

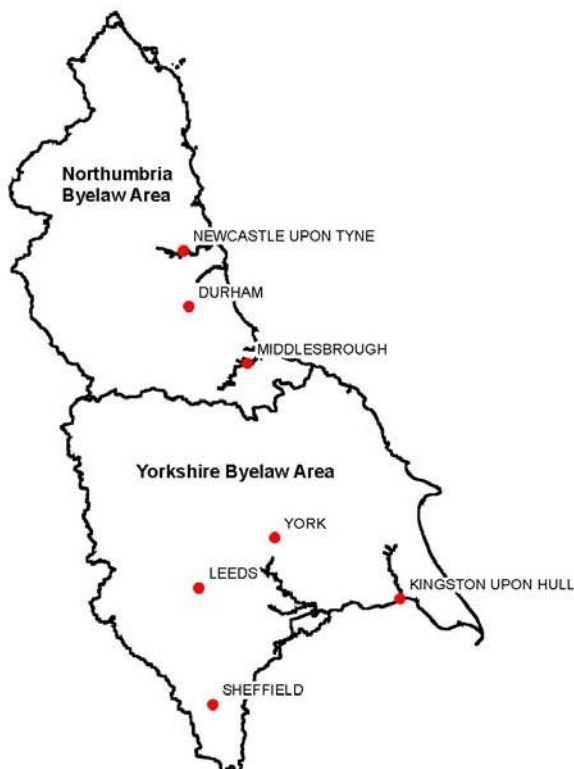
fisheries byelaws for the North East

The Environment Agency maintains, improves and develops fisheries within the North East. The money required to do this comes largely from rod licence fees.

This information is for guidance only. It is not intended to be a legal interpretation of the byelaws. A full copy of the byelaws can be obtained from the Environment Agency Yorkshire and North East Region, 21 Park Square South, Leeds, LS1 2QG

At present three sets of byelaws operate in different parts of the Region:

- North East byelaws apply to the whole Region (and incorporate national byelaws);
- In waters within the Tess catchment and all catchments north of the Tees, the Northumbria byelaws apply;
- In waters to the south of this, the Yorkshire byelaws apply



Remember all anglers aged 12 years or over must be in possession of a valid Environment Agency rod licence before starting to fish. All fishing belongs to someone, make sure you have permission from the owner before you start to fish.

North east byelaws

These byelaws apply to all parts of Yorkshire and Northumbria.

Freshwater fish removal byelaw

On rivers you may not take any coarse fish, smelt, shad or eels except that you may take:-

Pike – one fish per day of less than 65cm
Grayling – two fish per day of between 30 and 38cm

A total of 15 small fish (up to 20cm) per day including barbel, chub, common bream, common carp, crucian carp, dace, perch, rudd, silver bream, roach, smelt and tench, plus any hybrids of these species

On stillwaters and canals you may only take freshwater fish with the written permission of the fishery owner or occupier. (NB canals are defined as those canals where the coarse fish close season has been removed).

Coarse fish close season

It is unlawful to fish for coarse fish from 15 March to 15 June inclusive on any river, stream, drain or waterway (other than canals). With the exception of the Aire and Calder Navigation between Castleford and Ferrybridge Lock there is no statutory close season on any canals, reservoirs, lakes or ponds for coarse fish in the North East Region. However, individual owners may close their fisheries if they wish. Always check before you fish.

It is unlawful to fish for migratory trout from 1 November to 2 April inclusive.

Number of rods

When fishing for salmon, trout or char, it is unlawful to use more than 1 rod and line in any river, stream, drain or canal or more than 2 rods and lines in any Stillwater.

When fishing for coarse fish or eels it is unlawful to fish with more than 4 rods and lines. When fishing with more than 1 rod and line, the distance between the butt ends of the 2 outside rods must not exceed 3 metres.

Unattended rods

It is unlawful to leave a rod and line in the water which is unattended or over which control cannot be affected.

Keepnets

Keepnets must be made of knotless non-metallic material to avoid damage to the fish and should be at least 200cm long. Supporting rings must be less than 40cm apart.

Keepsacks

Keepsacks must be made of soft, dark coloured, non-abrasive water permeable material and should be at least 120 cm by 90cm (or 150 by 30 by 40cm if used with a frame). Not more than 1 fish may be kept in a keepsack at a time.

Landing nets

Landing nets must be made of knotless, non-metallic material.

Fishing weights

No fishing weights made of lead may be used except those of 0.06grams or less and those of more than 28.35grams. In angling terms this means that lead shot from size 14 to size 8 and lead weights of over 1 ounce can be used in fishing.

Lures and baits

On waters where the close season for freshwater fish applies the only lures or baits which may be used during the close season are natural or artificial fly, minnow, worm, shrimp, prawn, sand eel or artificial lures. It is an offence to fish for salmon by means other than an artificial fly or artificial lure before 16 June.

Fish taken for use as live bait may only be used on the water from which they have been taken.

It is an offence to use crayfish (alive or dead) as bait at any time.

It is an offence to use the roe of any fish as bait at any time.

Nothing in these byelaws permits fishing for coarse fish including pike during the coarse fish close season on waters where the close season applies.

Fishing near obstructions

Fishing within a distance of 25 metres upstream and 95 metres downstream of the following structures is prohibited at the dates and times specified.

At any time:-

Framwellgate Dam (R. Wear), Ferens Dam (R. Gaunless), Tees Barrage (R. Tees), Broken Scar (R. Tees), Keilder Dam (downstream only – R. North Tyne), Ruswarp Weir (R. Esk – to downstream side of Ruswarp road bridge)

At night:-

Guyzance Mill (R. Coquet), Pauperhaugh Bridge (R. Coquet), Wylam Bridge (R. Tyne), Dales House Weir (Dale House Beck)

At night and at any time during September, October and November:-

R. Aln – Lesbury Weir, Denwick bottom Dam, Denwick Dam, Cannongate Dam, Filberthaugh Weir, Hulne Park Weir
R.Coquet – Coquet Lodge Dam, Acklington Dam, Felton
R. Blyth – Humford Dam
R. Wansbeck – Bothal Dam, Sheepwash Weir, Morpeth East Mill, Highford Dam, Olives Mill
R.Tyne – Riding Mill Weir, Hexham Bridge Weir, Devils Water Dam, Derwenthaugh Weir, Haltwhistle Weir, Featherstone Weir, Haydon Bridge Weir, Catton Bridge, Whitfield Dam, Chollerford Weir, Otterburn Mill Weir, Tarret Burn Burnmouth Falls, Esp Mill Falls, Roses Bower Falls
R. Wear – Prebends, Chester-le-Street Weir, Burn Hall Weir, Wallnook Dam, Black Ling Hole, Bedburn Gauging Weir, Jocks Bridge Weir, Burtree Falls
R.Tees – Low Force (Holwick Falls), High Force, Bowes Falls, Bowlees Falls

Fishing methods

All methods of fishing other than using a licensed rod and line or licensed net are prohibited.

Foul hooking

Any fish that is hooked other than in the throat or mouth must be returned to the water immediately with as little injury as possible.

Use of gaffs

The use of gaffs is prohibited at all times of year.

Night fishing

Fishing in rivers, streams and drains for salmon or migratory trout between the end of the first hour after sunset and the beginning of the first hour before sunrise shall be an offence unless the bait used consists of a natural or artificial fly with each hook not exceeding 10mm in diameter.

Salmon and sea trout

All salmon caught before 16 June must be returned to the water immediately with as little injury as possible.

Catch returns

Details of each years rod catches of salmon and migratory trout, including dates, locations and times spent fishing must be submitted to the Environment Agency by 1 January on a form provided by the Agency. If you have fished for salmon or sea trout you must make a declaration even if you have not caught any fish.

Northumbria byelaws

These byelaws apply on all waters in the Region from and including the River Tees northwards but not including the River Tweed and any of its tributaries.

Salmon and trout close seasons

The close season for salmon is from 1 November to 31 January inclusive

The close season for all non-migratory trout on rivers, streams, drains and canals and for brown trout on all waters other than enclosed stillwaters and on those listed below is 1 October to 21 March inclusive.

The close season for brown trout on Kielder

Water, Broomlee Lough, the Derwent Reservoir and East and West Hallington

reservoirs is from 1 November to 30 April inclusive

There is no close season for rainbow trout on any stillwater or for brown trout on enclosed stillwaters.

Size limits

It is illegal to take fish less than the size limits listed below (measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail). Undersized fish must be returned to the water immediately.

Salmon — 30cm

Migratory Trout — 25.4cm

Non Migratory Trout:

R. Tees below Egglestone Abbey
Bridge — 22.5cm

R. Wear below Harelaw Bridge — 22.5cm

R. Coquet below Pauperhaugh
Bridge — 22.5cm

R. Tyne below Hexham Bridge — 22.5cm

R. Tees and tributaries above
High Force — 17.5cm

R. Lune and tributaries above
Selsset Reservoir — 17.5cm

R. Balder and tributaries above
Balderhead Reservoir — 17.5cm

Kilton Beck and tributaries above
Lockwood Beck Res. — 17.5cm

Burnhope Burn and tributaries
above Burnhope Res. — 17.5cm

Waskerley Beck and tributaries
Above Tunstall Res. — 17.5cm

Any other waters covered by
Northumbria byelaws — 20cm

Yorkshire byelaws

These byelaws apply on all waters within the Region southwards of, but not including the River Tees and its tributaries.

Salmon and trout close seasons

The close season for salmon is from 1 November to 5 April inclusive

The close season for all non-migratory trout in rivers, streams, drains and canals and for brown trout in all waters other than enclosed stillwaters, is from 1 October to 24 March inclusive.

There is no close season for rainbow trout in any stillwater or for brown trout on enclosed stillwaters.

Keepnets

Keepnets cannot be used on waters where there is a close season for coarse fish during that period.

Size limits

It is an offence to kill or take away any trout of less than 23cm. The length is measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

Bag limits

Not more than six trout may be taken away in one day without the written consent of the owner or occupier of the fishery. Day or season tickets sometimes state higher bag limits and this may be taken as written consent. Any lower limits on a ticket must be observed.

River Esk conservation area

Fishing with a rod and line for salmon or migratory trout is prohibited in the River Esk between Ruswarp Weir and a line drawn due west across the river from the southern-most end of Eskside Wharfe in Whitby.

Fishing with a rod and line for any kind of fish is prohibited in this area from 8pm or one hour after sunset (whichever is earlier) and 6am the following morning.

Guidelines for sensible fishing

These suggestions are not byelaws or other regulations but if followed will make fishing safer and more enjoyable for you and for others.

Always have regard for other anglers and water users when fishing to make being by the water a more enjoyable experience for all.

Never leave litter or discarded tackle when you finish fishing. This can be dangerous for wildlife and is not pleasant for other people.

Use tackle which is appropriate for the size of fish you are trying to catch – this will improve your success and avoid the risk of fish breaking your tackle.

Be safe when fishing – avoid fishing near overhead cables. Electricity can arc from power lines to carbon rods or poles.

If you are fishing alone tell people where you are going and when you expect to return.