

Consultation overview

River Dee and River Wye (England) – consultation on new angling byelaws

About this consultation

This document explains why we are consulting and what we are consulting you on. It is designed to help you understand and comment on the proposals for new angling byelaws for salmon and sea trout fishing on the River Dee and River Wye in England.

What are we consulting on?

We are consulting on the proposals for new angling byelaws which introduce catch controls for salmon and sea trout fishing on the River Dee and River Wye in England.

Why are we consulting?

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) have developed new angling byelaws for the River Dee and River Wye in Wales to help the recovery of salmon stocks and support sustainable sea trout fisheries on these rivers. They are currently consulting on these new angling byelaws and this consultation can be found here: <https://naturalresources.wales/crossbordercontrols>. To ensure that anglers fishing the River Dee and River Wye are presented with the same controls, whether they are fishing the English or Welsh parts of these rivers, we (the Environment Agency) are proposing identical measures for the English parts of these rivers. To support the measures in Wales NRW have produced a technical case, this is provided with this consultation to support the measures that we are proposing for the English parts of the River Dee and River Wye.

These proposals for anglers include:

- mandatory catch and release of salmon on the River Dee
- mandatory catch and release for sea trout before 1st May on the River Dee
- a 60cm maximum size length limit for sea trout on the River Dee
- method restrictions for the River Dee and River Wye (bait, barbless hooks and trebles) so that released fish have an improved chance of survival

These measures will not affect the extensive '10 year' catch controls that have been in place on the River Wye since 2012 and are not due to expire until 2021.

We want your views

We think that this consultation will be of particular interest to anyone who fishes for salmon and sea trout on the English parts of the River Dee and River Wye. We want to hear your thoughts, comments and opinions on the proposals for new catch controls for salmon and sea trout on the River Dee and River Wye in England.

Consultation questions

We welcome your views on the byelaws proposed for rod fisheries on the River Dee and River Wye in England and would like to know your views on the following questions:

1. Do you agree with salmon and sea trout stock assessments that have been produced by Natural Resources Wales?
2. Please tell us if you have any evidence to support a different stock assessment conclusion.
3. Do you support the proposed rod fishing byelaws?
4. Please tell us if you have any further comments that haven't been covered by the previous questions.

Responding to this consultation

Important dates

This consultation is open and will end on the 5 February 2018.

How to respond

You can view the consultation documents and questions online at <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fisheries/consultation-on-new-byelaws-for-river-dee-and-wye>. Here you can submit your response using our online tool which will enable you to manage your comments more effectively. It will also help us to gather and summarise responses quickly and accurately as well as reduce the costs of the consultation. If you would prefer to submit your response by email, please use the following email address: freshwater.fish@DEFRA.gsi.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can submit your response in writing to:

Delyth Dyne, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Area 8A/B, Millbank c/o Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR

If you submit your response by email or writing please also send a copy of your response to S5PA@environment-agency.gov.uk or **Salmon and Sea Trout Cross Border Byelaws, Environment Agency, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH**.

If you are responding in writing we have provided a response form for you to use on the online consultation's front page, and this can also be provided on request by contacting the Environment Agency using the contact details on this page.

You can also ask for a copy of the proposed byelaws, with supporting information, to be posted to you by emailing S5PA@environment-agency.gov.uk or calling Will Beaumont or Andy Martin, at the Environment Agency, on 03708 506506.

Copies of the proposed byelaws may also be viewed at the following Environment Agency offices:

Richard Fairclough House, Knutsford Road, Latchford, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 1HT.

Riversmeet House, Newtown Industrial Estate, Northway Lane, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 8JG.

You can see them at these offices, free of charge, from Monday to Friday during normal office hours from the date of publication of this notice until 5 February 2018.

What will responses be used for

All consultation responses will be acknowledged and a response to questions will be provided. All consultation responses will be collated and forwarded to Defra, along with responses provided to questions, at the end of the consultation period for due consideration.

Defra will advise if alterations to the proposed regulations are required, or will recommend that the Fisheries Minister approves the proposed regulations for immediate implementation.

How we will use your information

Once the consultation period is closed we will look to make all comments (excluding personal information) publicly available on the Environment Agency's online consultation portal. This includes comments received online, by email, post and by fax, unless you have specifically requested that we keep your response confidential. We will not publish names of individuals who respond, but we will publish the name of the organisation for those responses made on behalf of organisations.

If you respond online or provide us with an email address, we will acknowledge your response. After the consultation has closed a summary of the responses will be published on our website. We will contact you to let you know when this is available. We will also notify you of any forthcoming consultations unless you tell us otherwise.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we may be required to publish your response to this consultation, but will not include any personal information. If you have requested your response to be kept confidential, we may still be required to provide a summary of it.

Consultation Principles

We are running this consultation in accordance with the criteria set out in the government's [Consultation Principles](#)¹.

If you have any queries or complaints about the way this consultation has been carried out, please contact:

Emma Hammonds, Consultation Co-ordinator
Environment Agency Horizon House
Deanery Road Bristol
BS1 5AH

Email: emma.hammonds@environment-agency.gov.uk

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>