



fishing the right way

Fisheries Byelaws

Anglian Region
February 2008

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Fisheries Byelaws for the Anglian Region

This booklet contains the byelaws which apply in the Environment Agency Anglian Region for fisheries purposes, comprising both National and Regional byelaws.

If you wish to fish in the Environment Agency Anglian Region then you must comply with all these byelaws.

The Environment Act 1995 established the Environment Agency, which took over the fisheries functions of the National Rivers Authority, that had been previously vested in the Anglian Water Authority. In accordance with the provisions relating to the transfer of those functions, any references in these byelaws to the Anglian Water Authority, or to the National Rivers Authority, will have effect as if they were references to the Environment Agency.

In 1995 national provisions relating to the close season were introduced. Following confirmation of a number of consistent and standard national byelaws, the provisions relating to the close season for freshwater fish are now contained in the National Fisheries Byelaws.

These byelaws are current at 1 February 2008. Separate byelaws apply in each of the regions of the Environment Agency, and anglers should ensure that they are conversant with the relevant Regional Byelaws prior to fishing in any region.

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The Anglian Regional Fisheries Byelaws 1988 (as amended)

The Anglian Water Authority in exercise of their powers under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 (as amended by the Anglian Water Authority (Fisheries) Order 1976) and the Salmon Act 1986 and of all other powers them enabling has made the following Byelaws:-

1 Application

These byelaws shall apply to the Authority's Fisheries Area as defined by the Anglian Water Authority Constitution Order 1973, Statutory Instrument 1973, No. 1359.

2 Interpretation

In these byelaws, unless the context otherwise requires:-

“Authority” means Anglian Water Authority;

“Fisheries Area” means the Fisheries Area of the Authority as defined by the Anglian Water Authority Constitution Order 1973;

“enclosed water” means any lake, pond or reservoir into which fish cannot pass from a river, other than a river flowing there into.

3 Close Seasons

- (i) The annual close season for rod and line shall be as follows:
 - a) Revoked by the National Fisheries Byelaws of 1996.

See the relevant section of this Guide for details of the 1996 Byelaw changes to the coarse fish close season, as applied within the Anglian Region;

- b) For brown trout:
The period from 30th October to the following 31st March, both dates inclusive;
 - c) For rainbow trout:
The period from 30th October to the following 31st March (both dates inclusive) for all rivers, streams, drains and canals of the Anglian Region;
 - d) For salmon and migratory trout:
The period from 29th September to the last day in the following February, both dates inclusive.
- (ii) Revoked by National Fisheries Byelaws of 1996.

(iii) The annual close season for salmon and migratory trout for instruments other than rod and line shall be the period from 1st October to the following 31st March, both dates inclusive.
Confirmed 23/10/1985

4 Weekly Close Time

The weekly close time for salmon and migratory trout shall be the period between 06.00 hours on Sunday and 24.00 hours on the following day.
Confirmed 22/04/1988

5 Maximum number of fish that can be taken

Any person who, without the previous consent in writing of the Authority, takes or removes more than two fish in any one day shall be guilty of an offence provided nevertheless that this byelaw shall not prevent a person:

- a) Taking more than that number of fish if the fish are immediately returned alive to the water, or if the fish are retained in a keepnet and released to the water alive within 5 metres of the place at which they were taken as quickly as possible after the person taking them has ceased to fish, or after the fish have been weighed in accordance with any recognised practice;
- b) Taking in any one day fish not exceeding ten in number (excluding minnows and bleak) of which no fish may exceed 20 cm length (measured from the tip of

the snout to the fork of the tail) or minnows and bleak for his own use for live or dead bait fishing in the water from which the fish were taken.

But this byelaw shall not apply to brown trout and rainbow trout in enclosed waters and to migratory fish, eels and zander.

Confirmed 21/04/1988

6 Keepnets And Landing Nets

Revoked by the National Fisheries Byelaws 1996

7 Eels

(i) A person shall be permitted to fish for eels with rod and line during the annual close season* for freshwater fish:

- a) in waters seaward to the demarcation points specified in the Schedule to these byelaws. (See the Schedule at the back of this Guide);
- b) in any other waters provided that no hook or other metal appliance is attached to the line.

* Byelaw 6(5) of the National Fisheries Byelaws 1996 refers.

(ii) A person shall be permitted to fish for eels with rod and line during the annual close season for rainbow trout.

Confirmed 21/04/1988
Renumbering confirmed 13/03/1995

8 Prohibited methods of fishing

Any person shall be guilty of an offence if without the previous consent in writing of the Authority he:

- b) fishes with rod and line for salmon or trout during the annual close season for freshwater fish with any lure or bait other than an artificial wet or dry fly;
- c) leaves unattended a rod and line with the bait or hook thereof in the water;
- d) fishes with rod and line with any form of gorge bait;
- e) revoked by the National Fisheries Byelaws of 1996;
Confirmed 16/06/1978

9 Use of nets and other instruments

It shall be an offence for a person to use, or have in his/her possession with the intention of using, for the purpose of taking fish within the Region, any instrument other than is permitted by this byelaw, namely;

- i) A rod and line;
- ii) as an auxiliary to a rod and line, a landing net;
- iii) a net for the taking of salmon and migratory trout in tidal waters or in the sea, provided that the dimensions of the net are not less than 3 centimetres in extension from knot to knot (the measurement to be made on each side thereof) or 12cm measured round each mesh, the measurements to be made when the net is wet;

iv) any instrument licensed for the taking of eels.

Confirmed 11/08/1989

Amendments – as substituted by National Eel Fisheries Byelaws 2004

10 Return of Salmon and Migratory Trout

Revoked by the National Fisheries Byelaws of 1996

11 Prohibited fishing

Any person who fishes with any instrument other than a rod and line for salmon or migratory trout in those tidal and coastal waters South of a line drawn due West to East through the seaward end of Walton on the Naze Pier shall be guilty of an offence.
Confirmed 21/04/1988

12 Marking and numbering of nets

It shall be an offence for any person who has been supplied by the Authority with a label for the purpose of identifying a licensed instrument to use that instrument without the label being attached thereto in a conspicuous place.

Confirmed 21/04/1988

13 Exemptions

Nothing in these byelaws shall apply to any person who carries out any act for scientific or fisheries management purposes with the previous consent in writing of the Authority and in accordance with any conditions imposed by the Authority in that consent.

Confirmed 21/04/1988

14 Revocation of Byelaws

Byelaws made under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1923 to 1975 hitherto in force in any part of the Fisheries Area are hereby revoked.
Confirmed 21/04/1988

15 Lead Weight Byelaws

The Anglian Water Authority, under and by virtue of the powers and authority vested in them by Section 28 of the Schedule 3 to the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 and Section 36 of the Water Act 1973, do make the following Byelaws for prohibiting the use of certain instruments for taking salmon, trout, freshwater fish or eels in any waters within the Authority area.

- 1) These Byelaws may be cited as the Anglian Water Authority (Lead Weight) Byelaws 1987
- 2) In these byelaws, unless the context requires, the terms used shall have the same meanings as are assigned to them in the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 and the following words and expressions shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them, that is to say:

“Authority” means the Anglian Water Authority.

“Authority Area” means the area of the Authority for the purposes of their functions under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975.

“fishing lure” means any device, including a fishing fly, which is

designed to attract fish and which incorporates a fishing hook.

“lead” includes any alloy or compound of lead.

“lead weight” means split shot or any other thing suitable for weighting fishing lines which is neither incorporated and fully enclosed in the core of a fishing line nor incorporated in the construction of a swim-feeder, a self-cocking float or a fishing lure.

- 3) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) below, no person shall on or after 25th July 1987 use for taking salmon, trout, freshwater fish or eels in any waters within the Authority Area any fishing line to which is attached, directly or indirectly, any lead in the form of a lead weight.
- (2) Paragraph (1) above does not prohibit the use of a lead weight of 0.06 grams or less, or of more than 28.35 grams.
Confirmed 23/07/1987

The Schedule to the Anglian Regional Fisheries Byelaws 1988

Watercourse 1	Demarcation Point 2	National Grid Reference (3)
Middle Level Main Drain	St. German’s Pumping Station	TF 588 143
Tidal Great Ouse	Stowbridge Road	TF 602 070
Mill Basin	The Sluice	TF 545 110
Smeeth Lode	Pumping Station Sluice	TF 575 144 (T)
Flood Relief Channel	Tail Sluice	TF 605 173 (T)
Nar Valley Drain	The Sluice	TF 615 187 (T)
Nar	Tidal Sluice, King’s Lynn	TF 621 183 (T)
Middleton Stop Drain	Pumping Station Sluice	TF 622 187 (T)
Gaywood	Mill Fleet Sluice, King’s Lynn	TF 618 197 (T)
West Lynn Drain	The Sluice	TF 612 198 (T)
North Lynn Drain	The Sluice	TF 611 215 (T)
Babingley	Tidal Sluice, The Saltings	TF 606 239 (T)
Ingol	Tidal Sluice, Wolferton Creek	TF 654 303 (T)
Heacham	Tidal Flap Valve, Heacham Harbour	TF 663 368 (T)
Stour (South Channel)	Judas Gap	TM 080 328 (T)
Stour (North Channel)	Cattawade Barrage	TM 101 330 (T)
Stutton Brook	Stutton Mill Tidal Sluice	TM 132 331 (T)
Holbrook	Tidal Sluice, near Lower Holbrook	TM 174 349 (T)
Ramsey	Dock Sluice, near Parkeston	TM 242 323 (T)
Holland Brook	Holland Sluice, Holland Haven	TM 219 172 (T)
Colne	East Mills, Colchester	TM 006 254 (T)
Salary Brook	Tidal Sluice	TM 021 238 (T)
Roman	Essex Water Company Dam	TL 997 201 (T)
Tenpenny Brook	Tidal Sluice	TM 082 194 (T)

Watercourse 1	Demarcation Point 2	National Grid Reference (3)
Blackwater	Beeleigh Long Weir	TL 839 084 (T)
Pennys Brook	Osea Road Sluice	TL 891 073 (T)
Bowstead Brook	Tidal Sluice	TL 928 087 (T)
Virley Brook	Tidal Sluice, Salcot	TL 951 136 (T)
Chelmer	Beeleigh New Sluice	TL 838 083 (T)
Asheldham Brook	Round Barn, Dengie	TM 017 015
Crouch	Wickford Gauging Station	TQ 748 934 (T)
Shotgate Brook	A129 Road bridge	TQ 775 931
Rawreth Brook	Rawreth	TQ 778 932
Roach	B1013 Road Bridge	TQ 876 902
Prittle Brook	Rochford	TQ 880 894
Mardyke	War Department Sluice	TQ 548 786 (T)
Chelmer/Blackwater Canal	Heybridge Basin	TL 872 068
Winterton Beck	Winteringham Haven Sluice	SE 935 228 (T)
West Drain	Sluice at South Ferriby	SE 975 211 (T)
Ancholme	Sluice at South Ferriby	SE 975 211 (T)
East Drain	Sluice at South Ferriby	SE 975 211 (T)
Barton Haven	Barton Haven Sluice	TA 028 226 (T)
Barrow Beck	Barrow Haven	TA 064 225 (T)
New Holland Main Drain	New Holland Sluice	TA 080 243 (T)
Goxhill Haven	Goxhill Haven Sluice	TA 120 254 (T)
East Halton Beck	East Halton Skitter Sluice	TA 145 228 (T)
North Killingholme Drain	North Killingholme Haven Sluice	TA 166 201 (T)
Killingholme Marsh Drain	Killingholme Marsh Sluice	TA 177 187 (T)
South Killingholme Drain	South Killingholme Haven Sluice	TA 187 172 (T)
Habrough Marsh Drain	Habrough Marsh Drain Sluice	TA 207 157 (T)
North Beck Drain	North Beck Sluice	TA 216 152 (T)
Middle Drain	Middle Drain Pumping Station	TA 229 140 (T)
Oldfleet Drain	Oldfleet Drain Sluice	TA 238 131 (T)

Watercourse 1	Demarcation Point 2	National Grid Reference (3)
Mawmbridge Drain	Mawmbridge Drain Sluice	TA 246 124 (T)
New Cut Drain	Pyewipe Sluice	TA 263 109 (T)
Freshney	Flottergate Sluice	TA 267 095 (T)
Buck Beck	Buck Beck Outfall Sluice	TA 327 067 (T)
Louth Canal	Tetney Sluice	TA 354 031 (T)
Old Fleet Drain	Tetney Sluice (North Coates)	TA 354 031 (T)
Seven Towns North Eau	Grainthorpe Sluice	TA 395 007 (T)
Seven Towns South Eau	Pyes Hall Sluice	TA 409 006 (T)
Grayfleet Drain	Saltfleet Haven Sluice	TF 456 934 (T)
Great Eau	Great Eau Sluice	TF 459 933 (T)
Mablethorpe Cut	Mablethorpe Sluice	TF 508 854 (T)
Woldgrift Drain	Trusthorpe Sluice	TF 514 841 (T)
Boygrift Drain	Huttoft Sluice and Pumping Station	
Anderby Main Drain	Anderby Sluice and Pumping Station	TF 546 760 (T)
Willoughby High Drain	Chapel Sluice and Pumping Station	TF 560 729 (T)
Ingoldmells Main Drain	Ingoldmells Point Sluice and Pumping Station	TF 571 684 (T)
Steeping	Wainfleet Haven Clough Sluice	TF 543 596 (T)
Steeping Relief Channel	Steeping Relief Channel Sluice	TF 552 587 (T)
Cowbank Drain	Pumps at Wainfleet Haven	TF 553 585 (T)
Witham	Grand Sluice, Boston	TF 323 445 (T)
Maud Foster	Maud Foster Sluice, Boston	TF 336 430 (T)
South Forty Foot Drain	Black Sluice, Boston	TF 327 428 (T)
Hobhole Drain	Hobhole Pumping Station and Sluice Fishtoft	TF 365 402 (T)
Hun	Sluice	TF 721 446 (T)
Burn	Near Burnham Norton	TF 835 439 (T)
Stiffkey	Stiffkey Greens	TF 988 441 (T)
Glaven	A149 Road Bridge (Cley next the sea)	TG 043 438 (T)

Watercourse 1	Demarcation Point 2	National Grid Reference (3)
Thorpeness Hundred	Sluice Cottage	TM 468 584 (T)
Lothingland Hundred	Benacre Pump	TM 536 845 (T)
Cove Run	B1127 Road Bridge	TM 509 791 (T)
Blyth	Blythburgh Bridge	TM 453 756
Wang	Wolsey Bridge, A1095	TM 472 768 (T)
Dunwich	Dunwich Bridge	TM 474 707
Minsmere	The Sluice	TM 477 662 (T)
Alde	Near B1069, The Maltings, Snape	TM 390 577 (T)
Butley	Butley Mills	TM 387 516 (T)
Deben	Wilford Bridge, Melton	TM 291 502 (T)
Fynn	Martlesham	TM 259 473 (T)
Shottisham Creek	Near Shottisham	TM 300 431 (T)
Mill	Kirton Creek	TM 291 415 (T)
Gipping/Orwell	Velocity Control Structure	TM 168 434
Belstead Brook	A137 Road bridge, South of Ipswich	TM 162 419 (T)
Bure (inc Ant and Thurne)	Five Mile House	TG 474 101
Yare	Six Mile House	TG 455 034
Waveney	Seven Mile House	TG 458 015
Mun	Mundesley Mill	TG 315 365
Welland	At confluence d/s of Fulney Lock and Coronation Channel	TF 259 242 (T)
Glen	Surfleet Seas End Sluice	TF 280 293 (T)
Nene	Guyhirn Road Bridge	TF 400 035
Vernatt's Drain	Vernatt's Bridge	TF 282 293 (T)
Risegate Eau	Risegate Outfall	TF 304 316 (T)
Lutton Leam	Leamlands Sluice	TF 486 263 (T)
South Holland Main Drain	Confluence with River Nene	TF 477 200 (T)
North Level Main Drain	Confluence with River Nene at Foul Anchor	TF 468 182 (T)

Note T = Tidal Limit

National Fisheries Byelaws 1996

The Environment Agency, in exercise of its powers under Section 210 and Schedule 25 of the Water Resources Act 1991 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, makes the following Byelaws.

1 Application of byelaws

These Byelaws shall apply to the area (specified in Section 6(7) of the Environment Act 1995) in respect of which the Agency carries out its functions relating to fisheries.
Confirmed 18/12/1996

2 Interpretation

- (1) In these Byelaws unless the context otherwise requires:-
 “Agency” means the Environment Agency;
 “Anglian Region” means the area of the Agency where the former Anglian Region of the National Rivers Authority carried out its functions in relation to fisheries under the Water Resources Act 1991 and which area is identified as the area of the Anglian Water Authority as provided by paragraph 1(2)(a) of Schedule 17 to the Water Act 1989.
 (the remainder of this subsection does not apply to the Anglian Region)
- (2) Except where expressly stated or where the context

otherwise requires all words and expressions used in these Byelaws shall have the meanings assigned to them by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, Water Resources Act 1991 and the Water Industry Act 1991.
Confirmed 18/12/1996

3 Migratory salmonid catch returns

- (1) Any person to whom a licence is issued by the Agency to fish by rod and line for salmon or migratory trout shall not later than the 1st day of January in the following year, make a return on a form provided by the Agency giving particulars of dates, the locations and the time spent fishing and the number and weight of any salmon or migratory trout caught (except in relation to small sea trout (500g or less) where only the number caught need be returned). This includes those returned alive giving details of whether they caught on fly, spinner or bait, or a statement that no salmon or migratory trout were caught by the licence holder.

- (2) Any person to whom a licence is issued by the Agency to fish with any instrument other than rod and line for salmon or migratory trout shall within 7 days of the end of each month during the fishing season make a return on a form provided by the Agency giving particulars and dates, the locations and the time spent fishing and the number and individual or aggregate weight of any salmon or migratory trout caught by each instrument, or a statement that no salmon or migratory trout were caught by the licence holder or his agents.
Confirmed 18/12/1996

4 Use of a gaff

The use of a gaff is prohibited at all times when fishing for salmon, trout, freshwater fish and freshwater eels.
Confirmed 14/03/1997

5 Keepnets, keepsacks and landing nets

- (1) Any persons shall be guilty of an offence, if after 1 April 1998, he uses:
- (a) a landing net with any knotted meshes or meshes of metallic material; or
 - (b) a keepnet –
 - (i) with any knotted meshes or meshes of metallic material; or
 - (ii) having any holes in the mesh larger than 25mm internal circumference;
- or;

- (iii) of less than 2.0 metres in length; or
 - (iv) with supporting rings or frames greater than 40cm apart (excluding the distance from the top frame to the first supporting ring or frame) or less than 120cm in circumference.
- © a keepsack –
- (i) not constructed of a soft, dark coloured, non-abrasive, water permeable fabric; or
 - (ii) having dimensions of less than 120 cm by 90 cm, if rectangular; or
 - (iii) 150 cm by 30 cm by 40 cm if used with a frame or designed with the intention that a frame be used.

- (2) Any person shall be guilty of an offence if, after 1st April 1998, he retains more than one fish in a single keepsack at any time.
- (3) This byelaw shall not apply to any keepnet or keepsack used for retaining eels which have been legally taken by instruments other than rod and line.
- (4) This byelaw was made taking into account of the requirement for notification to the European Commission under Council Directive 83/189/EEC
Confirmed 16/02/1998

6 Coarse Fish Close Season (England)

- (1) For the purposes of this Byelaw –
- (a) the meaning of the term “drain” is not confined to that assigned to it by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 or the Water Resources Act 1991;
 - (b) any lake, reservoir, pond or canal which discharges to any river, stream, or drain shall not itself be regarded as a river, stream, or drain;
 - (c) “The Broads” means the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads as defined in section 2(3) of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988;
 - (d) “Specified Sites of Special Scientific Interest” means those areas which have been notified by the Nature Conservancy Council for England pursuant to the provisions of section 28(1) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and which are listed in Schedule 3 to this Byelaw and shall include parts of areas which have been so notified if only parts of such areas are so listed.

- (e) “canal” means any artificial channel or cut of two hundred and fifty metres or more in length, which has artificially maintained water levels with negligible flow over a majority of its length, other than that derived from water resources or navigation, and a towpath over the majority of its length.
- (2) The annual close season for fishing for freshwater fish –
- (a) in rivers, streams, drains and waterways (other than canals);
 - (b) in all waters in the Specified Sites of Special Scientific Interest and the Broads;
 - (c) in all waters listed in Schedule 4 to this Byelaw;
- shall be the statutory period that is the period from and including the 15th day of March to and including the 15th day of June following.
- (3) In all other waters including canals there shall be no statutory close season for freshwater fish.
- (4) During the period from and including the 15th day of March to and including the 15th day of June following fishing by rod and line for eels is authorised in those waters where the statutory close season for freshwater fish has been dispensed with.

- (5) Existing byelaws which contain reference to “the annual close season for freshwater fish” shall henceforth be read and construed as if the said byelaws apply only to the waters in relation to which a close season for freshwater fish is imposed in Byelaw 6(2) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the relevant existing byelaws.

Confirmed 14/04/2000

[Regional Note for Anglers (not part of the byelaw) regarding interpretation of canal fisheries - although the annual statutory close season on canals was dispensed with under the byelaw above, the close season is retained at certain wildlife conservation sites. Also, some waterways are termed canals but are actually rivers, and the close season will continue to apply; waters in this category in Anglian Region are:

- *the Fosdyke Canal*
- *The Louth canal*
- *The Horncastle Canal*
- *The Dilham and North Walsham Canal]*

7 Rainbow Trout Close Season

The annual close season for fishing for rainbow trout by rod and line in all reservoirs, lakes and ponds shall be dispensed with, regardless of whether fish can or cannot normally swim from or to other waters.

Confirmed 14/03/1997

8 Use of rods

- (1) No person shall fish with more than one rod line at the same time when fishing for salmonids in all rivers, streams, drains and canals.
- (2) No person shall fish with more than two rods and lines at the same time when fishing for salmonids in all reservoirs, lakes and ponds.
- (3) No person shall fish with more than four rods and lines at the same time when fishing for coarse fish or eels.
- (4) When fishing with more than one rod and line at the same time, the aggregate number shall not exceed a total of four.
- (5) When fishing with multiple rods and lines, rods shall be placed such that the distance between the butts of the end rods does not exceed three metres.

Confirmed 14/03/1997

Schedule 3 (National Byelaw 6)

Specified Sites Of Special Scientific Interest

In this Schedule a group of two letters and six figures identifying or associated with any point represents the map co-ordinates of that point estimated to the nearest one hundred metres on the grid of the national reference system used by Ordnance Survey on its maps and plans.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Felmersham Gravel Pits	(SP991584)
Houghton Regis Marl Lakes	(TL008235)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Fowlmere Watercress Beds	(TL406454)
Grafham Water	(TL150680)
Holme Fen	(TL205895)
Little Paxton Pits	(TL200637)
Stow-Cum-Quy Fen	(TL515527)
Wicken Fen	(TL555700)
Woodwalton Fen	(TL230840)
Dogsthorpe Star Pit	(TF213025)
Nene Washes	(TL200977, TF395029)
Ouse Washes	(TL393747, TL571987)

ESSEX

Glemsford Pits	(TL840464)
Epping Forest	(TL475035, TQ405865)
Abberton Reservoir	(TL970180)
Colne Estuary	(TM075155)

LEICESTERSHIRE

Blackbrook Reservoir	(SK458174)
Barrow Gravel Pits	(SK568166)
Buddon Woods & Swithland Reservoir	(SK560145)
Cave's Inn Pits	(SP538795)
Empingham Marshy Meadows	(SK956093, SK957087)
Frisby Marsh	(SK686174)
Groby Pool & Woods	(SK521083)

NORFOLK

Didlington Park Lakes	(TL777963)
Dillington Carr, Gressenhall	(TF971158)
East Wretham Heath	(TL910882)
Gunton Park Lane	(TG221345)
Sea Mere, Hingham	(TG035012)
Stanford Training Area	(TL870940)
Thompson Water, Carr & Common	(TL930955)
Wretham Park Meres	(TL902918)
Westwick Lakes (excluding Captain's Pond)	(TG273274)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Higham Ferrers Gravel Pits	(SP945686)
Pitsford Reservoir	(SP780708)
Twywell Gullett	(SP947775)
Yardley Chase	(SP857540, SP841553)

SUFFOLK

Benacre to Easton Bavents	(TM537855)
Cavenham/Icklingham Heaths	(TL755733)
Lackford	(TL890710)
Lakenheath Poors Fen	(TL701827)
Minsmere/Walberswick Heaths & Marshes	(TM465662, TM465735)
North Warren & Thorpeness Mere	(TM460594)
Sizewell Marshes	(TM466638)
Stallode Wash, Lakenheath	(TL675853)

Schedule 4 (National Byelaw 6)

North East Region:-

Aire and Calder navigation between Castleford Weir and Ferrybridge Lock

Midlands Region

Stroudwater and Thames Canal

Anglian Region

Fosdyke Canal

Thames Region

Kennet and Avon Canal downstream of confluence with River Kennet at Kintbury

Lee navigation upstream of Aqueduct Lock

South West Region

Glastonbury

National Salmon Byelaws 1999

The Environment Agency, in exercise of its powers under Section 210 and Schedule 25 of the Water Resources Act 1991 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, makes the following Byelaws.

1 Application of byelaws

These Byelaws shall apply to the area (specified in Section 6(7) of the Environment Act 1995) in respect of which the Agency carries out its functions relating to fisheries.

These Byelaws shall cease to have effect at midnight on the 31st day of December 2008.

2 Interpretation

- (1) In these Byelaws unless the context otherwise requires:-
- “the Agency” means the Environment Agency;
 - “Anglian Region” means the area of the Agency where the former Anglian Region of the National Rivers Authority carried out its functions in relation to fisheries under the Water Resources Act 1991 and which area was identified as the area of the Anglian Water Authority as provided by paragraph 1(2)(a) of Schedule 17 to the Water Act 1989;

3 Annual Close Season for fishing for Salmon and Migratory Trout other than with rod and line

Notwithstanding the start date of the close season contained within existing fisheries byelaws, the annual close season for fishing for salmon and migratory trout, other than with rod and line, in any calendar year shall end on, and include, the 31st day of May, with the following exceptions:

- (1) All net fisheries in waters situated within the Anglian Region where the close season shall be from and including the 1st day of October to and including the 31st day of March following.
- (2) The seine net fisheries on the river Towy and its estuary where the annual close season shall be from and including the 1st day of August to and including the last day of February following.
- (3) The seine net fisheries on the river Teign and its estuary where the annual close season shall be from and including the 1st day of

September to and including the 14th day of March following.

- (4) The seine net fisheries on the river Dart and its estuary where the annual close season shall be from and including the 17th day of August to and including the 14th day of March following.
- (5) The use of a licensed T or J net in the North East Region where the annual close season shall be from and including the 1st day of September to and including the 25th day of March following.
- (6) The seine net fisheries on the river Fowey and its estuary where the annual close season shall be from and including the 1st day of September to and including the first day of March following.
- (7) The seine net fisheries in the coastal waters adjacent to West Wales where the annual close season shall be from and including the 31st day of August to and including the 31st day of March following.
- (8) The seine net fisheries on the river Nevern and its estuary where the annual close season shall be from the and including the 1st day of September to and including the 31st day of March following.
- (9) The seine net fisheries on the river Teifi and its estuary where the annual close season shall be from and including the 1st day of September to and including the 31st day of March following.
- (10) The seine net fisheries on the River Dyfi and its estuary where the annual close season shall be from and including the 1st day of September to and including the 31st day of March following.
- (11) The coracle net fisheries on the river Towy and its estuary where the annual close season shall be from and including the 1st day of August to and including the last day of February following.
- (12) The coracle net fisheries on the river Taf and its estuary where the annual close season shall be from and including the 1st day of August to and including the last day of February following.
- (13) The coracle net fisheries on the river Teifi and its estuary where the annual close season shall be from and including the 1st day September to and including the 31st day of March following.
Confirmed 13th April 1999

4 Early season catch and release for salmon in specified net fisheries

Any person who removes any live or dead salmon :-

- (a) from waters specified in any of sub-paragraphs (1) to (13) of Byelaw 3; and
 - (b) which has been taken by a means of net fishing specified in that sub-paragraph,
- without the written authority of the Agency before the 1st day of June in any calendar year shall be guilty of an offence.

This Byelaw shall not apply to any person who lawfully takes a salmon and returns it immediately to the water with the least possible injury.
Confirmed 13/04/1999

5 Early season catch and release for salmon with rod and line

Any person who removes any live or dead salmon taken by rod and line from any waters or banks without the previous written authority of the Agency before the 16th day of June in any calendar year shall be guilty of an offence.

This Byelaw shall not apply to any person who lawfully takes a salmon and returns it immediately to the water with the least possible injury.
Confirmed 13th April 1999

6 Early season method restriction for salmon with rod and line

Any person who fishes for, takes or attempts to fish for or attempts to take any salmon with rod and line by any means other than an artificial fly or artificial lure before the 16th day of June in any calendar year shall be guilty of an offence.

Confirmed 13th April 1999

National fisheries byelaws 2001

The Environment Agency, in exercise of its powers under Section 210 and Schedule 25 of the Water Resources Act 1991 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, makes the following Byelaws.

Confirmed by the Minister on 26th May 2001.

1 Application of byelaws

These Byelaws shall apply to the area (specified in Section 6(7) of the Environment Act 1995) in respect of which the Agency carries out its functions relating to fisheries.

2 Interpretation

- (1) In these Byelaws unless the context otherwise requires:-
“Agency” means the Environment Agency;
“Anglian Region” means the area of the Agency where the former Anglian Region of the National Rivers Authority carried out its functions in relation to fisheries under the Water Resources Act 1991 and which area was identified as the area of the Anglian Water Authority as provided by paragraph 1(2)(a) of Schedule 17 to the Water Act 1989;
- (2) Except where expressly stated or where the context otherwise requires all words and expressions used in these

Byelaws shall have the meanings assigned to them by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, Water Resources Act 1991 and the Water Industry Act 1991.

- (3) For the purpose of these Byelaws:-
 - (a) The meaning of the word drain shall not be confined to that assigned to it by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 or the Water Resources Act 1991.
 - (b) Any lake, reservoir or pond which discharges to any river, stream, canal or drain shall not itself be regarded as a river, stream, canal or drain.
 - (c) Non-native fish means either fish species not ordinarily resident in England or Wales or species included in Part 1 of Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

3 Use of crayfish as bait

Any person who in fishing for salmon, trout, freshwater fish or eels, uses as bait crayfish of any species whether alive or dead, or parts thereof, shall be guilty of an offence.

4 Otter guards

- (i) Failure to fit an otter guard to all eel fyke nets and eel traps where the entrance to the net or trap is greater than 95 millimetres internal diameter shall be an offence.
- (ii) The otter guard shall consist of either:-
 - (a) tightly stretched flexible netting with a mesh size measured when wet of not more than 75 mm knot to knot or 300mm round the perimeter; or
 - (b) a rigid square grid with bars separated by not more than 85mm; or
 - (c) a rigid ring with internal diameter of not more than 95mm; and shall be fitted to the funnel leading to the first chamber of the net or trap.
- (iii) The requirement for otter guards shall extend to the 6 mile limit in coastal waters.

7 Return of foul hooked fish

It shall be an offence to fail to return immediately all salmon, migratory trout or trout, hooked other than in the mouth or throat, to any river, stream, drain or canal.

8 Use of live fish for bait

Any person who takes fish for use as live bait shall be guilty of an offence unless the fish are retained at and used only in the water from which they were taken.

This Byelaw shall not apply to any

fish introduced as live bait under and in accordance with a consent issued under Section 30 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975

9 Eel net catch returns

Any person to whom a licence is issued by the Agency to fish with any instrument other than rod and line for eels shall, within 30 days of the expiry of the licence (or by 31 July for elvers), make a return on a form provided by the Agency giving details of the number of days fished, the location and type of water fished, the total weight of eels and/or elvers caught by that instrument and retained or (as the case may be) a statement that no eels or elvers have been caught and retained for each month during the licence period or be guilty of an offence.

10 Unattended rods

Any person who leaves a rod and line with its bait or hook in the water unattended or so that the person shall be unable at any time to take or exercise sufficient control over said rod and line shall be guilty of an offence.

11 Exemptions

These Byelaws shall not apply to any employee of the Agency acting in his official capacity or to any person who, with the permission in writing of the Agency and acting in accordance with any conditions attached to that permission, carries out work connected with the maintenance, improvement and development of fisheries or for scientific purposes.

National Eel Byelaws 2004

The Environment Agency, in exercise of its powers under section 210 of and Schedule 25 to the Water Resources Act 1991 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, makes the following Byelaws.

1 Application of byelaws

These Byelaws shall apply to the area (specified in Section 6(7) of the Environment Act 1995) in respect of which the Agency carries out its functions relating to fisheries.

2 Interpretation

- (1) In these Byelaws unless the context otherwise requires:-
 - “Agency” means the Environment Agency;
 - “Anglian Region” means the area of the Agency where the former Anglian Region of the National Rivers Authority carried out its functions in relation to fisheries under the Water Resources Act 1991 and which area was identified as the area of the Anglian Water Authority as provided by paragraph 1(2)(a) of Schedule 17 to the Water Act 1989;
- (2) Except where expressly stated or where the context otherwise requires, all words and expressions used in these Byelaws shall have the meanings assigned to them by the Environment Act 1995, Salmon

and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 and the Water Resources Act 1991.

- (3) For the purpose of these Byelaws, elver means an anguillid not exceeding 120mm in length.

3 Restrictions on fishing for eels and elvers

- (1) Any person who fishes for elvers on any watercourse in England or Wales, except on those draining to the sea between Compass Point in Bude, Cornwall, NGR SS198064 to the south, and Craig y Gwbert in Cardiganshire, NGR SN157502, and between Point of Ayr in Flintshire, NGR SJ130850, and Greenodd in Cumbria, NGR SD317827, shall be guilty of an offence.

4 Types of instrument for taking eels

- (1) It shall be an offence to use for the purpose of taking eels any instrument (other than rod and line) except those authorised by this Byelaw, namely:
 - (a) Permanently fixed structures, being devices for taking eels which are incorporated into permanently built structures such as weirs (weir traps), or

devices which are partly or wholly fixed permanently at one location (eel racks).

- (i) A weir trap shall be a fixed trap incorporated into a weir or outflow structure, in which water flows through a grating set to intercept eels. The gap between the parallel bars shall be no less than 12 mm, and the use of netting in the construction and operation of a weir trap is prohibited.
- (b) Moveable or temporarily fixed nets or traps that are not fixed permanently at one location.
 - (i) A trap shall be a putcheon, pipe trap, crigg, pot, basket, hive or like instrument (without leaders or wings), baited or unbaited, fitted with a single inscale (or two inscales if double ended). The dimensions of such a trap shall not exceed 2 metres in length, 75 cm in height, or 75 cm in width. Any trap shall not be hand-held or attached to any handle.
 - (ii) Fyke Net (leaderless/wingless)– shall be a conical net with inscales and a circular or D-shaped opening. The net shall not exceed 5 metres in length or 75 cm at its widest point.
 - (iii) Fyke Net (with leaders or wings) shall be a conical net with inscales and a circular or D-shaped opening, with not more than two leaders (or wings acting as leaders); each wing or leader shall not exceed 10 metres in length. The net, excluding wings or leaders, shall not exceed 5 metres in length or 1 metre at its widest point. The height of any wing or leader shall not exceed the width of the net opening at its widest point.
 - (d) Elver Dip Nets, being single, hand-operated devices solely for taking elvers, which are constructed in part or in whole of netting; the net frame shall be no greater than 1 metre at its widest point and 1.25 metres in overall length excluding the handle and the depth of the net or bag shall not exceed 1 metre. No elver dip net shall be used outside the area specified in Byelaw 3(1).

- (2) It shall be an offence to fail to return any salmon, migratory trout, trout or freshwater fish caught in any instrument licensed to take eels as soon as practicable to the same water from which it was taken and with as little injury as possible.

- (3) Except when taken in an elver dip net, it shall be an offence to fail to return any eel of less than 30 cm in length as soon as practicable to the same water from which it was taken and with as little injury as possible.
- (4) No part of any net, wing or leader (not being towed gear) shall be made of a mesh greater than 36 mm full stretched mesh. For the purposes of this Byelaw, any measurements made must conform to the procedures set out in Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2108/84 (as amended).
- (5) Except for an elver dip net, the use of any net for taking eels made wholly or partly of monofilament material is prohibited.

5 Mode of use of instruments for taking eels

- (1) Any person who, when placing or using any instrument for taking eels, other than permanently fixed structures, in any water in the Agency's area, sets it such that any part capable of retaining fish becomes completely exposed from the water and fails to inspect it and remove any fish caught before it is completely exposed, shall be guilty of an offence.

- (2) Any person who, when placing or using any instrument or groups of instruments for taking eels in any watercourse, sets them so that the width or combined width thereof exceeds one half the width of the watercourse, shall be guilty of an offence.
- (3) A fyke net and leader shall be fished parallel with the flow in the watercourse, and nets may only be set individually or in pairs and no part of any net or pair of nets shall be set closer than 30 metres to any part of any other net or pair of nets. This section shall only apply to the fyke nets set on non-tidal rivers, streams and drains.
- (4) Except where authorised by the Agency any person who fishes for eels with any instrument other than rod and line in any waters within 10 metres above and 10 metres below any dam or any obstruction, whether natural or artificial, which hinders the passage of eels, shall be guilty of an offence. The 10 metre limits referred to shall be measured from such point on the specified obstruction as shall be the furthest upstream or downstream extent respectively of the said obstruction, and this limit shall have effect and extend to the same extent on either bank of the relevant watercourse.

- (5) In addition to the restrictions on the use of elver dip nets in Byelaws 3(1) and 4(1)(d) the following shall apply:
- (i) It shall be an offence to fish with more than one elver dip net.
 - (ii) Any person who, when fishing an elver dip net fails to operate it by hand, shall be guilty of an offence.
 - (iii) Any person who operates an elver dip net from a boat or uses an elver dip net in conjunction with any other instrument or method, including ropes, chains or floats shall be guilty of an offence.
- (6) (i) Any person to whom a licence to use an instrument for taking eels or elvers has been issued who fails to attach a tag or label provided by the Agency for the current licence period to said instrument shall be guilty of an offence.
- (ii) Any person who fails to maintain the tag or label so attached to said instrument at all times shall be guilty of an offence.

6 Exemptions

These Byelaws shall not apply; where the use is authorised by the previous consent in writing of the Agency of any instrument in connection with scientific purposes, improvement or preservation of a fishery or any other purpose approved by the Agency, or the use of any instrument by an officer of the Agency acting in his official capacity; where the use of any net or other instrument is used by the owners or agents of fish farms engaged in the propagation or culture of fish in the normal course of business within the confines of such premises.

Crayfish Byelaws 2005

The Environment Agency, in exercise of its powers under section 210 of, and Schedule 25 to, the Water Resources Act 1991 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, makes the following Byelaws.

1 Application of byelaws

These Byelaws apply in relation to Wales.

These Byelaws shall apply to the whole of England being the area specified in Section 6(7) of the Environment Act 1995 in respect of which the Environment Agency carries out its functions relating to fisheries

2 Interpretation

“freshwater crayfish” means any crayfish belonging to the families *Astacidae*, *Cambaridae* or *Parastacidae*.

“non-native freshwater crayfish” means any species of freshwater crayfish other than White-Clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*).

“trap” means an implement or net, either baited or unbaited, without wings or leaders, which is attached to the bed of a water body or water course by weights or other means, or which is made stationary in any other way, into which freshwater crayfish may freely enter but which does not rely on freshwater crayfish becoming entangled or enmeshed to be caught.

“the Order” means the Prohibition of Keeping of Live Fish (Crayfish) Order

1996 (SI 1996 No.1104) as amended by the Prohibition of Keeping of Live Fish (Crayfish)(Amendment) Order 1996 (SI 1996 No. 1374).

Except where expressly stated or where the context otherwise requires, all words and expressions used in these Byelaws shall have the meanings assigned to them by the Environment Act 1995, Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, Water Resources Act 1991 and the Diseases of Fish Act 1937.

3 Use of traps

- (a) A person may place or use traps in inland waters for taking non-native freshwater crayfish in any postcode area set out in the Schedule to the Order subject to the written permission of the Environment Agency.
- (b) No person may place or use traps in inland waters for taking non-native freshwater crayfish in any postcode area not listed in the Schedule to the Order except for scientific, conservation or fisheries management purposes and with the written permission of the Environment Agency.

(c) No person may place or use traps in inland waters for taking white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) except for scientific, conservation or fisheries management purposes and with the written permission of the Environment Agency.

(c) Any written permission granted by the Environment Agency may prescribe the places where, and the times when, the placing and using of traps can be undertaken

4 Return of fish

Except where previously agreed in writing with the Environment Agency, all other species of fish or eels caught in the trap, shall be returned to the water as soon as is practicable and with as little damage as possible.

5 Crayfish returns

Except where previously agreed in writing with the Environment Agency a full and accurate return of crayfish caught, on a form to be provided by the Environment Agency, shall be made to the Environment Agency.

6 Size of entrance of traps

Except where previously agreed with the Environment Agency in writing the opening or entrance to any trap shall not exceed 200mm in diameter and the mesh size shall not exceed 30mm at its widest point.

7 Size of crayfish traps

Except where previously agreed with the Environment Agency in writing no trap shall exceed maximum dimensions of 600mm in length and 350mm at its widest point.

8 Identity marks on crayfish traps

Except where previously agreed in writing with the Environment Agency all traps shall be marked by an identity tag, previously obtained from the Environment Agency, which shall be fixed to the top front of the trap.

9 Otter guards

(a) All traps where the entrance to the trap is greater than 95mm internal diameter must be fitted with an otter guard.

(b) The otter guard shall consist of either:

- (i) tightly stretched flexible netting with a mesh size measured when wet of not more than 75mm knot to knot or 300mm round the perimeter; or
- (ii) a rigid square grille with bars separated by not more than 85mm; or
- (iii) a rigid ring guard with internal diameter of not more than 95mm; and shall be fitted to the funnel leading to the entrance of the trap.

10 Other permissions

Nothing within the provisions of these Byelaws shall alter the requirement of any person who applies for permission to trap crayfish from also obtaining the relevant permission of the owner or occupier of the fishery or from obtaining any relevant licence from any other organisation which may be required to take or attempt to take crayfish.

11 Exemptions

(a) These Byelaws shall not apply to any employee or agent of the Environment Agency acting in their official capacity, who carries out work in connection with the maintenance, improvement or development of fisheries or for scientific purposes.

(b) Owners of fish farms and their agents and employees are authorised to use traps for the taking of non-native freshwater crayfish in the normal course of fish farming activity within the confines of that fish farm and do not require written permission from the Environment Agency

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