

Elver net fishing

Standard authorisation conditions

Introduction

All authorisations issued in England and Wales will be subject to certain standard conditions. These are listed below and are also available from www.environment-agency.gov.uk/net-fishing. We will only change these standard conditions in consultation with fishers and on approval by government.

You must also submit a catch return to the Environment Agency by the 25th June of the same year. Your catch return form will be enclosed with your authorisation. You may also download this from <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/net-fishing>.

Standard conditions

What

- The authorisation holder is only authorised to use a single, hand-operated device for taking elvers (an elver dip net). For the purpose of this authorisation, elvers are defined as eels not exceeding 120 mm in length.
- The authorisation holder may only use an elver dip net that meets the following specifications:
 - the depth of the net or bag must not exceed 1 metre;
 - it must be constructed in part or in whole of netting, and the net frame shall be no greater than 1 metre at its widest point and 1.25 metres in overall length, excluding the handle.
 - Any authorisation holder fishing on the river Parrett may only use an elver dip net where the handle does not exceed 3 metres in length from its junction with the net frame to its end, and be of rigid design.

When

- The authorisation holder may only fish for elvers between the 15 February and 25 May in any year, both dates inclusive.

Where

Depending on whether you are fishing the Bristol Channel rivers or those in the northwest –

- The authorisation holder may only fish for elvers in waters draining to the sea between Compass Point in Bude, Cornwall (NGR SS 198 064) to the south, and Craig y Gwbert in Cardiganshire (NGR SN 157 502);

or:

Standard authorisations conditions – elver dip nets

- The authorisation holder may only fish for elvers in waters draining to the sea between Point of Ayr in Flintshire (NGR SJ 130 850) and Mearness Point in Cumbria (NGR SD 321 817).

How

- Unless otherwise authorised, the authorisation holder must return any salmon, migratory trout, trout, lamprey, shad, smelt or freshwater fish caught in any instrument authorised to take eels, as soon as practicable to the same water from which it was taken and with as little injury as possible.
- The authorisation holder must only operate an elver dip net by hand. Once you have removed both hands from the net, the net must not be capable fishing unaided.
- The authorisation holder must not operate an elver dip net from a boat.
- The authorisation holder must not use an elver dip net in conjunction with any other instrument or method, or that has any other attachment that aids fishing.
- Except where authorised, the authorisation holder must not fish for elvers with any instrument, other than rod and line, in any waters within 10 metres above and 10 metres below any inlet or outlet of any dam or any obstruction, whether natural or artificial and whether containing a fish pass or not, which hinders the passage of elvers. (The 10 metre limits referred to shall be measured from such point on the obstruction as shall be the furthest upstream or downstream extent respectively of the said inlet or outlet of the dam or obstruction, and this limit shall have effect and extend to the same extent on either bank of the relevant water).
- The authorisation holder must attach the tags provided by the Agency with this authorisation to the instruments for which this authorisation applies. You must make sure that these tags are attached to the instruments at all times whilst fishing.
- The authorisation holder must carry their authorisation with them when fishing and make it available to an Environment Agency officer on demand.

