

Coarse fishing close season on English rivers

Appendix 2 – Closed season arrangements in some other European countries

Country	Close season?	Species	Dates	Other restrictions	Angling culture
Germany	Yes	Eel, lamprey, barbel, nase, bitterling, minnow, whitefish, bullhead, gudgeon, pike, sunbleak, loaches, smelt, zander	During spawning periods or total ban on fishing for Natura 2000 species Different rules in different lander (states) Stricter rules can be applied by owners Some lander have total fishing bans, even on some non-Natura 2000 species, such as barbell and dace	Forbidden to interfere with spawning grounds (reeds and macrophytes)	Target species are retained for the table, not allowed to target inedible species
Netherlands	Yes	Pike, barbel, chub, dace, beaked carp, ide, grayling, pike-perch, perch	Pike: 1 March to last Sat in May Pike-perch and perch: 1 April to last Sat in May Barbel, chub, dace, beaked carp, ide and grayling: 1 April to 31 May	Bait bans 1st April - May 31st - no worms, lures offal, fish or fish-based baits. Longer closed seasons on some waters, local rules	Species such as pike, perch, Zander, eel and game fish are retained for the table, other species mostly released
France	Yes	Pike, grayling	Pike – February, March and April	Other local rules	Species such as pike, perch, Zander, eel and game fish are retained for the table,

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			Grayling: end Sept to end May (in non-trout waters – end December to end May)		other species often retained but some catch and release
Poland	Yes	Most species	Different dates for different species	Vary across river basins	Most species retained for the table but some catch and release* to be confirmed
Belgium	No – except protected sites (since 2013)	Pike and zander only	On protected waters: 16 April to 31 May Zander and pike: 1 March to 31 May on protected waters only. Prior to 2013, there was a general close season – dates as above on all waters.	5 fish bag limit; no- kill for pike all year round	72% catch and release; 21% retain small fish for use as predator bait, 7% retain fish for the table sometimes
Czech Republic	Yes	Nase, barbell, vimba, sturgeon, ide, chub, catfish, zander, pike, grayling, eel, burbot	Nase, barbell, vimba, sturgeon, ide, chub: 16 March to 15 June Catfish, zander, pike – 1 January to 15 June Grayling: 1 December to 15 June Burbot: 1 January to 15 March	Overall national rules but local stricter rules by clubs. Strict bag and size limits and method restrictions.	Most species retained for the table but some catch and release. Closed seasons apply to killing and retention of fish, fish caught during their closed season must be released
Republic of Ireland	No				All coarse fish catch and release
Northern Ireland	No				

Denmark	Yes	Pike, zander, grayling	Pike: 1st April to 30th April; Zander: 1st May to 31st May Grayling: 15th March to 15th May	Size limits for retention	Species such as pike, perch, zander, eel and game fish are retained for the table, other species mostly released, rarely targeted.
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