

National eel and elver fishing byelaws

Otter Guards – national byelaw 4, confirmed 26 April 2001

- (i) Failure to fit an otter guard to all fyke nets and eel traps where the entrance to the net or trap is greater than 95 millimetres internal diameter shall be an offence.
- (ii) The otter guard shall consist of either:
 - (a) tightly stretched flexible netting with a mesh size measured when wet of not more than 75mm knot to knot or 300mm round the perimeter; or
 - (b) a rigid square grid with bars separated by not more than 85mm; or
 - (c) a rigid ring with internal diameter of not more than 95mm;and shall be fitted to the funnel leading to the first chamber of the net or trap.
- (iii) The requirements for otter guards shall extend to the 6 mile limit in coastal waters.

Catch returns – national byelaw 7, confirmed January 2011

Any person to whom an authorisation is issued by the Agency to fish with any instrument, other than rod and line, for eels shall, within 30 days of the expiry of the authorisation, make a return on a form provided by the Agency giving details of the number of days fished, the location and type of water fished, the total weight of eels and/or elvers caught by that instrument and retained or (as the case may be) a statement that no eels or elvers have been caught and retained for each month during the authorisation period or be guilty of an offence.