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## Fisheries Statistics 2006

Salmonid and freshwater fisheries statistics for England and Wales, 2006

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Published by:

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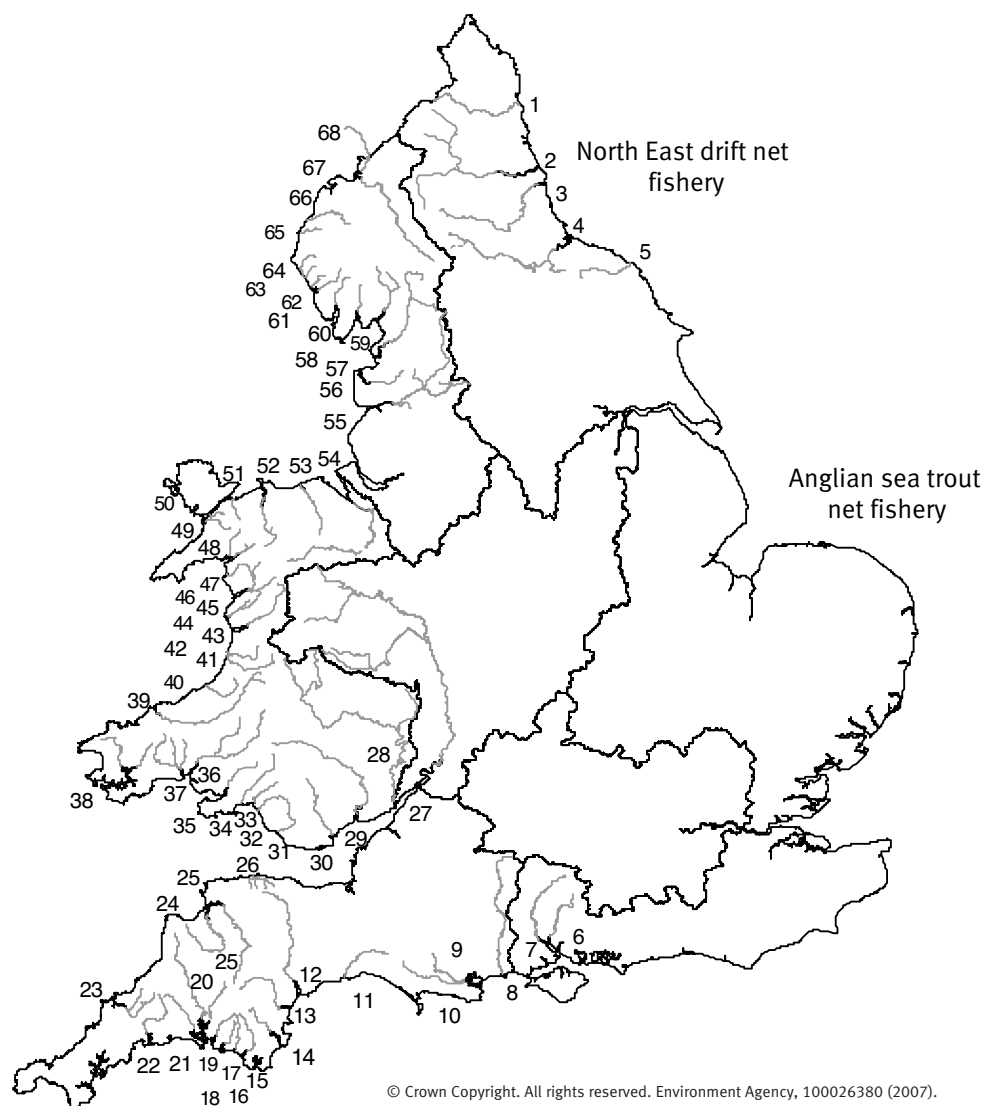
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August 2007.

# Salmonid and freshwater fisheries statistics for England and Wales, 2006

(Declared catches of salmon and sea trout by rods, nets and other instruments)

This report, prepared by the Environment Agency, is one of a long-term series. It contributes to our objectives of communicating our fisheries monitoring programme.

## Major salmon and sea trout rivers and fisheries in England and Wales



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### Key:

<b>North East</b>	<b>South West</b>	20 Tamar	31 Ogmere	45 Mawddach	<b>North West</b>
1 Coquet	8 Avon (Hants)	21 Lynher	32 Afan	46 Artro	55 Ribble
2 Tyne	9 Piddle	22 Fowey	33 Neath	47 Dwyrdd	56 Wyre
3 Wear	10 Frome	23 Camel	34 Tawe	48 Glaslyn	57 Lune
4 Tees	11 Axe	24 Torridge	35 Loughor	49 Gwyrfa	58 Kent
5 Esk (Yorks)	12 Exe	25 Taw	36 Tywi	50 Seiont	59 Leven
	13 Teign	26 Lyn	37 Taf	51 Ogwen	60 Crake
<b>Southern</b>		<b>Midlands</b>	38 Cleddau	52 Conwy	61 Duddon
6 Itchen	14 Dart	27 Severn	39 Teifi	53 Clwyd	62 Esk (Cumbrian)
7 Test	15 Avon (Devon)		40 Aeron	54 Dee	63 Irt
	16 Erme	<b>Wales</b>	41 Ystwyth		64 Ehen
	17 Yealm	28 Wye	42 Rheidol		65 Derwent
	18 Plym	29 Usk	43 Dyfi		66 Ellen
	19 Tavy	30 Taff	44 Dysynni		67 Eden
					68 Esk (Border)

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## Section 1

# Introduction

This report is the Environment Agency's twelfth collation of salmon and sea trout catch statistics for England and Wales. From 1989 to 1994, these statistics were published by the National Rivers Authority (NRA). The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Directorate of Fisheries Research also included them in its Data Report series between 1983 and 1988.

This report is a reference document of declared salmonid catches in England and Wales.

Salmon stock assessment data (including provisional catches and run estimates) are published in an annual assessment for the International Council for

the Exploration of the Seas (ICES). The tenth report in this series was published jointly by the Environment Agency and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas) in April 2007 ([www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish)).

The catch data recorded here represent declared catches only. This document is therefore not an entirely accurate record of the total numbers of fish landed. Furthermore, the relationship between catch and stock size is not always straight forward, regardless of the accuracy of the catch data. Great care must be taken therefore in interpreting these data.

## Section 2

# The Environment Agency and its regions

The Environment Agency is a non-departmental public body established by the Environment Act 1995. It has taken over the functions of its predecessors, the National Rivers Authority, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, Waste Regulation Authorities and some parts of the Department of the Environment. The Agency came into effect on 1 April 1996.

There are eight Agency Regions: North East, Anglian, Thames, Southern, South West, Midlands, Environment Agency Wales and North West.

## Section 3

# Rod and net licence catch returns

Salmon and sea trout rod licence holders are legally required to submit a full and accurate catch return to the Agency by 1 January in the following year. Commercial net and fixed engine licence holders must submit their returns within seven days of the end of each month during the fishing season.

In November 2006, for the twelfth consecutive year, the Agency sent a reminder to all holders of a salmon and sea trout rod licence to declare their catch returns. The timing of the reminder coincided with the end

of most fishing seasons. As in years 1994-2005, the effect of this reminder was marked compared with 1992 and 1993 returns, when no reminders were sent.

In an attempt to further improve reporting rates, the Agency now also routinely issues second reminders to anglers who fail to submit a return in response to the first reminder. These were issued in January 2007. We believe that the returns published here record approximately 90 per cent of all migratory salmonids caught in England and Wales.

## Section 4

# National overview and summary of main findings

Table 1. Summary of declared salmon and sea trout rod and net catches for England & Wales in 2006 showing % change on 2005 and the 5-year mean (2001-2005).

	2006	2005	5-yr. mean (2001-2005)	% change (+/-)	
				2006 on 2005	2006 on 5-yr. mean
RODS					
*Licences issued	31,606	34,062	30,105	-7%	+5%
*Days declared fished	148,307	186,877	173,503	-21%	-15%
Salmon caught	19,509	21,418	17,988	-9%	+8%
Salmon released (% released)	10,959 56%	11,983 56%	9,084 51%		
Sea trout caught	24,269	40,319	42,338	-40%	-43%
Sea trout released (% released)	14,329 59%	23,729 59%	23,024 55%		
NETS					
Licences issued	363	385	415	-6%	-12%
Salmon caught	13,578	16,811	26,427	-19%	-49%
Sea trout caught	25,311	23,429	32,135	+8%	-21%

\* Salmon and sea trout licences only

- Low flows and high temperatures throughout much of the summer period resulted in poor angling conditions and low catches of both salmon and sea trout. Conditions improved in the autumn, a little late for most sea trout fisheries, but in time to improve salmon catches particularly in rod fisheries in the north of England.
- The number of salmon and sea trout rod licences issued in 2006 (31,606) decreased by 7% compared with 2005, but increased by 5% compared with the mean of the previous five years (2001-2005).
- A total of 363 salmon and sea trout commercial net licences were issued in 2006. This compares with 385 in 2005 and a 5-year mean of 415. Since 1985 there has been a 65% reduction in the number of net licences issued annually in England and Wales (from 1,026 to 363).
- The total declared salmon rod catch in 2006 (19,509) decreased by 9% compared with 2005, but increased by 8% compared with the mean of the previous five years (17,988).
- The salmon net catch in 2006 (13,578) decreased by almost 20% compared with the previous year and by just under 50% compared with the 5-year mean (26,427). The North East drift net catch has reduced significantly since the introduction of the buy-out in 2003 (from a catch of 27,685 recorded by 69 fishermen in 2002 to a catch of 4,030 reported by 16 drift netsmen in 2006, a reduction of 85%).

## Section 4

- The declared rod catch of sea trout in 2006 (24,269) decreased by 40% compared with 2005 (40,319) and by 43% compared with the 5-year mean (42,338).
- A total of 25,311 sea trout were declared caught by the net fisheries in 2006, an increase of 8% compared with the 2005 catch and a decrease of 21% compared with the 5-year mean. The North East drift net sea trout catch has decreased by 80% since the 2003 buy-out (from 15,242 in 2002 to 2,989 in 2006).
- The average weight of net caught salmon in 2006 was 3.3 kg (slightly lower than in 2005). This compares with an average weight of 4 kg for rod caught salmon (the same as in 2005).
- The average weight of net and rod caught sea trout in 2006 was 1.76 kg and 1kg; respectively (the same as in 2005). Byelaws regulating mesh size result in the capture of fewer small sea trout by most net fisheries.
- Catch and Release rates for rod caught salmon (56%) and sea trout (59%) in 2006 were identical to those recorded in 2005. A combination of byelaws, voluntary agreements, club rules, incentive schemes and angler awareness has resulted in a dramatic increase in release rates over the past ten years. In 1993 just 8% of rod caught salmon were released following capture.
- Net fisheries exempted from the 'spring' byelaws released a total of 17 salmon before 1 June in 2006 (13 by the Teign and Dart seine nets in South West Region, three by the Teifi coracles and one by the Tywi coracles). A further 55 salmon were released in June and July by the Avon netsmen at Mudeford in South West Region.
- The river with the highest declared rod catch of salmon in 2006 was the Tyne (3,795) followed by the Eden (1,634), the Lune (1,163), the Ribble (1,054), the Derwent (887) and the Wear (823). 20% of the total England and Wales rod catch of salmon was recorded on the Tyne in 2006.
- The river with the highest declared rod catch of sea trout in 2006 was the Tywi (2,091) followed by the Teifi (1,990), the Tyne (1,636), the Wear (1,298), the Dyfi (1,054) and the Lune (962).
- Rod catches of multi-sea-winter salmon in 2006 were close to the 5-year mean, whilst grilse catches were 5% above the 5-year mean.
- The most successful method for salmon anglers in 2006 was spinning, accounting for 43% of the catch, followed by fly (38%) and bait (16%). 55% of the total sea trout rod catch was taken on fly, 25% on spinner and 16% on bait (4% method not recorded).



## Section 4

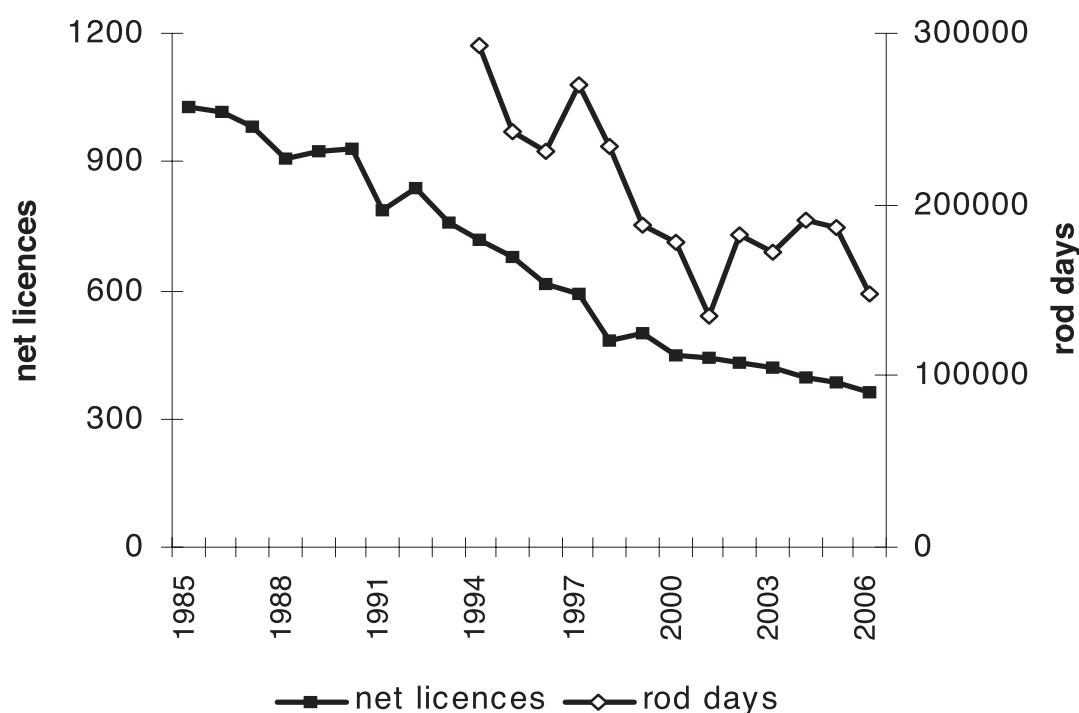
Table 2. Summary of total salmon and sea trout net and fixed engine catches and weights, 2006

	Salmon		Sea trout	
	Number	Weight (t.)	Number	Weight (t.)
Caught	13,578	50.5	25,311	44.6
Retained	13,506	50.2	25,311	44.6
Released	72	0.3	0	0

Table 3. Summary of total salmon and sea trout rod catches and weights, 2006

	Salmon		Sea trout	
	Number	Weight (t.)	Number	Weight (t.)
Caught	19,509	72.1	24,269	22.6
Retained	8,550	29.6	9,940	11.3
Released	10,959	42.5	14,329	11.3

Figure 1. Number of net and fixed engine licences issued (1985-2006) and total number of days fished by salmon and sea trout rod licence holders (1994-2006), England & Wales.



## Section 4

Figure 2. Total declared salmon net and fixed engine catch for England & Wales, 1956-2006 (shaded area indicates the catch for the North East Coast fishery).

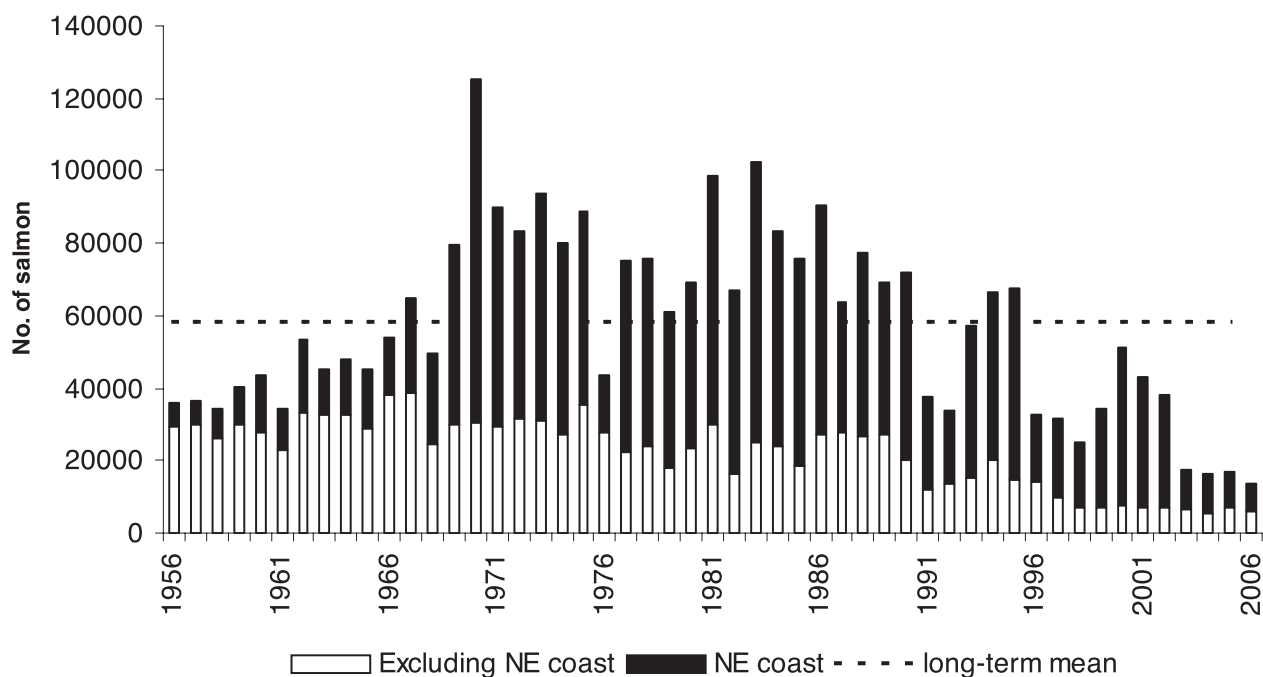
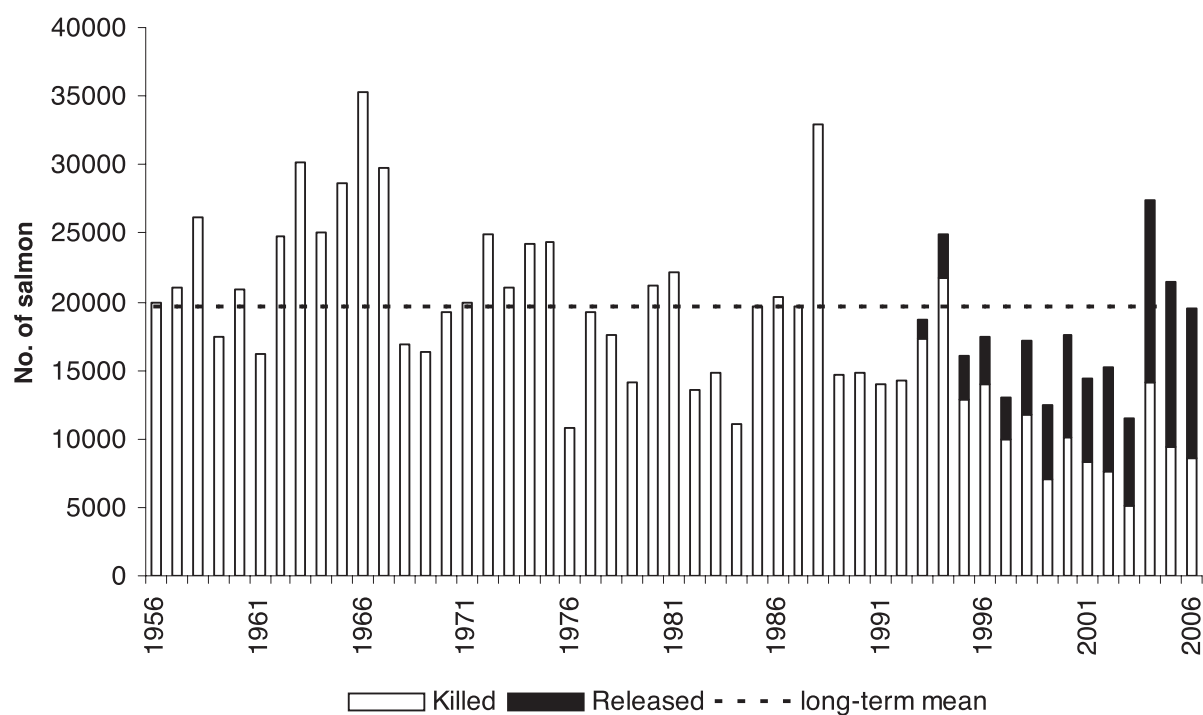


Figure 3. Total declared salmon rod catch for England & Wales, 1956-2006 (shaded area indicates fish caught and released).



## Section 4

Figure 4. Total declared sea trout net and fixed engine catch for England & Wales, 1978-2006 (shaded area indicates the catch for the North East coast fishery).

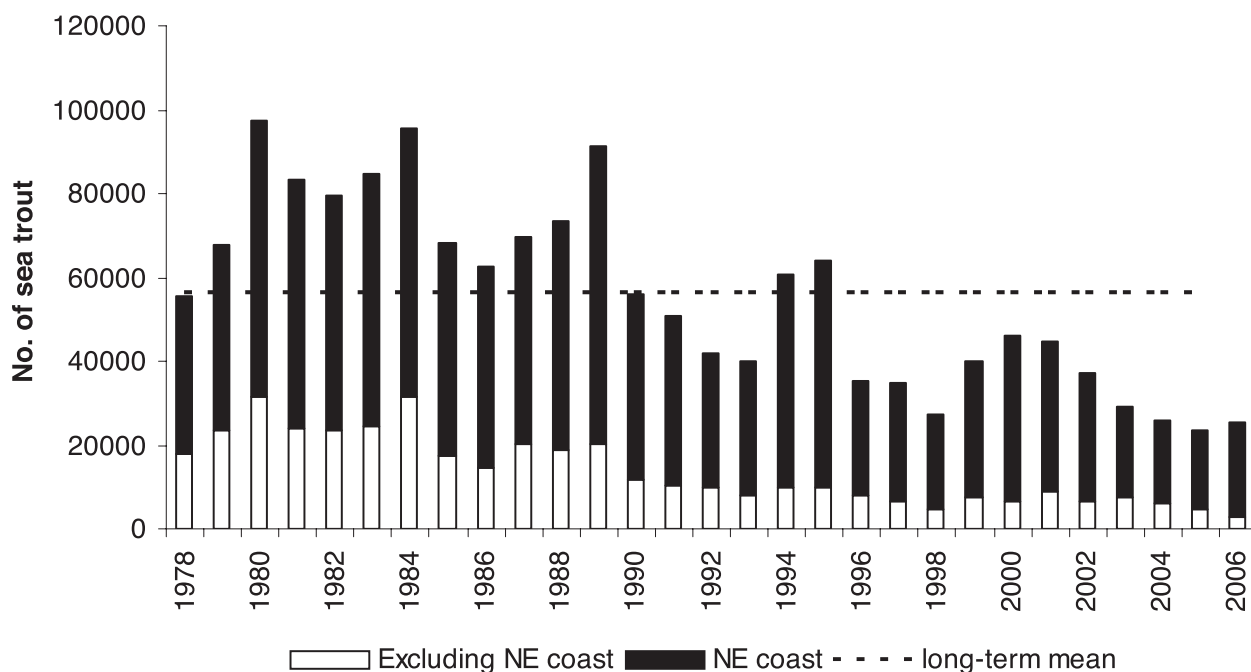
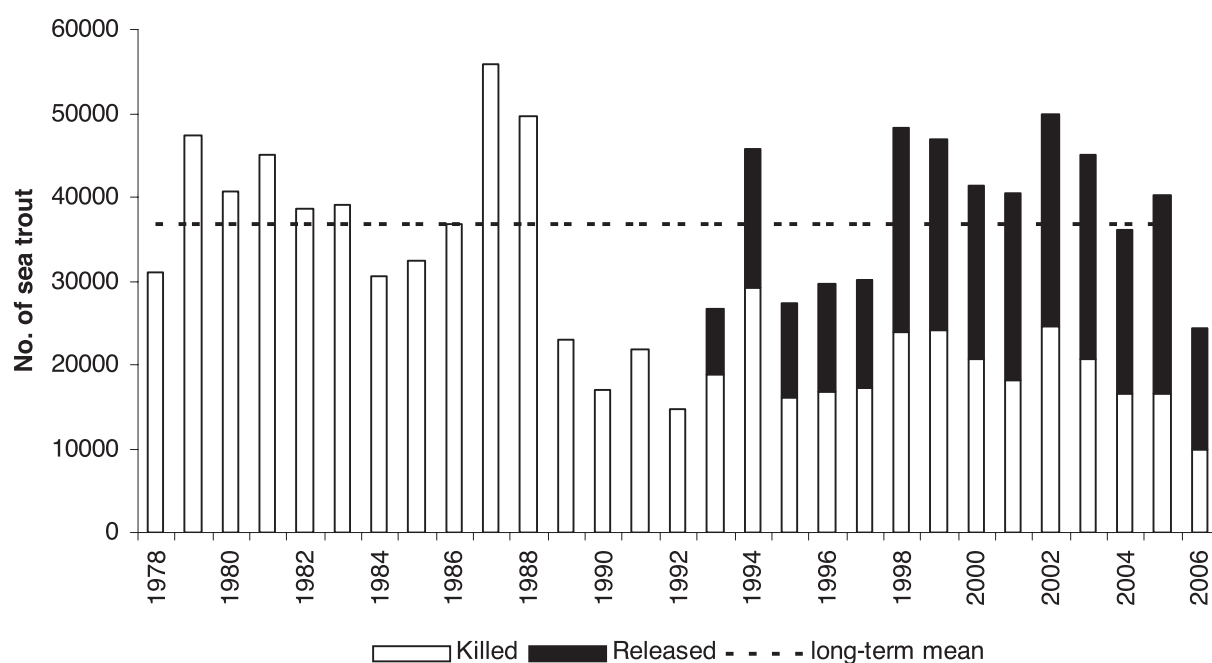


Figure 5. Total declared sea trout rod catch for England & Wales, 1978-2006 (shaded area indicates fish caught and released).



## Section 5

# Regional catch summaries (2006, 2005 and 5-year mean)

Table 4. Summary of salmon net and fixed engine catches by Region

	2006	2005	5-year mean (2001-2005)	% change (+/-) 2006 on 2005	% change (+/-) 2006 on 5-yr mean
North East	7,566	8,987	19,507	-16%	-61%
Anglian	15	15	41	-	-63%
Thames	-	-	-	-	-
Southern	0	0	0	-	-
South West	477	572	1,302	-17%	-63%
Midlands	864	938	1,093	-8%	-21%
EA Wales	679	1,121	1,068	-39%	-36%
North West	3,977	5,178	3,417	-23%	+16%

Table 5. Summary of sea trout net and fixed engine catches by Region

	2006	2005	5-year mean (2001-2005)	% change (+/-) 2006 on 2005	% change (+/-) 2006 on 5-yr mean
North East	22,492	18,773	25,334	+20%	-11%
Anglian	913	1,114	1,868	-18%	-51%
Thames	-	-	-	-	-
Southern	0	2	14	-	-
South West	622	1,071	1,787	-42%	-65%
Midlands	-	-	-	-	-
EA Wales	695	1,442	1,804	-52%	-61%
North West	589	1,027	1,329	-43%	-56%

Table 6. Summary of salmon rod catches by Region

	2006	2005	5-year mean (2001-2005)	% change (+/-) 2006 on 2005	% change (+/-) 2006 on 5-yr mean
North East	5,774	5,933	4,786	-3%	+21%
Anglian	-	-	-	-	-
Thames	0	0	0	-	-
Southern	331	438	442	-24%	-25%
South West	1,802	1,725	1,785	+4%	+1%
Midlands	356	430	310	-17%	+15%
EA Wales	4,355	4,408	4,271	-1%	+2%
North West	6,771	8,446	6,351	-9%	+8%

## Section 5

Table 7. Summary of sea trout rod catches by Region

	2006	2005	5-year mean (2001-2005)	% change (+/-) 2006 on 2005	% change (+/-) 2006 on 5-yr mean
North East	4,050	4,138	4,750	-2%	-15%
Anglian	1	-	-	-	-
Thames	1	0	1	-	-
Southern	589	445	1,180	+32%	-50%
South West	4,590	7,291	8,095	-37%	-43%
Midlands	14	105	32	-87%	-56%
EA Wales	10,885	21,477	21,499	-49%	-49%
North West	3,863	6,691	6,694	-42%	-42%

Figure 6. Declared salmon and sea trout net and fixed engine catches by Region, 2006.

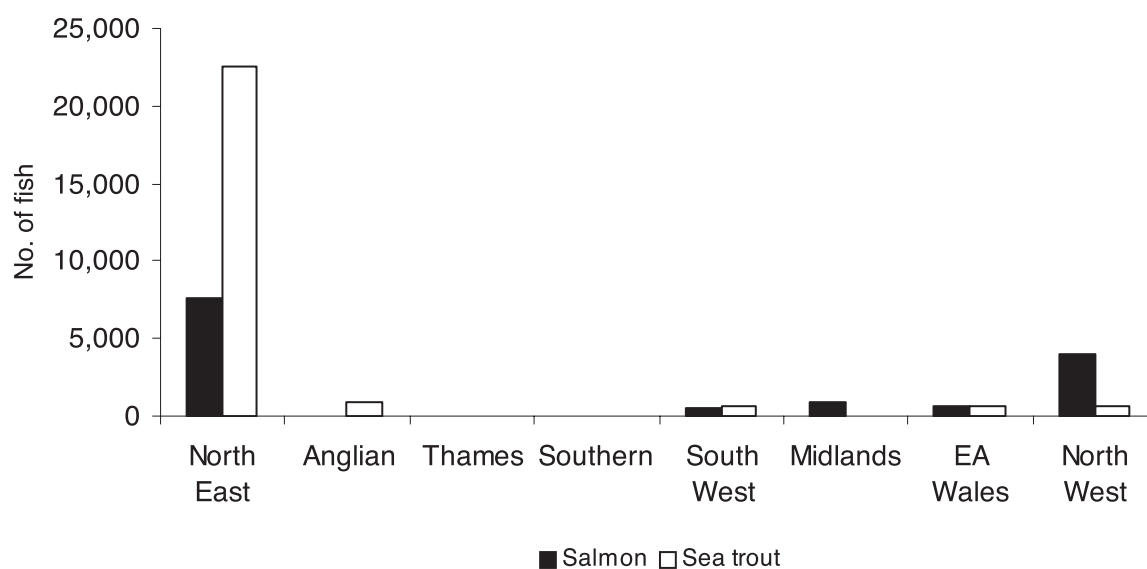
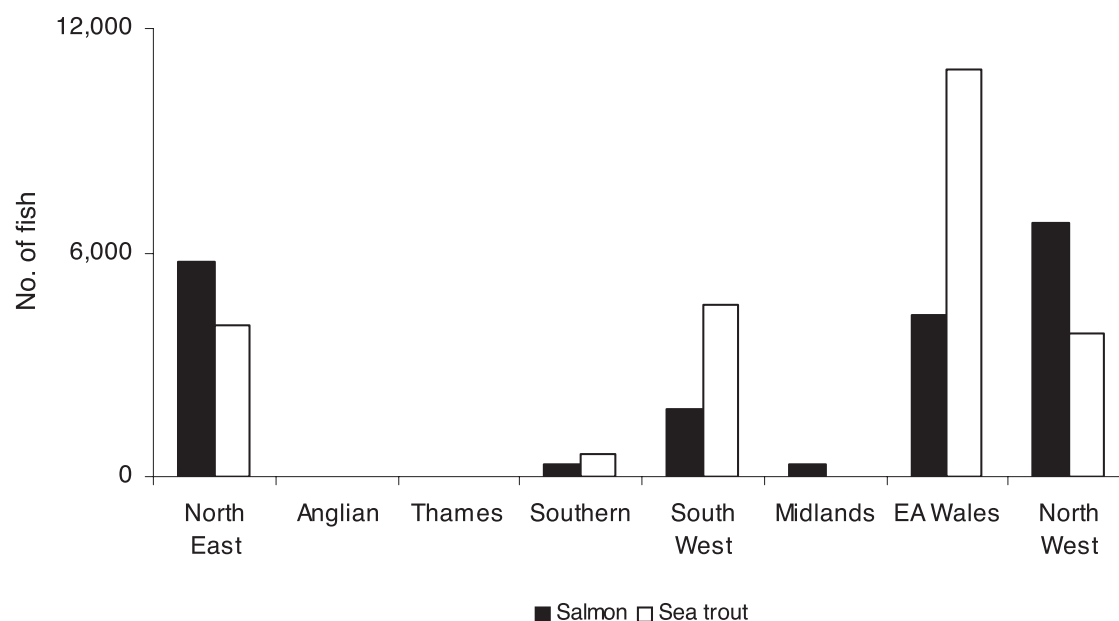


Figure 7. Declared salmon and sea trout rod catches by Region, 2006.



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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, 2006. Salmonid and Freshwater Fisheries Statistics for England and Wales 2005.

## Section 8

# Glossary

CCefas	Formerly CEFAS - The Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science	MSW	Multi-Sea-Winter; a salmon that has spent two or more winters at sea before maturing
EIFAC	European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission	NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation
Grilse	Salmon that has spent not more than one winter at sea before maturing, also known as 1 sea winter (1SW) fish	Nets	Instruments other than rod and line (including nets and fixed engines such as cribbs, putts, putchers, baulks, fishing weirs and traps as used for the capture of migratory salmonids)
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Seas	NLO	Net Limitation Order