

What are the impacts of Climate Change on Peatlands?

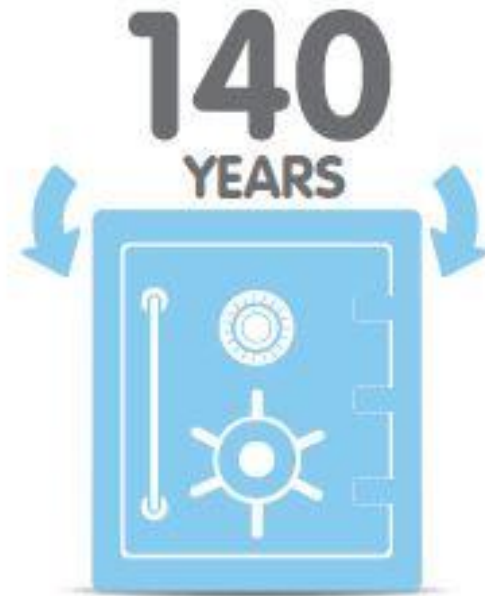


Carbon storage

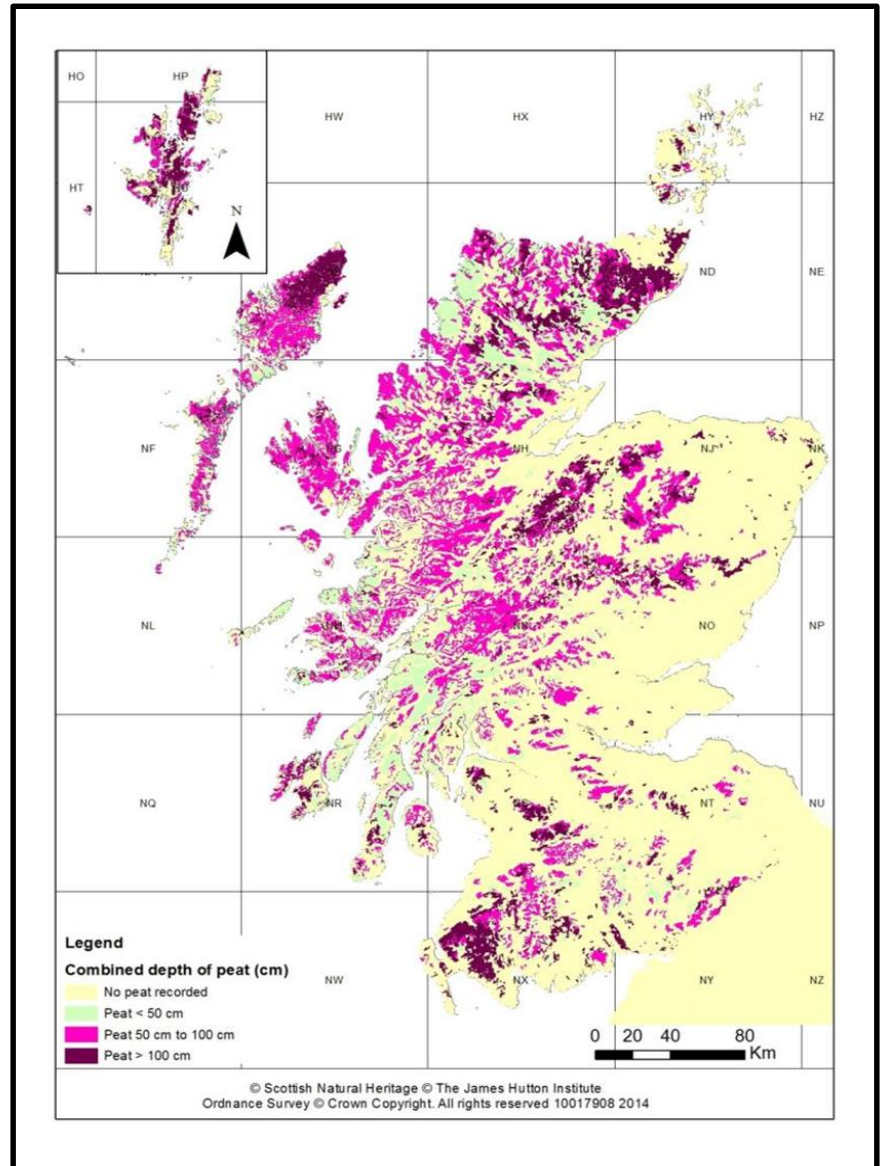
The carbon locked up
in Scottish peatland
soils is equivalent to

140 years'

worth of Scotland's
total annual
greenhouse gas
emissions.



20% of
Scotland's total
land cover is
made up of peat
or peaty soils





Fire crews at the scene of the Pauls Hill blaze. Photo courtesy of Carrbridge Fire Station

More rainfall: Events

Storms

Localised downpours

Frontal systems





Courtesy of Shetland Times

Map 1. Reported and verified landslides in peat (based on comparison of published locations with satellite imagery)



Courtesy Dr Andy Mills



Peat Depth 8 Metres















More rainfall; Overall Increase

Sphagnum

Atmospheric pollution

Water quality



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

Peatland
ACTION







Video

Drinking Water Quality: Scottish Water



More Droughty

Vegetation change

Peat breakdown

Wildfire and other







Soft Verge



Fire crews at the scene of the Pauls Hill blaze. Photo courtesy of Carrbridge Fire Station

Variability

Freeze/thaw

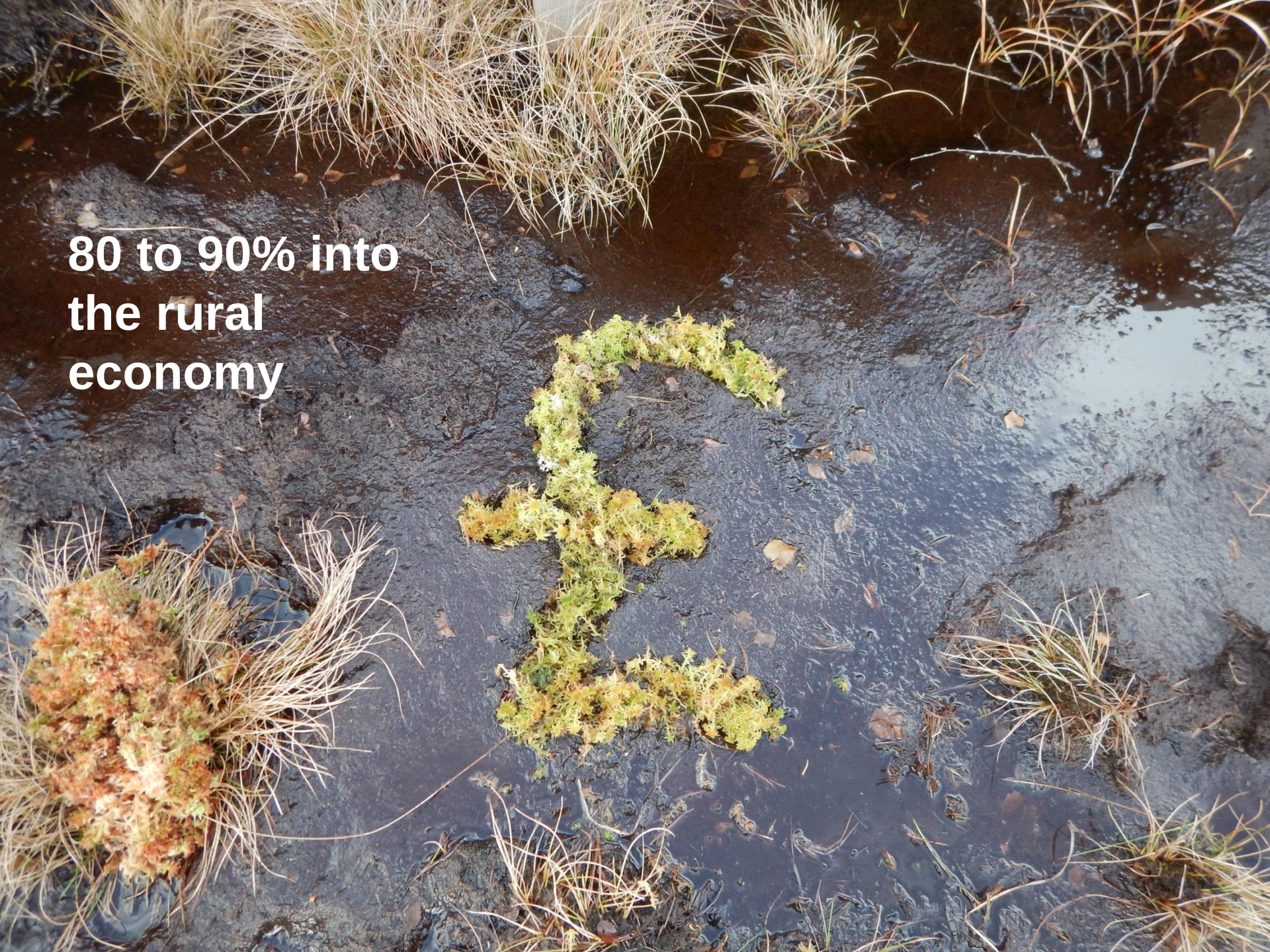




Public awareness
Media attention
Government
Business
Money

Behavioural change?

**80 to 90% into
the rural
economy**



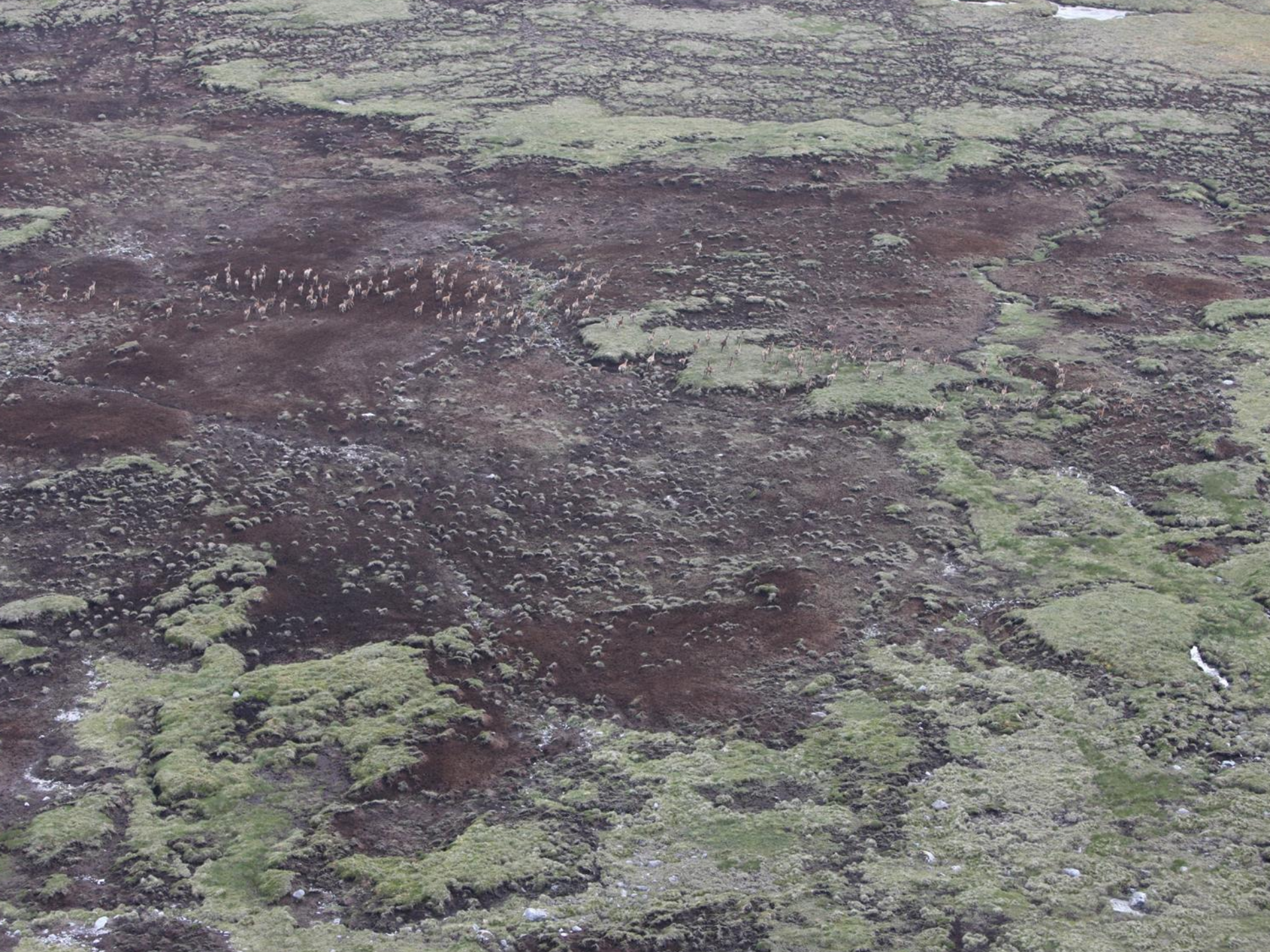






**Of 1.7 million hectares – estimated
600,000ha in poor condition**

**50% of former blanket bog, and
90% of former raised bog no longer
carrying peat-forming vegetation (IPCC 2013)**



Sphagnum: The Hydrological Key













Change

- **Climate**
- **Economic**
- **Land Reform/Rural Development**
- **Brexit**
- **Government interest**
- **Public perception and attitude**





Use Common-Sense!

Keep it Simple!

Ask for More!

Do it Now!

Say No!



Behavioural Change ??

Peatland ACTION

On the road to restoring Scotland's peatlands
for our future

BENEFITS OF HEALTHY PEATLANDS



Carbon store



Livestock grazing



Clear fresh drinking water



Grouse / game



Store water and help to maintain
steady flow rates



Healthy fisheries



Biodiversity / unique habitat

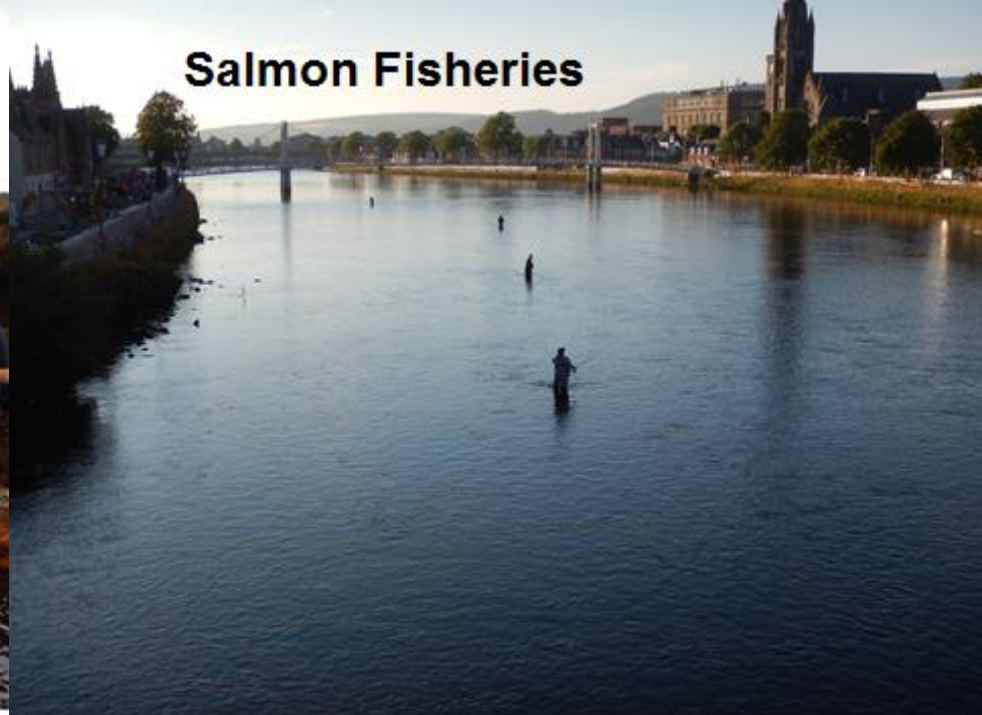


Natural defence against wild fire

Drinking Water Quality: Scottish Water



Salmon Fisheries



Natural Flood Management



Hydro Electricity











compost
top soil & bark

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HELP?

- ✓ Dedicated & knowledgeable team of project officers
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Thank You