Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the United Kingdom)

Brief description of existing Mixed Stock Fisheries (MSFs)

UK – England and Wales

In England and Wales, the harvesting of salmon within MSFs is prohibited, following the implementation of national byelaws in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

Remaining mixed stock salmonid net fisheries are permitted to harvest sea trout only, with mandatory release of all salmon that are caught incidentally. The coastal mixed stock sea trout net fisheries (Anglian Coast drift nets and Northeast Coast T&J nets) are being phased out through the implementation of reducing Net Limitation Orders (NLOs) to zero nets. This reflects the national policy decision, made on conservation grounds, to phase out all coastal mixed stock fisheries for both salmon and sea trout.

In the Severn Estuary, where few sea trout have been captured historically, Putcher and Draft net fisheries have been prohibited since 2019. The heritage handheld lave net fishery has been allowed to continue within the Severn estuary, on a catch and release basis only, reflecting their very low impact and heritage status.

Fishery	Method	No. Nets in 2025	Status
Anglian Coast	Drift nets	10 (the same in 2024)	The Anglian coastal net fishery is currently subject to a reducing NLO with an intention to phase it out in the long term. Under the NLO, the 12 nets can continue to operate if the netsmen obtain a licence annually, until such time that those netsmen cease fishing. This fishery harvests sea trout only with mandatory C&R of all salmon from 2019.
Severn Estuary	Putchers Draft net Lave nets (English)	0 0 4 (from 6 in 2024)	The salmon net fisheries on the English side of the Severn estuary were closed by an emergency salmon protection byelaw in 2019. A subsequent review of the emergency byelaw and Severn Estuary NLO in England continued to prohibit both putcher and draft net fisheries. However, reflecting the heritage of the handheld lave net fishery and its very low impact on salmon, a maximum of 22 lave nets have been made available in England. These nets are allowed to fish on a catch and release basis only. Only 4 English lave net licences were taken up in 2025. In Wales, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) licenced 7 handheld lave nets, as part of the heritage Black Rock lave net fishery, on a catch and release basis only.

Fishery	Method	No. Nets in 2025	Status
	Lave nets (Welsh)	7 (8 in 2024)	
Northeast Coast	Drift nets	0	Salmon harvesting has been prohibited in the Northeast coastal net fishery through the implementation of the national salmon and sea trout Protection Byelaws 2019. The 2019 national byelaw permanently closed the drift net fishery with the remaining shore-based T&J nets only allowed to harvest sea trout. Additionally, season adjustments have been implemented for the T&J net fishery to reduce the risk of salmon bycatch. The Northeast coast T&J net fishery for sea trout is managed through a reducing NLO to zero nets. This was last renewed and confirmed at Ministerial level in 2023.
	T&J nets	27 (30 in 2024)	

UK – Northern Ireland

There are currently no MSFs operating in Northern Ireland.

UK – Scotland

There are currently no 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.