



National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Game Fishing (SCQF level 5)

Unit code: FN53 11

Superclass: MH

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Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Summary

This Unit is intended for candidates who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of the UK game fish, their ecology and habitat requirements.

This Unit is an optional Unit in the National Certificate in Gamekeeping but is also available for candidates wishing to study the Unit on its own.

This Unit is suitable for those wishing to learn the importance of developing their identification skills, understanding game fish ecology and relevant legislation, principal items of tackle and presentation techniques associated with all UK game fish species.

Outcomes

- 1 Identify UK game fish, their ecology and habitat.
- 2 Identify game fishing tackle and presentation techniques.
- 3 Identify the current UK angling law associated with game fishing.
- 4 Conduct rod and line angling methods associated with game fishing.

Recommended entry

While entry is at the discretion of the centre, it would be beneficial if candidates had previous experience or some knowledge of UK game fish and angling.

Credit points and level

1 National Unit credit at SCQF level 5: (6 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 5*)

**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.*

National Unit specification: general information (cont)

Unit title: Game Fishing (SCQF level 5)

Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following Core Skills component:

- ◆ Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit specification.

National Unit specification: statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

Outcome 1

Identify UK game fish, their ecology and habitat.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify features of UK game fish.
- (b) Describe life cycles and ecology of UK game fish.
- (c) Describe preferred habitats of UK game fish and principal items of diet.
- (d) Describe environmental impacts on UK game fish.

Outcome 2

Identify game fishing tackle and presentation techniques.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify fishing tackle suitable for game fish angling.
- (b) Identify fishing tackle presentation for appropriate situations.
- (c) Identify game fishing techniques associated with game fishing in the UK.
- (d) Demonstrate an understanding of health and safety associated with appropriate use of fishing tackle.

Outcome 3

Identify the current UK angling law associated with game fishing.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Identify open and close seasons of UK game fish.
- (b) Describe illegal methods of taking game fish.
- (c) Identify offences relating to current UK angling operations.

Outcome 4

Conduct rod and line angling methods associated with game fishing.

Performance Criteria

- (a) Demonstrate correct assembly of selected items of tackle.
- (b) Select tackle and technique appropriate to fishery conditions.
- (c) Demonstrate correct presentation technique in accordance with selected items of tackle.
- (d) Identify catch and release technique.
- (e) Identify humane despatch methods appropriate to codes of practice.
- (f) Practise health and safety during angling operations.

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

All activities undertaken in this Unit must adhere to current legislation, regulations and codes of practice.

Written/oral and performance evidence is required to demonstrate that the candidate has achieved all of the outcomes and Performance Criteria.

Outcome 1

Candidates should provide written and/or recorded oral evidence to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and/or skills in relation to the Outcome and Performance Criteria. Assessment will be based on the identification of UK game fish. This must include the migratory, indigenous and reared species.

The evidence must include:

- ◆ identification of shape
- ◆ identification of fin structure
- ◆ identification of seasonal colouration
- ◆ description of lifecycles and ecology using associated terms must include:
 - eyed ova, fingerling, fry, parr, smolt, whitling, grisle, and springer
- ◆ description of habitat preference and principal items of diet
- ◆ description of environmental impacts on UK game fish associated with their life cycle and breeding habits must include:
 - the impact of climate change, rising sea and freshwater temperatures, their impact on the food chain, over fishing at sea, fish farming, natural predation at sea and estuary, pollution, and introduction of hydro systems and their impact on wild stocks

Outcome 2

Candidates should provide written and/or recorded oral evidence to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and/or skills in relation to the Outcome and Performance Criteria.

Assessment will be based on selection of principal items of fishing tackle for a given scenario. This must include large and small freshwater rivers, boat fishing and stillwater.

The evidence must include:

- ◆ identification of fishing reel types
- ◆ identification of rod types
- ◆ identification of line types and densities
- ◆ identification of legal bait types
- ◆ identification of artificial fly types
- ◆ identification of artificial lure types
- ◆ associated tackle items to assist in the use and presentation
- ◆ fishing techniques associated with appropriate conditions and species
- ◆ description of hazards associated with tackle use and presentation

National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Game Fishing (SCQF level 5)

Outcome 3

Candidates should provide written and/or recorded oral evidence to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and/or skills in relation to the Outcome and Performance Criteria.

Assessment will be based on the basic principles of angling law and must relate to relevant current legislation.

The evidence must cover:

- ◆ open seasons
- ◆ close seasons
- ◆ illegal methods of taking fish
- ◆ illegal Fishing methods
- ◆ powers of arrest of water bailiff
- ◆ Freshwater Fisheries Act 1998
- ◆ lead weight ban
- ◆ despatch of unseasonable fish
- ◆ taking of juvenile fish
- ◆ taking of unseasonable fish

Outcome 4

Candidates should provide written and/or recorded oral evidence to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and/or skills in relation to the Outcome and Performance Criteria.

The evidence must include:

- ◆ correct assembly of tackle and relevant equipment
- ◆ selection of tackle appropriate to relevant conditions
- ◆ presentation is relevant to species, conditions and items of tackle
- ◆ identification of catch and release in accordance with current industry practice. This should include — playing of fish quickly, use of knotless net, beaching method, minimum handling, non removal from water, removal of hook, and release pointing upstream in water after full recovery
- ◆ identification of humane despatch methods must include the correct use of priest
- ◆ identify hazards associated with the use of tackle and hazardous conditions in which tackle may be used in

National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Game Fishing (SCQF level 5)

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 Unit is a mandatory Unit within the National Certificate in Gamekeeping (SCQF level 5), but can also be taken as a free-standing Unit.

This Unit is aligned to the following LANTRA National Occupational Standards (NOS):

- ◆ CU2 Monitor and Maintain Health and Safety
- ◆ CU58 Support Angling on a Fishery
- ◆ CU59 Implement Procedures to Protect Fisheries
- ◆ CU60 Contribute to the Management of a Fishery

This Unit is intended for candidates who wish to develop knowledge and understanding of game fish, which is recognised as an important area within the gamekeeping sector.

Outcome 1

Outcome 1 covers the identification of game fish in the UK, and should include brown trout, sea trout, Atlantic salmon, grayling, arctic char and rainbow trout and their hybrid types. This will enable the candidate to develop identification skills, which are essential for the pursuit and taking of all UK game fish species. This should include size, shape, seasonal colouration, spotting, fin structure and general appearance associated with male and female. Emphasis should be given to seasonal changes in appearance due to breeding, water chemistry (acidic/alkaline) and clarity.

Terms associated with their life cycles should include eyed ova, fingerling, fry, parr, smolt, whitling, grisle, and springer. Natural avian and mammalian predators associated with their life cycle should be identified, and should include dipper, kingfisher, grey heron, merganser, gooseander, cormorant, mink, otter, dolphin, grey and common seal. Growth rates and movements related to their life cycle should be investigated with emphasis given to habitat types and principal items of diet. This should include lowland and highland river, lowland and highland loch and sea. Comparisons should be linked to fast and slow moving water, deep and shallow water and their ability to provide suffice oxygen levels and varying food types. This should include aquatic vertebrates and terrestrial insects. Some reference should be given to food types relating to habitat such as stone fly larvae, corixia, freshwater shrimp, chironomids, sand eel, krill, and crustaceans.

The impact of climate change, rising sea and freshwater temperatures, their impact on the food chain, over fishing at sea, fish farming, natural predation at sea and estuary, pollution, and introduction of hydro systems should be described, and their impact on wild stocks.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 2

Outcome 2 is designed to enable the candidate to identify principal items of fishing tackle suitable for game fishing, identify presentation techniques for appropriate situations, identify game fishing methods, and health and safety associated with game fishing. This should include — fly rods, (single/double handed) spinning rods, fly reels (centre pin and arbour) spinning reels, floating line, sink tip line, intermediate line, slow sink line, fast sink line, and fluorocarbon. The legal bait types — worm, artificial fly, midge pupae, nymph, buzzer and attractors, toby, spinner, blair spoon, kynochs, rappalla, flying condom, and mepp.

Miscellaneous items used to assist the presentation technique and the health and safety of the operator should also be identified and should include: buoyancy aid, float tube, clippers, disgorgers, tackle bag, knotless net, priest, basic first aid kit, waders, wading stick and safety glasses. The alternative methods of game fishing should be identified and should include — harling, trolling, fly fishing (bank and boat) bait, and spinning. Emphasis should relate directly to conditions and choice of tackle and equipment.

Reference should also be given to health and safety associated with the use of selected tackle, and should include deep water wading, steep banks, access and egress from water and boats, pylons, injury via hooking, standing in boats, clothing types and weather. A brief explanation of appropriate action in the event of submergence in water should also be included. This should include — refrain from panic, keep hands below water, posture in water (horizontal), and paddling to safety.

Outcome 3

This Outcome is designed to enable the candidate to identify current legislation associated with the pursuit and taking of all UK game fish. This should include the open and close seasons for native, introduced, and migratory fish. Reference should be given to the ethics relating to the open and close season, and should include — breeding cycles, recovery from breeding, migration routes from sea to river, and early or late returns. The candidate will also recognise the ID points of kelts and this should include — protruding eyes, large head, slimline body, open vent, ragged fins and tail, and gill maggots.

The candidate should also develop a knowledge and understanding of the illegal fishing methods or taking of game fish. This should include — sniggering, gaffing, shrimp and prawn, foul hooking, diving minnow, netting, explosives and use of chemicals. The policing of waterways and the role of the water bailiff should be identified with a brief explanation relating to powers of arrest, (only applicable where the other party is willing to comply with a citizen's arrest) with emphasis given to recording of incident. This should include — photographs, times, recording of movements, and contact with police.

Relating offences to angling methods should be identified with reference given to the Freshwater Fisheries Act 1998. Emphasis should be given to the lead weight ban due to toxicity to waterfowl and the operator. The taking of unseasonable fish should also be identified, relate to the open and close season, and normally be associated with kelts. The candidate should also identify the legislation relating to the prevention of the taking of juvenile fish and reference should be to the protection order imposed on all Scottish rivers including their tributaries.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 4

This Outcome should enable the candidate to select appropriate fishing tackle relating to specific conditions, present the tackle accordingly, whilst gaining a knowledge and understanding of catch and release, and humane despatch. Selection and assembly of tackle should be appropriate to the species and chosen method. This should include: doubled handed rods for large rivers in high water conditions, single handed rods for smaller rivers and low water conditions, larger fly or lure types for high water, smaller fly or lure type for low water conditions, wet fly (down and across stream), dry fly (upstream and across), spinning on or above the high water mark, dapping in highland lochs, harling on large rivers. These methods are relevant to all UK game fish.

The candidate should also develop a knowledge and understanding of catch and release, and humane despatch where appropriate. This should include — playing of fish quickly, use of knotless net, beaching method, minimum handling, non removal from water, removal of hook, and release pointing upstream in water after full recovery. The candidate should recognise the need for return and associate this with the conservation of wild stocks and only be encouraged to take fish when bleeding, or from artificially reared stock. Humane despatch method should be identified, and any appropriate equipment used (priest).

Guidance on learning and teaching approaches for this Unit

Throughout this Unit candidates will gain knowledge and understanding relating to quarry species. It is essential that candidates are aware of the legislation and the current relevant key aspects that relate to quarry species. However it is not expected that there would be any detailed teaching or investigation of legislation.

Essential knowledge and understanding could be developed by a variety of teaching and learning approaches including:

- ◆ tutorials
- ◆ DVD/video
- ◆ demonstrations
- ◆ internet/website
- ◆ internal visitation
- ◆ field trips/investigation
- ◆ group work
- ◆ working individually

It is expected that candidates will be given support and guidance from the instructor/lecturer in all Outcomes before progressing to an assessment.

National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Guidance on approaches to assessment for this Unit

The following approaches to assessments are suggested:

Outcome 1	Restricted response question/answer
Outcome 2	Restricted response question/answer
Outcome 3	Open-book assessment
Outcome 4	Practical/observation checklist

Time should be allowed for any necessary re-assessment.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

In this Unit candidate will investigate and recognise key areas of relevant current legislation, identify and research UK quarry species, habitat types, and current codes of practice relating to the taking of UK quarry species. This provides ideal opportunities for candidates to develop aspects of Communication, IT skills, Numeracy and Problem solving.

This Unit has the Problem Solving component of Critical Thinking embedded in it, so when the candidate achieves this Unit their Core Skills profile will be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5.

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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