



Our ref: Emergency Byelaw Extension

June 2020

Dear Angler

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

As a rod and line angler, we're writing to you to inform you about necessary restrictions on salmon fishing in the River Severn and its 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 rod and line fishing compulsory on the River Severn and its tributaries.**

The 2019 salmon stock assessment shows stock levels for the River Severn catchment, 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. **This means that for the remainder of the current rod season, which lasts until 7 October 2020, the prohibition on retaining a salmon caught by rod and line will continue.** The extension of the emergency byelaw also means that both the prohibition on all draft net and putcher basket fishing in the Severn estuary and lave net fishing on a catch and release basis will continue for the next six months.

Information and a copy of the byelaw is available on our website:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/west-midlands/severn-estuary-salmon-protection-emergency-byelaw>

You can contact us on 03708 506 506 or via enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk if you have any questions. Please note due to the current health emergency we have reduced the times our phone lines are open (10am-4pm). This is under review and we hope to be able to extend them soon. The impact of COVID-19 on our teams means you may experience some delays in responses as most of our staff will be working from home.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in protecting salmon stocks on the Severn.

Yours sincerely



Kay Champion
Environment Manager – West Midlands