

**Our ref:**

**Date:** 15 July 2010

Dear sir or madam

### **Proposed new eel net and trap fishing byelaws**

I am writing to tell you that we are now advertising our intention to seek confirmation from Ministers of proposed new eel net and trap fishing byelaws. This starts a five week consultation in which you may offer support or object to the proposed byelaws.

These byelaws do not apply to fishing for eel with rod and line.

### **Why do we need new byelaws?**

The number of elvers returning to European rivers has fallen by over 95 per cent in recent decades. The European Union has introduced an eel recovery plan to halt and reverse this decline.

We have produced Eel Management Plans for each river basin in England and Wales to comply with this European initiative. As part of the plans, we need to make sure eel and elver fisheries are sustainable. The proposed byelaws support this aim.

### **Why have we written to you?**

As you recently held an eel net and trap licence, we recognise that the planned changes are likely to affect your eel fishing. With this letter I have sent a copy of the proposed byelaws and a document explaining what will change. I have also sent two maps showing where and when we propose to allow fishing for eels and elvers with nets and traps from 2011.

This is your opportunity to tell us what you think of our proposals.

### **How you can contact us**

Please respond by **20<sup>th</sup> August 2010**.

You can give us your comments by e-mail to: [fisheries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:fisheries@environment-agency.gov.uk)



If you prefer to comment by post, please write to:

Martin James  
Eel Fishing Byelaws Consultation  
Environment Agency  
Richard Fairclough House  
Knutsford Road  
Latchford  
Warrington  
Cheshire, WA4 1HT.

To make sure that your views are recorded and contribute to the process please only use this address.

### **What happens next?**

We will collate, record and share all the views submitted in regard to the proposed byelaws with Defra, the Welsh Assembly Government and, in respect of the Border Esk, the Scottish Executive, before the Ministers decide whether or not to confirm the byelaws with or without amendment. We will respond to all objections and give time for further responses.

Following the consultation copies of the responses may be made public. The information contained may also be published in a summary of responses.

If you do not consent to this, you must clearly request that we treat your comments confidentially. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request.

You should also be aware that there may be circumstances in which we will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

We welcome any contribution you wish to make to this consultation.

Yours sincerely

**Heidi Stone**

**Senior Fisheries Advisor  
Environment Agency**