

**Environment Marine & Fisheries  
Group**  
Marine & Fisheries Division



Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn  
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'  
**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Our reference: DAERA/25-461



**Marine & Fisheries Division**

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09 September 2025

Dear 

**Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 28 August 2025 that sought the following information:

*Please provide summary details of catch and release returns indicating fish loss (mortality) per species and catchment on an annual basis since 2021.*

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested.

For recreational angling, the Department utilises an online system to record returns for salmon and sea trout. It is the angler's responsibility to submit their catch returns through the Licence and Permit system ([Start here | Licence Permit Enforcements | DAERA](#)). Currently, as many rivers are catch and release only for salmon and sea trout, it has resulted in low reported catch figures from anglers. Information is not held on per catchment basis but for the overall DAERA area. DAERA does not hold

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information on the associated mortality for every fish caught and released but no reports of mortalities were received by DAERA.

The system began recording catch figures in 2023 (with the introduction of a new licence and permit system). Submitted catches for 2025 do not need to be voluntarily returned until the game season closes at the end of October.

Year	Returns	Salmon caught and returned	Sea Trout caught and released	Game Licences Sold	Percentage of catch returns made
2023	73	19	18	17,198	0.4 % returned
2024	36	14	0	15,898	0.2 % returned

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing [daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk) or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

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