

Environment Agency Eel and Elver Fishing Guidance

How to obtain an eel fishing licence

To obtain an application form for an eel and elver fishing licence contact, Fisheries Permitting Team, Environment Agency, Bromholme Lane, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 4NE. Tel: 01480 483 844/968. Email: fmapplications@environment-agency.gov.uk. Alternatively, application forms can also be obtained from the forms, books and guidance page of the eFish Business website (www.efishbusiness.co.uk).

Where a licence applies

A fishing licence issued by the Environment Agency does not give the right to fish. Permission must be obtained from the water owner before fishing can take place.

Licences are not transferable between instrument operators or Environment Agency Regions. If you intend to fish in more than one region, you must obtain a licence for each region you would like to fish. The only exception is where there are estuaries shared by more than one region (Thames and Humber for example), where licences for wingless and winged traps may be issued for the water body that lies in more than one region.

Permitted Eel Fishing Instruments and Locations

There are certain restrictions on where each type of instrument can be used. These are summarised below. **Please refer to Map 1 and enclosed byelaw book for further information regarding authorised eel fishing instruments and locations.**

Instrument	Where they can be used
Permanently fixed traps	The whole of England and Wales except North East Region, non tidal rivers in Devon and Cornwall and the River Esk.
Small wingless traps	The whole of England and Wales except non-tidal rivers in Devon and Cornwall and parts of North East Region as defined in Regional Byelaws on pages 8-10 of enclosed byelaw booklet
Winged traps	The whole of England and Wales except non-tidal rivers in Devon and Cornwall and parts of North East region as defined in Regional Byelaws on pages 8-10 of enclosed byelaw booklet.
Gloucester wing nets	River Severn within Midlands region only.
Hand held elver dip nets	Restricted to parts of Midlands, South West and North West Regions as defined in National Byelaw 3 (page 4 of enclosed byelaw booklet).

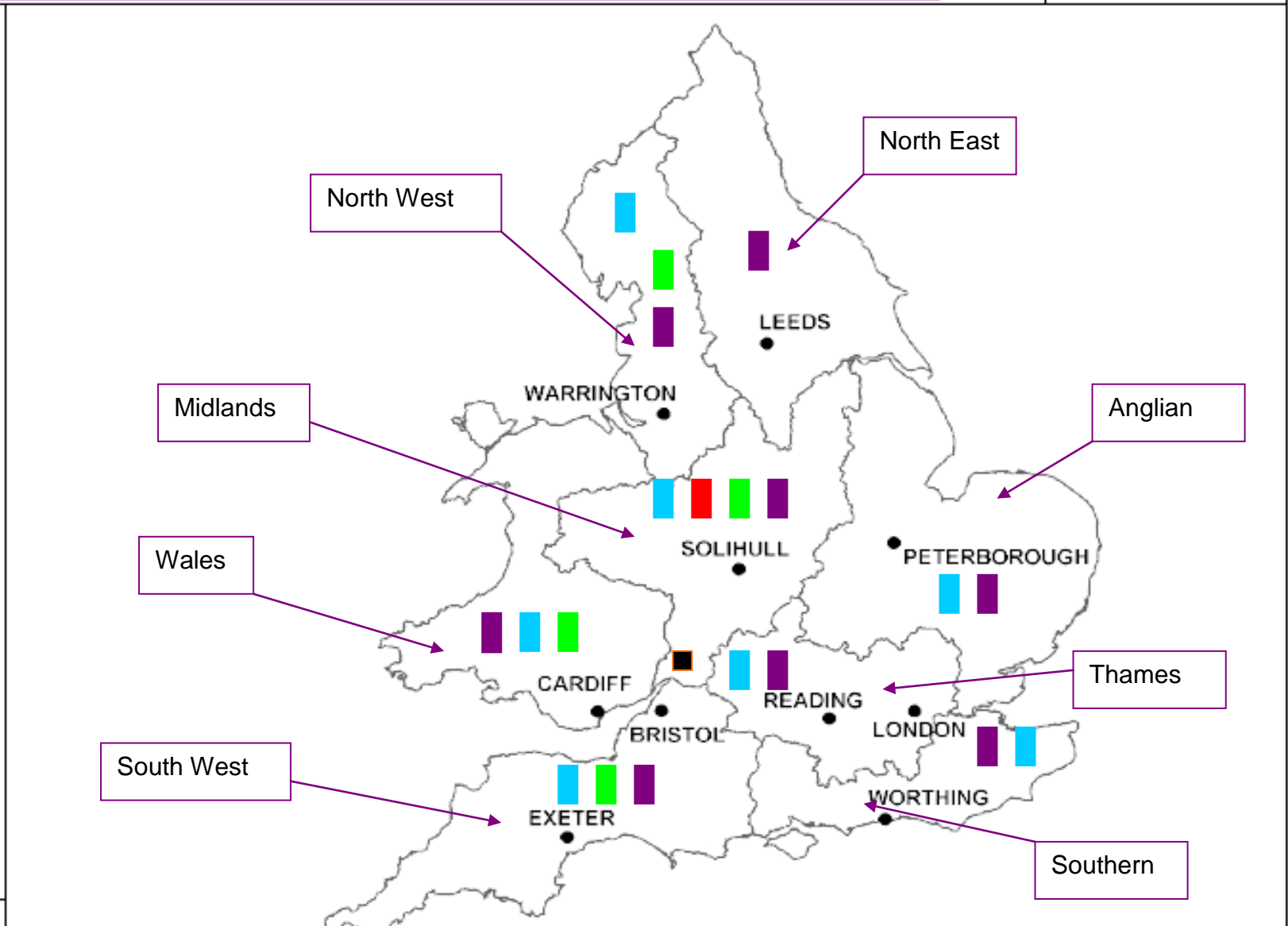
Please note that under Section 21 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 it is illegal to set instruments to catch eels in rivers frequented by salmon or sea trout before 25th June. Baited traps not exceeding 10 inches are excluded, as is any device authorised by the Environment Agency.

Map showing the 8 regions of the Environment Agency and the instruments permitted for eel/elver trapping within those regions.



Key

- Fixed Traps
- Small Wingless Traps
- Winged Traps/Fyke Nets
- Gloucester Wing Nets
- Elver Dip Nets
- Gloucester



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