

Appendix 1: question and response form

Section 1: Your details

We would like to find out about where you fish and/or the type of salmon fisheries you are engaged with or have an interest in. By giving us this information we will be able to better understand the answers you have provided to the consultation questions. This information will also help us to record accurately those who have responded to this consultation and ensure that we have received responses from all sectors which may be affected by any new salmon fisheries management approaches. Your details will only be kept for this consultation and any future work directly related to this.

Q. 1a) - about yourself

Please tell us which one of the following categories best describes your **primary** interest in salmon/sea trout. Please select one option.

- I am a licensed salmon/sea trout net fishermen or operate a fixed engine to catch them.
- I am a salmon/sea trout rod and line angler.
- I represent a group of individuals who fish for salmon/sea trout (please tell us the name of the group)
- I own or lease salmon/sea trout fishing
- I represent a salmon/sea trout conservation or environmental conservation organisation (please tell us the name of your organisation)
- I am involved in the catering industry and buy/sell wild salmon/sea trout (fish retailer, fishmonger, restaurateur, etc.)
- I am involved in the tackle trade for salmon/sea trout angling
- Response from Defra family/Non-Governmental Organisation
- Other (please specify)

If more than one of these categories applies to you please tell us which of the others do.

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Q. 1b) - What part of the country do you have an interest in?

Please tell us where you **primarily** fish for salmon/sea trout or where the salmon/sea trout that support your business are from. You can select more than one option if you wish.

- The North East (Northumberland and Yorkshire)
- The East, Thames and South East
- The Southern Chalkstreams (Itchen, Test, Hampshire Avon, Dorset Stout, Dorset Frome and Piddle)
- The South West (Devon and Cornwall)
- The Severn
- The North West (Lancashire, Cumbria and Border Esk)
- National
- Other e.g. Ireland / Wales (please specify)

If you are a member of a salmon and/or sea trout fishing club/organisation or an organisation that represents anglers, net and fixed engine fishermen or the interests of salmon/sea trout/wider conservation; then please tell us which organisation you are a member of.

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Please tell us if you would like to (tick all that apply):

- Receive an email acknowledging your response
- Receive an email to let you know that the summary of responses has been published

If you have ticked any of the boxes above, please provide us with your email address:

Email:

Can we publish parts of your response that are not personally identifiable or contain financial information?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

If no, please explain why.

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Please tell us how you found out about this consultation:

- From the Environment Agency
- From another organisation

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- Through an organisation you're a member of
- Press article
- Social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter
- Through a meeting you attended
- Other (please specify)

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 not disclose financial or other individual specific information that could inadvertently identify an individual or his / her business.
- 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.

Returning your response

Your response to this consultation needs to be returned by Monday 9 October 2017.

We would like you to use this form if you are not submitting your response online. You can add extra documents supporting any responses that you make, but please make it very clear as to which question this additional information is for. You can return it by email to S5PA@environment-agency.gov.uk. Please use this email address if you have any questions regarding this consultation.

Or by post to:

FAO Salmon Consultation Team
Environment Agency
Rivers House
Sunrise Business Park
Higher Shaftesbury Road
Blandford Forum
DT11 8ST

Section 3: deciding which salmon stocks need further protection

Q. 3.2a) - this question is asking for your views about taking salmon from rivers that are failing to produce enough salmon to maintain populations

To what extent do you agree that a salmon stock should be subject to additional protection from net/fixed engine and rod exploitation if it is classified as either At Risk or Probably at Risk of failing to meet its Management Objective?

- Wholly
- Partially
- Not at all

Please give your reasons and any evidence you have to support your answer. If you would like to provide us with an alternative approach then please do so.

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Section 4: review of existing National Salmon Byelaws

This section looks at the existing National Salmon Byelaws which protect spring salmon stocks, these were first made in 1999 and renewed for a further 10-year period in December 2008. Government has asked us to review these every 10 years, so this is a good opportunity to ask for views on whether you feel that the current measures should continue, stop or be amended.

The measures to protect spring salmon were introduced in response to a widespread decline in stocks of large, early-running, multi-sea-winter salmon in the 1980s and 1990s. It was determined that exploitation needed to be significantly reduced in order to better protect this important stock component. In summary, the byelaws prevent netsmen from killing, and in most cases fishing for, salmon before June 1; derogations are applied to some fisheries where netting is predominantly for sea trout, on the basis that any salmon caught are returned alive. For rod fisheries, the measures require any fish caught by rod and line before 16 June to be returned, and also restrict the methods that anglers can use at this time to artificial flies or lures. These byelaws also set out the end of the close season for fishing for salmon and migratory trout other than with rod and line.

Q. 4.2a) - this question is about the current (spring) salmon byelaws

Do you agree with the proposal to renew without amendments the existing National Salmon Byelaws to protect spring salmon stocks?

- Wholly
- Partially
- Not at all

Please give your reasons and any evidence you have to support your answer.

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Section 5: possible options for salmon net and fixed engine fisheries

Questions 5.2a – 5.2n relate to net and fixed engine fisheries in England and on the Border Esk, except the North East Coast Net Fishery. These questions are directed at those who fish in, or whose business is supported by, these fisheries.

Questions 5.3a – 5.3l relate to the North East Coast Net Fishery. These questions are directed at those who fish in, or whose business is supported by, the North East Coast Net Fishery.

Questions 5.4a - 5.4e give the opportunity for all consultees to provide their views on the options for net and fixed engine fisheries.

Section 5.2: possible options for salmon net and fixed engine fisheries in England and on the Border Esk, except the North East Coast Net Fishery

Questions 5.2a, 5.2b, 5.2e to 5.2k are for net and fixed engine fishermen.

Questions 5.2c and 5.2l are for businesses that are supplied with wild salmon and sea trout from English and Border Esk fisheries.

Questions 5.2d, 5.2m and 5.2n are for net and fixed engine fishermen and the businesses that they supply to.

Q. 5.2a) – this question is for net and fixed engine fishermen.

If you were no longer able to fish for salmon or sea trout, what would be the consequences for you?

Please provide us with details of both financial and cultural (i.e. traditions within your community and/or how you spend time within your local environment). Ideally, please use the last 5 years of income to support your answer.

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Q. 5.2b) – this question is for net and fixed engine fishermen, it relates to other fishing prospects

What are the opportunities for you to fish for other species if you could no longer fish for salmon or sea trout (e.g. white fish or crustaceans)?

If there are any please provide us with an estimated breakdown of the costs you would incur to switch to a different target species. Please indicate whether you would need to purchase quotas/different equipment.

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Q. 5.2c) – this is for businesses that are supplied with wild salmon and sea trout from English and Border Esk fisheries

Please provide details of the impact of stopping the supply of salmon and sea trout from the English and Border Esk fisheries that you buy from.

These impacts could be either financial and/or social. Ideally, please use the last 5 years of income to support your answer.

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These questions are exploring future sea trout fishery options for net or fixed engine fishermen (except the North East Coast Net Fishery).

Q. 5.2e) – this question is for net and fixed engine fishermen

Do you consider that your fishing gear and how it is fished enables salmon to be released alive immediately after capture?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If you wish, please provide us with your reasons for this answer.

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Q. 5.2f) – this question is for net and fixed engine fishermen

Do you fish in attendance with your nets or do you set them and return?

- Yes – in attendance
- No – set and return

Q. 5.2g) – this question is for net and fixed engine fishermen

Do you currently release salmon as a result of existing controls on your fishery?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide us with details of why this is.

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Q. 5.2h) – this question is for net and fixed engine fishermen

What type of gear do you use when fishing for salmon and/or sea trout? Please provide details.

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Q. 5.2i) - this question is for net and fixed engine fishermen

Do you consider that your fishing gear and how it is fished enables salmon to be released with minimal damage?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please provide us with information of the type of damage (e.g. scale loss or fin damage) that you see on the fish that you catch.

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Q. 5.2j) - this question is for net and fixed engine fishermen

Would altering your gear make it easier to release and/or cause less damage to salmon?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please provide details and an estimate of the cost if you consider this an option.

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Q. 5.2k) - this question is for net and fixed engine fishermen

If you could release salmon and continue to take the sea trout that you catch would you continue to fish for sea trout?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If you wish, please provide us with your reasons for this answer.

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Q. 5.21) - this is for businesses that are supplied with wild salmon and sea trout from English and Border Esk fisheries

Please provide details of the impact of stopping the supply of salmon only from the English and Border Esk fisheries that you buy from.

These impacts could be either financial and/or social/cultural. Ideally, please use the last 5 years of income to support your answer.

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These questions relate to the impact of the proposed timescale of the measures for net and fixed engine salmon and sea trout fisheries in England and on the Border Esk (except the North East Coast Net Fishery).

Q. 5.2m) - this question is for net and fixed engine fishermen and the businesses that they supply to

If fishing for salmon was required to cease, is there a date later than 2018 that would be economically easier to work towards?

- Yes Date?
- No
- I don't know

Please provide details of why a later date would reduce the impact of closure. These impacts could be either financial and/or social/cultural.

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Q. 5.2n) - this question is for net and fixed engine fishermen and the businesses that they supply to

How long do you consider the measures covering a fishery should be in place for?

- 5 Years
- 10 Years
- Other – please give details

Please provide details of why you have given this answer.

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Section 5.3: this section is specifically for the North East Coast Net Fishery

Questions 5.3a and 5.3b are for North East Coast drift net licence holders.

Questions 5.3c to 5.3i are for North East Coast beach net licence holders.

Question 5.3j is for businesses that are supplied with wild salmon and sea trout from the North East Coast Net Fishery.

Questions 5.3k and 5.3l are for North East Coast drift and beach net licence holders and the businesses that they supply to.

Q. 5.3a) - this question is for North East Coast drift net licence holders

What implications would the closure of the drift net fishery prior to the end of the 2022 season have for you?

Please provide details of the impact (whether this is financial and/or social) on an annual basis. Ideally, please use the last 5 years of income to support your answer.

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Q. 5.3b) - this question is for North East Coast drift net licence holders

Are there opportunities for you to fish for other species (e.g. white fish or crustaceans) if the drift net fishery closed prior to the end of the 2022 season?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If there are please provide us with an estimate of the cost you would incur to switch to a different target species. Please indicate whether a change would require you to purchase quotas as well as any expenses around equipment.

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Q. 5.3c) - this question is for North East Coast beach net licence holders

Do you consider that your fishing gear and how it is fished enables salmon to be released alive immediately after capture?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please provide details of the gear that you use and whether you currently release salmon as a result of existing controls on your fishery.

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Q. 5.3d) - this question is for North East Coast beach net licence holders

Do you consider that your fishing gear and how it is fished enables salmon to be released with minimal damage?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please provide us with information of the type of damage (e.g. scale loss or fin damage) that you see on the fish that you catch.

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Q. 5.3e) - this question is for North East Coast beach net licence holders

With regard to the release of salmon and any damage that is caused, is there a difference in damage if it is grilse or multi sea winter salmon that are caught?

- Yes, there is a difference in damage
- No, there is not a difference in damage
- I don't know

Please provide details if you have answered yes.

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Q. 5.3f) - this question is for North East Coast beach net licence holders

Would altering your gear or the way it is fished make it easier to release and/or cause less damage to salmon?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please provide details and an estimate of the cost if you consider this an option.

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Q. 5.3i) This question is for North East Coast beach net licence holders

Are there opportunities for you to fish for other species (e.g. white fish or crustaceans) if the beach net fishery were to close?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If there are please provide us with an estimate of the cost you would incur to switch to a different target species. Please indicate whether a change would require you to purchase quotas as well as any expenses around equipment.

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Q. 5.3k) - this question is for North East Coast drift and beach net fishermen and the businesses that they supply to

If fishing was required to cease, is there a date later than 2018 that would be economically easier to work towards?

- Yes Date?
- No
- I don't know

Please provide details of why a later date would reduce the impact of closure. These impacts could be either financial and/or social/cultural.

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Section 5.4: seeking all consultees' views on the options for net and fixed engine fisheries in England and on the Border Esk and the options set out for the North East Coast Net Fishery

Questions 5.4a, 5.4b and 5.4c relate to all net and fixed engine fisheries in England and on the Border Esk, except the North East Coast Net Fishery.

Questions 5.4d and 5.4e relate to only the North East Coast Net Fishery.

Q. 5.4a) - seeking all consultees' views on the options for net and fixed engine fisheries in England and on the Border Esk (except North East Coast Net Fishery Options).

Which is your preferred option for net and fixed engine fisheries as set out in Section 5.2: Table 2?

- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3
- Option 4
- I don't have a preferred option

Please provide details of why you have given this answer.

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Q. 5.4c) - seeking all consultees' views on the options for net and fixed engine fisheries in England and on the Border Esk (except North East Coast Net Fishery Options)

How long do you consider the measures covering a net and/or fixed engine fishery should be in place for?

- 5 Years
- 10 Years
- Other – please give details

Please provide details of why you have given this answer.

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Section 6: our rod and line fisheries

This section explores the possible options to increase the levels of catch and release of rod caught salmon and whether further mandatory controls (i.e. byelaws) should be made to require or prohibit some fishing equipment. We are also seeking your views on best practice techniques that we might seek to promote in partnership with others including Angling Trust, landowners, river trusts and angling clubs.

Section 6.2: catch and release of salmon

Questions 6.2a to 6.2f are for all consultees.

Questions 6.2g and 6.2h are for salmon anglers.

Question 6.2i is for owners/lessees of salmon rod fisheries.

Q. 6.2a) - this question is for all consultees to answer and we are seeking your views on the possible options that have been developed

Which is your preferred option for the catch and release of salmon by rod fisheries from those that are set out in Section 6.2: Table 6?

- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3
- Option 4
- I don't have a preferred option

Please provide details of why you have given this answer.

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If you don't have a preferred option, please tell us if there is another approach that you consider that we should be taking and why.

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Q. 6.2c) - we would like to seek all consultees' views on the use of a voluntary (as opposed to mandatory) approach to deliver increased levels of catch and release

Do you agree with using a voluntary approach to deliver improved catch and release of salmon by rod fisheries?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If no or don't know, please explain your answer and include any dis-benefits that you consider the use of voluntary catch and release would bring.

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Q. 6.2g) - this question is for salmon anglers

Would you stop fishing for salmon if the proposed levels of catch and release were implemented (see Section 6.2: Table 6)? Please tick all that apply.

- No, I wouldn't stop fishing whichever option was implemented
- Yes, if Option 1 was implemented
- Yes, if Option 2 was implemented
- Yes, if Option 3 was implemented
- Yes, if Option 4 was implemented

Please tell us which river(s) you fish for salmon on.

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Q. 6.2h) – this question is for salmon anglers

Would you consider moving to a river where lower levels of catch and release were required?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If you wish, please provide us with your reasons for your answer.

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Q. 6.3b) - this question is for angling club and fishery owners

With reference to the catch and release best practice recommendations in Section 6.3 of the consultation document, which, if any, of these would you have difficulty applying to the waters under your control? Please tick as many that apply.

- Stopping angling at high water temperatures (where they exceed 18 °C in the mid-morning).
- Only allowing the use of single or double barbless hooks to minimise risk of injury.
- Stopping the use of large treble hooks, particularly on Flying 'C' spinners.
- Only allowing the use of the least harmful bait/lure type (e.g. artificial flies with minimal, appropriately sized, barbless hooks fished actively).
- Identifying safe landing areas and promoting their use to anglers before commencing fishing.
- Minimising air exposure, by promoting that fish are not removed from the water during landing, unhooking and photographing.
- Stopping fish being taken out of the river and onto the bank prior to release.
- Only allowing the use of fish-friendly landing nets.
- Stopping the practice of holding fish up clear of the water by the tail only.

Please provide us with the details of your reasons why.

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Section 6.4: questions relating to whether specific types of tackle and fishing equipment should be banned or made compulsory

Questions 6.4a to 6.4g are for all consultees.

Q. 6.4a) - this question is for all consultees

Do you consider that having a landing net available to use should be required by byelaw whilst fishing for salmon or sea trout in England and on the Border Esk?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If you wish, please provide us with your reasons for this answer.

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Q. 6.4b) - this question is for all consultees

Do you consider that a landing net used when fishing for salmon and sea trout should be required by byelaw to have a maximum mesh size of 20mm (as measured across the widest point of the stretched mesh)?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Please tell us if you think this mesh size should be different from this and why.

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Q. 6.4c) - this question is for all consultees

Do you consider that the use of barbed hooks should be prohibited by byelaw when fishing for salmon or sea trout with flies, lures or bait?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If you wish, please provide us with your reasons for this answer.

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What would the impact, if any, be for you or your business of prohibiting the use of barbed hooks when fishing for salmon or sea trout with flies, lures or bait?

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Q. 6.4d) - this question is for all consultees

Do you consider that the use of treble hooks should be prohibited by byelaw when fishing for salmon or sea trout with flies, lures or bait?

- Yes, all should be banned
- Yes, but only large treble hooks greater than size 8 should be banned
- No, these should not be banned
- I don't know

If you wish, please provide us with your reasons for this view and if you think that large treble hooks of a different size than greater than size 8 should be banned.

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What would the impact be, if any, for you or your business of prohibiting the use of treble hooks (either completely or only large treble hooks) when fishing for salmon or sea trout with flies, lures or bait?

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Q. 6.4e) - this question is for all consultees

Do you consider that the use of circle hooks should be mandatory by byelaw when using worm as bait when fishing for salmon or sea trout?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

If you wish, please provide us with your reasons for this answer.

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What would the impact be, if any, for you or your business of only allowing the use of circle hooks when using worm as bait when fishing for salmon or sea trout?

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Q. 6.4f) - this question is for all consultees

Should there be restriction on the use of Flying 'Cs' when fishing for salmon or sea trout?

- Yes, Flying 'Cs' should be banned
- Yes, Flying 'Cs' should only be allowed with single hooks
- No, restrictions should not apply to the use of Flying 'Cs'
- I don't know

If you wish, please provide us with your reasons for this answer.

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What would the impact be, if any, for you or your business of prohibiting the use of Flying 'Cs' or only allowing their use with single hooks when fishing for salmon or sea trout?

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