



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

Unit code: FA7L 33

Superclass: SH

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Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with the required knowledge and understanding to participate in seal management programmes.

It is aimed at those working in the fisheries and fish farm sectors. Candidates will develop an understanding of the main principles associated with seal management and in particular with the requirements of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 in relation to seal licensing and management in Scotland. Candidates should be able to explain why seal management is required and how it should be undertaken safely and humanely and in accordance with the new legislation. It is of paramount importance that they understand specific Scottish issues such as the duty of Scotland to protect its seal populations.

Candidates will learn about **The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010: Part 6 — Conservation of Seals** and how it will increase protection for seals and improve control of seal management in Scotland.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

- 1 Outline the key reasons for seal management in Scotland.
- 2 Outline the practical activities to be undertaken for effective seal management.
- 3 Outline the key aspects of relevant legislation relating to the sustainable taking and shooting of seals.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

No formal qualifications are required to undertake this Unit. Candidates may be working in a marine/fisheries environment where it may be necessary to undertake seal management.

General information (cont)

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 6: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 6*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Problem Solving* in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery

This Unit, which is the 'theory' Unit of two newly developed Seal Management Units, will normally be delivered along with the Unit *Seal Management: Practice*. Together the two Units make up the Professional Development Award in Seal Management at SCQF level 6. However, it is a free-standing Unit and may be delivered as such to a wider group, for example, to marine personnel and those working on fish farms for the purposes of induction or continuing professional development (CPD).

Assessment

It is recommended that this Unit is assessed holistically by a series of short-answer questions which should cover the main reasons for managing the seal population under the terms of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010; procedures for seal management and relevant legislation. Details are set out in the Evidence Requirements for each Outcome.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, Knowledge and/or Skills, and Evidence Requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the Knowledge and/or Skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Outline the key reasons for seal management in Scotland.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Protection of seals
- ◆ Species and size of seal populations in Scottish waters
- ◆ Seal habitats and behaviour
- ◆ Potential effects of seals on fish, fisheries and fish farms
- ◆ Links between Potential Biological Removal (PBR) and sustainability of seal populations
- ◆ Public Relations

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ outline the reasons for seal protection and management
- ◆ identify species of seals and describe the seal population in Scotland
- ◆ identify seal habitats
- ◆ explain the basic characteristics of seal behaviour
- ◆ outline the potential effects of seal activity on fish and fisheries
- ◆ outline the link between PBR and sustainable seal population
- ◆ explain why practitioners may need to deal with the public to explain the need for seal management

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed holistically with the other two Outcomes by a series of linked short-answer questions. Or it could be assessed discretely by a series of linked short-answer questions. Alternatively, this Outcome could be assessed by a report or oral presentation.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

Outcome 2

Outline the practical activities to be undertaken for effective seal management.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Pre-shooting activities:
 - when it is appropriate to carry out seal management
 - assessment of seal activity and behaviour
 - non-lethal measures of seal management
 - reasons for risk assessment
- ◆ During shoot activities:
 - seal physiology in the context of shot placement
 - types of firearms and ammunition permitted under the legislation
 - handling and discharge of firearms in accordance with Health and Safety and related legislation
 - humane despatch of wounded seals
- ◆ Post-shooting activities:
 - reporting and recording procedures and requirements under the legislation
 - recovery of carcasses
 - safe handling and disposal of carcasses

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ assess seal activity and behaviour to determine if seal management is necessary
- ◆ identify situations when a seal may legally be shot
- ◆ explain the reasons for carrying out a risk assessment
- ◆ identify the types of permitted firearms and ammunition
- ◆ outline the procedures for safe handling and discharge of firearms in accordance with relevant legislation
- ◆ explain seal physiology in the context of accurate shot placement
- ◆ identify humane methods of despatch of wounded seals
- ◆ describe how to recover (when safe to do so), safely handle and dispose of carcasses
- ◆ explain why it is essential to record and report kills

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed holistically with the other two Outcomes by a series of linked short-answer questions. Alternatively, it could be assessed either by short-answer questions, or by a report or oral presentation outlining the procedures for seal management, need for risk assessment, including the handling of carcasses, other health and safety considerations, relevant legislation and need for reporting and recording of kills.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

Outcome 3

Explain relevant legislation relating to the taking and shooting of seals.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Relevant Legislation
- ◆ Requirements of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 Part 6 'conservation of seals' — the Code of Practice
- ◆ Who requires to hold a licence to shoot seals
- ◆ Main Seal Licence conditions
- ◆ Licence application process
- ◆ Remit of nominated marksmen
- ◆ Consequences of shooting without a licence

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ explain the purpose of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the key issues of the Code of Practice
- ◆ outline the requirements of Part 6 of the Act:
 - what is legal/illegal
 - what constitutes an offence
 - who can shoot seals
 - when seals can be shot
 - where seals can be shot
- ◆ outline the Licence Conditions
- ◆ describe the role and requirements of nominated marksmen
- ◆ outline penalties for non-compliance with the conditions of the Licence, shooting without a licence and not reporting kills
- ◆ identify Health and Safety and other legislation relevant to seal management

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed holistically with the other two Outcomes by a series of linked short-answer questions. Alternatively it could be assessed by questions, or by an extended response or by a case study and structured questions.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This is one of two Units which have been designed to help the fish farming and fisheries sector to equip staff to work within the new legislation. In particular candidates need to be fully aware of the new licensing regulations and ethical and regulatory issues relating to seal management. The Units together make up the Professional Development Award (PDA) in Seal Management at SCQF level 6.

The Unit is divided into three Outcomes. To summarise — Outcome 1 deals with **why** seal management is required, Outcome 2 outlines **what** processes are involved by the individual undertaking seal control and Outcome 3 deals with **what** legislation underpins it.

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with the required knowledge and understanding of seal management which may be necessary for those working at a fish farm or in other marine environments such as a fishery or netting station. Those candidates who aim to become licensed, nominated marksmen under the terms of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 would require to complete this Unit as part of the PDA Seal Management at SCQF level 6. Candidates would require the knowledge aspects from this Unit prior to undertaking the other Unit of the PDA, Seal Management — Practice.

Fisheries and fish farms may require to engage in licensed seal management activities for reasons set out in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. This could be to prevent serious damage to stocks, nets or catches or to protect the health and welfare of farmed fish. Candidates will explore issues such as how seals should only be shot as a last resort and when this is deemed necessary. They will learn how seals must be killed humanely, and only by those licensed to do so.

Candidates will learn about **The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010: Part 6 — Conservation of Seals** and how it will increase protection for seals and improve seal management in Scotland while maintaining a balance between the conservation of seals and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in Scotland. All fisheries and fish farms that require to manage seals will have to apply for a licence under the terms of the Act.

For the first time it will be illegal to kill or take any seal at any time unless under specific licence. All seal management will be carried out under licence and properly regulated. In particular, Section 111(2) of the Act provides that Scottish Ministers should not issue seal licences authorising a person to kill seals unless they are satisfied that the person has the necessary skills and experience.

Competence to hold a licence could be demonstrated by successful completion of the two Units which make up the PDA.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

Outcome 1

Outcome 1 develops the candidate's understanding of the rationale for seal management in Scotland: on the activities required to implement seal control through responsible shooting of seals, and on the new legislation relating to seal management in Scotland. It offers opportunities to examine aspects relating to the ethical issues relating to seal management and the need for the public to understand why seal control may be required.

Key points for discussion should include:

- ◆ Seal population — in Scotland we have more seals than the rest of the European Union — 186,000 grey seals and 19,000 common seals. In recent years, there has been a decline in common seal populations in the Northern Isles, Moray Firth and East Coast in Scotland.
- ◆ Declining fish stocks- the contribution of seal activity to this decline.
- ◆ Seal behaviour and interactions with fish farms and fisheries. Candidates should be aware that activity is not confined to off-shore waters and some seals may enter estuaries in search of food. Seals may be capable of adapting their behaviour to take advantage of easy food sources, eg netted fish, fish such as salmon congregating at the mouth of rivers etc.
- ◆ Breeding seasons haul out sites, foraging and moulting.
- ◆ Signs to determine seal activity and how to distinguish these from other predators — these could include: direct sightings, runs, footprints, damage to habitat, dead fish kills, sounds, smells, droppings.
- ◆ The basic principles of Potential Biological Removal (PBR) and how scientists have the responsibility to calculate this and assess the size of the breeding population
- ◆ Public understanding and need for effective communication with stakeholders and the public.

Main reasons for management of seal population

- ◆ To prevent serious damage to fisheries and fish farms.
- ◆ To protect the health and welfare of farmed fish.

Other legitimate reasons for seal management

The Scottish Government may also grant a licence authorising the killing or taking of seals:

- ◆ for scientific research or educational purposes.
- ◆ to conserve natural habitats.
- ◆ to conserve seals or other wild animals (including wild birds) or wild plants.
- ◆ in connection with the introduction of seals, other wild animals (including wild birds) or wild plants to particular areas.
- ◆ to protect a zoological or botanical collection.
- ◆ to prevent the spread of disease among seals or other animals (including birds) or plants.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

- ◆ to preserve public health or public safety.
- ◆ for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment.

Dealing with the public

Candidates will be aware that the shooting of seals is an emotive subject and there may be significant public interest in this activity. It may also conflict with the interests of wildlife tourism operators. Therefore, at all times, nominated marksmen must consider the potential public relations consequences of shooting a seal.

Candidates should understand the importance of the marksman maintaining close relations with the police and should know how to advise the public on how and where to get more information.

Outcome 2

Outcome 2 develops the candidate's knowledge of the processes and procedures involved in shooting seals in line with legislation. It covers:

- ◆ the planning stage for seal management, ie pre-shooting.
- ◆ all aspects of implementation including health and safety requirements.
- ◆ post-shooting tasks.

Candidates should be aware that Marine Scotland will impose conditions specifying the maximum numbers of seals which may be killed. This process is known as Potential Biological Removal (PBR). Candidates will not require an in-depth knowledge of this but should be aware of the main provisions and the implications for seal management.

Essential knowledge/information for all candidates.

Pre

- ◆ Assessment of seal activity and behaviour to determine when/if a seal should be shot.
- ◆ Differences between a curious seal and a rogue seal actually causing damage and identifying a seal that has previously caused damage.
- ◆ Non-lethal measures of seal management: a number of deterrents may be utilised including fish protection nets, increasing size of nets to allow fish to escape from an attacking seal, underwater speakers/deterrents.
- ◆ The need for risk assessment for self and others.
- ◆ Shooting as the last resort.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

During

- ◆ When it is permitted to legally shoot a seal — this will include time of day (ie, during the hours of daylight and these are described within the Act), site characteristics, seal behaviour etc.
- ◆ Firearms — candidates need to know:
 - types fire-arms and ammunition which could be used — (more detailed information on firearms is set out under Outcome 3 which deals with legislation).
 - how to shoot seals- information from the Code of Practice.
 - seals must be shot from a range of no more than 150 metres.
 - before firing, the nominated marksman should take all reasonable steps to identify the species of seal. Information to assist seal identification is available at www.scotland.gov.uk/seallicensing
- ◆ Seal physiology in the context of seal management, particularly in relation to shot placement Candidates should be made aware of basic seal physiology relevant to shot placement, and of the protocol of Shot Placement. This is concerned with:
 - knowing the relative size of a seal skull and brain (In the case of seals, the recommended shot is a head shot. The brain of a seal is a very small target (orange-sized).)
- ◆ achieving rapid death.
- ◆ minimising suffering.

Section 112 (1) (b) of the Act provides for licence conditions in respect of reducing the risk of unnecessary suffering. Candidates should understand that all reasonable steps should be taken to ensure against a long and painful death. These should include locating and humanely despatching injured animals.

Health and safety legislation and risks:

- ◆ Relating to licensee
- ◆ Relating to seals
- ◆ Relating to fish and fisheries
- ◆ Risk assessment

Post-shoot

- ◆ Achieving carcass recovery where possible and safe to do so. Wherever possible, carcasses should be recovered and disposed of within agreed procedures. However, there may be circumstances where recovery is not possible (eg, when the shot seal sinks). Candidates should be aware that carcasses should only be recovered where it is safe and practical to do so and that the marksman should not endanger himself or others when attempting to recover a carcass.
- ◆ Safe handling and disposal of carcasses. Candidates should be made aware of the need to minimise the dangers of disease when handling and disposing of carcasses.
- ◆ Need to record shootings and the consequences of non-compliance with the requirements of the Act (see below).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

Candidates should understand that there is a duty on seal licence holders to report details of seals shot to Scottish Ministers at the end of each quarterly reporting period.

The following details of all seals shot must be recorded on the Marine Scotland seal licence statutory return form provided to licence holders:

- ◆ Date
- ◆ Time
- ◆ Species of seal shot
- ◆ History of carcase recovery
- ◆ Licence number
- ◆ Name on licence

A person to whom a seal licence is granted must send a seal licence return form to the Scottish Ministers within 10 days of the end of each reporting period of 3 months following the granting of a seal licence. Where no seals have been killed, taken or injured during the reporting period concerned, the report must state that fact.

Outcome 3

Outcome 3 develops the candidate's knowledge of the relevant legislation, and in particular helps the candidate to focus on the aspects of the Act which relate to the activities involved in protecting seals and, where necessary, implementing appropriate management and control methods which may include shooting. **Note — candidates do not require to memorise specific sections of the Act. However, they should be able to identify relevant information relating to humane treatment of seals.**

The following message (taken from the Code of Practice) should be reinforced at all times:

It is an offence to kill seals except under licence or for welfare reasons to alleviate suffering.

The Marine Scotland Act 2010: Part 6 — Conservation of Seals

Candidates should be familiar with the main points and requirements. In summary, these are:

- ◆ Why it has been necessary to change the law
- ◆ Key points in the Scottish Seal Management Code of Practice (obtained from Marine Scotland)
- ◆ Licence conditions
- ◆ Who can shoot seals
- ◆ When can seals be shot
- ◆ Where seals can be shot
- ◆ Firearms legislation in relation to shooting seals
- ◆ Regulatory issues

The sections below expand on each of these main points. It should be noted, however, that delivers should take a 'light touch' approach and try to explain these aspects in an applied way (More details on this are provided in the section on Delivery which is presented below).

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

Why it has been necessary to change the law

The law has required to be changed to ensure humane and responsible protection of fisheries and also of seals.

Key Points in the Scottish Seal Management Code of Practice

Candidates should be conversant with the following:

The Scottish Seal Management Code of Practice is aimed primarily at licence holders and their nominated marksmen who have a requirement to manage seals to prevent serious damage to their fisheries or fish farms or to protect the health and welfare of farmed fish.

All fisheries, including salmon netmen, fishery boards and fish farms will have to apply for a seal licence if they intend to shoot seals to protect fisheries or fish farms from serious damage.

Licence conditions

- ◆ A nominated marksman must only shoot seals in compliance with the specific conditions set out in each individual licence.
- ◆ Section 112 (5) of the Act states that failure to comply with a licence condition is an offence.
- ◆ Section 112 (1) (a) of the Act specifies that Marine Scotland must impose conditions specifying maximum numbers of seals which may be killed. It is an offence to shoot more than the maximum number of each species of seal permitted by their licence. It is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure that a nominated marksman adheres to maximum limits.
- ◆ Section 112 (6) of the Act states that in any proceedings for such an offence, it may be a defence for the person charged to prove that the person took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.

Who can shoot seals

Candidates should be aware of the following:

- ◆ A nominated marksman must possess an appropriate firearm and a suitable endorsement on his/her firearm certificate.
- ◆ Marksmen must also satisfy Marine Scotland that they have adequate skills and experience in using firearms by being able to demonstrate that both he/she and his rifle are capable of putting three shots in a 4-inch circle at 100 m and 150 m

This will be achieved by their completion of the appropriate seal management training course, eg the PDA in Seal Management, or their securing other appropriate accreditation in seal management.

Candidates should also understand the need for appropriate public liability insurance to be carried by all employers of nominated marksmen. If shooting on their own account, nominated marksmen should carry their own insurance.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

It is very important that candidates understand that Section 111(2) of the Act provides that Marine Scotland must not grant a licence authorising a person to kill seals unless they are satisfied that the person has adequate skills and experience.

When seals can be shot

The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 Regulation 41 prohibits the killing of seals using '*artificial light sources, devices for illuminating targets and sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter*'. This effectively eliminates night shooting of seals. (The Deer (Scotland) Act 1996 defines night as being '*the period between the expiry of one hour after sunset and the beginning of the last hour before sunrise*'.)

Section 112 (2) of the Act specifies that Marine Scotland must impose licence conditions in respect to weather conditions and prohibiting the use of an unstable platform. Seals should only be shot in suitable weather conditions when there is sufficient visibility and sea conditions are such as to allow a clear shot. Seals must not be shot from an unstable platform. Any Judgement on these issues should be made in the opinion of the nominated marksman or licensee on a reasonable assessment.

Section 112 (4) (d) of the Act provides that Marine Scotland may specify a licence condition relating to periods where seals may not be taken or killed. If and when such a licence condition is imposed, seals may not be taken or killed during the period specified.

To ensure public safety, good public relations and animal welfare, seals should ideally be shot in the following circumstances:

- ◆ When people are absent.
- ◆ When there is a good chance of recovering the carcass.

Where seals can be shot

Section 112 (4) (a) of the Act provides that Marine Scotland may specify a licence condition relating to the area in which seals may be killed. If and when such a licence condition is imposed shooting must only be carried out within areas specified in the licence. This might include the area around a fish farm, a salmon net fishery or an area within a salmon river system.

NOTE: Section 117 of the Act makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly harass seals at specifically designated haul-out sites. A list of these haul-outs is available online at www.scotland.gov.uk/seallicensing

Candidates should also be made aware of any restrictions on where seals can be shot as a result of other legislation such as the Habitat Directive and Special Areas of Conservation.

Before shooting seals a thorough risk assessment should be undertaken to avoid danger to the public. For the purposes of this Unit, candidates do not have to carry out a risk assessment but they must understand the reasons for doing so and how to assess risk of harm to self and others.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

It is important that candidates understand why it is necessary to carry out a risk assessment, not only for seals and self, but for a wide range of people and circumstances including:

- ◆ Anglers
- ◆ Boats, canoes and other water users
- ◆ Walkers
- ◆ Aquaculture staff
- ◆ Scuba divers
- ◆ Dolphins and whales
- ◆ Other wildlife

Also

- ◆ Never fire at a target that does not have a safe backdrop.
- ◆ If possible shoot from an elevated position.

Firearms legislation in relation to shooting seals

Section 112 (2) (a) of the Act specifies that Marine Scotland must impose licence conditions in relation to type of firearm to be used. This is 'a rifle using ammunition with a muzzle energy not less than 600 foot pounds and a bullet weighing not less than 45 grams'. This effectively excludes any 0.22 rimfire rifles. Only centrefire rifles can be used, with the 0.22 Hornet using 45 grain bullets representing the lowest acceptable combination of bullet weight and energy. Expanding bullets designed to deform in a predictable manner must be used. **NB:** It should be noted that firearms requirements may be subject to change.

- ◆ A sound moderator should be used.
- ◆ Solid ammunition should not be used for public safety and animal welfare reasons.

Penalties — If anyone shoots a seal without a licence, breaches the conditions of the licence or fails to report the shooting of a seal, he/she could face heavy penalties (a fine up to £5000 and/or a possible prison sentence).

Ethical issues (more information is included under *Outcome 1*)

Candidates should understand the broad ethical issues but do not require to explain them in detail. They should be sufficiently informed in order to deal with public attitudes to the shooting of seals.

Regulatory issues

Licence conditions — number, period covered, species (see above — *Licence Conditions*)
Non-compliance in recording shootings, ie failure to report them may lead to heavy penalties in the form of fines or a prison sentence.

Legislation on shooting seals — see Outcome 2.
Shooting limits — last resort licence area covered.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

Legislation on carcass recovery: Section 111 (2) of the Act specifies that Marine Scotland will impose a licence condition in respect of carcass recovery. The licensee must take all reasonable steps to recover the carcasses of shot seals but only when it is safe to do so. Even a carcass that has been in the water for several days should be retrieved wherever possible.

Marksman should report details of any seal carcass. The report should include OS grid reference, site details and telephone number and address to the following:

Scottish Agricultural College Strandings Scheme — Telephone: 01463 243030

If a marksman encounters problems disposing of seal carcasses, advice should be sought from the local office of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

Legislation on recording shootings as set out in **Section 113 of the Act** — details set out above under Outcome 2.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is the ‘theory’ Unit in the PDA, and as such, will normally be delivered as the first of the two Units. It is important that assessors focus on what the candidates need to know, and avoid information overload, particularly in relation to legislation. It should be emphasised that at all times candidates should be aware of the relevance of the knowledge required, and that the learning and teaching should be stimulating and varied and with a minimum of complexity.

Outcome 1

This Outcome may be delivered by traditional teaching methods. However, candidates should be encouraged to undertake some research on seal populations in Scotland — via paper-based or Internet research. It is important that candidates have opportunities to take responsibility for their own learning.

They could be stimulated by such activities as group discussion, visits to fish farms or fisheries, and by guest speakers/practitioners. It may also be useful to involve staff from the various university research institutes in Scotland, eg from the sea mammal research Unit at the University of St Andrew — where this is appropriate.

Candidates should be encouraged to research/discuss aspects relating to seal behaviour and reasons for seal management. A case study followed by a discussion would be a good way of encouraging real interest.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

Outcome 2

Outcome 2 deals with the different activities and procedures for shooting seals under licence, before, during and post-shooting.

Candidates may require guidance on how to prepare a risk assessment (more details are given in the Support Notes for Unit- Seal Management Practice under Outcome 2 of that Unit). However for the purposes of this Unit, candidates need to understand the reasons for and importance of carrying out a Risk Assessment prior to any action to control seals taking place, not to actually prepare or implement.

Generally, risk assessment would cover:

- ◆ Risk to self and others (if present)
- ◆ Risk to seal/other wildlife
- ◆ Firearm handling and discharge
- ◆ Recovery and handling of carcass in accordance with legislative requirements

Candidates should be made aware that they are not alone and that they are working as part of a team.

The questions for the assessment could be divided into the three sections — planning, implementation and post-implementation.

If the Unit is **not** being assessed holistically, ie it is being assessed by a discrete assessment — a scenario/case study approach could be taken and questions could be set around the case study.

Outcome 3

For Outcome 3 candidates will have to demonstrate their understanding of the relevant parts of the Code of Practice. Assessment could take place under open-book conditions. However, Candidates need to know the crucial parts of the Act relating to shooting seals, and need to know how to record their activities in the formal way as set out in the Code of Practice. Case studies and scenarios could be used to practise this.

Candidates should **not require to memorise large sections of the Act**. It is more important that this is taught in an applied way. And that they understand the relevant legislation.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills for this Unit. However, there may be opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication* and *Problem Solving*.

Communication — Oral Communication through communication with line manager and the Public, and any oral assessments. Written Communication through assessment (eg the risk assessment) and recording/ report writing, and any research.

Problem Solving — through ability to relate theory to practice, eg, in identification of seal behaviour, and in interpreting the legislation.

Open learning

There may be opportunities for all or part of this Unit to be undertaken by Open or Blended Learning.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Seal Management: Theory

This is one of two Units, the other covering practice, which make up the Professional Development Award in Seal Management at SCQF level 6. These Units have been designed to comply within the knowledge and skills required to be licensed as a marksman under the terms of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

The PDA is particularly relevant for any person who needs to apply for a licence as a nominated marksman under the terms of the Marine (Scotland) Act. These marksmen require to work to the principle that seals should only be shot as a last resort, and that when this is deemed necessary, they must be killed humanely, only by those licensed to do so.

On completion of this Unit you should be able to:

- ◆ outline the key reasons for seal management in Scotland.
- ◆ outline the practical activities to be undertaken for effective seal management.
- ◆ outline the key aspects of relevant legislation relating to the taking and shooting of seals.

This Unit is designed to provide you with the knowledge and understanding required to participate in a seal management programme. It will provide you with the required knowledge and understanding of the main principles associated with seal management and in particular with the requirements of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 in relation to seal licensing and management in Scotland. You will learn about why seal management is required and how it should be undertaken safely and humanely and in accordance with new legislation.

It is of paramount importance that those working in the fish farm sector and in fisheries understand specific Scottish issues such as the duty of Scotland to protect its seal populations. If you work in the sector, you will need to be fully aware of the ethical and regulatory issues and of the new licensing regulations relating to seal management.

This Unit will be of interest to you if you work in the fisheries sector and may require to be involved in seal management. Fisheries and fish farms may require to engage in licensed seal management activities to protect their stock while at the same time protecting fisheries.

The Marine (Scotland) Act (2010) will increase protection for seals and improve control of seal management in Scotland. For the first time it will be illegal to kill or take any seal at any time unless under specific licence. All seal management will be carried out under licence and properly regulated. In particular, Section 111(2) of the Act provides that Scottish Ministers should not issue seal licences authorising a person to kill seals unless they are satisfied that the person has the necessary skills and experience.