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# Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Anglian Coastal Net Limitation Order 2025

## FINAL Version

ea/br/e/std/v1

## 0.1 Internal consultees

Rob Dyer	FBG Team Leader, Norfolk
Ros Wright	
Jon Shelley	

## 0.2 External consultees


## 1. Introduction

As part of our duty to maintain, improve and develop salmon and sea trout fisheries in England, the Environment Agency has the power to licence fishing for salmon and migratory trout, and to make Orders setting limitations for the provision of net licences, known as Net Limitation Orders (NLOs). NLOs are used to secure sustainable exploitation of salmon and sea trout stocks by controlling the number of licensed nets allowed to operate in specified fisheries.

In limiting the number of licences issued, we also considered the interests of those who are licensed to fish and are dependent on fishing for their livelihoods, to ensure the economic impacts of our regulation of the fishery are minimised, as well as protecting vulnerable fish stocks.

The Anglian Coast (Limitation of Net Licences) Order 1994 was issued to manage the reduction of net licences issued for taking salmon and sea trout on the Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex coast. It came into operation on 1 January 1996, and was renewed in 2005 and in 2015. This Order expired on 1 January 2024. The Environment Agency needs an active Order to control the number of fishermen issued with a licence to fish with any authorised instrument (in this case a drift net or beach seine net).

The proposed 2025 Order has the following provisions:

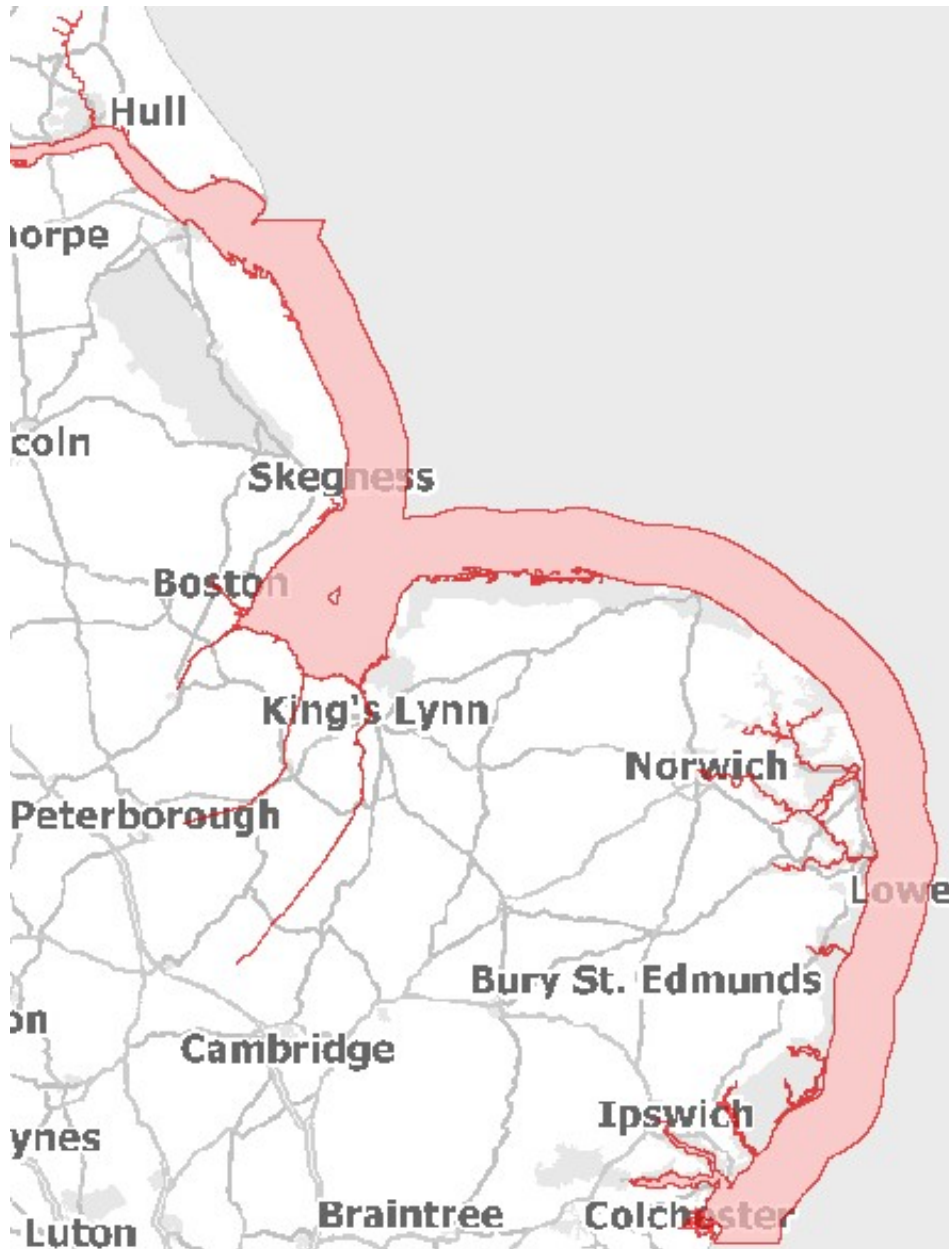
- Licences will only be issued to applicants who held a licence in the previous year of the same licence type being applied for in the current year.
- The Order is a “reducing” NLO, which means that as existing licensees leave the fishery (for whatever reason) their licences will no longer be available. Licences are not available for new entrants.

This Habitat Regulation Assessment considers the environmental risks associated with this proposal.

## 2. Background to the Anglian Coastal Net Limitation Order

Netting for salmon and sea trout has taken place on the east coast for more than 150 years. Drift netting is referred to in historical fisheries reports from the 1860’s and 1870’s and is believed to date back to the 1840’s.

The 2015 Order allowed netting in a defined area; between a line drawn bearing 0900 from point 530 34.470' North 000 06.750' East (Spurn Head Lighthouse) and a line drawn bearing 0900 from the seaward end of Walton on the Naze pier, Essex, and extending between high water mark and the seaward limit of the Agency's jurisdiction (up to six nautical miles out to sea). See figure 1.



**Figure 1:** Area covered by the Anglian Coastal Net Limitation Order

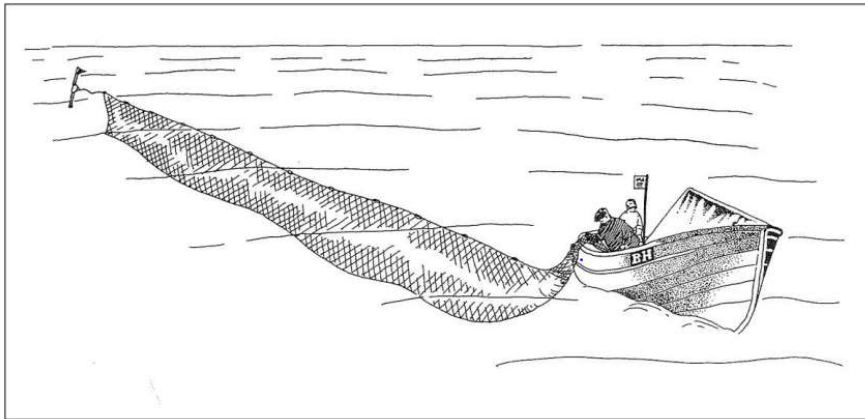
## 2.1 Netting Techniques

The proposed order will allow for both drift netting and beach seining. Both methods take place at night. During the day sea trout remain further offshore in deeper water up to 20m. During hours of

darkness the sea trout move inshore, to shallower water, and it is at these times that fishermen look to catch them in drift nets or beach seines.

### *Drift Netting*

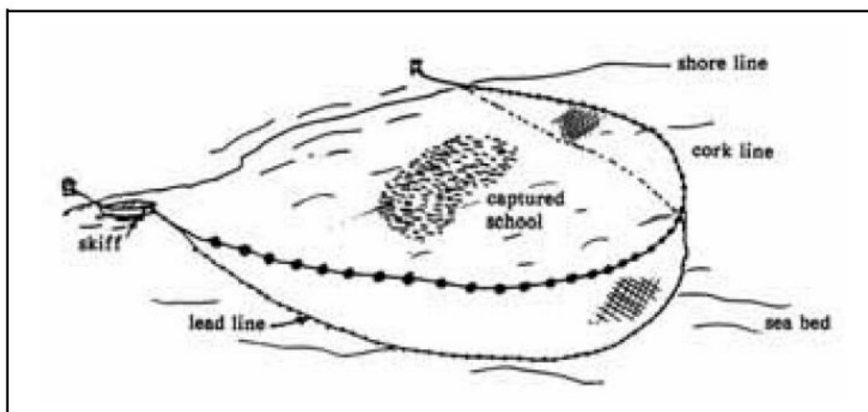
Drift nets are designed to enmesh fish and comprise a plain sheet of netting attached to a head rope with floats along the top, and to a weighted footrope along the bottom. A drift net should float and drift freely with the tide, unimpeded by any weights other than those forming the lead line. The Anglian fishermen use drift nets of up to 300 metres in length and a mesh size of 10 centimetres. Drift nets are normally set at right angles to the line of the coast. Fish are usually caught in drift nets either by swimming into a mesh and becoming wedged or by becoming snagged or tangled in the netting, see Figure 2.



**Figure 2:** Diagram of a typical drift net (from Salmon Net Fisheries Report (1991) MAFF and Scottish Office)

### *Beach Seine Netting*

Beach seine nets are operated close to the shore. The net used is of similar dimensions to a drift net, it is rowed out from the beach and set in a semi circle. The fish are encircled and captured by pulling the net carefully onto the beach, see Figure 3.



**Figure 3:** Schematic of a beach seine operation (FAO, Fishing Gear chapter in a review of Marine, Estuarine and Lagunar Artisanal Fisheries in the Western Mediterranean)

## 2.3 The Anglian coast net fisheries as mixed stock fisheries

Both drift nets and beach seine nets can operate as mixed stock fisheries, in that both types of nets formerly exploited salmon and continue to exploit sea trout from a number of rivers, and hence separate populations, along the coast of Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

The UK Government met international obligations to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) in closing the Anglian coastal fishery for salmon at the end of the 2018 netting season. This is because it was not possible to manage the fishery in such a way as to effectively protect contributing salmon stocks. While salmon has not been as significant a fishery as further up the North East coast, salmon were still landed prior to the 2018 closure.

Although drift nets and beach seine nets now operate as sea trout only fisheries, with any salmon entangled being released, there is a possibility of inadvertent by-catch mortality of salmon, either directly in the net, or post-release. Consequently, the net fishery for sea trout must be managed in such a way as to take account of the potential by-catch mortality of salmon.

Salmon catch data from 2016 to 2022 shows that 331 individual salmon were caught in the 2016 season (prior to the closure of the salmon fishery), and that zero salmon were caught during the 2022 season. This is likely due to a combination of changed fishing patterns as licence holders no longer target salmon, along with low numbers of salmon in the Anglian rivers and coastal waters. Full data is in table 1 below.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Salmon caught	331	0	3	0	1	2	0

**Table 1:** Total salmon catch in the years 2016 to 2022

## 2.4 Regulation of the net fishery

Fishing for migratory salmonids within the territorial waters of England and Wales has been licensed since 1865. With the introduction of synthetic nets in the 1960s, netting became more productive, and more fishermen applied for licences. As a result, it was considered necessary to introduce additional restrictions on fishing effort by limiting the number of licences that could be issued in different areas and for different netting methods.

Consequently, the first NLO was introduced in 1964, leading to the whole Anglian net fishery being brought under a single unifying NLO in 1994.

Since 1973, fishing for migratory salmonids has been prohibited in waters off England and Wales beyond the six-mile limit. Within this six-mile limit, fishing is licensed by the Environment Agency.

## 2.5 Previous Net Limitation Orders

Following a 1991 Review, the National Rivers Authority was invited to consider how regulation of net fisheries could be improved.

As a result, in 1994 the National Rivers Authority created a single unifying NLO which came into operation on 1 January 1996, and was renewed in 2005 and 2015.

This NLO restricted the issue of drift net licences to applicants who had held a licence in the previous year and could demonstrate dependency for their livelihood on fishing by the proportion of their income they derive from fishing activities. This NLO began the phase out of the drift net fishery as licensees retired or otherwise left the fishery voluntarily, and their licences were not made available to other potential licensees.

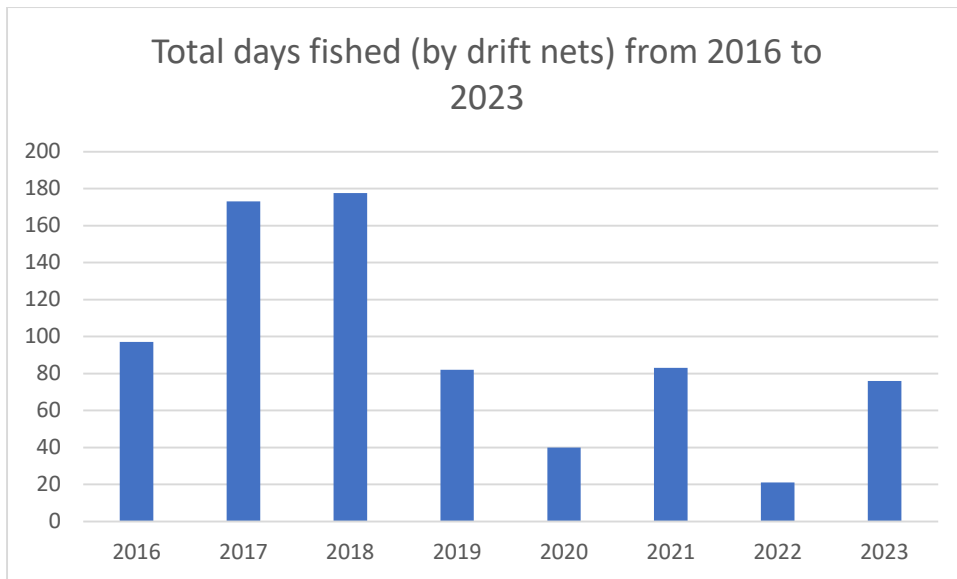
In this way, from 1996, the drift net fishery began to reduce over time, without preventing those already participating in the fishery from continuing to do so if they chose to.

## 2.6 Changes in fishing effort in the net fishery

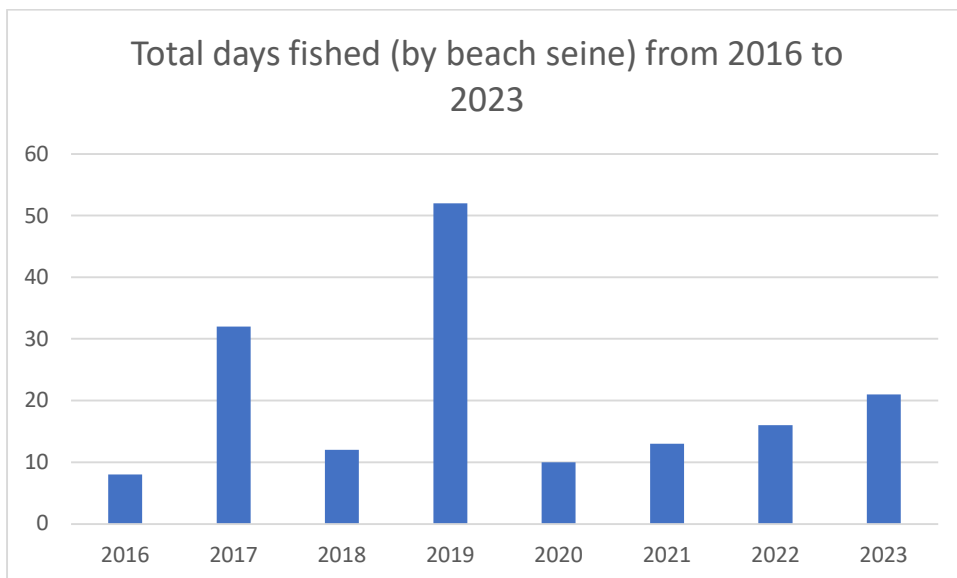
Over the period the Anglian net fishery has been subject to a series of unified reducing NLOs (1996-present), there has been a reduction in licence numbers. At the beginning of the 2015 NLO there were only 17 licence holders (12 drift net and 5 beach seine), by 2024 that number had further reduced to 10 (7 drift net and 3 beach seine).

The season runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September each year. This would be a potential maximum of 183 fishing days within the season. However there is a weekly closure for salmon and sea trout fishing specified in Byelaw 4 (Anglian Water Authority Byelaws 1988) which specifies no fishing between 06:00 on a Sunday until 23:59 on a Monday. As a result, the potential maximum fishing days is reduced to 131.

At the beginning of the 2015 NLO, the maximum theoretical number of fishing trips in a season was 2,227 (17 licence holders fishing 131 days each). At the beginning of the 2024 NLO this maximum theoretical number of fishing trips in a season has been reduced to 1,310. Of these 1,310 trips, a maximum of 917 trips could be carried out by drift netters, while 393 could be carried out by beach seiners. Data from 2016 to 2023 shows that the actual number of trips does not approach this theoretical maximum, with an average of 94 days fished by drift net per year and an average of 21 days fished by beach seine per year (a range of 2-9% of available days fished). In 2023, the total number of days fished was 97 (76 drift net, 21 beach seine).



**Figure 4:** Drift net days fished 2016 to 2023



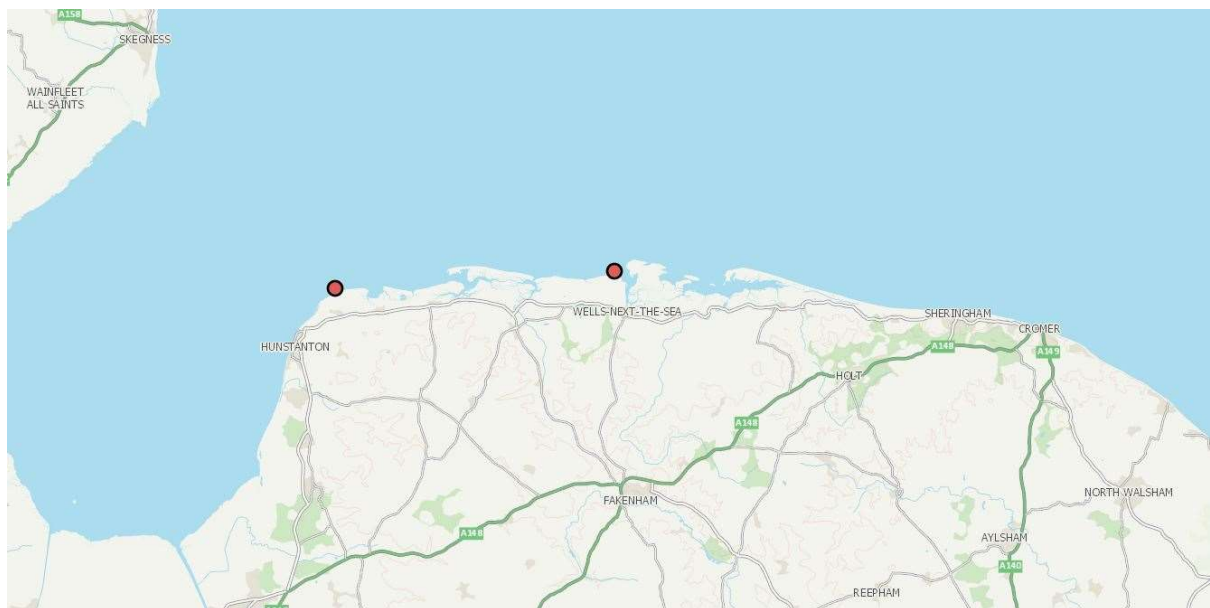
**Figure 5:** Beach seine days fished 2016 to 2023

Netting locations of the current remaining licence holders is shown below in figures 6 and 7. The seven remaining drift netters operate on the east coast of Norfolk/Suffolk: one at Overstrand, one at Bacton, two at Caister on Sea, two at Pakefield and one at Southwold. The three remaining beach seiners operate on the north Norfolk coast: two at Wells-next-the-sea and one at Holme-next-the-sea.





**Figure 6:** Drift netting location of existing licence holders



**Figure 7:** Beach seine locations of existing licence holders



### 3.0 Stage 1 Habitats Regulations Assessment

#### Environment Agency record of screening for likely significant effects

This is a record of the screening for likely significant effects required by Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), undertaken by the Environment Agency in respect of the permission, plan or project (PPP) detailed in Section 1, for the following relevant site(s):

Southern North Sea SAC

**This record was sent to Natural England for consultation.**

An additional component charge for habitats assessment was not levied for this application.

#### 3.1 Permission, plan or project (PPP) details

**Type of PPP:** Net Limitation Orders

**Environment Agency reference:** n/a

**National grid reference:** TG3496133750, TG5281812261, TM5113676551 (for drift nets), TF7027645114, TF9072046373 (for beach seines)

**Site/project name or reference:** Anglian Coastal Net Limitation Order 2024

#### 3.2 Description of proposal

Replace the 2015 NLO with a new reducing NLO with identical provisions - licences are restricted to those already operating in the net fishery. As current licensees retire, the number of licences is reduced.

### 3.3 European sites requiring assessment<sup>1</sup>

Assessment under the Habitats Regulations requires consideration of all European sites that have potential to be impacted. For most types of activity regulated by the Environment Agency distance criteria for relevance screening have been developed and agreed with Natural England/Countryside Council for Wales. No distance screening criteria have been developed for Net Limitation Orders; sites have been considered relevant if:

- the location of the activity falls within or immediately adjacent to a European Site; and / or
- a European Site could be impacted because of impact on migratory species or species which use areas outside of the designated site for feeding / breeding
- and there is some relevant hazard<sup>2</sup>.

The sites identified based on these relevance criteria are listed below.

#### Special Areas of Conservation

Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries  
Benacre to Easton Bavents Lagoons  
Hamford Water  
Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton  
Humber Estuary  
Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge  
Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes  
North Norfolk Coast  
Orfordness – Shingle Street  
Southern North Sea  
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast

#### Special Protected Areas

Alde – Ore Estuary  
Benacre to Easton Bavents  
Breydon Water  
Deben Estuary  
Gibraltar Point  
Great Yarmouth and North Denes  
Greater Wash  
Hamford Water  
Humber Estuary  
Minsmere – Walberswick  
North Norfolk Coast  
Outer Thames Estuary  
Stour and Orwell Estuaries

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<sup>1</sup> This is based on screening criteria the Environment Agency consider appropriate to identify possible significant risk.

<sup>2</sup> Hazards are based on the sensitivity matrix in Further Guidance applying the Habitats Regulations to Fisheries Permissions and Activities Operational instruction 30\_02, Issued 25/05/04.

The Wash

Ramsar sites

Alde – Ore Estuary

Breydon Water

Deben Estuary

Gibraltar Point

Hamford Water

Humber Estuary

Minsmere – Walberswick

North Norfolk Coast

Stour and Orwell Estuaries

The Wash

### 3.4 Conservation objectives

The screening for likely significant effects (and appropriate assessment, if required) will consider the implications of the proposal in view of the site's conservation objectives.

**Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0030076&SiteName=alde&SiteNameDisplay=Alde,%20Ore%20and%20Butley%20Estuaries%20SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=&HasCA=1>

**Alde – Ore Estuary SPA and RAMSAR**

SPA:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9009112&SiteName=alde&SiteNameDisplay=Alde-Ore%20Estuary%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=8&HasCA=1>

RAMSAR: There are currently no conservation objectives for RAMSAR sites. The SAC/SPA conservation objectives will be used when the qualifying features are the same, and advice sought from Natural England in other cases if necessary.

**Benacre to Easton Bavents Lagoons SAC**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0013104&SiteName=benacre&SiteNameDisplay=Benacre%20to%20Easton%20Bavents%20Lagoons%20SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=&HasCA=1>

**Benacre to Easton Bavents SPA**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Terrestrial/TerrestrialSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9009291&SiteName=benacre&SiteNameDisplay=Benacre%20to%20Easton%20Bavents%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAArea=>

**Breydon Water SPA and RAMSAR**

SPA:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9009181&SiteName=breydon&SiteNameDisplay=Breydon%20Water%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=6&HasCA=1>

**RAMSAR:** There are currently no conservation objectives for RAMSAR sites. The SAC/SPA conservation objectives will be used when the qualifying features are the same, and advice sought from Natural England in other cases if necessary.

#### **Deben Estuary SPA and RAMSAR**

**SPA:**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9009261&SiteName=deben&SiteNameDisplay=Deben%20Estuary%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAria=&NumMarineSeasonality=2&HasCA=1>

**RAMSAR:** There are currently no conservation objectives for RAMSAR sites. The SAC/SPA conservation objectives will be used when the qualifying features are the same, and advice sought from Natural England in other cases if necessary.

#### **Gibraltar Point SPA and RAMSAR**

**SPA:**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9008022&SiteName=gibraltar&SiteNameDisplay=Gibraltar%20Point%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAria=&NumMarineSeasonality=4&HasCA=1>

**RAMSAR:** There are currently no conservation objectives for RAMSAR sites. The SAC/SPA conservation objectives will be used when the qualifying features are the same, and advice sought from Natural England in other cases if necessary.

#### **Great Yarmouth and North Denes SPA**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9009271&SiteName=yarmouth&SiteNameDisplay=Great%20Yarmouth%20North%20Denes%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAria=&NumMarineSeasonality=1&HasCA=1>

#### **Greater Wash SPA**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9020329&SiteName=wash&SiteNameDisplay=Greater%20Wash%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAria=&NumMarineSeasonality=6&HasCA=1>

#### **Hamford Water SAC, SPA and RAMSAR**

**SAC:**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Terrestrial/TerrestrialSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0030377&SiteName=hamford&SiteNameDisplay=Hamford%20Water%20SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAria=>

**SPA:**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9009131&SiteName=hamford&SiteNameDisplay=Hamford%20Water%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAria=&NumMarineSeasonality=9&HasCA=1>

**RAMSAR:** There are currently no conservation objectives for RAMSAR sites. The SAC/SPA conservation objectives will be used when the qualifying features are the same, and advice sought from Natural England in other cases if necessary.

#### **Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0030369&SiteName=haisborough&SiteNameDisplay=Haisborough,%20Hammond%20and%20Winterton%20SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAAria=&NumMarineSeasonality=&HasCA=1>

#### **Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and RAMSAR**

SAC:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0030170&SiteName=humber&SiteNameDisplay=Humber%20Estuary%20SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=8&HasCA=1>

SPA:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9006111&SiteName=humber&SiteNameDisplay=Humber%20Estuary%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=15&HasCA=1>

**RAMSAR:** There are currently no conservation objectives for RAMSAR sites. The SAC/SPA conservation objectives will be used when the qualifying features are the same, and advice sought from Natural England in other cases if necessary.

#### **Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SAC**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0030370&SiteName=dowsing&SiteNameDisplay=Inner%20Dowsing,%20Race%20Bank%20and%20North%20Ridge%20SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=&HasCA=1>

#### **Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SAC**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Terrestrial/TerrestrialSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0012809&SiteName=minsmereto&SiteNameDisplay=Minsmere%20to%20Walberswick%20Heaths%20and%20Marshes%20SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=>

#### **Minsmere – Walberswick SPA and RAMSAR**

SPA:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9009101&SiteName=minsmereto&SiteNameDisplay=Minsmere-Walberswick%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=12&HasCA=1>

**RAMSAR:** There are currently no conservation objectives for RAMSAR sites. The SAC/SPA conservation objectives will be used when the qualifying features are the same, and advice sought from Natural England in other cases if necessary.

#### **North Norfolk Coast SAC, SPA and RAMSAR**

SAC:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0019838&SiteName=norfolk&SiteNameDisplay=North%20Norfolk%20Coast%20SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=1&HasCA=1>

SPA:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9009031&SiteName=norfolk&SiteNameDisplay=North%20Norfolk%20Coast%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=11&HasCA=1>

**RAMSAR:** There are currently no conservation objectives for RAMSAR sites. The SAC/SPA conservation objectives will be used when the qualifying features are the same, and advice sought from Natural England in other cases if necessary.

#### **Orfordness – Shingle Street SAC**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0014780&SiteName=shingle&SiteNameDisplay=Orfordness%20-%20Shingle%20Street%20SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=&HasCA=1>

#### **Outer Thames Estuary SPA**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9020309&SiteName=thames&SiteNameDisplay=Outer%20Thames%20Estuary%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=3&HasCA=1>

#### **Southern North Sea SAC**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0030395&SiteName=southern&SiteNameDisplay=Southern%20North%20Sea%20SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=&HasCA=0>

#### **Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and RAMSAR**

SPA:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9009121&SiteName=stour&SiteNameDisplay=Stour%20and%20Orwell%20Estuaries%20SPA&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=8&HasCA=1>

RAMSAR: There are currently no conservation objectives for RAMSAR sites. The SAC/SPA conservation objectives will be used when the qualifying features are the same, and advice sought from Natural England in other cases if necessary.

#### **The Wash SPA and RAMSAR**

SPA:

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK9008021&SiteName=wash&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&HasCA=1&NumMarineSeasonality=21&SiteNameDisplay=The%20Wash%20SPA>

RAMSAR: There are currently no conservation objectives for RAMSAR sites. The SAC/SPA conservation objectives will be used when the qualifying features are the same, and advice sought from Natural England in other cases if necessary.

#### **The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC**

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/Marine/MarineSiteDetail.aspx?SiteCode=UK0017075&SiteName=wash&SiteNameDisplay=The%20Wash%20and%20North%20Norfolk%20Coast%20SAC&countyCode=&responsiblePerson=&SeaArea=&IFCAArea=&NumMarineSeasonality=2&HasCA=1>

### 3.6 Risks (pressures) relevant to the type of PPP being assessed

With the distinct geographical separation of drift netting and beach seining (as shown in Figures 6 and 7 above), it is clear that there can be no pressures to certain MPAs as a result of distance from fishing activity. For the purposes of this assessment drift netting and beach seining will now be assessed separately, and a buffer zone of 20km applied to areas of fishing activity. Any MPA further than 20km from the nearest fishing activity will not be assessed further. This leaves the following list of MPAs for further assessment (with distance from fishing activity):

#### Drift Netting

- Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC (0km)
- Southern North Sea SAC (0km)
- Greater Wash SPA (0km)
- Great Yarmouth and North Denes SPA
- Outer Thames Estuary SPA (0km)
- Benacre to Easton Barents Lagoons SAC (2km)
- Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SAC (2km)
- Benacre to Easton Barents SPA (2km)
- Minsmere – Walberswick SPA (2km)
- Minsmere – Walberswick RAMSAR (2km)
- Breydon Water SPA (3km)
- Breydon Water RAMSAR (3km)

#### Beach Seining

- Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC (0km)
- Greater Wash SPA (0km)
- North Norfolk Coast SPA (0km)
- North Norfolk Coast Ramsar (0km)
- The Wash SPA (2km)
- The Wash Ramsar (2km)
- Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC (11km)

**Birds of lowland wet grasslands / lowland freshwaters and their margins / farmland / estuarine habitats** - None of the birds in these species groups are likely to be exposed to the hazards associated with the NLO. There will be no physical damage to the habitats used by these species; they are unlikely to be disturbed and the feeding strategies of these species means they would not come into contact with the nets. Potential effects on these birds will not be considered further.



### 3.7 HRA Stage 1 LSE assessment<sup>3</sup>

#### Drift Netting

##### Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SAC

Feature	Drift Net
Reefs	No interaction
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time	No interaction

##### Southern North Sea SAC

Feature	Drift Net
Harbour Porpoise	Interaction possible <sup>1</sup>

##### Greater Wash SPA

Feature	Drift Net
Common Scoter (non-breeding)	No interaction
Common Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>2</sup>
Little Gull (non-breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>3</sup>
Little Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>4</sup>
Red-Throated Diver (non-breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>5</sup>
Sandwich Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>6</sup>

##### Outer Thames Estuary SPA

Feature	Drift Net
Common Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>2</sup>
Little Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>4</sup>
Red-Throated Diver (non-breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>5</sup>

##### Benacre to Easton Bavents Lagoons SAC

Feature	Drift Net
Coastal Lagoons	No interaction

##### Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SAC

Feature	Drift Net
Annual Vegetation of Drift Lines	No interaction
Perennial Vegetation of Stony Banks	No interaction
European Dry Heaths	No interaction

##### Benacre to Easton Bavents SPA

Feature	Drift Net
Bittern (breeding)	No interaction
Little Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>4</sup>
Marsh Harrier (breeding)	No interaction

##### Minsmere – Walberswick SPA

Feature	Drift Net
Avocet (breeding)	No interaction
Bittern (breeding)	No interaction
Gadwall (breeding)	No interaction
Gadwall (non-breeding)	No interaction
Greater White-Fronted Goose (non-breeding)	No interaction
Hen Harrier (non-breeding)	No interaction
Little Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>4</sup>
Marsh Harrier (breeding)	No interaction
Nightjar (breeding)	No interaction
Shoveler (breeding)	No interaction
Shoveler (non-breeding)	No interaction
Teal (breeding)	No interaction

#### Minsmere – Walberswick RAMSAR

Feature	Drift Net
Mosaic of Marine, Freshwater, Marshland and Associated Habitats	No interaction
Wetland Bird Assemblage (breeding)	No interaction
Wetland Invertebrate Assemblage	No interaction
Wetland Plant Assemblage	No interaction

#### Breydon Water SPA

Feature	Drift Net
Avocet (non-breeding)	No interaction
Bewick's Swan (non-breeding)	No interaction
Common Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>2</sup>
Golden Plover (non-breeding)	No interaction
Lapwing (non-breeding)	No interaction
Ruff (non-breeding)	No interaction
Waterbird Assemblage (non-breeding)	No interaction

#### Breydon Water RAMSAR

Feature	Drift Net
Bewick's Swan (wintering)	No interaction
Lapwing (wintering)	No interaction
Waterbird Assemblage (wintering)	No interaction

## Beach Seining

### The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC

Feature	Beach Seine
Atlantic Salt Meadows	No interaction
Coastal Lagoons	No interaction
Harbour (Common) Seal	Interaction possible <sup>1</sup>
Large Shallow Inlets and Bays	No interaction
Mediterranean and Thermo-Atlantic Halophilus Scrubs	No interaction
Mudflats and Sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	Interaction possible <sup>2</sup>
Otter	No interaction
Reefs	No interaction
Salicornia and other Annuals colonising mud and sand	No interaction
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	No interaction

### Greater Wash SPA

Feature	Beach Seine
Common Scoter (non-breeding)	No interaction
Common Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>3</sup>
Little Gull (non-breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>4</sup>
Little Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>5</sup>
Red-Throated Diver (non-breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>6</sup>
Sandwich Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>7</sup>

### North Norfolk Coast SPA

Feature	Beach Seine
Avocet (breeding)	No interaction
Bittern (breeding)	No interaction
Common Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>3</sup>
Dark-Bellied Brent Goose (non-breeding)	No interaction
Knot (non-breeding)	No interaction
Little Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>5</sup>
Marsh Harrier (breeding)	No interaction
Montagu's Harrier (breeding)	No interaction
Pink-Footed Goose (non-breeding)	No interaction
Sandwich Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>7</sup>
Waterbird Assemblage (non-breeding)	No interaction
Wigeon (non-breeding)	No interaction

### North Norfolk Coast RAMSAR

Feature	Beach Seine
Dark-Bellied Brent Goose (wintering)	No interaction
Knot (wintering)	No interaction
Marshland Coastal Habitats	No interaction
Pink-Footed Goose (wintering)	No interaction
Waterbird Assemblage (wintering)	No interaction
Wetland Plant Assemblage	No interaction
Wigeon (wintering)	No interaction

### The Wash SPA

Feature	Beach Seine
Bar-Tailed Godwit (non-breeding)	No interaction
Bewick's Swan (non-breeding)	No interaction
Black-Tailed Godwit (non-breeding)	No interaction
Common Scoter (non-breeding)	No interaction
Common Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>3</sup>
Curlew (non-breeding)	No interaction
Dark-Bellied Brent Goose (non-breeding)	No interaction
Dunlin (non-breeding)	No interaction
Gadwall (non-breeding)	No interaction
Goldeneye (non-breeding)	No interaction
Grey Plover (non-breeding)	No interaction
Knot (non-breeding)	No interaction
Little Tern (breeding)	Interaction possible <sup>5</sup>
Oystercatcher (non-breeding)	No interaction
Pink-Footed Goose (non-breeding)	No interaction
Pintail (non-breeding)	No interaction
Redshank (non-breeding)	No interaction
Sanderling (non-breeding)	No interaction
Shelduck (non-breeding)	No interaction
Turnstone (non-breeding)	No interaction
Waterbird Assemblage (non-breeding)	No interaction
Wigeon (non-breeding)	No interaction

### The Wash RAMSAR

Feature	Beach Seine
Bar-Tailed Godwit (wintering)	No interaction
Curlew (wintering)	No interaction
Dark-Bellied Brent Goose (wintering)	No interaction
Dunlin (wintering)	No interaction
Estuaries	No interaction
Grey Plover (wintering)	No interaction
Harbour (Common) Seal	Interaction possible <sup>1</sup>
Knot (wintering)	No interaction
Oystercatcher (wintering)	No interaction
Pink-Footed Goose (wintering)	No interaction
Pintail (wintering)	No interaction
Redshank (wintering)	No interaction
Sanderling (wintering)	No interaction
Shelduck (wintering)	No interaction
Turnstone (wintering)	No interaction
Waterbird Assemblage (wintering)	No interaction
Wetland Invertebrate Assemblage	No interaction

## 8. Alone assessment (further details)

It is not possible to eliminate the possibility of an interaction between the fishery and a number of features within Marine Protected Areas. As a result, those features which may have a possible interaction are further analysed in an Appropriate Assessment.

### 8.1 Appropriate Assessment

The features that may potentially be impacted by the Anglian NLO fishery, and therefore subjected to Appropriate Assessment, are as follows:

- Harbour Porpoise
- Common Tern
- Little Gull
- Little Tern
- Red-Throated Diver
- Sandwich Tern
- Harbour (Common) Seal
- Mudflats and Sandflats not covered by water at low tide

#### Drift Netting

##### 1. Harbour Porpoise

Harbour porpoise is likely to be present in the Anglian area during the fishing season from April to September. It will feed both during the day and at night, although it will likely target much smaller fish than the sea trout being targeted within the fishery. As a result, Harbour Porpoise are unlikely to become entangled in drift nets. In addition, the nets are set for a short time (less than 6 hours) and are always attended by licence holders. This further reduces the risk in the event of an entanglement.

OSPAR (2017) reports that gill netting in the North Sea is likely to result in a bycatch of 1,235 to 1,990 Harbour Porpoise at a rate of between 0.028 to 0.045 individuals per day. This estimate includes trammel nets, fixed nets and drift nets across all seasons and vessel length categories. When comparing the Anglian NLO sea trout fishery with all commercial netting across the North Sea there are some distinctions to be made:

- In 2013 (the year that data was available according to OSPAR) there were 44,165 days of fishing effort by the commercial fleet. The theoretical maximum fishing

effort for the Anglian NLO fishery per year is 1,310 days (recorded average from 2016 to 2023 94 days)

- Commercial netting vessels in the North Sea operate fleets of nets totalling anywhere from 2,000m to 30,000m in length. Nets used in the Anglian NLO fishery are up to 300m in length.
- Soak times of nets in the commercial fleet range from 6 hours to 72 hours. Soak times in the Anglian NLO fishery are between 3 and 4 hours.

Using these broad figures for the commercial fleet it is possible to estimate a bycatch rate of Harbour Porpoise per meter of net, per day of soak time.

Assuming 44,165 fishing trips, each 2,000m of nets, with a 6 hour soak time:

44,165 trips x 2,000m of net = 88,330,000m of net

44,165 trips x 6 hours soak time = 264,990 hours (11,041 days)  
= 8,000 net meters per day

Assuming 44,165 fishing trips, each with 30,000m of nets, but still a 6 hour soak time:

44,165 trips x 30,000m of net = 1,324,950,000m of net

44,165 trips, x 6 hours soak time = 246,990 hours (11,041 days)  
= 120,002 net meters per day

Using the theoretical maximum figures from the Anglian NLO fishery:

1,310 trips x 300m of net = 393,000m of net

1,310 trips x 4 hours soak time = 5,240 hours (218 days)  
= 1,802 net meters per day

From these estimates it is apparent that the impact of the Anglian NLO in terms of meters of net in the water per day is anything from 4 times to 60 times less than the commercial fleet. OSPAR data already provides a bycatch rate of 0.28 to 0.45 Harbour Porpoise per day for the commercial fleet in the North Sea. Therefore it could be assumed that the bycatch rate within the Anglian NLO fishery may be between 4 to 60 times lower than the commercial fleet rate. This would give a range of 0.07 to 0.11 individuals per day (4 times lower), or 0.004 to 0.0075 individuals per day.

There are no records of Harbour Porpoise entanglement in nets in the Anglian fishery. Additionally, the Harbour Porpoise is considered to be in favourable condition in the Southern North Sea SAC and this has been the case during the 2015 Net Limitation Order. The continued reduction of licence holders under the 2025 Net Limitation Order will mean that less impact than during the 2015 NLO and so is extremely unlikely to impact the favourable condition of the Harbour Porpoise population.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to Harbour Porpoise from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Disturbance: No effect
- Killing/injury or removal: No effect

## 2. **Common Tern (breeding)**

The Common Tern is likely to be present in the Anglian area for the duration of the fishing season from April to September. It feeds by plunge diving into the water up to a depth of 50 cm. However, the Common Tern targets fish between 5 and 15 cm long and will not be

targeting the same fish that licence holders in the sea trout fishery are targeting. Since nets are set for short durations (less than 6 hours) and are always attended by licence holders, this further reduces the risk to Common Terns from drift netting activity.

Licence holders are provided with a copy of Appendix 1 which details the known locations of main nesting locations for breeding terns on the coast of the Anglian fishery area. Licence holders are advised to keep a minimum of 100 metres from these areas, minimising risk of disturbance.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to Common Terns (breeding) from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Disturbance: **No effect**
- Killing/injury or removal: **No effect**

### **3. Little Gull (non-breeding)**

The Little Gull is likely to be present in the Anglian area during the fishing season. It feeds in both the estuarine and marine environment so could potentially be present during drift netting activity. However, the Little Gull is a daytime feeder, taking food off the surface. As a result it is highly unlikely that any interaction with a night time fishery will occur.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to Little Gulls (non-breeding) from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Disturbance: **No effect**
- Killing/injury or removal: **No effect**

### **4. Little Tern (breeding)**

The Little Tern is likely to be present in the Anglian area for the duration of the fishing season from April to September. It feeds by plunge diving into the water up to a depth of 50 cm. However, the Little Tern targets fish between 5 and 15 cm long and will not be targeting the same fish that licence holders in the sea trout fishery are targeting. Since nets are set for short durations (less than 6 hours) and are always attended by licence holders, this further reduces the risk to Little Terns from drift netting activity.

Licence holders are provided with a copy of Appendix 1 which details the known locations of main nesting locations for breeding terns on the coast of the Anglian fishery area. Licence holders are advised to keep a minimum of 100 metres from these areas, minimising risk of disturbance.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to Little Terns (breeding) from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Disturbance: **No effect**
- Killing/injury or removal: **No effect**

### **5. Red-Throated Diver (non-breeding)**

The Red-Throated Diver is predominantly present in the Anglian area as a winter resident. As such it is unlikely to come into contact with a fishery occurring between April and September. Catch return data shows that 21% of fishing activity occurs these possible



months of overlap (1% in April, and 20% in September). Where individuals may be present, during the early or late season, they are unlikely to feed in areas close to boats. Since nets are set for short durations (less than 6 hours) and are always attended by licence holders, this further reduces the risk to Red-Throated Divers from drift netting activity.

Natural England's advice for the Red-Throated Diver in the Outer Thames Estuary SPA is to Maintain or enhance populations through the reduction in frequency/duration/intensity of disturbance. A reducing NLO such as this does exactly this, reducing fishing activity and therefore potential disturbance as licence holders exit the fishery and are not replaced by new licence holders.

There are no records of Red-Throated Divers being entangled in nets in the Anglian fishery.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to Red-Throated Divers (non-breeding) from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Disturbance: No effect
- Killing/injury or removal: No effect

#### 6. **Sandwich Tern (breeding)**

The Sandwich Tern is likely to be present in the Anglian area for the duration of the fishing season from April to September. It feeds by plunge diving into the water up to a depth of 50 cm. However, the Sandwich Tern targets fish between 5 and 15 cm long and will not be targeting the same fish that licence holders in the sea trout fishery are targeting. Since nets are set for short durations (less than 6 hours) and are always attended by licence holders, this further reduces the risk to Sandwich Terns from drift netting activity.

Licence holders are provided with a copy of Appendix 1 which details the known locations of main nesting locations for breeding terns on the coast of the Anglian fishery area. Licence holders are advised to keep a minimum of 100 metres from these areas, minimising risk of disturbance.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to Sandwich Terns (breeding) from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Disturbance: No effect
- Killing/injury or removal: No effect

### **Beach Seining**

### 1. **Harbour (Common) Seal**

Seals sometimes attempt to take, or take entangled sea trout from nets, but are reportedly very rarely entangled in nets themselves. Wilson and Hammond (2016) showed through analysis of Harbour Seal scat samples the diversity of prey species being consumed. Their analysis shows that evidence of sea trout in Harbour Seal diet is exceedingly rare among all sites surveyed (the entire Scottish coast and eastern England), the population sampled within the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC showed no evidence at all of consuming sea trout as a target species. This further reduces the chances of seals actively chasing sea trout and becoming entangled, although cannot be used as evidence that entanglement will never occur. There are no records or reports of mortalities caused by entanglement of seals in the Anglian fishery. The reduction in the number of netting licences issued over time has correspondingly reduced any risk to seals.

Formerly, licensed netsmen were permitted to shoot seals interfering with their nets, but as of 1 March 2021 amendments made to the Conservation of Seals Act 1970 by Schedule 9 of the Fisheries Act 2020 came into force. These amendments are such that individual seals can no longer be controlled under the 'netsman's defence' as this defence was removed from the legislation by Schedule 9 of the Fisheries Act. This removes the possibility of licensees shooting seals taking or attempting to take entangled fish.

Additionally, licence holders are provided with a copy of Appendix 1 which provides guidance on the minimum distances to maintain from hauled out seals on the coast of the Anglian fishery area. Licence holders are advised to keep a minimum 50 metres from adult seals, but to increase this distance to 100 metres when pups are present, minimising risk of disturbance.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to seals from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Disturbance: **No effect**
- Killing/injury or removal: **No effect**

### 2. **Mudflats and Sandflats not covered by water at low tide**

In order to access the fishery, licence holders follow existing public access routes. Access is not gained across areas of saltmarsh. Beyond this, the major concern would be an impact on seagrass beds located in the vicinity.

Licence holders are provided with a copy of Appendix 1 which provides information on known areas of seagrass along the coast of the Anglian fishery area. Licence holders are required to avoid these areas when fishing.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to mudflats and sandflats not covered by water at low tide from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Physical damage: **No effect**

### 3. **Common Tern (breeding)**

The Common Tern is likely to be present in the Anglian area for the duration of the fishing season from April to September. It feeds by plunge diving into the water up to a depth of 50 cm. However, the Common Tern targets fish between 5 and 15 cm long and will not be targeting the same fish that licence holders in the sea trout fishery are targeting. Since nets

are set for short durations (less than 6 hours) and are always attended by licence holders, this further reduces the risk to Common Terns from beach seine activity.

Licence holders are provided with a copy of Appendix 1 which details the known locations of main nesting locations for breeding terns on the coast of the Anglian fishery area. Licence holders are advised to keep a minimum of 100 metres from these areas, minimising risk of disturbance.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to Common Terns (breeding) from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Disturbance: No effect
- Killing/injury or removal: No effect

#### **4. Little Gull (non-breeding)**

The Little Gull is likely to be present in the Anglian area during the fishing season. It feeds in both the estuarine and marine environment so could potentially be present during drift netting activity. However, the Little Gull is a daytime feeder, taking food off the surface. As a result it is highly unlikely that any interaction with a night time fishery will occur.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to Little Gulls (non-breeding) from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Disturbance: No effect
- Killing/injury or removal: No effect

#### **5. Little Tern (breeding)**

The Little Tern is likely to be present in the Anglian area for the duration of the fishing season from April to September. It feeds by plunge diving into the water up to a depth of 50 cm. However, the Little Tern targets fish between 5 and 15 cm long and will not be targeting the same fish that licence holders in the sea trout fishery are targeting. Since nets are set for short durations (less than 6 hours) and are always attended by licence holders, this further reduces the risk to Little Terns from beach seine activity.

Licence holders are provided with a copy of Appendix 1 which details the known locations of main nesting locations for breeding terns on the coast of the Anglian fishery area. Licence holders are advised to keep a minimum of 100 metres from these areas, minimising risk of disturbance.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to Little Terns (breeding) from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Disturbance: No effect
- Killing/injury or removal: No effect

#### **6. Red-Throated Diver (non-breeding)**

The Red-Throated Diver is predominantly present in the Anglian area as a winter resident. As such it is unlikely to come into contact with a fishery occurring between April and September. Where individuals may be present, during the early or late season, they are unlikely to feed in areas close to boats. Since nets are set for short durations (less than 6

hours) and are always attended by licence holders, this further reduces the risk to Red-Throated Divers from beach seine activity.

Natural England's advice for the Red-Throated Diver in the Greater Wash SPA is to Maintain or enhance populations through the reduction in frequency/duration/intensity of disturbance. A reducing NLO such as this does exactly this, reducing fishing activity and therefore potential disturbance as licence holders exit the fishery and are not replaced by new licence holders.

There are no records of Red-Throated Divers being entangled in nets in the Anglian fishery.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to Red-Throated Divers (non-breeding) from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Disturbance: **No effect**
- Killing/injury or removal: **No effect**

#### **7. Sandwich Tern (breeding)**

The Sandwich Tern is likely to be present in the Anglian area for the duration of the fishing season from April to September. It feeds by plunge diving into the water up to a depth of 50 cm. However, the Sandwich Tern targets fish between 5 and 15 cm long and will not be targeting the same fish that licence holders in the sea trout fishery are targeting. Since nets are set for short durations (less than 6 hours) and are always attended by licence holders, this further reduces the risk to Sandwich Terns from beach seine activity.

Licence holders are provided with a copy of Appendix 1 which details the known locations of main nesting locations for breeding terns on the coast of the Anglian fishery area. Licence holders are advised to keep a minimum of 100 metres from these areas, minimising risk of disturbance.

Therefore the assessment of likely significant effect to Sandwich Terns (breeding) from this Net Limitation Order, both alone, and in combination with other plans or projects is considered to be:

- Disturbance: **No effect**
- Killing/injury or removal: **No effect**

## **9. In combination assessment (further details)**

Throughout the years since the 2015 NLO, there has been a significant decrease in the level of fishing activity. As such in alignment with the findings from the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Anglian Coast Net Limitation Order 2015', the cross over with other plans, projects and permission has also significantly decreased.

This application could potentially act in combination with permissions and/or plans/projects of other competent authorities. However, the small scale of the fishery in terms of numbers of licence holders, along with their history of limited tides fished each year, means that any contributory factor from the Anglian Coastal Net Limitation Order 2025 would be negligible.

As of Jan 15, 2025 the following plans/projects, which are either in the Anglian area or immediately adjacent to it, were listed on the MMO Public Register website:

- MLA/2024/00599 Installation of 2x Metocean Buoys at Scroby Sands Offshore Windfarm

This project is located off the coast of Great Yarmouth in the Scroby Sands windfarm. The installation of two Metocean Buoys will produce no cumulative effects between this project and the Anglian NLO.

- MLA/2024/00557 Woodbridge Boatyard: Beneficial use of dredgings for saltmarsh restoration, Loder's Cut Island

This project is occurring 8 miles inland (on the tidal Deben). It has no geographical overlap, and there are no cumulative impacts between this project and the Anglian NLO.

- MLA/2024/00522 Area 430

This project is located off the coast from Southwold, however the project area is outside the 12 mile UK territorial limit. The NLO fishery operates very close to the coast as sea trout come in to shallow water at night and there are no cumulative impacts between this project and the Anglian NLO.

- MLA/2024/00521 Area 430 – Southwold

This project is located off the coast from Southwold, however the project area is outside the 12 mile UK territorial limit. The NLO fishery operates very close to the coast as sea trout come in to shallow water at night and there are no cumulative impacts between this project and the Anglian NLO.

- MLA/2024/00173 Bathside Bay Development – Green Energy Hub, Container Terminal and Little Oakley Managed Realignment

This project falls outside the boundaries of the Anglian NLO area. It is over 30 miles from Southwold, the closest of the home ports used by the licence holders. There are no cumulative impacts between this project and the Anglian NLO.

**In conclusion, the possibility of in combination effects is extremely remote. This, coupled with the diminishing scale of the Anglian NLO means that there is no likely significant effect.**

## 10. Information / Advice

All advice and information received during this HRA, has already been referred to within the document

## 11. References

OSPAR 2017. [Harbour Porpoise Bycatch](#)

Wilson LJ and Hammond PS (2016). Harbour Seal Diet Composition and Diversity. [SMFS Vol 7 No 21.pdf](#)

## 12. Decision

The Environment Agency concludes there is no likely significant effect.

Name of Environment Agency officer: Rob Dyer

Job title: Team Leader, Norfolk Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology

Date: 16 January 2025

## 13. Consultation (if applicable)

Date sent to Natural England for consultation: 16 January 2025

Date response received from Natural England: 25 February 2025

### **Natural England advice on the screening for likely significant effects (if applicable)**

Natural England advises that we concur with the assessment conclusions, providing that all mitigation measures are appropriately secured in any permission given.

Do Natural England have concerns about the assessment? No

Do Natural England have concerns about the decision? No

Name of Natural England officer: Hannah King

Job title: Marine Officer

Date: 25 February 2025