

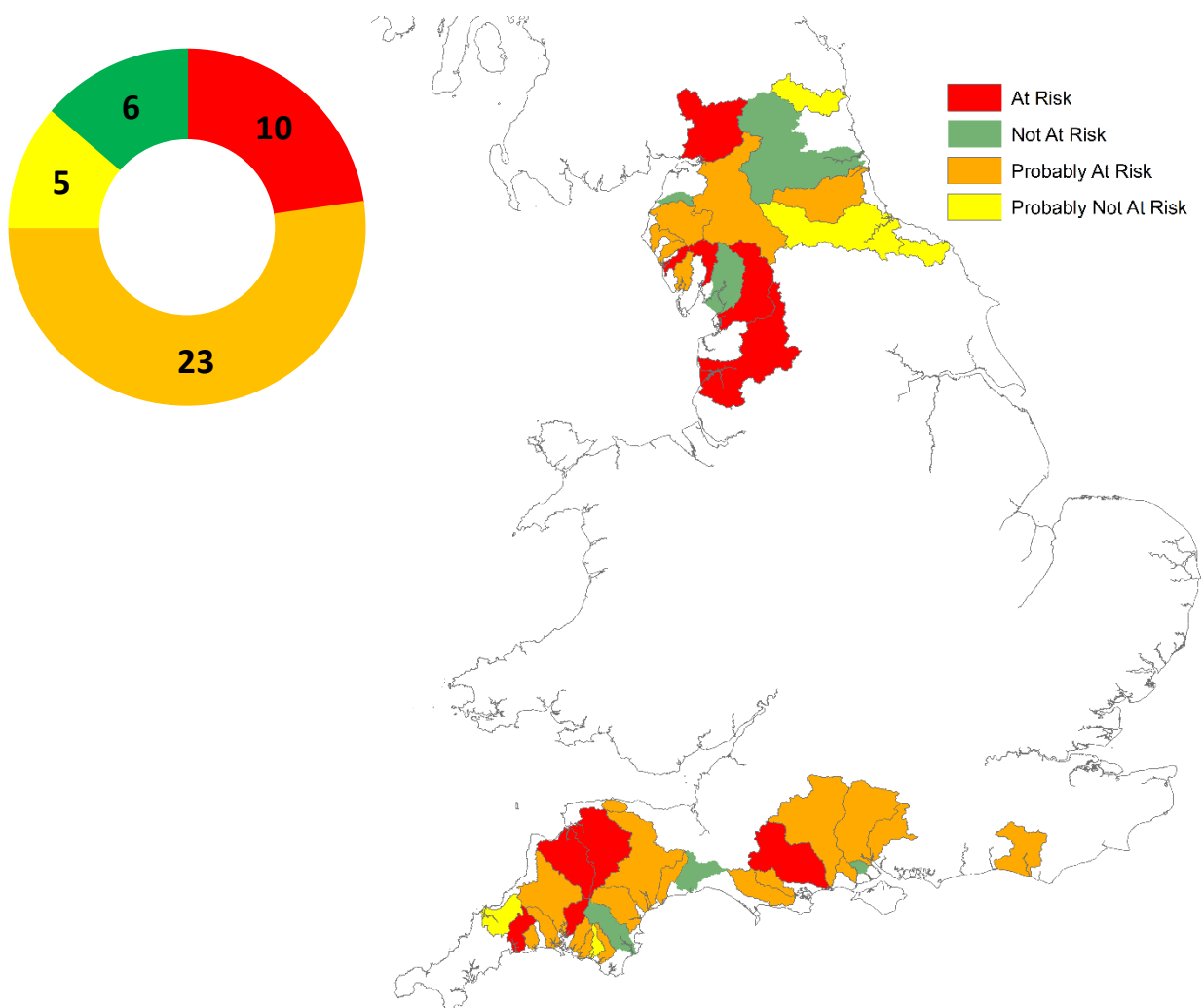
## 2024 England Sea Trout Fishery Performance Results

The following assessment of the status of England's sea trout stocks is based on declared rod catches. It is designed to highlight the current status of England's sea trout populations and inform management actions to protect and enhance sea trout populations.

### Executive summary.

Of the 44 principal sea trout rivers in England (with a rod catch of >50 fish), 11 rivers are classified as "Not at risk" or "Probably not at risk", 23 rivers are "Probably at risk" and 10 are "At risk" (Tables 1 & 2).

It should be noted that the assessment is a reflection of rod fishery performance and this isn't always an indication of stock performance. It is therefore necessary to consider other available data, such as juvenile trout performance, when assessing sea trout stock status.



### Management action

This note has been forwarded to your FBG Fisheries Technical Specialist for use in assessing performance of your local sea trout fisheries. This is of particular relevance if you have a need to review or renew management measures as part of a Net Limitation Order or fishery byelaw reviews within the next two years.

For all sea trout rivers, which are not achieving the “Not at risk” category, a light touch review should be undertaken to ascertain whether the actions proposed to improve water body status are adequate to improve sea trout fishery status. This may be through consideration of barriers to migration, limitations on catchment juvenile trout productivity, water quality and water quantity or issues within transitional or the inshore coastal zone area. In many river catchments with access to coastal and transitional waterbodies, trout productivity in the catchment is likely to be driven by sea trout spawning.

As an interim measure, voluntary catch and release (C&R) should be actively promoted particularly where the current C&R rate is low – less than 70% - and the fishery is assessed to be “At risk” or “Probably at risk”, see Tables 2 and 3. This is particularly relevant to larger sea trout which are poor eating, predominantly female and have a higher level of fecundity.

## Assessment

The approach used here classifies 44 sea trout fisheries in England that are designated as ‘principal sea trout rivers’ (designated on the basis that the actual or potential rod catch exceeds 50 per year on average).

The methodology is the same as in previous years. It uses two criteria - trend in CPUE (catch per unit effort) in the last 10 years and current CPUE relative to the previous 10 years. The results have been put into 4 categories: “At risk”, “Probably at risk”, “Probably not at risk” and “Not at risk”. There is no forward projection for status in five years’ time as there is with salmon. These assessments for sea trout fisheries should be considered alongside the Water Framework Directive assessments (where they exist) for juvenile trout for the constituent water bodies in the catchment.

The assessment of sea trout fishery performance is designed to give an early warning about potential problems and assist Areas with considering whether any further management actions, including exploitation controls, are required.

## APPENDIX

**Table 1 - Overall changes in 2024 compared to 2023**

Category	No in 2024	No in 2023	Change
Not at risk	6	6	-
Probably not at risk	5	10	-5
Probably at risk	23	18	+5
At risk	10	10	-

**Table 2 - Sea Trout Fishery Assessments for 2024 and 2023 in England**

Area	River	2024	2023
<b>Northumberland, Durham &amp; Tees</b>	Coquet	Probably Not At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Tyne	Not At Risk	Not At Risk
	Wear	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Tees	Probably Not At Risk	Probably Not At Risk
<b>Yorkshire</b>	Esk (Yorks.)	Probably Not At Risk	Probably Not At Risk
<b>Solent &amp; South Downs</b>	Test	Probably At Risk	Probably Not At Risk
	Itchen	Probably At Risk	Probably Not At Risk
	Beaulieu	Not At Risk	Not At Risk
	Sussex Ouse	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Lymington	Probably At Risk	Probably Not At Risk
<b>Wessex</b>	Avon (Hants.)	Probably At Risk	At Risk
	Stour (Hants.)	At Risk	At Risk
	Piddle	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Frome	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
<b>Devon &amp; Cornwall</b>	Axe	Not At Risk	Not At Risk
	Otter	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Exe	Probably At Risk	Not At Risk
	Teign	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Dart	Not At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Avon (Devon)	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Erme	Probably Not At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Yealm	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Plym	Probably At Risk	At Risk
	Tavy	At Risk	At Risk
	Tamar	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Lynher	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Looe	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Fowey	At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Camel	Probably Not At Risk	Probably Not At Risk
	Taw	At Risk	At Risk
	Torrige	At Risk	At Risk
	Lyn	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
<b>Cumbria &amp; Lancashire</b>	Ribble	At Risk	At Risk
	Lune	At Risk	At Risk
	Kent	Not At Risk	Probably Not At Risk
	Leven	At Risk	At Risk
	Duddon	Probably At Risk	Probably Not At Risk
	Esk (Cumbrian)	At Risk	At Risk
	Irt	Probably At Risk	Not At Risk
	Ehen	Probably At Risk	Probably Not At Risk
	Derwent	Probably At Risk	Not At Risk
	Ellen	Not At Risk	Probably Not At Risk
	Eden	Probably At Risk	Probably At Risk
	Esk (Border)	At Risk	Probably At Risk

**Table 3: Catch and release rates**

Region	Catchment	2024 Sea trout rod catch	2024 Released	2024 C&R Rate %	2023 Sea trout rod catch	2023 Released	2023 C&R Rate %
<b>Northumb erland, Durham &amp; Tees</b>	Coquet	226	196	87%	276	236	86%
	Tyne	825	735	89%	1222	998	82%
	Wear	361	324	90%	764	654	86%
	Tees	3	3	100%	9	8	89%
<b>Yorkshire</b>	Esk Yorkshire	330	285	86%	611	522	85%
<b>Solent &amp; South Downs</b>	Test	188	184	98%	223	216	97%
	Itchen	187	177	95%	334	317	95%
	Beaulieu	21	19	90%	18	16	89%
	Ouse (Sussex)	32	32	100%	9	9	100%
	Lymington	20	20	100%	22	21	95%
<b>Wessex</b>	Avon. Hants	278	265	95%	100	94	94%
	Stour. Hants	8	8	100%	2	2	100%
	Piddle	0	0	-	0	0	-
	Frome	248	207	83%	171	150	88%
<b>Devon &amp; Cornwall</b>	Axe	306	254	83%	220	186	85%
	Otter	44	39	89%	69	62	90%
	Exe	6	3	50%	6	6	100%
	Teign	494	449	91%	306	260	85%
	Dart	208	181	87%	151	130	86%
	Avon. Devon	63	60	95%	39	38	97%
	Erme	14	14	100%	13	13	100%
	Yealm	1	1	100%	0	0	-
	Plym	35	27	77%	19	13	68%
	Tavy	94	83	88%	46	37	80%
	Tamar	163	152	93%	285	266	93%
	Lynher	53	48	91%	39	39	100%
	Looe	2	1	50%	4	4	100%
	Fowey	154	133	86%	107	92	86%
	Camel	306	266	87%	238	217	91%
	<b>Cumbria &amp; Lancashire</b>	Taw	67	56	84%	62	56
Torridge		101	87	86%	47	35	74%
Lyn		0	0	-	0	0	-
Ribble		404	368	91%	338	311	92%
Lune		522	481	92%	408	334	82%
Kent		364	346	95%	245	228	93%
Leven		22	22	100%	8	8	100%
Duddon		75	69	92%	93	86	92%
Esk(Cumbrian)		56	47	84%	92	84	91%
Irt		83	82	99%	83	80	96%
Ehen		163	158	97%	179	174	97%
Derwent		101	95	94%	81	80	99%
Ellen		22	19	86%	13	12	92%
Eden (NW)	119	116	97%	149	143	96%	
Esk (Border)	494	461	93%	385	356	92%	

**Table 4: Percentage of Principal Salmon Rivers in each risk category 2012 - 2024**

