

Consultation Overview

Consultation on the River Ribble Net Limitation Order and Byelaws 2017

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 proposed new regulations for salmon fishing by rod and line and by netting on the River Ribble and its estuary from 2017.

What are we consulting on?

We are consulting on our assessment of the River Ribble salmon stock and the proposed new regulations that are designed to provide protection for that stock.

Why are we consulting?

Previous regulations for salmon fishing on the River Ribble and its estuary have now expired and need to be replaced. In addition, the Ribble salmon population is declining and therefore in need of more protection than previously, when stocks were higher than they are at present.

We want your views

We think that this consultation will be of particular interest to anyone who fishes for salmon on the Ribble or its estuary, This includes residents, businesses, recreational and commercial river users, charities, statutory organisations and members of the public.

We want to hear your thoughts, comments and opinions on the Ribble salmon stock assessment and proposed new regulations.

Consultation questions

We welcome your views on the River Ribble Net Limitation Order 2017 and associated byelaws and would like to know your views on the following questions:

- Q1. Do you agree with the Environment Agency's salmon stock assessment for the River Ribble?
- Q2. Please tell us if have any evidence to support a different stock assessment conclusion, to that presented by the Environment Agency.
- Q3. Do you support the proposed Net Limitation Order for the River Ribble?
- Q4. Do you support the proposed Net fishing byelaw for the River Ribble?
- Q5. Do you support the proposed rod fishing byelaw for the River Ribble?
- Q6. 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 will start on 11 April 2017 and will run for a period of 4 weeks until 11 May 2017.

How to respond

You can view the consultation documents and questions online at <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fisheries/river-ribble-net-limitation-order-and-byelaws-2017>. 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

You can also ask for a copy of the proposed Net Limitation Order and Byelaws, with supporting information, to be posted to you by calling Brian Shields, at the Environment Agency, on 02030 250449.

Copies may also be viewed at the Environment Agency offices in Preston (Lutra House, Dodd Way, Off Seedlee Road, Walton Summit, Bamber Bridge, Preston, Lancs, PR5 8BX.) You can see them at the office, free of charge, from Monday to Friday during normal office hours from the date of publication of this notice until 6 May 2017.

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

Throughout the consultation 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:

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