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| PISCIVOROUS BIRD APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE TO KILL / TAKE CORMORANTS / HERONS / GOOSANDERS / MERGANSERS TO PREVENT SERIOUS DAMAGE TO FISHERIES  **WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)** |

**NOTES FOR GUIDANCE**

Please read the following notes carefully

1. This is an application form for a licence to kill or take birds under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for the purpose of :-

* Preventing serious damage to fisheries, including fish farms

Natural Resources Wales, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 16 (1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, may issue licences to permit the killing or taking of wild birds, **provided that:**

* **there is no satisfactory alternative**

1. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 failure to comply with the terms of a Licence may make the licensee liable to prosecution for an offence.
2. Licences will normally only be granted to the owner or occupier of the associated land or a person authorised by the owner or occupier.
3. Licences relating to the shooting of birds are usually only granted to reinforce scaring.
4. Applications for licences to shoot cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), goosanders (*Mergus merganser*), herons (*Ardea cinerea*), and red-breasted mergansers (*Mergus serrator*) can be applied for at any time. However any Licence issued will only be valid from between 1 September –15th March.
5. The following conditions apply before consideration will be given to granting a licence for the purpose of preventing serious damage
6. Applicants must provide detailed evidence that serious damage is occurring or likely to occur. This may include evidence gathered from previous years’ experiences and any information about the current numbers of fish-eating birds present in the fishery or farm. Careful distinction should be made between the answers to 5(c), damage to stock (which, for example, might include taking of young stock) and 5(d), damage to fishery (which might include effect on e.g. catches, rod licences etc. and other sources of income). All applicants must complete a ‘log of action form’ recorded for a minimum of 10 site visits dated at least 3 days apart prior to submission of the application. NRW will reject any applications in the absence of a complete ‘Log of Action Form’.
7. Technical staff from NRW or their agents may visit the site of alleged damage during the assessment of an application, in order to verify the information provided and to discuss topics such as the preventative measures currently employed or used in the past. No licences will be granted unless non-lethal scaring methods or defensive barriers are in operation where it is reasonable and practical for this to be done.
8. The following conditions will apply:
9. The maximum number of birds which may be killed under the licence will be stated on it.
10. Applicants should note that a licence from NRW does not grant access or power of entry onto any land.
11. The licensee/owner or occupier may, in addition to obtaining a licence need to consult NRW in writing, in relation to a SSSI, NNR, SPA, SAC or Ramsar site, 4 months prior to any action being undertaken. Applicants are advised that if they are required to consult NRW this should be done as soon as possible and not to await the outcome of the Licence Application.
12. Licensees are allowed to authorise in writing up to five other people to shoot birds under their licence or six where the licensee does not participate in the killing or taking of the birds; where the licence permits the use of firearms, no-one under the age of 18 years may be authorised by the licensee without specific permission from NRW. The licensee is responsible for all activities undertaken under the licence.

viii. Applicants should note that Section 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 prohibits the use of certain

methods of killing or taking wild birds. These are the use of any spring trap, gin, snare, hook and line, electrical devices, poisonous, poisoned or stupefying substances, any net, baited board, bird lime and similar substances, bows and cross-bows, explosives other than firearm ammunition, shotguns with large diameter barrels, automatic and semi-automatic weapons capable of holding more than 2 rounds in the magazine, illuminating and sighting devices for night-shooting, artificial lighting, mirror and other dazzling devices, gas and smoke, chemical wetting agents, sound recordings, tethered or maimed live birds as decoys and mechanically propelled vehicles in immediate pursuit.

ix. NRW is obliged to consult with the Welsh Government on licensing policy and the circumstances in which licences may be granted. This may affect your application.

1. All questions in this application form must be completed in detail unless otherwise stated: failure to provide adequate information will delay the processing of your application. Any further information you wish to provide should be appended on additional sheets. **We aim to process applications within 30 working days of receiving the fisheries officer’s site assessment report.**
2. It is a condition of any licence issued that a full report of the work carried out under licence is submitted within four weeks of the expiry of the licence. The Licence Report Form can be found on our website. Failure to do so may result in future applications being refused. Information from these reports is required to provide summary information to NRW and others on the number of licences issued, the purpose of the licence and which species are covered. None of these summary statistics includes personal information about licensees. The information may also be used for conservation purposes and shared with other organisations.
3. Applications are dealt with chronologically. This means they are processed according to when they were submitted, not according to the timing of the works. Please submit your application in good time before the proposed works. If you think your application needs to be dealt with urgently, please ring us to discuss and agree this before its submission.
4. Natural Resource Wales can modify or revoke any licence issued, this will only be undertaken if there are good reasons for doing so. Any licence issued will be revoked immediately if it is discovered that false information had been provided which resulted in the issue of a licence.
5. The information provided by you will be processed by Natural Resources Wales in line with the GDPRs Data Protection Principles. This will to enable us to process your application; to monitor compliance with any permit conditions; to process renewals, and to maintain the relevant public register.

We will process the information you provide in connection with the following:

* Consultation with third parties who are relevant and responsible for responding to consultation requests from NRW to enable us to process your application
* Carrying out statistical analysis, research and development on environmental issues
* Providing public register information for enquiries
* Preventing and investigating possible breaches of environmental law and taking any resulting action
* Responding to requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004

**We would also like to send you details about other topics we think may be of interest to you such as NRW news; services relating to environmental matters; asking for your feedback on our service; and more useful information.**

**If you consent to receiving further information from us, please tick the following box to confirm**

Yes, I would like to receive additional information from NRW relating to environmental matters □

**Please note we may pass the information on to our agents or representatives to carry this out for us**

If you have any further queries or concerns, please contact [dataprotection@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk).  For further information on the processing of your personal details please see our [Privacy Notice page](https://naturalresources.wales/privacy)

xv. Any information included in this application which the applicant considers to be in confidence for commercial or industrial reasons or to be the applicant’s intellectual property must be clearly marked as such.

xvi.In this document “Natural Resources Wales” means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) Order 2012. The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 transferred the relevant functions of the Countryside Council for Wales, and functions of the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission in Wales to the Natural Resources Body for Wales.

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| **Information to provide within the application form**   1. If the document is being handwritten, please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS** 2. Please answer **ALL** questions in detail. Incomplete answers will mean delays in your application being processed. 3. Applications can be accepted **either** electronically or by post (electronic is our preferred option).   **Electronic Applications**  Email Applications to: [specieslicence@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:specieslicence@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk). Please DO NOT also send the application by post.  **Postal Applications**  Please post to: **Species Permitting Team, Natural Resources Wales, Maes y Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW**   1. All applicants should contact their local NRW Fisheries Team for advice before making an application. Applications will only be processed once a Fisheries Team member has visited and made a pre-application assessment or has completed a desktop assessment if a site visit is not deemed necessary. NRW will then aim to process applications within 30 working days of receipt of the fisheries officer’s site assessment report.   **Contacts:**  [stuart.a.rees@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.a.rees@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) (south-west), [mark.samuel@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:mark.samuel@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) (south-east)  [joel.rees-jones@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:joel.rees-jones@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) (north).   1. Please append a log of action form with your application. The log of action form should be completed for a minimum of 10 site visits dated at least 3 days apart. Please note that we will reject any applications in the absence of a complete log of action form. 2. An acknowledgement will be sent out on receipt of your application, please contact us if you have not received a response within 5 working days. |

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| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Part A. The Applicant: Personal and Fishery Details | | | | | | **This section relates to the person who will be the named licensee. This must be a named individual; company names and several individuals are not permitted. As the licensee, you will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and its conditions.** | | | | | | **1.** | **Applicants Contact Details** | | | | |  | Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) | Forename(s) | | Surname | |  |  | |  | | Business Title (if appropriate) | |  | | | Company Name (if appropriate) | |  | | | Address | |  | | |  | | | Town | |  | | | County | |  | | | Postcode | |  | | | Tel. number (incl. national dialling code) | |  | | | Mobile. number (incl. national dialling code) | |  | | | Email address  (Please provide if possible, to enable us to email you a copy of your licence, if approved.) | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **2. Details of Fishery** | | | | | | | | | a) | Fishery Name |  | | | | | | | Type of Fishery (e.g. coarse / fly / put and take / fish farm / river / other) |  | | | | | | | Address |  | | | | | | |  | | | | | | | Town |  | | | | | | | County |  | | | | | | | Postcode |  | | | | | | | Grid Reference |  | | | | | | | Tel. number (incl. national dialling code) |  | | | | | | | Mobile. number (incl. national dialling code) |  | | | | | | | Email address  (Please provide if possible, to enable us to email you a copy of your licence, if approved.) |  | | | | | | | b) | Are you the owner or occupier of the land referred to in question 2 | | | Yes |  | No |  | |  | If **NO** give the position you hold in relation to this land:  ***NB*** *Where you are not the owner/occupier you should attach the owner or occupier’s written consent for you to make this application.* | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **3. Previous Applications**  Please insert an **x** as appropriate | | | | | |
| a) | Have you applied previously for a licence to kill/take birds or use prohibited methods? | Yes |  | No |  |
|  | **If YES**, please state below the related species and the methods that were used | | | | |
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| b) | Please state the date of the most recent Application: **Date:** |  | | | |
| c) | Was the Licence granted? | Yes |  | No |  |
|  | **If YES** please provide the Licence Reference Number: **Number:** |  | | | |

**PART B. The Application**

**4. Nature of the Problem**

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| a) | Please indicate which species of bird will be the subject of the proposed activity | | | | |
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| b) | Please give details of the nature and extent of the problem being caused or the problem that is likely to be caused? E.g. predation of trout/salmon/other fish species | | | | |
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| c) | Please state the time of year when the problem occurs **Date:** | | |  | |
| d) | Please detail the location of the proposed shooting  (NB: A map of suitable scale including the fishery boundary and the area where shooting is to take place marked upon it should accompany this application.) | | | | |
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| e) | Please provide the dates that you wish to be licensed **from** and **until:** |  | **TO** | |  |

**5. Evidence of Serious Damage**

**NB** Please read Section vi. of the Notes for Guidance at the front of this form before completing this question.

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| a) | Please give details of feeding activity (i.e. where, when and how often observed) |
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| b) | Please give estimates of the number of fish damaged or likely to be damaged |
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| c) | Please give assessment of likely damage to the fishery e.g. loss of income; you must give full details of recorded losses, catch records, damage reports, costs of replacing stock, rod licence/subscription losses etc. |
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| d) | Please identify any other factors influencing the fishery e.g. Mink or other predators, low levels of water, quality of water, habitat quality, poaching etc. |
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**6. Preventative Measures**

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| a) | Have any measures been taken to prevent the problems outlined in **Questions 4 and 5** above | | | Yes |  | No |  |
|  | If **YES, please** detail the methods that have been attempted, the duration of their use, and explain why you do not consider them to be sufficient (e.g. scaring, proofing, shooting in the open season) | | | | | | |
|  | **METHOD** | **DURATION** | **WHY NOT SUFFICIENT** | | | | |
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|  | If **NO** please explain why preventative control measures have not been undertaken | | | | | | |
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**7. Consideration of Designated Sites**

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|  | Please read **Section vii. c)** of the ‘Notes for Guidance’ found at the front of this form before completing these questions. | | | | |
| **Designated Areas:** Local Nature Reserves (LNR), National Nature Reserves (NNR), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar sites, and certain other river/lake systems. | | | | |
| a) | Will the proposed action fall within an area covered by a designated site? | Yes |  | No |  |
| b) | Will the proposed action fall adjacent to an area covered by a designated site? | Yes |  | No |  |
| c) | If **YES** to either of the above, have you consulted with Natural Resource Wales for advice on the implications of your application on the protected site? | Yes |  | No |  |
| d) | Please give either the outcome of the owner or occupier’s consultation or the reason why the owner or occupier has not consulted with Natural Resources Wales. Please enclose any relevant correspondence **and please name the relevant designated site.** | | | | |
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**8. Authority to Shoot**

Up to six people (including the licensee) may be authorised to shoot birds under a Licence, **it is your responsibility to ensure that you have the right to shoot.**

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| a) | Please list the names and contact telephone numbers of all persons other than the Licensee who are authorised to shoot (maximum of 5) | |
|  | **Name of Authorised person** | **Contact telephone Number** |
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**Part C. Declarations**

**9. Handling of your Information**

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| a) | The information requested in this application form will capture personal data about you – for example, your name and address. Your personal data will be managed and used by the NRW in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. **For more information please see the Notes for Guidance at the beginning of this form.** | | | | |
| b) | Do you give your consent to the disclosure of information provided by you in connection with this application? Your personal and financial information not relating to the environment will not be disclosed | Yes |  | No |  |

**10. Read and sign the following declarations**

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| a) | Have you or your proposed assistants ever been convicted of a wildlife offence? | | | | Yes |  | No |  |
|  | If YES, please give details, including dates |  | | | | | | |
| b) | I authorise employees or representatives of Natural Resource Wales to enter the site that is subject to this application for the purpose of monitoring and inspecting the permitted works (please place an x in the box opposite). | | | | |  | | |
| c) | I have read and understand the guidance provided in this application form. I declare that the particulars given are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I apply for a licence in accordance with these particulars. If a licence is granted I agree to send to NRW a written report of the licensed activities within four weeks of the expiry of the licence.  ***NB****. Applicants should note that it is an offence under the Wildlife* *and Countryside Act 1981 to knowingly or recklessly provide false information in order to obtain a licence.* | | | | | | | |
|  | Signature of the Applicant | |  | Date | |  | | |
| ***For electronic applications please insert an electronic signature above or place an x in the box opposite to confirm agreement with the declarations above.*** | | | | |  | | |
| Name in BLOCK LETTERS | |  | Date | |  | | |
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**Part D. Checklist.**

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|  | **Please submit your application to Natural Resources Wales on the below contact details. If possible, please submit your application electronically. If you do wish to apply through the post, please send your application to the address listed below. Please note that incomplete applications that do not include a complete application form and log of action form will be rejected.** | | |
| **Electronic**  **Applications:** [**specieslicence@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk**](mailto:specieslicence@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)  **Postal Applications:**  **Species Permitting Team,**  **Natural Resources Wales,**  **Maes y Ffynnon,**  **Penrhosgarnedd,**  **Bangor,**  **Gwynedd,**  **LL57 2DW**  **Tel. 03000654974/03000654921** | **Checklist before submitting your application:** | |
| **Completed Application Form** |  |
| **Completed Log of Action Form** |  |
| **Map of the site** |  |
| **Evidence of problem, e.g. photographs, videos** |  |
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| **SITE / REACH SKETCH MAP** |

**PISCIVOROUS BIRDS - LOG OF ACTION TO DETER BIRDS AND RECORD BIRD ACTIVITY**

**Name of Fishery:..................................................... Log completed by: ...........................................................**

C = Cormorant, G = Goosander

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Location** | **No. of birds observed** | **Species** | **Behaviour** | **Scaring used** | **Effectiveness / other comments** |
| *dd/mm/yy* | N. end of lake | *3* | *Cormorant* | *roosting* | *12b blanks* | *Flew off eastwards* |
| *dd/mm/yy* | Junction pool | *1* | *Goosander* | *feeding* | *Hand clapping* | *1C & 1G flew upstream* |
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