**Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority**



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**Cornwall IFCA proposed new netting byelaw**

**Informal Consultation**

Cornwall IFCA is looking to develop a new byelaw to protect salmon and sea trout in coastal areas where they may congregate, and as they migrate to and from the entrances to rivers and streams around Cornwall.

The proposed new byelaw will apply restrictions to some inshore coastal nets used for taking sea fish, around the entrances to some key rivers and streams. They may include restriction to the headline depth of certain fixed nets and a prohibition of nets used in locations where they pose the greatest risk to salmon and sea trout.

If you have used nets for fishing for sea fish off the coast of Cornwall, we would appreciate your help to better understand the netting activities that take place in specific coastal areas, including any interactions between nets and salmon and sea trout. We also need to know what impact certain restrictions on netting may have on your business.

For people who do not used nets for fishing for sea fish, but who have experienced catches of salmon and/or sea trout in the Cornwall IFCA district, where this has occurred outside of a river or estuary, we would also welcome information about this in order to improve our knowledge about the occurrence of salmon and sea trout around the coast.

Please complete this questionnaire below and return it to the above address. Alternatively, you can complete the survey online by visiting [www.cornwall-ifca.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall-ifca.gov.uk) and following the links from the homepage.

We would like you to provide us with your contact details if you are happy to do this. These may only be used if we need to explore a matter further which you have raised as part of this consultation. We will not share this information or use it for any other purposes outside of this consultation. You do not have to complete this section if you wish to complete this questionnaire anonymously.

Your details will be stored only in association with this questionnaire and will be destroyed after five years or within one year from the production of a byelaw[[1]](#footnote-1).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Your name: |  | |
| Your boat name and PLN:  (if applicable) |  | *PLN* |
| Email or postal address:  (*Please provide the most suitable*  *means of contacting you*) |  | |
| Telephone number: |  | |
| Please sign here, if you would be happy for Cornwall IFCA to contact you about any information you have provided in this questionnaire |  | |
| Date: | |

**Q1. Coastal areas and associated stream/river system**

Cornwall IFCA, working with the Environment Agency, has identified 14 rivers and streams in the Cornwall IFCA district that salmon and sea trout are known to frequent. There is a strong risk to the future populations of these species and their dependant fisheries if nets intercept them on their inward or outbound migration, or in areas they frequent to feed. These coastal areas and rivers associated with salmon and sea trout stocks are listed below.

Please tick the area(s) where you have used nets for taking sea fish:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A) Entrance to Boscastle harbour (River Valency) | 🞎 |
| B) Rumps Point to Trevose Head (River Camel) | 🞎 |
| C) Trevelgue Head to Kelsey Head (Porth river / The Gannel) | 🞎 |
| D) Godrevy Point to St Ives Head (Red River / Hayle River) | 🞎 |
| E) Penlee Point to Cudden Point (Coombe River / Chyandour Brook) | 🞎 |
| F) Porthkerris Point to Saint Anthony Head (Helford River / Fal) | 🞎 |
| G) Manare Point to Dodman Point (Caerhays stream) | 🞎 |
| H) Mevagissey harbour to Pencarrow Head (St Austell River / River at Par River Fowey) | 🞎 |
| I) Horestone to Picklecombe Point (Looe River / River Seaton / Tamar) | 🞎 |

***If you have no experience of fishing with nets in any of these coastal areas but you have caught salmon and seatrout by other fishing methods, please go to Q5.***

**Q2. The nets you have used in a coastal area (A to I)**

It is important that we understand the scope of net fishing in an area and the value of fish landed from these areas so that we can assess what the effects on your fishing would be if it were restricted under a byelaw. Please provide us with information about the nets you have used for fishing for sea fish in a coastal area A to I (as listed in Q1).

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| **Coastal area**  *Please label the area(s) A to I, as per Q1 above, and provide as much extra detail about the location as possible* | **Please provide details of the net(s) you used** | | | | | | | | **Target fish or shellfish species** | **Details of:**   1. **sea fish catch values, and** 2. **any bycatch of salmon and sea trout**   *eg. Numbers of salmon/sea trout, frequency of occurrence, % fish released alive, any explanation of occurrence, etc.* |
| Net type  *eg. Tangle net, gill net,*  *splash net etc.* | Fixed **(F)**  Drift **(D)**  or in part Contact with the sea bed but not fixed **(C)**  *Enter F,D or C* | Head line depth | Net mesh size | Depth of net | Net length  *Total where more than one net in a tier* | Depth of water  *Depth range from shot time to haul time* | Soak time  *Min. to max. time* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1.  2. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1.  2. |
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**Q2 cont’d**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Coastal area**  *Please label the area(s) A to I, as per Q1 above, and provide as much extra detail about the location as possible* | **Please provide details of the net(s) you used** | | | | | | | | **Target fish or shellfish species** | **Details of:**   1. **sea fish catch values, and** 2. **any bycatch of salmon and sea trout**   *eg. Numbers of salmon/sea trout, frequency of occurrence, % fish released alive, any explanation of occurrence, etc.* |
| Net type  *eg. Tangle net, gill net,*  *splash net etc.* | Fixed **(F)**  Drift **(D)**  or in part Contact with the sea bed but not fixed **(C)**  *Enter*  *F,D or C* | Head line depth | Net mesh size | Depth of net | Net length  *Total where more than one net in a tier* | Depth of water  *Depth range from shot time to haul time* | Soak time  *Min. to max. time* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1.  2. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1.  2. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1.  2. |

**Q3. Nets you have used in less than 5m (2.7 fathoms) water depth in any of the coastal areas.**

It has been identified that salmon and sea trout are particularly at risk from nets set at or near the sea surface, as their migration through near coast waters is usually in the upper part of the water column. A previous byelaw prescribed that a fixed net headline must be at least 3m below the surface of the water which, in shallower waters, sometimes meant a net could become illegal at times of low water. Please provide us with information about the nets you have used in less than 5m water depth, in respect of any coastal area A to I (as listed in Q1).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Net type**  *eg. fixed beach net, splash net, beach seine, etc.* | **Location of a net used in**  **less than 5m water depth**  *Please label the area(s) A to I, as per Q1 above, and provide as much extra detail about a net’s location as possible****.*** *If possible, define the geographic limits of an area where you used the net in less than 5m water depth* | **Net shot & hauled from a boat**  *(Y/N)* | **Please describe the impact on your business if nets were prohibited in this location.**  *Please include details of any other fishing you would otherwise undertake, financial costs, etc.* |
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**Q4. Drift nets used in any of the coastal areas.**

Historically, drift nets set in Cornish waters were not considered a significant threat to salmonids and therefore have not been restricted under a byelaw. Multiple drift nets used simultaneously by a person, may present more of a threat to salmon and sea trout populations in comparison to a single attended drift net, as the ability to release any salmon or sea trout alive will often be delayed and may not be possible. If you have used a drift net(s), please answer the following questions:

a. In which of the coastal areas (as listed in Q1) have you used a drift net? .....................................................................

b. Which species of fish did you target with a drift net? ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

c. Which species of fish did you take as a bycatch? ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

c. What is the maximum number of drift nets you used at any one time? ………………………………………………………………………………….

d. What was the length, depth and mesh size of your drift net(s)? ………………………………………………………………………………………………

e. Did you use a weighted footrope which contacted the sea bed? *(Y/N)* ………..

*(If yes, please explain circumstances)* …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

f. What would normally be the maximum soak time for any of your drift nets? ………………………………………………………………………….

g. What length of time would it normally take you to haul one drift net? ……………………………………………………………………………………

h. Did you always remain in attendance of one or more of the drift nets? *Y/N)* …………

*(If no, please explain circumstances)* ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

i. Please describe a typical drift net fishing operation, including time of day and state of tide.

*(Describe single net and multiple drift net operations separately)*

k. Please describe any incidences of salmon or sea trout bycatch in a drift net, including their condition when returned to the sea:

**Q5. Salmon and sea trout bycatch from the Cornwall IFCA district.**

We would also welcome information on the full range of salmon and sea trout interactions with fishing gears used throughout the Cornwall IFCA district. Please feel free to add boxes below if needed. For locations outside of rivers and estuaries, please provide us with information about salmon and sea trout captures:

* in nets from other coastal locations not listed in Q1;
* from any other fishing activity (e.g. angling) at any coastal location.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Location and water depth**  *Please be as specific as possible* | **Species caught as bycatch**  *(Salmon /*  *sea trout)* | **Occurrence year (s)**  **and**  **number of salmon/ sea trout caught** | **Condition of salmon/sea trout when released**  *eg. alive, dead or a description of its condition* | **Fishing gear type and usage**  *Please provide as much information about the gear you were using, how it was set/rigged/baited, other relevant details, etc.* |
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If you have any other information which you feel could assist Cornwall IFCA with the development of this netting byelaw, please use this space below. (Please attach additional pages or evidence, if required)

If you would like to discuss these questions further or you would like any further information about the proposed netting byelaw, please contact the Cornwall IFCA office on 01736 336842.

1. *You can find out more about how we handle your data by visiting our website* [*www.cornwall-ifca.gov.uk*](http://www.cornwall-ifca.gov.uk) *and following the links to the privacy policy.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)