

BIODIVERSITY

Communications Toolkit

Life in Fresh Water

- Despite the legal protection given to species, extinctions still occur. The rare fish vendace was lost this century from their only two Scottish locations in Dumfriesshire. Native populations now only occur in two English lakes, though vendace have recently been re-introduced to a Scottish loch as part of Scottish Natural Heritage's Species Action Program. (Source: Scottish Environmental statistics online, Scottish Government website)
- Scotland supports an internationally important European otter population with over 80% of the GB population. The population crash that occurred over much of Europe in the 1960's and 1970's due to pollution did not occur in western and northern Scotland and as a consequence Scotland is a European stronghold, with 44 designated SACs for the species. Otter population densities in Shetland and parts of the west of Scotland are amongst the highest in Europe. (National Survey of Otter *Lutra lutra* Distribution in Scotland, 2003-04, Strachan R, 2007, SNH report & UK Mammals: Species Status & Trends JNCC)