



Our ref: Emergency Byelaw Extension

June 2020

Dear Netsman

Extension of emergency byelaw to protect salmon stocks throughout the Severn catchment

As a previous licence holder for a lave net, draft net or owner of historical installation, we're writing to you to inform you about necessary restrictions on salmon fishing in the River Severn estuary in 2020.

You will recall that last year the Environment Agency made an emergency byelaw which took effect on 15 June 2019 and was due to expire on 14 June 2020. The emergency byelaw made catch and release for lave nets compulsory and the prohibited the use of putchers ranks or a draft net within the Severn estuary.

The 2019 salmon stock assessment shows that stock levels for the rivers Severn, Wye and Usk catchments, which salmon from the Severn estuary migrate to, continue to be significantly below conservation limits. This decline in numbers means that every fish returned safely could contribute to improving the spawning population this autumn.

After considering our application for an extension of the emergency byelaw, the Under Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has extended the emergency byelaw for 6 months. Under the emergency byelaw, draft net and putcher fishing in the Severn estuary will be prohibited. Lave net fishing will operate on a catch and release basis only for the remainder of the current salmon fishing season, which lasts until 31 August 2020, in the Severn estuary.

The emergency byelaw also makes catch and release for rod and line fishing compulsory on the Severn for the remainder of the current rod season, which lasts until 7 October.

To apply for a Lave net licence for catch and release of salmon please contact the Brampton office fish movements team on the following number 0208 474 5243 where payment for your licence can be arranged. Please be aware due to the current limited COVID19 working restrictions, you may be put through to an answer machine, please leave your contact details so that an officer can call you back to arrange payment. Please do not leave a message with card or payment details.

You can contact the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506 if you have any questions.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in protecting salmon stocks on the Severn. We recognise the heritage of using nets for Salmon in the Severn estuary and will be in touch to discuss future plans to manage the salmon fishery

Yours sincerely



Kay Champion
Environment Manager