the fish rearing business of artificially propagating or rearing salmon or trout licences in any waters.

(2) Any such licence may be granted subject to such conditions (if any) as the Minister thinks fit, and may be revoked if he is of opinion that any condition has not been observed.

30. A person shall be guilty of an offence if he introduces any fish or spawn of fish into an inland water, or has in his possession any fish or spawn of fish intending to introduce it into an inland water, unless he first obtains the written consent of the water authority within whose area any part of that water is situated.

Powers of water bailiffs etc.

31.—(1) Any water bailiff appointed by a water authority and any person appointed by the Minister— Powers of search etc.

- (a) may examine any dam, fishing weir, fishing mill dam, fixed engine or obstruction, or any artificial water-course, and for that purpose enter on any land ;
- (b) may examine any instrument or bait which he has reasonable cause to suspect of having been or being

PART V

used or likely to be used in taking fish in contravention of this Act or any container which he has reasonable cause to suspect of having been or being used or likely to be used for holding any such instrument, bait or fish ;

(c) may stop and search any boat or other vessel used in fishing in a water authority area or any vessel or vehicle which he has reasonable cause to suspect of containing—

(i) fish which had been caught in contravention of this Act ;

(ii) any such instrument, bait or container as aforesaid ;

(d) may seize any fish and any instrument, vessel, vehicle or other thing liable to be forfeited in pursuance of this Act.

(2) If any person refuses to allow a water bailiff or a person appointed by the Minister to make any entry, search or examination which he is by this section authorised to make, or to seize anything which he is so authorised to seize, or resists or obstructs a water bailiff or person so appointed in any such entry, search, examination or seizure, he shall be guilty of an offence.

Power to enter lands.

32.—(1) Subject to subsection (2) below,—

(a) any water bailiff or other officer of a water authority, under a special order in writing from the authority, and

(b) any person appointed by the Minister, under an order in writing from him,

may at all reasonable times, for the purpose of preventing any offence against this Act, enter, remain upon and traverse any lands adjoining or near to waters within a water authority area other than—

(i) a dwelling-house or the curtilage of a dwelling-house, or

(ii) decoys or lands used exclusively for the preservation of wild fowl.

(2) An order under subsection (1) above shall not remain in force for more than 12 months.

Orders and warrants to enter suspected premises.

33.—(1) Where from a statement on oath of a water bailiff or any other officer of a water authority, or any person appointed by the Minister, it appears to any justice of the peace that the person making the statement has good reason to suspect that any offence against this Act is being or is likely to be committed

PART V

on any land situate on or near to any waters, the justice may by order under his hand authorise him, during a period not exceeding 24 hours to be specified in the order, to enter upon and remain on the land during any hours of the day or night for the purpose of detecting the persons committing the offence.

(2) Any justice of the peace upon an information on oath that there is probable cause to suspect any offence against this Act to have been committed on any premises, or any salmon, trout, freshwater fish or eels to have been illegally taken, or any illegal nets or other instruments to be on any premises, by warrant under his hand and seal may authorise any water bailiff or other officer of a water authority, or any person appointed by the Minister, or any constable, to enter the premises for the purposes of detecting the offence or the fish, nets or other instruments, at such times of the day or night as are mentioned in the warrant, and to seize all illegal nets and other instruments and all salmon, trout, freshwater fish or eels suspected to have been illegally taken that may be found on the premises.

(3) A warrant under subsection (2) above shall not continue in force for more than one week.

34. If any person, between the end of the first hour after sunset on any day and the beginning of the last hour before sunrise on the following morning, illegally takes or kills salmon, trout, freshwater fish or eels, or is found on or near any waters with intent illegally to take or kill salmon, trout, freshwater fish or eels, or having in his possession for the capture of salmon, trout, freshwater fish or eels any instrument prohibited by this Act, a water bailiff or a person appointed by the Minister, with any assistants, may seize him without warrant and put him as soon as may be into the custody of a police officer.

Power to apprehend persons fishing illegally at night.

35.—(1) A water bailiff appointed by the water authority for the area, or any constable, may require any person who is fishing, or whom he reasonably suspects of being about to fish or to have within the preceding half hour fished in a water authority area, to produce his licence or other authority to fish and to state his name and address.

Power to require production of fishing licences.

(2) A person holding a fishing licence for any water authority area may, on production of his licence, require any person who is fishing in that area to produce his licence or other authority to fish and to state his name and address.

(3) If any person required to produce his fishing licence or other authority or to state his name and address fails to do so, he shall be guilty of an offence; but if within seven days after the production of his licence was so required he produces the

PART V licence or other authority at the office of the water authority he shall not be convicted of an offence under this section for failing to produce it.

Provisions supplementary to sections 31 to 35.

36.—(1) A water bailiff and a person appointed by the Minister shall be deemed to be a constable for the purpose of the enforcement of this Act, or any order or byelaw under it, and to have all the same powers and privileges, and be subject to the same liabilities as a constable duly appointed has or is subject to by virtue of the common law or of any statute.

(2) The production by a water bailiff or a person appointed by the Minister of evidence of his appointment shall be a sufficient warrant for him exercising the powers conferred on him by this Act.

(3) A police constable whose services are provided under paragraph 39(1)(c) of Schedule 3 below shall have all the powers and privileges of a water bailiff.

Offences

Prosecution etc. of offences.

37. Parts I and II of Schedule 4 to this Act shall have effect with regard to the prosecution and punishment of offences against this Act and the procedure on such prosecutions.

PART VI

MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

Works below high water mark.

38.—(1) Any works proposed to be constructed under this Act on, over or under tidal lands below high-water mark of ordinary spring tides shall be constructed only in accordance with such plans and sections and subject to such restrictions and regulations as the Secretary of State approves in writing before they are commenced.

(2) Any alteration or extension of any such works shall be subject to the like approval.

(3) If any such work is commenced or completed contrary to this section, the Secretary of State may abate and remove it and restore its site to its former condition at the cost of the person who commenced or executed it, or (if he is not the owner of the work) of the owner, and the cost shall be summarily recoverable by the Secretary of State.

(4) This section is in addition to and not in derogation of any local Act.

39.—(1) This Act—

- (a) does not apply to the River Tweed, but
- (b) applies to so much of the River Esk, with its banks and tributary streams up to their source, as is situated in Scotland,

PART VI
Border rivers
and Solway
Firth.

and in this subsection “the River Tweed” means “the river” as defined by the Tweed Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1859 1859 c. lxx. and any byelaw amending that definition.

(2) Where the minimum size of mesh of nets used for taking salmon prescribed by any provision of this Act or by any byelaw in force in any part of the Solway Firth within England is greater than that which may be lawfully used in the part of the Solway Firth within Scotland, the provision or byelaw shall have effect as if the minimum size of mesh so prescribed in relation to the part of the Solway Firth within England were such as may be so lawfully used as aforesaid in the part of the Solway Firth within Scotland.

(3) The limits of the Solway Firth for the purposes of this section shall be determined by the Minister.

(4) Nothing in this Act shall authorise a water authority to acquire compulsorily under this Act any land in Scotland.

40. This Act applies to the dams constructed by the Severn River Severn Commissioners under the Severn Navigation Act 1842 and the 1842 c. xxiv Severn Navigation Act 1853 and now vested in the British (Sess. 2). Waterways Board, and to all fish passes in those dams; and 1853 c. xlvi. it shall accordingly be the Board’s duty, subject to the provisions of this Act and to section 23 of the Severn Navigation Act 1881 c. ccv. 1881 (by virtue of which they have power to stop up the passes with the agreement of the water authority for the area) to maintain those passes in an efficient state.

41.—(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires— Interpretation.

“ authorised officer ” means—

- (a) any officer of a water authority acting within the water authority area ;
- (b) any officer of a market authority acting within the area of the jurisdiction of that authority ;
- (c) any officer appointed by the Minister ;
- (d) any officer appointed in writing by the Fishmongers Company, or
- (e) any police officer ;

“ byelaw ” means a byelaw under this Act ;

“ dam ” includes any weir or other fixed obstruction used for the purpose of damming up water ;

PART VI

“ eels ” includes elvers and the fry of eels ;

“ fishing licence ” has the meaning assigned to it by section 25(2) above ;

“ fishing mill dam ” means a dam used or intended to be used partly for the purpose of taking or facilitating the taking of fish, and partly for the purpose of supplying water for milling or other purposes ;

“ fishing weir ” means any erection, structure or obstruction fixed to the soil either temporarily or permanently, across or partly across a river or branch of a river, and used for the exclusive purpose of taking or facilitating the taking of fish ;

“ Fishmongers Company ” means the wardens and commonalty of the Mystery of Fishmongers in the City of London ;

“ fixed engine ” includes—

- (a) a stake net, bag net, putt or putcher ;
- (b) any fixed implement or engine for taking or facilitating the taking of fish ;
- (c) any net secured by anchors and any net or other implement for taking fish fixed to the soil, or made stationary in any other way ; and
- (d) any net placed or suspended in any inland or tidal waters unattended by the owner or a person duly authorised by the owner to use it for taking salmon or trout, and any engine, device, machine or contrivance, whether floating or otherwise, for placing or suspending such a net or maintaining it in working order or making it stationary ;

“ foreshore ” includes the shore and bed of the sea and of every channel, creek, bay, estuary and navigable river as far up it as the tide flows ;

“ freshwater fish ” means any fish living in fresh water exclusive of salmon and trout and of any kinds of fish which migrate to and from tidal waters and of eels ;

“ general licence ” means a licence granted under section 25(7) above ;

“ grating ” means a device approved by the Minister for preventing the passage of salmon or trout through a conduit or channel in which it is placed ;

“ immature ” in relation to salmon means that the salmon is of a length of less than 12 inches, measured from the tip of the snout to the fork or cleft of the tail, and in relation to any other fish means that the fish is of a length

less than such length (if any) as may be prescribed by the byelaws applicable to the water in which the fish is taken ;

PART VI

“ inland water ” has the same meaning as in the Water Resources Act 1963 c. 38.

“ market authority ” includes any corporation, local authority, body of trustees or other persons having power to maintain or regulate any market ;

“ migratory trout ” means trout which migrate to and from the sea ;

“ mill ” includes any erection for the purpose of developing water power, and “ milling ” has a corresponding meaning ;

“ the Minister ” means, subject to subsection (2) below, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food ;

“ occupier ” in relation to a fishery or premises includes any person for the time being in actual possession of the fishery or premises ;

“ owner ” includes any person who is entitled to receive rents from a fishery or premises ;

“ river ” includes a stream ;

“ rod and line ” means single rod and line ;

“ salmon ” means all fish of the salmon species and includes part of a salmon ;

“ trout ” means any fish of the salmon family commonly known as trout, including migratory trout and char, and also includes part of a trout ;

“ unclean ” in relation to any fish means that the fish is about to spawn, or has recently spawned and has not recovered from spawning.

(2) In the following provisions of this Act, namely—

Part IV ;

section 28(3) ;

paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 ;

paragraphs 5 to 11 and Part II of Schedule 3 ; and

Schedule 2,

any reference to the Minister shall be construed, in relation to water authority areas wholly or partly in Wales, as a reference to the Minister and the Secretary of State jointly.

(3) Except so far as provision is made by paragraph 13 of Schedule 3 below, nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorising a water authority or any other person to take or use land or other property belonging to the Crown.

PART VI
1923 c. 16.

(4) In any byelaw made under an enactment repealed by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923 “salmon” and “trout” have the meanings assigned to them by subsection (1) above.

Repeals etc.

42.—(1) The enactments specified in Schedule 5 to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.

1967 c. 84.

(2) In section 18(1) of the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967 (enforcement of orders in relation to salmon and migratory trout) for paragraph (a) there shall be substituted the following paragraph:—

“(a) section 31(1)(d) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 (which confers power of seizure) shall apply as if the reference in it to that Act included a reference to this Act, and sections 36(1) and (2) of that Act, and paragraph 8 of Schedule 4 (all of which contain ancillary provisions), shall be construed accordingly as including references to that Act as applied by this subsection;”.

(3) In so far as any instrument made or other thing whatsoever done under any enactment repealed by this Act could have been made or done under a corresponding enactment in this Act, it shall not be invalidated by the repeal of that enactment but shall have effect as if made or done under that corresponding enactment; and for the purposes of this provision anything which under section 93(2) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923 had effect as if done under any enactment in that Act shall, so far as may be necessary for the continuity of the law, be treated as done under the corresponding enactment in this Act.

(4) Any enactment or other document referring to an enactment repealed by this Act or by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923 shall, so far as may be necessary for preserving its effect, be construed as referring, or as including a reference, to the corresponding enactment in this Act.

1865 c. 121.

(5) Nothing in this Act shall affect the admissibility in evidence of any instrument made under the Salmon Fishery Act 1865.

1972 c. 70.

(6) Section 254(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1972 (power of Secretary of State to amend, etc., enactments by order) shall apply to this Act as if it had been passed before 1st April 1974.

1973 c. 37.

(7) The Water Act 1973 shall have effect as if the functions conferred on water authorities by section 28(1) and (2) above were conferred by it.

(8) Nothing in this Act shall affect the legal right of any conservators, directors, commissioners, undertakers or other persons to dredge, scour, cleanse or improve any navigable river, canal or other inland navigation. PART VI

(9) Nothing in this Act shall be taken as prejudicing the operation of section 38 of the Interpretation Act 1889 (which relates to the effect of repeals).

43.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975.

(2) Subject to section 39 above and subsection (3) below, this Act extends only to England and Wales.

(3) The following provisions of this Act, namely—
section 28(1) and (2) above,
section 39(1) and (4) above,
section 42(1) above, so far as it relates to the repeal of
section 15 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1972 and section 18 of the Water Act 1973,
paragraph 3 of Schedule 4 below,
extend to Scotland.

(4) This Act shall come into force on 1st August 1975.

SCHEDULES

Section 19.

SCHEDULE 1

CLOSE SEASONS AND CLOSE TIMES

1. It shall be the duty of every water authority to make byelaws fixing for their area or the respective parts of it, subject to paragraph 3 below, the annual close season and weekly close time for fishing by any method for salmon and trout other than rainbow trout.

2. If a water authority have not before the commencement of this Act made any such byelaws for a part of their area, the Minister may make such byelaws for that part of that area with or without a local inquiry.

3. The minimum close seasons and close times are specified in the following Table (subject to the power to dispense altogether with a close season for freshwater fish or rainbow trout conferred by paragraph 20 of Schedule 3 below).

TABLE

	<i>Minimum duration</i>
1. Salmon close season	153 days
2. Close season for fishing for salmon with rod and line	92 days
3. Close season for fishing for salmon or trout with putts and putchers	242 days
4. Weekly close time for salmon	42 hours
5. Trout close season	181 days
6. Close season for fishing for trout with rod and line	153 days
7. Weekly close time for trout	42 hours
8. Close season for freshwater fish or rainbow trout	93 days

4. If byelaws neither specify nor dispense with an annual close season for freshwater fish, the annual close season for such fish shall be the period between 14th March and 16th June.

5. The annual close season for rainbow trout for any waters is that fixed for those waters by byelaws.

1923 c. 16. 6. Subject to any byelaws under this Act or the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923—

(a) for salmon—

(i) the annual close season shall be the period between 31st August and the following 1st February;

(ii) the close season for rods shall be the period between 31st October and the following 1st February;

(iii) the close season for putts and putchers shall be the period between 31st August and the following 1st May; and

(iv) the weekly close time shall be the period between 6 a.m. on Saturday and 6 a.m. on the following Monday ; and

SCH. 1

(b) for trout—

(i) the annual close season shall be the period between 31st August and the following 1st March ;

(ii) the annual close season for rod and line shall be the period between 30th September and the following 1st March ; and

(iii) the weekly close time shall be the period between 6 a.m. on Saturday and 6 a.m. on the following Monday.

SCHEDULE 2

Section 25.

LICENCES

Duty on licences

1.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, there shall be payable in respect of a fishing licence a duty fixed in accordance with this Schedule by the water authority.

(2) The water authority may in special cases grant an exemption from the duty.

2. Different duties may be fixed under paragraph 1 above for different instruments, different periods, different parts of the water authority area, different descriptions of fish and different classes of licence holder.

3. A water authority shall at least one month before fixing or altering a duty for the use of any instrument in any part of their area, except a duty payable in respect of a temporary licence, publish in one or more newspapers circulating in that part of their area notice of their intention to do so.

4. If during the month immediately following the publication of a notice under paragraph 3 above a written objection to the proposed duty is made to the Minister by any interested person, the water authority shall not fix or alter the duty without the approval of the Minister.

5. The Minister, with or without a local inquiry, may refuse to approve any duty submitted by a water authority for his approval under paragraph 4 above or may approve the duty with or without modifications; and the authority, if so directed by the Minister, shall cause notice of any proposed modification to be given in accordance with the direction.

6. No duty fixed under the foregoing provisions of this Schedule shall take effect until the beginning of the year following that in which it is fixed or, in the case of a duty required to be approved by the Minister, in which it is approved by him.

7. A water authority may grant a temporary licence, that is to say, a licence authorising the use of an instrument for fishing in circumstances specified in the licence during a period not exceeding 14 days,

SCH. 2 and may charge in respect of that licence a duty less than the duty fixed for the use of that instrument under the foregoing provisions of this Schedule.

8. There shall be payable in respect of a general licence such sum as may be agreed by the water authority and the licensee.

Net etc. licences for salmon and trout fishing

9. A person shall be treated for the purposes of section 25(3) above as the duly authorised servant or agent of the holder of a licence to use an instrument of any description only in the following cases—

- (a) in an area in which there is in force an order under section 26 above limiting the number of licences for fishing with instruments of that description, if his name and address are entered on the licence in accordance with the following provisions of this Schedule and he is not the holder of another licence to use an instrument of that description in that area ;
- (b) in any other area, if his name and address are so entered or when using the instrument to which the licence relates he is accompanied by the licensee ; or
- (c) in the case of any area, if the water authority direct that owing to special circumstances he is to be so treated.

10. The name and address of a servant or agent may be entered on a licence by an employee of a water authority authorised to do so or by the licensee or an agent who has been appointed by the licensee to act for the purposes of this paragraph and whose appointment, together with his name and address, has been notified to the water authority.

11. The date of entry in the licence shall be stated in the licence at the time of the making of the entry, and within twenty-four hours of the making of an entry by a licensee or his agent a copy shall be sent to the water authority, together with a fee of 20p for every name and address entered.

12. The name and address of a servant or agent may be removed from, or inserted in, a licence on payment of a fee of 20p for each removal or insertion or, where a name and address are inserted in substitution for a name and address removed, for each substitution.

13. The number of servants or agents whose names may at any time be entered on a licence shall not exceed twice the number of persons who in the opinion of the water authority are required to work at one time the instrument to which the licence relates or, where the applicant for the licence notifies the authority at the time of the application that he proposes to take part in working the instrument, one less than twice that number.

14. Any person who, with intent to deceive, enters on a licence more names than are permitted by paragraph 13 above or states falsely the date of entry in a licence is guilty of an offence.

Miscellaneous

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15. Subject to section 26 above, a fishing licence shall be granted by the water authority to every applicant who is at the time of the application not disqualified from holding a fishing licence, on payment of the duty in respect of the instrument to which the licence relates.

16. A fishing licence shall not confer any right to fish at a place or a time at which the licensee is not otherwise entitled to fish.

17. A fishing licence shall not authorise the erection of any structure or the use of any installation or instrument for or in connection with fishing the erection or use of which would otherwise be illegal.

18. The production of a printed copy of a statement purporting to be issued by a water authority as to a licence duty fixed and, if it be the case, approved by the Minister under this Schedule shall be prima facie evidence that the licence duty was fixed or approved as there mentioned and of the amount of the duty, and without proof of the handwriting or official position of any person purporting to sign the statement.

SCHEDULE 3

Section 28.

ADMINISTRATION

PART I

ORDERS

Scope

1. An order may provide—

- (a) for the imposition, collection and recovery by a water authority of contributions assessed on several fisheries regulated by the order or on the owners and occupiers of such fisheries;
- (b) for enabling the water authority with the approval of the Minister, but subject to paragraphs 2 and 3 below, to erect and work by themselves or their lessees any fixed engine for catching salmon or migratory trout within the area within which the order is to apply;
- (c) for modifying in relation to the fisheries within the area any of the provisions of this Act which relate to the regulation of fisheries, or of any local Act relating to any fishery within the area.

2. An order shall not authorise a fixed engine to be worked for a period exceeding five years unless authorisation is from time to time extended by licence of the Minister for such term as may be specified in the licence and not exceeding at any one time five years.

3. The Minister shall not grant a licence until he has inquired into the effect of the working of the engine on the salmon or trout fisheries within the area.

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4. An order may contain any incidental, consequential or supplemental provisions, including provisions for payment of compensation to persons injuriously affected by the order, which may appear to be necessary or proper for the purposes of the order.

Procedure

5. An application for an order may be made by any of the following, namely—

- (a) a water authority ;
- (b) a county council ;
- (c) persons who in the opinion of the Minister are the owners of one-fourth at least in value of the several fisheries proposed to be regulated or constitute a majority of the persons holding licences to fish in public waters within the area of the proposed order ;
- (d) any association of persons which in the opinion of the Minister is sufficiently representative of fishing interests within that area.

6. The applicant for an order shall give such security for the Minister's expenses as the Minister may require.

7. Before making an order the Minister shall cause notice of the intention to make the order and of the place where copies of the draft order may be inspected and obtained, and of the time within and manner in which objections to the draft order may be made, to be published in the London Gazette and in such other manner as he thinks best adapted for informing persons affected.

8. Before making an order the Minister shall consider any objections which may be duly made to the draft order, and may cause a public local inquiry to be held with respect to any such objections.

9. After an order has been settled and made by the Minister it shall be published in such manner as he thinks best adapted for informing persons affected with notice that the Minister has settled the order, and that the order will become final unless within such period, not being less than 30 days, as may be stated in the notice, a memorial is presented to the Minister by a water authority, local authority or other person or association affected by it, praying that it shall be subject to special parliamentary procedure.

10. If within such period, not being less than 30 days, as may be stated in the notice so published, no memorial against the order is presented to the Minister by any water authority, local authority or other person or association affected by the order, or if any such memorial so presented is withdrawn, the Minister may confirm the order, but if any such memorial is presented and is not withdrawn, the order shall be subject to special parliamentary procedure.

11. The making and confirmation of an order shall be prima facie evidence that all the requirements of this Act in respect of proceedings required to be taken previously to the making and confirmation of such an order have been complied with.

12. The Minister may by statutory instrument make regulations in relation to the publication of notices and advertisements and the holding of and procedure at public local inquiries under this Part of this Schedule, and the payment of expenses of and incidental to such inquiries and to any other matters of procedure respecting the making of orders.

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13. Where—

- (a) any fishery, land or foreshore proposed to be comprised in an order ; or
- (b) any fishery proposed to be affected by any order ; or
- (c) any land over which it is proposed to acquire an easement under an order,

belongs to Her Majesty in right of the Crown or forms part of the possessions of the Duchy of Lancaster or the Duchy of Cornwall, or belongs to or is under the management of any government department, the Minister may make the order if he has previously obtained—

- (i) in the case of any foreshore under the management of the Crown Estate Commissioners, or of any fishery or land belonging to Her Majesty in right of the Crown, the consent of those Commissioners ;
- (ii) in the case of any foreshore or fishery or land forming part of the possessions of the Duchy of Lancaster, the consent of the Chancellor of the Duchy ;
- (iii) in the case of any foreshore, fishery or land forming part of the possessions of the Duchy of Cornwall, the consent of the Duke of Cornwall, or the persons for the time being empowered to dispose for any purpose of the land of the Duchy ;
- (iv) in the case of any foreshore or fishery or land which belongs to or is under the management of a government department, the consent of that government department.

PART II

BYELAWS

General

14. Subject to Schedule 1 above, the power to make byelaws shall be exercisable by water authorities.

15. Byelaws may be made for any of the purposes mentioned in paragraphs 19 to 36 below.

16. A byelaw may be made to apply to the whole or any part or parts of a water authority area or to the whole or any part or parts of the year.

17. If at any time before the end of 12 months after the confirmation of a byelaw made for the purpose specified in paragraph 21 or 25 below the owner or occupier of any fishery within the water authority area, by notice in writing to the water authority, claims that

SCH. 3 the fishery is injuriously affected by the byelaw, the claim and the amount of compensation to be paid, by way of annual payment or otherwise, for the damage (if any) to the fishery shall be determined, in default of agreement, by a single arbitrator appointed by the Minister.

18. When the compensation is payable under any award by way of an annual payment, the water authority or the person entitled to the annual payment may at any time after the end of 5 years from the date of the award require it to be reviewed by a single arbitrator appointed by the Minister, and the compensation to be thenceforth paid shall be such, if any, as may be determined by that arbitrator.

Purposes for which Byelaws may be made

19. Fixing or altering, subject to paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 above, any such close season or close time as is mentioned in that paragraph.

20. Dispensing with a close season for freshwater fish or rainbow trout.

21. Specifying the nets and other instruments (not being fixed engines) which may be used for taking salmon, trout, freshwater fish and eels and imposing requirements as to their construction, use, design, material and dimensions, including in the case of nets the size of mesh.

22. Requiring and regulating the attachment to licensed nets and instruments of marks, labels or numbers, or the painting of marks or numbers or the affixing of labels or numbers to boats, coracles or other vessels used in fishing.

23. Prohibiting the carrying in any boat or vessel whilst being used in fishing for salmon or trout of any net which is not licensed, or which is without the mark, label or number prescribed by the byelaws.

24. Prohibiting or regulating the carrying in a boat or vessel during the annual close season for salmon of a net capable of taking salmon other than a net commonly used in the area to which the byelaw applies for sea fishing if carried in a boat or vessel commonly used for that purpose.

25. Prohibiting the use for taking salmon, trout, or freshwater fish of any instrument (not being a fixed engine) in such waters within the water authority area and at such times as may be prescribed by the byelaws.

26. Prohibiting the taking or removal from any water without lawful authority of any fish, whether alive or dead.

27. Determining for the purposes of this Act the period of the year during which gratings need not be maintained.

28. Prohibiting or regulating the taking of trout or any freshwater fish of a size less than such as may be prescribed by the byelaw.

29. Prohibiting or regulating the taking of fish by any means within such distance as is specified in the byelaw above or below any dam or any other obstruction, whether artificial or natural.

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30. Prohibiting or regulating fishing with rod and line between the end of the first hour after sunset on any day and the beginning of the last hour before sunrise on the following morning.

31. Regulating the deposit or discharge in any waters containing fish of any liquid or solid matter specified in the byelaw which is detrimental to salmon, trout or freshwater fish, or the spawn or food of fish, but not so as to prejudice any powers of a local authority to discharge sewage in pursuance of any power given by a public general Act, a local Act or a provisional order confirmed by Parliament.

32. Requiring persons fishing for salmon, trout or freshwater fish to send to the water authority returns, in such form, giving such particulars and at such times as may be specified in the byelaws, of any such fish which they have taken, or a statement that they have taken no such fish.

33. Regulating the use in connection with fishing with rod and line of any lure or bait specified in the byelaw.

34. Determining the time during which it shall be lawful to use a gaff in connection with fishing with rod and line for salmon or migratory trout.

35. Authorising fishing with rod and line for eels during the annual close season for freshwater fish.

36. The better execution of this Act and the better protection, preservation and improvement of any salmon fisheries, trout fisheries, freshwater fisheries and eel fisheries in a water authority area.

PART III

MISCELLANEOUS

37. Without prejudice to paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 to the Water Act 1973 (general power of water authorities to do anything which in their opinion is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of their functions), it is hereby declared that the powers conferred by Part VI of the Water Resources Act 1963 (which relates to land and works) include power for a water authority to purchase or take on lease (either by agreement or if so authorised compulsorily)—

- (a) any dam, fishing weir, fishing mill dam, fixed engine or other artificial obstruction and any fishery attached to or worked in connection with any such obstruction ;
- (b) so much of the bank adjoining a dam as may be necessary for making or maintaining a fish pass for the purposes of section 10 above ; and
- (c) for the purpose of erecting and working a fixed engine under paragraph 1(b) above, any fishery land or foreshore specified in the relevant order under that paragraph together with

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any easement over any adjoining land necessary for securing access to the fishery land or foreshore so acquired.

38. Without prejudice to the said paragraph 2, a water authority may either alter or remove an obstruction acquired in the exercise of the powers mentioned in paragraph 37 above, or may by themselves or their lessees use or work in any lawful manner the obstruction for fishing purposes and exercise the right conferred by any fishery so acquired, subject in the case of an obstruction or fishery acquired by way of lease to the terms of the lease.

39.—(1) Without prejudice to the said paragraph 2, a water authority—

- (a) may take legal proceedings in respect of any offence against this Act, or for the enforcement of any provision of this Act or for the protection of the fisheries in their area from injury by pollution or otherwise ;
- (b) may purchase or lease by agreement any fishery, fishing rights, or any establishment for the artificial propagation or rearing of salmon, trout or freshwater fish, and may use, work or exercise the same by themselves, their lessees, or any person duly authorised by them in writing ; and
- (c) may obtain the services of additional constables under section 15 of the Police Act 1964.

1964 c. 48.

(2) Nothing in this paragraph shall authorise anything to be done which may injuriously affect any navigable river, canal, or inland navigation.

Section 37.

SCHEDULE 4

OFFENCES

PART I

PROSECUTION AND PUNISHMENT

1.—(1) Column 2 of the Table below gives a description of the offences against the provisions of this Act specified in column 1 of the Table, and in relation to any such offence—

- (a) column 3 shows whether the offence is punishable summarily (that is to say, on summary conviction) or on indictment or either in one way or the other ; and
- (b) column 4 shows the maximum punishment by way of fine or imprisonment which may be imposed on a person convicted of the offence in the way specified in column 3 (that is to say, summarily or on indictment), any reference in column 4 to a period of years or months being construed as a reference to a term of imprisonment for that period.

(2) A person guilty of an offence against any provision of this Act not specified in the Table shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50 or, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, £100.

Provision of Act creating the offence (1)	Description of offence (2)	Mode of prosecution (3)	Punishment (4)
Section 19(6) ...	Fishing for freshwater fish during the annual close season for freshwater fish and fishing for eels by means of a rod and line during that season.	Summarily	£100; or in the case of a second or subsequent conviction £200.
Section 19(7) ...	Fishing for rainbow trout during the annual close season for rainbow trout and fishing for eels by means of a rod and line during that season.	Summarily	£100; or in the case of a second or subsequent conviction £200.
Section 21 ...	Prohibition on use of certain devices at certain times.	Summarily	£100; or in the case of a second or subsequent conviction £200.
Section 27 ...	Fishing for fish otherwise than under the authority of a licence and possessing an unlicensed instrument with intent to use it for fishing.	(a) If not acting with another, summarily. (b) If acting with another— (i) summarily ... (ii) on indictment	£50; or in the case of a second or subsequent conviction £100. £100; or in the case of a second or subsequent conviction £200. Two years or a fine or both.

(3) A person shall be treated as acting together with another for the purposes of the above Table if both are engaged in committing an offence against section 1 or 27 above, other than one committed by means of a rod and line or without any instrument, or one is aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of such an offence by the other.

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PART II

PROCEDURE

2. Any offence against this Act committed on the sea-coast or at sea beyond the ordinary jurisdiction of a court of summary jurisdiction shall be deemed to have been committed in any place abutting on that sea-coast or adjoining that sea, and may be tried and punished accordingly.

3. Offences against this Act committed in Scotland shall be proceeded against and punished in Scotland.

4. A justice of the peace shall not be disqualified from hearing any case under this Act by reason only of being a subscriber to any society for the protection of fish, but a justice shall not be entitled to hear any case in respect of an offence committed on his own land or in relation to any fishery of which he is owner or occupier.

5. The court by which a person is convicted of an offence against this Act may order the forfeiture of—

- (a) any fish illegally taken by him or in his possession at the time of the offence ;
- (b) any instrument, bait or other thing used in the commission of the offence ;
- (c) in the case of an offence of unlawful possession of any substance or device in contravention of section 5 above, that substance or device ; and
- (d) on conviction on indictment, any vessel or vehicle used in or in connection with the commission of the offence or in which any substance or device unlawfully in his possession was contained at the time of the offence ;

and may order any object so forfeited to be disposed of as the court thinks fit.

6. Schedule 7 to the Customs and Excise Act 1952 (provisions relating to the forfeiture of things seized under that Act) shall apply in relation to any vessel or vehicle liable to forfeiture under paragraph 5 above as it applies in relation to anything liable to forfeiture under that Act, but in its application in relation to any such vessel or vehicle shall have effect subject to the following modifications:—

- (a) provisos (a) to (c) in paragraph 1 and paragraph 5 shall be omitted ;

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(b) for references to the Commissioners of Customs and Excise there shall be substituted references to the water authority within whose area the offence in question was committed ; and

(c) the court shall not condemn a vehicle or vessel as forfeited under paragraph 6 of that Schedule if satisfied by its owner that that offence was committed without his knowledge and that he could not have reasonably foreseen that it would be used as mentioned in paragraph 5(d) above ;

and where notice of claim in respect of anything is duly given in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of that Schedule, as applied by this paragraph, the court shall not exercise its power of ordering forfeiture of the vessel or vehicle under paragraph 5 above.

In this paragraph "owner", in relation to a vessel or vehicle which is the subject of a hire-purchase agreement, means the person in possession of the vehicle under that agreement.

7. An authorised officer may seize any salmon, trout or freshwater fish bought, sold or exposed for sale by, or in the possession for sale of, any person in contravention of this Act.

8. Where any fish or any other thing of a perishable nature is seized as liable to forfeiture under paragraph 5 above, the person by whom it is seized may sell it, and the net proceeds of sale shall be liable to forfeiture in the same manner as the fish or other thing sold, and if and so far as not forfeited shall be paid on demand to the owner ; but no person shall be subject to any liability on account of his neglect or failure to exercise the powers conferred on him by this paragraph.

9. If a person is convicted of an offence against this Act and is subsequently convicted of any such offence, the court may order that any fishing or general licence held by him shall be forfeited, and that he shall be disqualified from holding and obtaining a fishing or general licence or for fishing in a water authority area by virtue of a fishing or general licence for such period not exceeding one year as the court thinks fit.

10. A person who is prosecuted for an offence against this Act and who is the holder of a fishing or general licence shall either—

(a) cause it to be delivered to the clerk of the court not later than the day before the date appointed for the hearing, or

(b) post it, at such a time that in the ordinary course of post it would be delivered not later than that day, in a letter duly addressed to the clerk and either registered or sent by the recorded delivery service, or

(c) have it with him at the hearing ;

and if he is convicted of the offence and the court makes an order under paragraph 9 above the court shall order the licence to be surrendered to it ; and if the offender has not posted the licence or caused it to be delivered as aforesaid and does not surrender it as required then he shall be guilty of an offence and the licence shall be revoked from the time when its surrender was ordered.

11. Where a court orders a fishing or general licence to be surrendered to it under paragraph 10 above, or where by an order of a court under paragraph 9 above a person is disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence, the court shall—

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- (a) send notice of the order to the water authority within whose area the offence was committed, unless the authority prosecuted in the case;
- (b) if the licence has been so surrendered, retain it and forward it to that authority, who may dispose of it as they think fit

12. Where any person is convicted of an offence against this Act, the clerk of the court before whom he is convicted shall, within one month of the date of conviction, forward a certificate of the conviction to the water authority for the area in which the offence was committed.

13. A certificate under paragraph 12 above shall be receivable in evidence in all legal proceedings.

SCHEDULE 5

Section 43.

REPEALS

Chapter	Short title	Extent of repeal
13 & 14 Geo. 5. c. 16.	The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923.	The whole Act.
19 & 20 Geo. 5. c. 39.	The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1929.	The whole Act.
25 & 26 Geo. 5. c. 43.	The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1935.	The whole Act.
1963 c. 38.	The Water Resources Act 1963.	In section 71(6), the words "the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923 or by". In section 126(1), the words "the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Acts 1923 to 1972, and".
1965 c. 56.	The Compulsory Purchase Act 1965.	In Schedule 6, the entry relating to the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923.
1965 c. 68.	The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1965.	The whole Act.
1972 c. 37.	The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1972.	The whole Act.
1973 c. 37.	The Water Act 1973.	Section 18. Section 40(4)(c).
1974 c. 40.	The Control of Pollution Act 1974.	In Schedule 8, paragraphs 1 to 19 and paragraphs 95 to 97. In Schedule 3, paragraph 5.