

ISSUE REPORT COMMENTS Fisheries

Comment No	Full Organisation Name	Chap. No	Relevant Issue No	Comment Text
128	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	11.		The entry for the Environment Agency should read "The Environment Agency is responsible for managing salmonid, freshwater and eel fisheries in the estuary and tributary rivers. It may, subject to Ministerial approval, make byelaws and orders to regulate fishing, and also administers the net and rod licensing system.
129	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	11.	Map 11	The legend for the EA could be amended to read "Southern Limit of the Environment Agency's (Welsh Region) jurisdiction."
130	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	11., 13.	F1.	No mention has been made of the potential effects of piscivorous birds (cormorants, goosanders, etc.) on the salmon stocks. MAFF is the licensing body for licences to control piscivorous birds damaging fisheries.
131	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	11.	F1., F2., F3.	MAFF/WOAD should be included amongst those involved in confirming authorities for orders reducing licence numbers and byelaws.

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134	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	11.	F5.	WOAD should be added.
135	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	11.	F6.	Could be reworded to reflect the fact that a joint MAFF/EA research project is being set up to study the sustainable management of stocks in England and Wales. This will assess the status of river stocks; establish a recommended methodology for future monitoring of stock and fisheries; design a research programme into the mortality of eels in freshwater; investigate the habitat requirements of eels and changes in habitat availability which have taken place over the last 25 years' and review the management options for sustainable eel stocks and fisheries.
218	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	8., 11., 10.		Some CLA members are fishery owners, and are consequently concerned about both water quality, maintenance of fish stocks and river flows.

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225	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	11.		CLA believe not enough interest is shown in or concern for whitefish in the estuary.
226	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	11.		Poaching and illegal netting are important issues and have a serious effect on fish stocks.
227	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	11.		The water quality of the estuary is a very important issue.
228	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	11.	F6.	The state of elver stocks has now reached the level at which byelaws should now shorten the season in order to conserve stocks. It does not seem sensible to sell elvers abroad to other fisheries to restock their rivers when the Severn is in such a poor state itself.

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229	Country Landowners Association, Gloucestershire	11.	F7.	Access with angling clubs is the landowner's best method of providing access and avoiding lawlessness and litter. Such negotiations should be encouraged.
367	Youth Hostels Association	11.	T6., F7.	Where access to the shore for fishermen is currently not easy, a bankside concessionary footpath would be of benefit to many countryside users.
465	South Gloucestershire Council	11., 13.		This should mention the potential for impact of Angling on wildlife and Nature Conservation interests, as was highlighted (as a new issue) for Ch 6, but also making special mention of impact on rare and endangered species (e.g. addis shad (fish)), and the need for conservation and enhancement programmes.
528	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	11.		It is wondered whether 'Lave Net' salmon fishing is now only practised in the Lydney area - it is thought that at least one Oldbury-on-Severn fisherman used this method in the early 1980's.

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529	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	11., 6., 12., 13.	F4., F6.	<p>People fishing for elvers can also cause problems on the Wye between Brockweir and Bigsweir, more due to car parking difficulties than for any other reason. It seems to be a thriving industry, with accompanying refreshment facilities at Bigsweir, and is popular with families from the Welsh Valleys. (See also inf re. elver issue in Ch 2. p28).</p>
643	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	11.	Map 11	<p>The Brockweir to Bigsweir stretch of the Wye is very popular for elver fishing. Lack of delineation suggests that it is unlicensed ... is this so?</p>
644	CPRE, Avon / CPRW, Monmouthshire	11.		<p>That illegal fishing for elvers and eels may play a part in the unacceptable stock reduction.</p>
742	The Ports Panel	11., 15.		<p>For final framework document - suggested statement outlining the basic requirements of this chapter.</p> <p>"To support and promote sustainable exploitation of the Severn's fisheries through appropriate regulation to protect estuarine habitats and a healthy food chain whilst recognising the value of the fisheries to local communities."</p>

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767	Individual	11.	F6.	Urgent action to curtail and effectively control elvering is needed now - not further monitoring. Lack of evidence is not an issue, it is driven by greed.
768	Individual	11., 15.	F6., M3.	Statement 'contribution to the local economy' - needs to be challenged. Plagued with unlicensed unlawful pollution by elverers. Few are local, all are motivated by greed and have little respect for the law. Local people elvering on the small scale pushed aside by the 'big boys' who are inadequately controlled by both the police and the Environment Agency.
804	Individual	11.		The Bristol Channel / Severn Estuary supports the interests of thousands of anglers. The waters support a tremendous variety of life that attracts a wide variety of fish. Most anglers (particularly boat anglers) return most of their catch to the sea.
806	Individual	11.		Wish to maintain the fishery and related sport for present and future generations.
837	Berrow PC	11.	F6.	Is there an 'Elver Season'? Is there a limit on the number of licences issued?

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838	Berrow PC	11.	F6.	If the practice is allowed to continue, there will be a long-term detrimental effect on the food-chain / balance of nature, as birds such as herons feed on mature eels.
845	Individual	11.	F6.	The glass eel fishery (elver fishery) is the most important (highest economic value) commercial fishery in the Severn. It contributes some £5million into the local economy per annum. It is very important that the industry is represented.
927	Wye Valley Preservation Society	11.	F1., F6.	The over-fishing of the river (legally and illegally) for salmon and elvers is of deep concern to the society.
943	Individual	11.	F5.	Standardise regulations - ensure that future funding of South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee (currently in doubt).