Coarse fishing close season on English rivers

Appendix 6 - Response form

We welcome your views on the coarse fishing close season on English rivers. Please use this form if you are responding by email or post rather than online.

If you would like to respond online, please use this link - <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fisheries/consultation-on-the-review-of-the-close-season>

The consultation document and supporting evidence documents are also available using this link. We would encourage you to read them. If you would like a hardcopy, please email us at [fisheries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:fisheries@environment-agency.gov.uk) or write to us at the address at bottom of this page.

Please complete the questions and where there is a free text box, give as much information as possible to support your answer. If you have any documents that support your response, please include them with this form.

**How we will use your information**

The Environment Agency will look to make all responses publicly available during and after the consultation, unless you have specifically requested that we keep your response confidential.

We will not publish names of individuals who respond.

We will also publish a summary of responses on our website in which we will publish the name of the organisation for those responses made on behalf of organisations.

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.

The Environment Agency is the data controller for the personal data you provide. For further information on how we deal with your personal data please see our Personal Information Charter on gov.uk (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency/about/personal-information-charter>) or contact our Data Protection team.

Address: Data Protection team, Environment Agency, Horizon House, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AH

Email: [dataprotection@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotection@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Returning your response

The consultation will run for 8 weeks from 14 January to 11 March 2019. Any responses we receive after 11 March will not be included in the analysis.

We would like you to use this form if you are not submitting your response online. You can return it by [email](mailto:fisheries@environment-agency.gov.uk?subject=Coarse%20Fishing%20Close%20Season%20Consultation) to [fisheries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:fisheries@environment-agency.gov.uk), using the heading "Coarse Fishing Close Season Consultation". Please also use this email address if you have any questions regarding this consultation.

Or by post to your completed form to:

Coarse Fishing Close Season Consultation  
Environment & Business  
Environment Agency Fisheries Team  
Horizon House  
Deanery Road  
Bristol  
BS1 5AH

Section 1: About you

To help us analyse the responses we receive, we’d like to understand more about you and, if applicable, the type of organisation or business you represent.

a) Please tell us if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation or group (please select only one item).

Responding as an individual

Responding on behalf or an organisation or group

b) If you are responding as an individual, please select an option (please select only one item).

I am a coarse, game or mixed angler

I own or manage a commercial fishery

My business is dependent on anglers, eg tackle trade or accommodation/catering business

I am a member of the public

I am responding in some other capacity

c) If other, please specify.

d) If you are responding on behalf of a group or organisation, please select from one of the options below (please select only one item).

I am responding on behalf of an angling club, association or syndicate

I am responding on behalf of a fisheries/angling organisation

I am responding on behalf of an environmental organisation

I am responding on behalf of a government agency/department

I am responding on behalf of a local authority

I am responding on behalf of another group or organisation

e) If other, please specify.

f) If you are responding on behalf of a group or organisation, please give its name here.

g) What is your email address?

If you provide your email address below you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.

Also, by providing us with your email address you consent for us to let you know when the consultation summary responses document has been published. We will only keep your details until we’ve notified you of this.

We will not share your details with any other third party without your explicit consent unless required to by law.

You can withdraw your consent to receive these emails at any time by contacting our Fisheries team at [fisheries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:fisheries@environment-agency.gov.uk).

Your email address

h) Can we publish your response? We will not publish any personal information or parts of your response that will reveal your identity (please select only one item).

Yes

No

i) If you do not want us to publish your response, you need to tell us why.

j) Please tell us how you found out about this consultation.

Please select only one item.

From the Environment Agency

From another organisation

Through an organisation, group or trade association you’re a member of

Press article

Social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter

Through a meeting you attended

Other

k) If other, please specify below.



Section 2: Your views

1. Coarse fish close season options

Everyone is welcome to complete this section.

We are consulting on three options for the coarse fishing close season. In this section, we want to know which you support:

1. Retain the current close season. This option would retain the current statutory close season on rivers in England between 15 March and 15 June (both dates inclusive).
2. Remove the close season. This option would remove the statutory close season altogether.
3. Retain a close season, but change the start and end dates. This option would retain a statutory close season, but change the start to 15 April and the end to 30 June.

Question 1.1 Do you support retaining, removing or changing the current river coarse fishing close season?

Please select only one item.

Retain the current close season

Remove the close season altogether

Change the close season to 15 April to 30 June

Don't know/undecided

1. Risks to coarse fish

Everyone is welcome to complete this section, but we are particularly keen to hear from anglers, angling clubs and representative organisations and fishery managers.

In this section, we want to understand your views on whether a close season is necessary to protect coarse fish stocks, and the fisheries they support, and whether changing or removing the close season poses any risks. In particular we would welcome any evidence you have to support your views.

Question 2.1 Do you believe that changing the statutory coarse fishing close season on rivers to 15 April to 30 June would pose a risk to coarse fish?

Please select only one item.

Yes

No

Don't know/undecided

Please provide any supporting evidence.

Question 2.2 Do you believe removing the statutory coarse fishing close season on rivers would pose a risk to coarse fish?

Please select only one item.

Yes

No

Don't know/undecided

Please provide any supporting evidence.

Question 2.3 In the event of changing or removing the close season, do you believe there should be different arrangements for pike fishing?

Please select only one item.

Yes

No

Don't know/undecided

Please provide any supporting evidence.

1. Risks to salmon and trout

Everyone is welcome to complete this section, but we are particularly keen to hear from salmon and trout anglers, angling bodies and fishery managers.

In this section, we want to understand your views on whether a statutory coarse fishing close season is important to protect salmon and trout stocks, and the fisheries they support, and whether changing or removing it would pose any risks.

In particular we would welcome any evidence you have to support your views.

Question 3.1 Do you believe changing the statutory coarse fishing close season on rivers to 15 April to 30 June would pose a risk to salmon and trout?

Please select only one item.

Yes

No

Don't know/undecided

Please provide any supporting evidence.

Question 3.2 Do you believe removing the statutory coarse fishing close season on rivers would increase the risk to salmon and trout?

Please select only one item.

Yes

No

Don't know/undecided

Please provide any supporting evidence.

1. Risks to other fish species

Everyone is welcome to complete this section, but we are particularly keen to hear from anglers, angling clubs, angling representatives and fishery managers.

In this section, we want to understand your views on whether a statutory close season is necessary to protect other species of fish, notably eel, smelt, lamprey or shad. In particular we would welcome any evidence you have to support your views.

Question 4.1 Do you believe that changing the statutory coarse fishing close season on rivers to 15 April to 30 June would increase the risk to eel, smelt, lamprey or shad?

Please select only one item.

Yes

No

Don't know/undecided

Please provide any supporting evidence.

Question 4.2 Do you believe removing the statutory coarse fishing close season on rivers would increase the risk to eel, smelt, lamprey or shad?

Please select only one item.

Yes

No

Don't know/undecided

Please provide any supporting evidence.

1. Risks to wildlife and habitats

Everyone is welcome to complete this section, but we are particularly keen to hear from wildlife conservation bodies, as well as from anglers, angling clubs, angling representatives and fishery managers.

In this section, we want to understand your views on the role of the statutory coarse fishing close season in protecting river wildlife and river habitats. Again, we would welcome any evidence you have to support your views.

If, as a result of this consultation, we make new byelaws, we are required to carry out an assessment of risks to protected species and sites, which we would do with support from Natural England (and Natural Resources Wales in respect of border rivers). This may limit where any changes to the close season might apply.

Question 5.1 Do you believe that changing the statutory coarse fishing close season on rivers to 15 April to 30 June would pose a risk to river wildlife and habitats?

Please select only one item.

Yes

No

Don't know/undecided

Please provide any supporting evidence.

Question 5.2 Do you believe that removing the statutory coarse fishing close season on rivers would pose a risk to river wildlife and habitats?

Please select only one item.

Yes

No

Don't know/undecided

Please provide any supporting evidence.

1. Angling participation - for individual anglers

Please answer these questions if you fish for coarse fish in England. If you do not fish, please continue to the next section.

In this section, we want to understand how the current river coarse fishing close season affects your coarse angling and how any change to the river close season would affect where, when and how often you would go fishing.

Question 6.1 Please tell us about your fishing

What type of fishing do you do?

Please select only one item.

Coarse fishing

Game fishing

Mixed coarse/game fishing

I do not fish in freshwater

Where do you fish for coarse fish?

Please select only one item.

Rivers only

Stillwaters only

Canals only

Any waters

I don't go coarse fishing

Do you fish for coarse fish on stillwaters or canals between 15 March and 15 June?

Please select only one item.

Yes

No

Question 6.2 How often do you currently fish rivers for coarse fish between 16 June and 30 June?

Please select only one item.

No more than once

Twice

Three or more times

I don't go fishing at this time

Question 6.3 If the statutory river coarse fishing close season was removed, how many times would you go fishing for coarse fish on rivers between 15 March and 15 June?

Please select only one item.

Once or twice in total

Three to ten times

Eleven times or more

I wouldn't go fishing at this time

Question 6.4 If the statutory river coarse fishing close season was changed to 15 April to 30 June, how many times would you fish for coarse fish on rivers between 15 March and 15 April?

Please select only one item.

No more than once

Twice

Three or more times

I wouldn't go fishing at this time

Question 6.5 If the statutory river coarse fishing close season was changed or removed, what would be your principal reason for not fishing for coarse fish on rivers during this time?

Please select only one item.

I disagree with fishing while fish are spawning

To allow rivers time to recover

To avoid disturbing other wildlife, eg nesting birds

To take a break from fishing/do other activities

I prefer to fish stillwaters for coarse fish

I prefer to fish for game fish

Other

None of the above - I would fish on rivers if the close season was removed or changed

If other, please provide details.

Question 6.6 If the statutory river coarse fishing close season was changed or removed, would you continue to fish on stillwaters during this time?

Please select only one item

Yes, the same amount

Yes, but more often

Yes, but less often

No, I would no longer fish on stillwaters during this time

I do not fish on stillwaters during this time

Question 6.7 Please use the space below if you would like to provide any further information on your angling activity and the close season, including any supporting evidence.

1. Angling participation - for angling clubs, associations and syndicates

In this section, we want to understand how the current close season affects angling clubs, associations and syndicates, and what effect changing or removing the close season would have on angling behaviour and angling participation.

Please complete this section if you are responding on behalf of an angling club, association or syndicate. If you do not represent such a group, please continue to the next section.

Question 7.1 Please provide the name of your angling club, association or syndicate.

Question 7.2 What type of coarse fishing does your club own or lease?

Please select all that apply.

River

Stillwater

Canal

Question 7.3 Is the current statutory river coarse fishing close season a barrier to more people joining your club?

Please select only one item.

Yes, strongly agree

Yes, agree

Neither agree nor disagree

No, disagree

No, strongly disagree

Undecided/don't know

Question 7.4 If the statutory river coarse fishing close season was changed or removed, are there other barriers that might prevent your members from fishing on your club's river(s) during this time?

Please select all that apply.

Yes, we only lease our river fishing rights for 9 months

Yes, the river is reserved for game angling during the close season

Yes, other river events make angling difficult/unviable at this time

Yes, club staff and volunteers are unlikely to be available

Yes, we use this time to maintain the fishery

Yes, other - please specify

No, there are no other barriers

If other, please specify.

Question 7.5 If the statutory river coarse fishing close season was changed or removed, do you think it would affect the value of your river fishery?

Please select only one item.

Yes, our fishery would increase in value

No, our fishery would not change in value

Yes, our fishery would fall in value

Don't know

Prefer not to say

We don't own or lease any river fishing rights

Question 7.6 If the statutory river coarse fishing close season was changed or removed, do you think it would affect the value of your stillwater or canal fishery?

Please select only one item.

Yes, our fishery would increase in value

No, our fishery would not change in value

Yes, our fishery would fall in value

Don't know

Prefer not to say

We don't own or lease any stillwater or canal fishing rights

Question 7.7 If the statutory river coarse fishing close season was changed or removed, do you anticipate paying more in running costs for your river fishery (for example increased fishery lease, employing more staff or higher maintenance costs)?

Please select only one item.

Yes, our running costs would most likely increase

No, our running costs would most likely remain the same

No, our running costs would most likely reduce

Don't know

Prefer not to say

Question 7.8 Please use the space below if you would like to provide any further information on the close season and angling activity, including any supporting evidence.

1. Angling participation - for angling representatives and others

Please complete this section if you are responding on behalf of an angling representative body, other non-governmental organisation or government department/agency.

We want to hear views on how retaining, changing or removing the statutory river coarse fishing close season contributes towards the Environment Agency's and partners' objectives for angling and the environment.

Question 8.1 Please provide the name of your organisation.

Question 8.2 Do you think the current statutory river coarse fishing close season is a barrier to more people going fishing?

Please select only one item.

Yes, strongly agree

Yes, agree

Neither agree nor disagree

No, disagree

No, strongly disagree

Undecided/don't know

Question 8.3 Do you think the current close season reduces or enhances the social and economic value of angling?

Please select only one item.

Significantly reduces socio-economic value

Reduces socio-economic value

Neither reduces nor enhances socio-economic value

Enhances socio-economic value

Significantly enhances socio-economic value

Undecided/don't know

Question 8.4 If the statutory river coarse fishing close season was changed or removed, do you think it would reduce or enhance the social and economic value of angling?

Please select only one item.

Significantly reduce socio-economic value

Reduce socio-economic value

Neither reduce nor enhance socio-economic value

Enhance socio-economic value

Significantly enhance socio-economic value

Undecided/don't know not checked

Question 8.5 Please use the space below if you would like to provide any further comments on angling participation, including any supporting evidence.

1. Angling-related businesses

In this section, we want to understand how the current statutory river coarse fishing close season affects businesses which depend on angling, and what effect changing or removing it would have those businesses.

Please complete this section if you own or run a business that relies (wholly or in part) on angling. We are particularly keen to hear from commercial fishery managers, angling professionals, members of the tackle trade, and catering and other businesses.

Question 9.1 What type of business do you own or manage?

Please choose one option.

Commercial fishery

Accommodation and catering

Fishing equipment, tackle and bait

Angling guide

Fishery contractor

Other 

If other, please specify.

What is the name of your business?

Question 9.2 How does the current statutory river coarse fishing close season affect your business?

Please select only one item.

Significant positive impact

Some positive impact

Neither positive nor negative impact

Some negative impact

Significant negative impact

Undecided/don't know

Question 9.3 How would removing the statutory river coarse fishing close season affect your business?

Please select only one item.

Significant positive impact

Some positive impact

Neither positive nor negative impact

Some negative impact

Significant negative impact

Undecided/don't know

Question 9.4 How would changing the statutory river coarse fishing close season to 15 April to 30 June affect your business?

Significant positive impact

Some positive impact

Neither positive nor negative impact

Some negative impact

Significant negative impact

Undecided/don't know

Question 9.5 Please use the space below if you would like to provide any further information on this section, including any supporting evidence.

1. Further comments

Question 10.1. Please use this space to provide any other comments you have about the options for the statutory coarse fishing close season on rivers in England.

Question 10.2. If you have any documents that support your response, please include them with this form.

Thank you for your time in responding to this consultation.