

Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Licence to Shoot Cormorants for the Purpose of Preventing Serious Damage to Fisheries



Under the terms of the European Birds Directive 1979, this Department is required to submit an annual report to the European Commission on all licences issued to kill wild birds under the terms of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. This report is available for examination in the Library of the European Commission and comes under careful scrutiny by all member states.

The views of the Commission include the premise that all birds should be allowed their breeding season unmolested wherever possible.

Because of the agreed necessity to protect fisheries at times when fish are particularly vulnerable to cormorant predation, in the Department's policy on the issue of licences for this purpose is as follows:-

A licence may be issued subject to the following:-

- i. The fishery is of such a size that physical methods of barring access to Cormorants, eg by means of fencing, netting, overhead wires, or tank covers are impossible.
- ii. Inland Fisheries only will be considered.
- iii. A licence will be issued for a maximum period of 30 days after stocking.

Except where special circumstances exist (eg, migratory fish rivers):-

No more than 2 licences per year will be issued to one fishery.
No licences will be issued for the months of May, June and July.

If you require further clarification of this policy, please contact the
Wildlife Inspectorate by telephone on **Belfast (028) 9056 9557**

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