

# Seals in Scotland

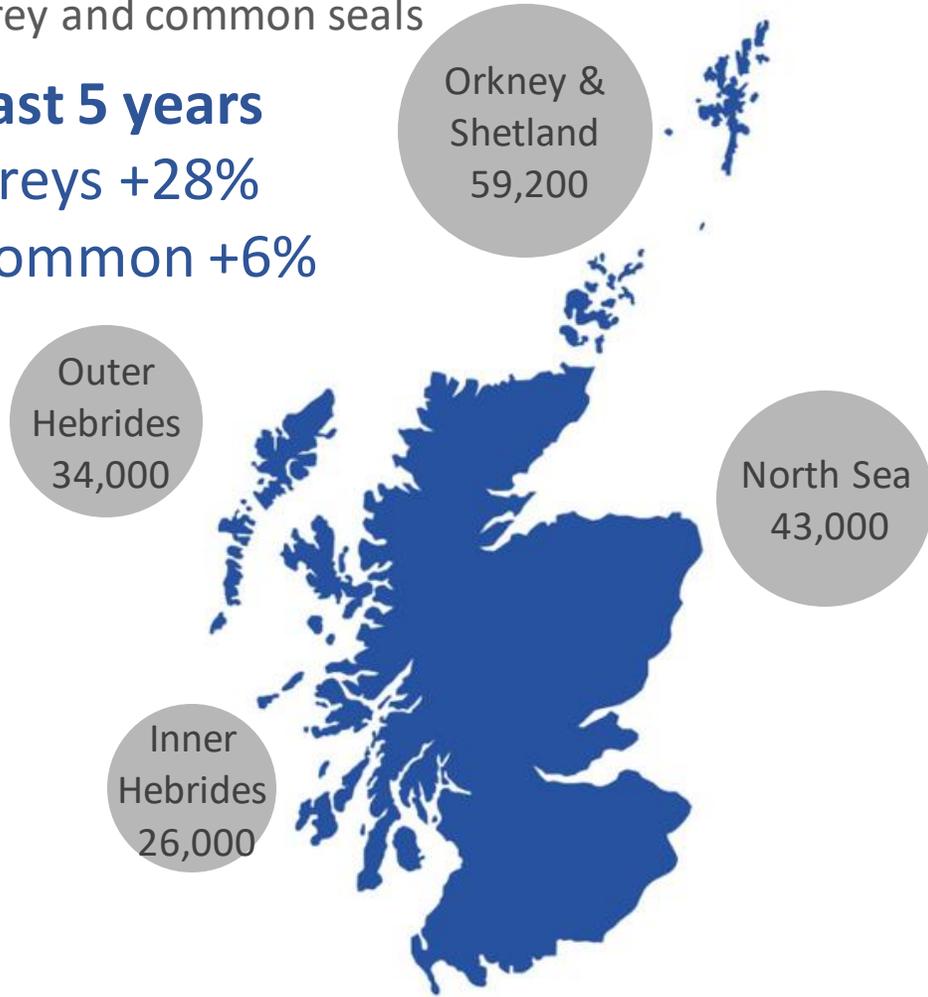
Total seal population in Scotland

Grey and common seals

Last 5 years

Greys +28%

Common +6%



Source: Marine Scotland, SSPO



At least 132,000 seals in Scotland. Source: Marine Scotland estimate of minimum seal population in 2019.



106,000 greys, 27,000 common seals (4:1). Protected in UK legislation.



Sea Mammal Research Unit models population estimates and 'PBR' to identify and model growth of seal populations



PBR – potential biological removal - the number of seals which can be taken out of the population without negative impact

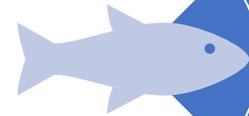


# Protecting stocks

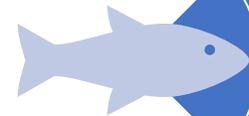
“ Seal attacks in 2018 resulted in the death of around **525,000** farmed salmon, with further impacts on fish health and welfare. ”



Overall biomass loss of  
801,600kg



Direct losses of fish valued  
at £5m



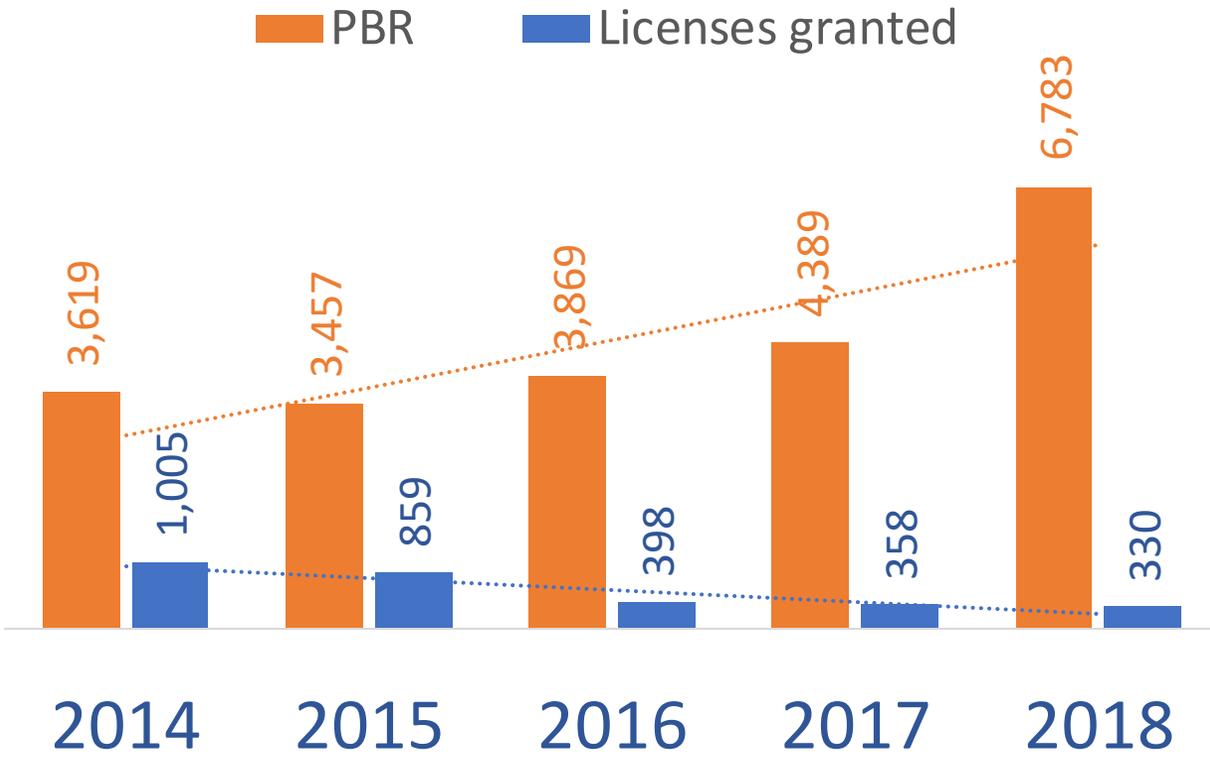
Indirect losses £14m (i.e. if  
killed fish grown to harvest)

source: Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation



# Potential Biological Removal - PBR

PBR and licenses granted by Marine Scotland



-  Published by Marine Scotland and modelled by Mammal Research Unit, University of St Andrews
-  Models the number of animals which can be safely removed from the population without causing a decline in the population.
-  Marine Scotland assess applications for licenses against PBR for each region (NB. PBR differs between regions)
-  PBR value increased over years as seal population has grown. Licenses granted reduced due to improved deterrents, technology and take up of licences.

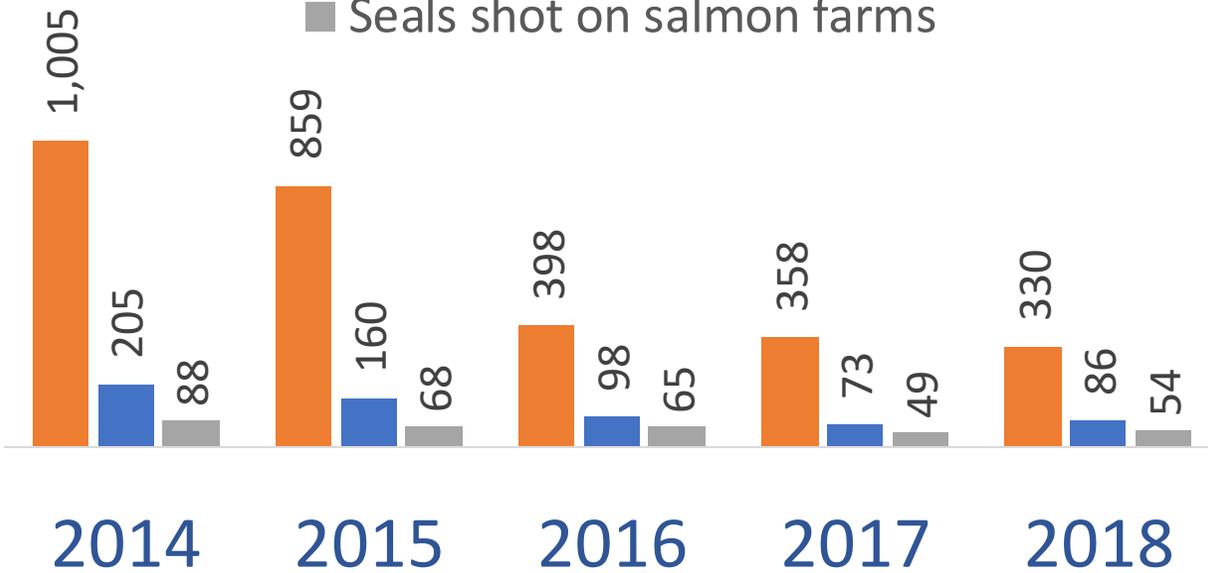
source: Marine Scotland



# Reduction in seal shooting

Licenses granted by Marine Scotland and seals shot

- Licenses granted
- All seals shot
- Seals shot on salmon farms



 Marine Scotland provides licences against PBR for each region

 Licenses provide the opportunity to legally deal with unwanted breaches to farms

 Seals shot accounted for 2.6% of the PBR for grey (6,000) and 3.0% (800) for harbour seals

 63% of seals shot were in the vicinity of salmon farms in 2018.

 ▼ 39% reduction in seals shot on/around salmon farms in last five years

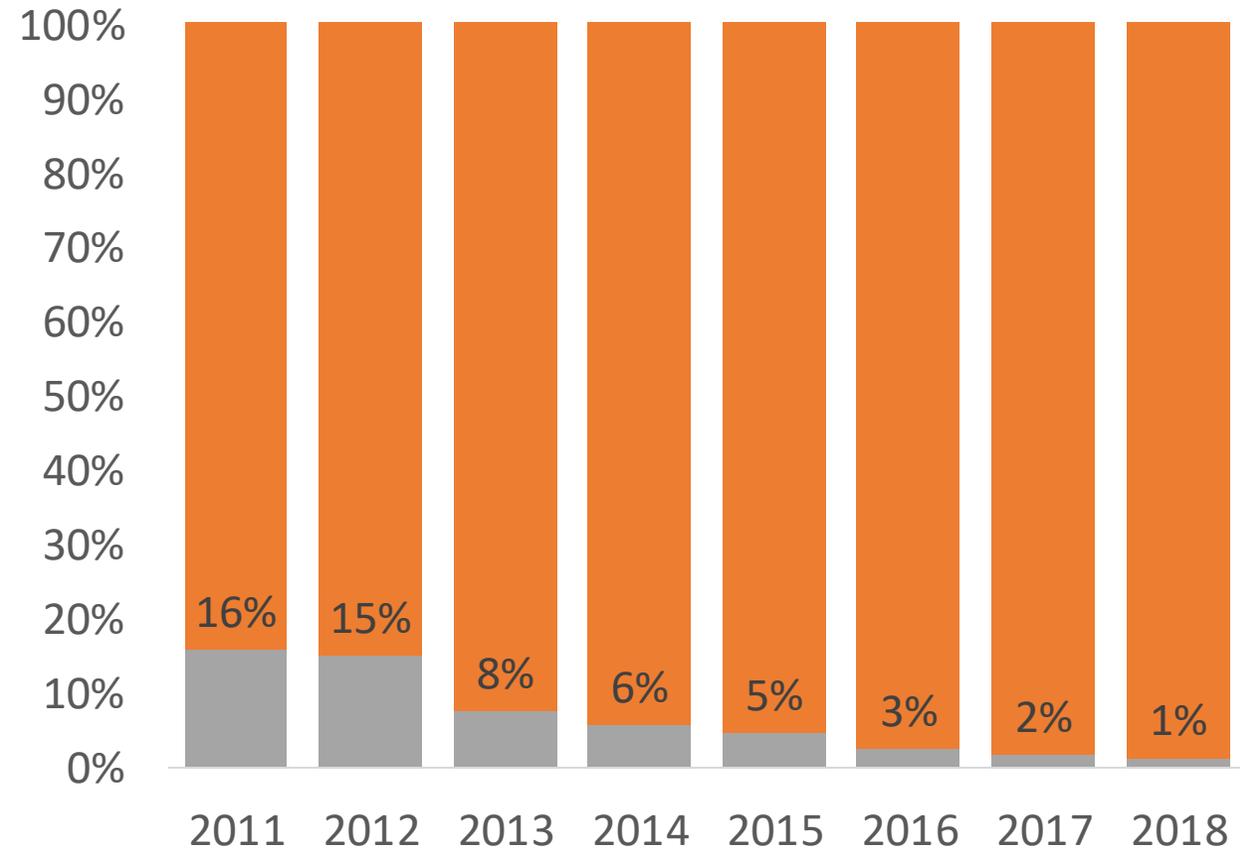
source: Marine Scotland



# Reduction in seal shooting



Seals shot as a share of PBR



source: Marine Scotland

