

ISLAY DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

DEER CULL INFORMATION

Appendix 4

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Cull Information required

All cull information to be provided to Islay DMG will be as per agreed Deer

Management Units. In most cases, this will be the property as a whole.

Information will be provided for the statutory reporting year, *1st April to 31st March*.

All information to be forwarded to Islay DMG at least ten days before spring meeting.

One overall return sheet will be issued to group members, incorporating stags and hinds/ calves, shortly after the main hind season. Those properties who anticipate culling deer through to 31st March should make the Group Secretary aware of this so that provision can be made for late returns.

Deer Cull Information for individual animals

In the future it is likely that individual culling decisions become proportionately more important, and it is suggested that all group members collect the same minimum management information on individual deer. Suggested culling sheets for males and females are appended to this document. It is anticipated that most properties will be collecting data on this basis or better already, in which case photocopies of larder books is all that will be required. **Islay DMG members agree to collect and present for inspection the heads and jaw bones of all deer culled.**

Islay DMG will devote sufficient resources to analyzing this information for the group on an annual basis.

Deer weights should be those weighed in to larder, and be recorded in kg. Stag hill weights should not be forwarded to DMG. Any deer or calves not returned to larders due to poor condition should be recorded as such.

Out-of season animals can be determined from cull dates. Please inform Islay DMG of any deer shot at night.

Whatever cull information you record, and in whatever manner, could you see that the following information is made available to Islay DMG:

Males

Date culled

Weight in to larder in kg. (not hill weights, not in lbs please)

Age

Points (L & R)

Females

Date Culled

Weight in to larder in kg

Age

Milking Y/ N

Pregnant Y/ N

In all cases:

- Include calves separately, with all info as above.
- Note any animals that were not suitable for the larder, or any obvious problems relating to herd health.
- The majority of members should report on a whole estate basis, unless additional management units have been suggested in DMP.

Islay Deer Management Group**Deer Cull Information**

- Aging hinds is likely to be the most difficult issue. If unsure, give a possible age range for each animal (eg 3-5, 10yrs +) or as a minimum, record as young (Y), middle aged (M) or old (O).
- Pregnancy is most accurately determined by presence or absence of corpus lutea. If unsure how to do this, please consult with colleagues as required.
- While a range of other information might be *interesting*, the information above is all that is required by the Deer Management Group, on an annual basis.