

by email: jonathan.shelley@environment-agency.gov.uk

Dear Jon,

North East Coast Net Limitation Order Review

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the review of the NLO for the North East Coast. I hope that this slightly late contribution will be accepted.

The Institute of Fisheries Management believes that the Precautionary Approach to fisheries management, as recommended by NASCO for the management of salmon fisheries, should equally be applied to sea trout. Apart from the NLOs, this has largely been achieved using byelaws. The 2018 national salmon and sea trout protection byelaws almost eliminated net catch mortalities of salmon, and sea trout catches were reduced alongside the reduced netting seasons for sea trout in different districts. A trial of season extension concluded, after public consultation and a careful evaluation of all the evidence, that the current sea trout netting season dates in each district in the Yorkshire and North East net fishery should be maintained.

We agree with the four options identified for managing the fishery after expiry of the current NLO in December 2022.

Option 2 is the only option that allows reduction in risk to sea trout stocks whilst minimising socio-economic effects. The reducing number of licensees under this option will continue to reduce exploitation of sea trout stocks, but still maintain economic activity for the local inshore fishing industry who target marine species at other times, often using similar equipment. For those businesses continuing to rely on access to the seasonal salmonid fishery this option would reduce economic uncertainty and give more time to adjust and adapt their activities accordingly.

This option also allows an element of self-policing and co-operative involvement of North East IFCA in enforcement of the NLO and salmon and sea trout byelaws whilst enforcing the regulations that apply to marine fish species.

Yours sincerely,



David Bunt
Chief Executive

david.bunt@ifm.org.uk
07770 793900