

What is the issue?

Across Scotland there are 300+ obstacles such as weirs, dams and culverts which are currently preventing migratory fish access to important habitats for spawning and development of juvenile fish. Addressing barriers (removal and easement options) reconnects watercourses and allows fish to move more freely within river catchments.

Why do we need to take action?

As well as biodiversity benefits and reconnecting rivers for all fish species, including critically endangered Atlantic Salmon, there are multiple benefits to be gained from removal and easement of obstacles, these include:

- restoring river corridors with wider habitat enhancement
- social and economic benefits of increased amenity value
- contributing to decreased risk of localised flooding and climate resilience

River Basin Management Plan

To view information on the River Basin Management Plan, please scan (or click) the QR code.



Who needs to take action?

A major programme of work is happening across river catchments in Scotland to remove or modify existing structures and restore fish passage. Barrier owners have a key role to play, and SEPA is engaging directly to explain objectives and legislative requirements under the River Basin Management Plan (to view scan the QR code below) to ensure action is being taken to tackle obstacles to fish migration.

This work helping our wild fish populations also supports the objectives of the Scottish Wild Salmon Strategy and helps critically endangered species regain access to free-flowing rivers.



Image: Before modification



Image: After modification