

## North East Coastal Net Fishery – amendments to submitted byelaws

Following the submission of the byelaws to Defra and minister in August 2018 we were asked to review the proposed season lengths for the North East Coastal Net Fishery. Although all salmon would be required to be returned, the minister asked us to see if there was scope to reduce the impact of the byelaws on this fishery.

We therefore undertook a more detailed examination of all catch records for the past two years and assessed when salmon capture rates reached levels beyond which their bycatch would not be acceptable. This allowed us to make some alterations to the byelaws to reduce the impact of them on this fishery whilst still retaining the necessary level of protection of the salmon stock. These alterations were made by the minister when the byelaws were confirmed in December 2018. An overview of all the restrictions the byelaws have put in place for the North East Coastal Net Fishery is provided below.

### Drift nets

The closure of the north east coast drift net fishery for salmon and sea trout from 1 January 2019. This has not changed from the original advertised byelaws.

### Beach nets (T and J nets)

The closure of the T and J net fishery for salmon, allowing the continuation of this net fishery from 2019 on a sea trout only basis with the immediate release of any salmon caught. This has not changed from the original advertised byelaws but the season length and location of fishing has altered to reflect a closer examination of when salmon are caught in the fishery. The changes are:

- The netting season for sea trout has been extended by 1 month in Districts 3, 4 and 5 from the seasons proposed in our original advertised byelaws. The new season dates and the level of season reduction they impose are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: T and J net fishing seasons

Area	New season	Level of reduction
District 1	26 March – 31 May	Reduced by 3 months
District 2	26 March – 31 May (no licences issued)	Reduced by 3 months (no licences issued)
District 3	26 March – 30 June	Reduced by 2 months
District 4	26 March - 31 July	Reduced by 1 month
District 5	26 March - 31 July	Reduced by 1 month
District 6	26 March – 31 August	No change as salmon catch is negligible
District 7	26 March – 31 August	No change as salmon catch is negligible

- Continuation of T netting in Tyne Conservation Area B at South Shields (District 1). The two netting stations in this area will be allowed to fish for sea trout over the shorter season, with the immediate return of any salmon caught.
- Continuation of T netting in the Boulmer and Amble stell fisheries within Coquet Conservation Area B (District 1). The netting stations in these areas will be allowed to fish for sea trout over the shorter season, with the immediate return of any salmon caught.

In the addition there will continue to be a prohibition on night fishing in the T and J net fishery, now specified as between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. There will also be a requirement in Districts 1-5 for close attendance of the net, by boat, whilst it is fishing. This will be secured by a licence condition.