

SALMON AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES ACT 1975
ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

ANGLIAN COAST (LIMITATION OF NET LICENCES) ORDER 2025

The Environment Agency, in exercise of the powers vested in it by section 26 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, as amended by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, and being satisfied that it is necessary to exercise that power for the purposes of paragraphs (1A) (a) and (b) of section 26 of that Act, makes the following order:

1. Citation and period of operation

- (a) This order may be cited as the Environment Agency Anglian Coast (Limitation of Net Licences) Order 2025.
- (b) This order shall come into force on the date it is confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; and
- (c) expires on the date 10 years after the date it came into force.

2. Interpretation

(1) In this Order -

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| “the Agency” | means the Environment Agency; |
| “Anglian coast” | means the Anglian coast between a line drawn bearing 090 degrees from point 53 34.470’ North 00 06.750’ East (Spurn Head Lighthouse) and a line drawn bearing 090 degrees from point 51 50.575’ North 01 16.820’ East (seaward end of Walton on the Naze pier), and shall extend between high water mark and the seaward limit of the Agency’s jurisdiction of 6 nautical miles from mean high water mark; |
| “licence year” | means the year to which a licence relates; |

“net licence” means the use of a drift net or seine net for migratory trout within the designated Anglian coastal area;

Criteria for issuing licences

A net licence will only be issued to any applicant who falls within the criteria specified in articles 4 or 5.

3. Renewal of licences

The Agency shall issue a net licence to any applicant who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Agency that they held a net licence to fish for migratory trout in the two consecutive years preceding the licence year.

4. Succession to licences during the year

(a) Where a net licence has lapsed by reason of the death of the licence holder, there shall be issued to any applicant who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Agency that he was endorsed on that licence prior to its lapse a net licence of the same kind for the remainder of the licence year.

(b) Not more than one such net licence shall be issued in respect of any one lapsed net licence and if there is more than one such application for the net licence the Agency shall select one of them at its discretion.

(c) A person shall not by virtue of having held a net licence issued under this article be entitled under article 4 to a net licence within any succeeding year.

THE COMMON SEAL of the **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

was hereunto affixed on the 29th day of October 2025 in the presence of:-



LAURA MILTON

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & AUDIT SERVICES

AN AUTHORISED SIGNATORY



EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order)

In 1994, the National Rivers Authority made a Net Limitation Order ('the 1994 Order') under section 26 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 to reduce the number of drift nets and seine nets used to fish for salmon and migratory trout off the coast of its Anglian region. That Order expired after 10 years. Following that the 2005 Order came into force on 1 January 2006 and expired on 31 December 2015. Following that the 2015 Order came into force on 1 January 2016 and expired on 31 December 2023. This Order continues the limitations on the netting of sea trout under the 2015 Order for another 10 years.

In particular, this Order reduces the number of net licences as follows:

- (a) The effect of article 3 is that the total number of net licences that may be issued in any year can be no higher than the number issued the previous year.
- (b) Article 4 provides that a person who currently holds a licence is eligible to take out the same type of licence in the following year.
- (c) Article 5 limits the circumstances in which one person may succeed to a licence held by another. Under article 5, if a licensee dies in mid-season, only a person endorsed on their licence may succeed to that licence for the remainder of the season. However, that person will not be eligible for a renewed licence the next season.

This Order makes no substantive changes to the position previously established under the 2015 Order.

The area covered by the Order is shown on a map, copies of which can be inspected at the Environment Agency's office at Aqua House, 2 East Station Road, Fletton Quays, Peterborough, PE2 8YY.