

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
WATER RESOURCES ACT 1991
ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995
SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT 1975

NATIONAL SALMON BYELAWS

The Environment Agency, in exercise of its powers under Section 210 and paragraphs 6(1)(b), 6(2)(d) and 6(3)(a) of Schedule 25 to the Water Resources Act 1991 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, makes the following Byelaws.

Byelaw 1 **Application of Byelaws**

These Byelaws shall apply to the area (specified in Section 6(7) of the Environment Act 1995) in respect of which the Agency carries out its functions relating to fisheries except in the Upper Esk.

These Byelaws shall cease to have effect at midnight on the 31st day of December 2018.

Byelaw 2 **Interpretation**

(1) In these Byelaws unless the context otherwise requires:-

"the Agency" means the Environment Agency;

"the Upper Esk" has the same meaning as assigned to it in the Scotland Act 1998 (Border Rivers) Order 1999.

"North East Region" means the area of the Agency where the former Northumbria & Yorkshire Region of the National Rivers Authority carried out its functions in relation to fisheries under the Water Resources Act 1991, formerly the Northumbria Region and Yorkshire Region, and which areas were identified as the area of the Northumbrian Water Authority and Yorkshire Water Authority as provided by paragraph 1(2)(a) of Schedule 17 to the Water Act 1989;

"Welsh Region" means the area of the Agency where the former Welsh Region of the National Rivers Authority carried out its functions in relation to fisheries under the Water Resources Act 1991 and which area was identified as the area of the Welsh Water Authority as provided by paragraph 1(2)(a) of Schedule 17 to the Water Act 1989;

"Anglian Region" means the area of the Agency where the former Anglian Region of the National Rivers Authority carried out its functions in relation to fisheries under the Water Resources Act 1991 and which area was identified as the area of the Anglian Water Authority as provided by paragraph 1(2)(a) of Schedule 17 to the Water Act 1989;

"South West Region" means the area of the Agency where the former South Western Region of the National Rivers Authority carried out its functions in relation to fisheries under the Water Resources Act 1991, formerly the South West Region (comprising Devon and Cornwall areas) and Wessex Region, which areas were identified as the area of the South West Water Authority and Wessex Water Authority as provided by paragraph 1(2)(a) of Schedule 17 to the Water Act 1989;

- (2) Except where expressly stated or where the context otherwise requires all words and expressions used in these Byelaws shall have the meanings assigned to them by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, Water Resources Act 1991 and the Environment Act 1995

Byelaw 3 Annual Close Season for Fishing for Salmon and Migratory Trout other than with Rod and Line

Notwithstanding the start date of the close season contained within existing fisheries byelaws, the annual close season for fishing for salmon and migratory trout, other than with rod and line, in any calendar year shall end on, and include, the 31st day of May with the following exceptions:

North East Region

- (1) The use of a licensed T or J net in the North East Region where the annual close season shall end on and include the 25th day of March.

Welsh Region

- (2) The seine net fisheries on the river Nevern and its estuary where the annual close season shall end on and include the 31st day of March.
- (3) The seine net fisheries on the river Dyfi and its estuary where the annual close season shall end on and include the 31st day of March.
- (4) The seine net fisheries on the river Towy and its estuary where the annual close season shall end on and include the last day of February.
- (5) The coracle net fisheries on the river Towy and its estuary where the annual close season shall end on and include the last day of February.
- (6) The coracle net fisheries on the river Taf and its estuary where the annual close season shall end on and include the last day of February.
- (7) The seine net fisheries on the river Teifi and its estuary where the annual close season shall end on and include the 31st day of March.
- (8) The coracle net fisheries on the river Teifi and its estuary where the annual close season shall end on and include the 31st day of March.

Anglian Region

- (9) All net fisheries in waters situated within the Anglian Region where the close season shall end on and include the 31st day of March.

South West Region

- (10) The seine net fisheries on the river Teign and its estuary where the annual close season shall end on and include the 14th day of March.
- (11) The seine net fisheries on the river Dart and its estuary where the annual close season shall end on and include the 14th day of March.
- (12) The seine net fisheries on the river Fowey and its estuary where the annual close season shall end on and include the 1st day of March.

Byelaw 4 **Early Season Catch and Release for Salmon in Specified Net Fisheries**

No person shall remove any live or dead salmon -

- (a) from waters specified in any of sub-paragraphs (1) to (12) of Byelaw 3; and
- (b) which has been taken by a means of net fishing specified in that sub-paragraph,

without the written authority of the Agency before the 1st day of June in any calendar year.

This Byelaw shall not apply to any person who lawfully takes a salmon and returns it immediately to the water with the least possible injury.

Byelaw 5 **Early Season Catch and Release for Salmon with Rod and Line**

No person shall remove any live or dead salmon taken by rod and line from any waters or banks before the 16th day of June in any calendar year.

This Byelaw shall not apply to any person who lawfully takes a salmon and returns it immediately to the water with the least possible injury.

Byelaw 6 **Early Season Method Restriction for Salmon with Rod and Line**

No person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for or attempt to take any salmon with rod and line by any means other than an artificial fly or artificial lure before the 16th day of June in any calendar year.

Byelaw 7 **Exemptions**

These Byelaws shall not apply to any employee of the Agency acting in their

official capacity or to any person who, with the permission in writing of the Agency and acting in accordance with any conditions attached to that permission, carries out work connected with the maintenance, improvement or development of fisheries or for scientific purposes.

Confirmed by Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 15 December 2008 and by the Welsh Ministers on 29 December 2008.

Byelaws came into force on 1 January 2009