

	North-East Atlantic Commission <i>Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the United Kingdom)</i>	NEA(23)06 Agenda item: 5
---	--	--

***Mixed-Stock Fisheries
(Tabled by the United Kingdom)***

1) Brief description of existing MSFs

UK – England and Wales

Fishery	Method	No. Nets in 2021	Status
Anglian Coast	Drift	16	Being phased out- predominantly targets sea trout with mandatory C&R of all salmon from 2019
Severn Estuary	Putchers	0	Fishery closed by an emergency byelaw in 2019, which was extended until the new NLO and Byelaw was introduced in September 2021. Capped at 15 nets-heritage fishery with mandatory C&R of all salmon from 2019 Fishery closed by an emergency NLO in September 2021.
	Lave nets	8	
	Draft net	0	
North East Coast	Drift nets	0	Fishery closed by an emergency byelaw in 2019.
	T&J Nets	35	Being phased out- targets sea trout with mandatory C&R of all salmon from 2019

UK – Scotland

UK (Scotland) does not currently have any MSFs operating in Scotland. The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Regulations 2016 introduced a prohibition on retaining any salmon caught in coastal waters with effect from 31 March 2016. Scottish Ministers reviewed the prohibition in

March 2019 and decided it should continue unchanged. There are currently no plans to end the prohibition.

UK – Northern Ireland

There are no MSFs operating in Northern Ireland.

2) Recent catch data

UK – England and Wales

(provisional declared catch of salmon in 2020 – retained fish only)

Anglian Coast: 0

Severn Estuary: 0

North East Coast: 0

3) Updates to the Implementation Plan (IP) related to MSF

UK – England and Wales

The Implementation Plan (IP) for UK (England and Wales) was revised in 2013/14 to clarify the management of fisheries within estuaries. This stated that all fisheries within estuary limits, including MSFs exploiting a very limited number of stocks, are assumed to predominantly take fish that originated from waters upstream of the fishery. These fisheries are carefully managed at a local level to protect the weakest of the exploited stocks, guided by a decision structure and taking into account socio-economic factors and European Conservation status where applicable. This includes the fisheries in the Tamar/Tavy/Lynher and the Taw/Torridge estuaries and the Solway Firth. The same interpretation has been applied in the draft IP for 2019-24. Only coastal MSFs or those exploiting stocks from a wider area are reported on in this document.

The draft IP for 2019-24 (April 2020 version) submitted to NASCO documents that, in order to ensure that mixed stock fisheries do not pose unacceptable risks to stocks, E&W will introduce measures to phase out / regulate any remaining MSFs to reduce fishing mortality to sustainable levels in order to conserve stocks (in line with the NASCO Fishery Management Guidance - paragraph 2.7). Any estuarine MSFs will continue to be managed in order to safeguard the weakest contributing stock. Measures include:

- a) The drift net fishery on the NE coast closed in 2019 and mandatory C&R of salmon is required in the NE T&J (beach) net and Anglian coastal fisheries, with additional seasonal amendment to avoid excessive salmon bycatch.
- b) The 5-year review of the NLO for net fisheries in the Severn Estuary and the regulatory measures for fixed engines has been conducted and longer-term byelaws have been developed and formally consulted upon prior to seeking Ministerial confirmation.
- c) The 7-year review of the NLO for the remaining nets in the Anglian Coastal Fishery will be conducted and the NLO (license numbers) and Byelaws (fishing periods and gear) amended as appropriate in 2023.
- d) The 10-year review of the NLO for the remaining T&J (beach) nets in the NE coast fishery has been conducted and the NLO (license numbers) and Byelaws (fishing periods and gear) amended as appropriate. It awaits Ministerial confirmation.

4) Changes or developments in the management of MSFs in this IP period to implement NASCO's agreements

UK – England and Wales

The introduction of the new national measures in England (2019) and Wales (2020) means there was no salmon retained in coastal MSFs in UK (England and Wales) in 2021.

Anglian Coast: This fishery predominantly exploits sea trout and remains subject to a phase-out (i.e. there is no transfer of licenses, so licence numbers decline as fishers leave the fishery). Under new national measures for England approved in December 2018, it became mandatory to release any salmon caught in the fishery from 2019.

Severn Estuary: The Net Limitation Order (NLO) for the draft net fishery imposed a phase-out (target of zero nets) and the NLO for the lave net fishery imposed a reducing Order aimed at restricting the number of licenses to 15. This NLO expired in May 2019. Owing to concerns with stock status on the River Severn following the 2018 salmon stock assessment, as well as concerns with stock status on neighboring catchments (Wye and Usk), an Emergency Byelaw was implemented requiring 100% C&R for the Severn rod fishery and Severn Estuary lave (hand held) net fishery. The emergency byelaw also closed the draft nets and fixed engines (putcher ranks) operating in the Severn Estuary. Longer term byelaws were introduced in September 2021.

North East Coast: the NLO was remade in 2012 and continues to impose a phase-out on the beach (T&J) nets. Under new national measures for England approved in December 2018, the drift net fishery was closed, bringing forward the closure date previously set for the end of the 2022 netting season. In addition, new restrictions come into force for the T&J net fishery from 2019. These shorten the fishing season in some districts and impose mandatory release of any salmon caught. Fishers are thus only permitted to land sea trout and allowed to operate their nets in areas/times when sea trout typically predominate in the catch.

Note also that the **Tamar/Tavy/Lynher and Taw/Torridge** estuaries fisheries were closed in 2019, and the **Solway Firth** fisheries required compulsory C&R of salmon from 2019.