



*Managing hunting and
recreational angling in the UK
on Natura 2000 sites*

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What is The Crown Estate?

- A statutory body: The Crown Estate Act 1961
- An estate comprising urban property, 146,000ha of agricultural land and forestry and extensive marine holdings (half the tidal land and 99% of seabed around the UK)
- Not Government or Sovereign's private estate
- Part of the hereditary possessions of the Sovereign in right of the Crown
- Net annual profit is paid to the Exchequer
- Current value c.£6 billion (c. € 6.6 billion)
- 2009 revenue profits £226.5 million (€ 249 M)

General policy

- Our Act of Parliament requires us to have regard to good estate management in all our dealings
- Specifically, even before it became a statutory obligation, we have sought to exercise our functions having regard to conserving biodiversity
- We have a commitment to pursue good environmental practice

Hunting (wildfowling)



Policy

- We acknowledge that wildfowling is a traditional activity that provides significant social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits to local areas
- We support properly managed wildfowling activity

Portfolio

- 65 leases; 58 to wildfowling clubs
- > 700 km of foreshore by length
- 34,000 ha overall
- 95% within Natura 2000 sites (SAC/SPA)
- Income c. £50,000 pa (€ 55,000 pa)

Management

- 1994 Habitats Regulations: key change
- Pre-1994
- Post-1994

Pre-1994

- 1960s: The General Agreement and Firearms Act 1968
- 1980s : introduction of leases and management plans

Post-1994 – Joint Tidal Group

- Set up in 1995
- Membership : CE, Agencies and BASC
- Bi-annual meetings

Aims :

- Effective and efficient management (standardisation of leases and rents)
- Public consultation
- Proper consideration of conservation objectives

Post-1994 – Management Plans

- Standard forms tailored to site: history, site description, wardening, conservation activities, club rules etc.
- Consultation
- Adoption and periodic review

Post-1994 – Annual Returns

- Lease requirement
- Detailed assessment of season's activities, including numbers of quarry species taken, visits, shots fired etc.
- More recently, assessment of conservation activities undertaken
- BASC co-ordination = Summary Annual Report for each site

Recreational angling



Policy

Only a minority of fishing rights are within Natura 2000 sites but compliant standards of management – best practice - are adopted across all dealings

Portfolio

The Crown Estate has fishing rights deriving from:

- its ownership of the estate : includes salmon and brown trout; may include rights in tidal waters : in Scotland and England
- as part of its hereditary possessions, where salmon fishing rights are separate from land ownership : throughout Scotland; 140 tenancies

Management initiatives

- Agreements restrict the number of rods
- Tenants required to comply with conservation measures and codes of practice of the relevant Authority (e.g. District Salmon Fishery Board)
- Restrictions on type of bait (e.g. no prawns and shrimps) and use of weights
- Annual returns required to be submitted
- Retention of un-let coastal netting stations (around 60) to enhance conservation through allowing free passage of migratory fish to native rivers

Funding

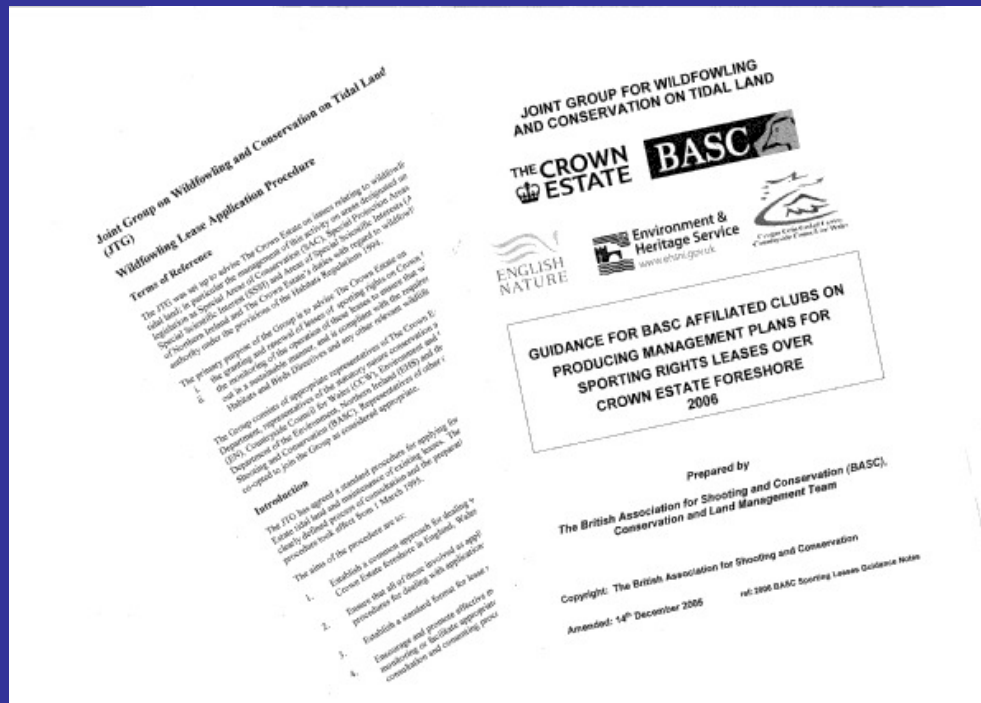
As a major landowner we are able to commit funds towards improved management of hunting and recreational angling

Examples:

- Marine Stewardship Fund
- Pump-priming towards establishing Fishery Trusts and funding specific projects

Website

www.thecrownestate.co.uk



Summary

Through active management and working in partnership with hunting clubs and associations, The Crown Estate seeks to manage these traditional country pursuits in a sustainable way and in line with the aims and aspirations that led to the creation of the network of Natura 2000 sites

Thank you for listening

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