

What is the purpose of this consultation?

This consultation is seeking your views on possible options that have been developed to reduce the exploitation of salmon by rod, net and fixed engine fisheries in England and on the Border Esk. It forms part of the commitment to restore salmon stocks in England that is within the Salmon Five Point Approach and seeks to maximise the opportunity for salmon stock recovery and longer term sustainability. Any review of salmon exploitation will also have implications for sea trout stock management and your views on these fisheries are also welcomed.

This consultation will be of particular interest to anyone who fishes for and/or has an interest in the salmon and sea trout populations in English and border rivers, estuaries or coastal waters. This includes:

- commercial salmon and sea trout netmen and their representative organisations
- rod and line anglers, their representative organisations and those who own, lease or manage fishing for salmon and sea trout
- other businesses that support, or are supported by, salmon and sea trout fishing
- salmon and sea trout conservation organisations
- other conservation organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations such as Wildlife Trusts and Rivers Trusts
- government agencies and authorities including Natural Resources Wales, Marine Management Organisation, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities, Natural England and local authorities
- members of the public

The objectives of the consultation are to:

- describe the current status of salmon stocks in England and the Border Esk and the need for further exploitation control protection measures
- present possible exploitation control options for rod and line, net and fixed engine fisheries
- seek views on the range of options presented from those who would be affected by or have an interest in them
- quantify and evaluate the extent of likely impacts or benefits of the presented options on the salmon stocks that you specifically have an interest in (both economically and socially)
- understand from your perspective the likely impacts and benefits to the wider environment of the options presented
- provide an opportunity to suggest alternative options to those which are presented here to protect salmon stocks
- ensure that we fully engage with stakeholders who have an interest or involvement in salmon fisheries management so that we have sufficient information to be able to meet our duties if bringing in any new set of regulations

In summary, this consultation set outs, and seeks views on, the establishment and implementation of a new national approach to controlling salmon exploitation in England and on the Border Esk. It is in addition to any local Net Limitation Order¹ and fishery byelaw consultations that the Environment Agency is currently conducting and which you may have recently been engaged with. We are keen to gather views on how the options presented in this consultation document would interact with existing exploitation controls in English and Border Esk salmon fisheries.

Natural Resources Wales is currently, or soon will be, consulting on measures to protect salmon and sea trout in Wales. If you fish for or have an interest in both English and Welsh salmon stocks and their dependent fisheries we suggest that you respond to both of these consultations.

¹ A net limitation order (NLO) is the mechanism within the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 whereby the Environment Agency may apply to limit the number of nets or traps fishing a particular area.

The responses gathered from this consultation will be considered and used to help formulate and finalise a preferred set of measures to protect salmon stocks. Where the final preferred approach involves bringing in any new byelaws or Net Limitation Orders, these will be formally advertised providing another opportunity for you to comment on the measures presented. It is anticipated that, where necessary, any further consultation would take place during the autumn/winter of 2017 and if measures were to be brought in we anticipate that the introduction would be by March 2018.