

Assessment of salmon stocks in England and Wales in 2025

This report presents the 2025 assessment of salmon stocks in England and Wales. It contains information on fishing activity in commercial and recreational salmon fisheries, exploitation rates, stock estimates, and stock status assessments. The report also outlines current fishery regulations and highlights the key existing and emerging threats affecting salmon populations.

Key findings

- The total declared salmon catch by nets and fixed engines in 2025 was 256 fish (1.1 tonnes). Compared with 2024, catch numbers and catch weight declined by 37% and 32%, respectively. Relative to the 2020 to 2024 average, they were 59% and 58% lower, respectively. All net caught salmon were released alive.
- The total declared rod catch in 2025 was 4,053 salmon (17.0 tonnes), the lowest recorded since 1988. Catch numbers and catch weight declined by 33% and 32%, respectively, compared with 2024, and were 42% and 43% lower, respectively, than the 2020 to 2024 average. The declared salmon catch retained by rods in 2025 was 76 fish (0.3 tonnes). Consequently, 3,977 salmon (98% of the catch) were released across England and Wales, the highest percentage on record.
- Returning stock estimates and counts for 6 of the 11 rivers (55%) with validated fish counters or traps in 2025 were higher than in 2024, while the remaining five rivers recorded declines. Increases were estimated on six rivers (Test, Itchen, Tamar, Fowey, Taff, and Dee), whereas decreases were estimated on five rivers (Tyne, Tees, Hampshire Avon, Frome and Teifi). Estimated returns were the lowest in the time-series for four rivers (Tyne, Hampshire Avon, Frome, and Teifi). Overall, returns to most monitored rivers have declined markedly over the last decade, particularly in South West England and Wales.
- Egg deposition levels in 2025 were estimated to be above the Conservation Limit (CL) in only 2 of the 64 Principal Salmon Rivers in England and Wales (3%), which is the lowest since 1993. The formal compliance assessment classified one river (2%) as 'not at risk', two (3%) as 'probably not at risk', two (3%) as 'probably at risk', and 59 (92%) as 'at risk'. The percentage of rivers in the 'at risk' category was the highest in the time-series that started in 2011. These results indicate that most salmon stocks in England and Wales are in a depleted state, with limited prospects for recovery in the near future.

Foreword

Annual reports on the status of salmon stocks in England and Wales have been produced since 1997. Provisional data for the most recent year provided to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) for the purpose of contributing to international stock assessments and the development of scientific advice to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) are published on the Cefas Data Portal (Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust 2026a). Once confirmed, the final data for the most recent year are included in this report and the annual compilation of salmonid and freshwater catch statistics published by the Environment Agency (Environment Agency 2026).

From 1997 to 2012, the annual reports were prepared by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the Environment Agency. However, from 1 April 2013, the functions of the Environment Agency in Wales were transferred to Natural Resources Wales/Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru. This body is now responsible for salmon management and regulation in Wales. All three organisations have therefore contributed to production of the annual assessment reports since 2013.

Until 2013, each annual assessment report was designed to stand alone to avoid the need to refer to previous reports for background information. However, this resulted in much of the descriptive text being very similar from year to year. From 2014, therefore, and in the interest of streamlining procedures, the report has been split into two separate documents. A background report provides the regulatory framework, describes the methods and approaches used in the assessment process, and includes a glossary of terms (Cefas, Environment Agency, and Natural Resources Wales 2025). This background report is updated every five years. In contrast, this annual assessment report provides a relatively short description of developments in the most recent year together with updated figures. The data underlying the figures presented in this report are published in tabulated form on the Cefas Data Portal (Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust 2026b) or the Environment Agency's annual compilation of salmonid and freshwater catch statistics (Environment Agency 2026). Both the annual salmon stock assessment and background reports are available online on the Gov.UK website.

Key changes since the last publication

The annual salmon stock assessment report for England and Wales has been revised to improve clarity, accessibility, user engagement, and impact. Work is underway to transition from a pdf to HTML format. This change has been driven by two key factors.

First, the revised format seeks to ensure that salmon stock assessment methods, outputs, and reporting practices align with national Standards for the Public Use of Statistics, Data, and Wider Analysis, as well as the core principles of the Code of Practice for Statistics (Office for Statistics Regulation 2025). In particular, it seeks to support equality of access, understanding, decision making, and leadership for all users.

Second, the changes directly respond to user feedback indicating that previous reports were complex, difficult to navigate, and insufficiently focused on key messages. The revised report format and layout therefore prioritises the clear and concise presentation of core assessment outcomes and management-relevant insights. Non-essential material, particularly detailed fisheries regulations and background information, has been relocated to the background report (Cefas, Environment Agency, and Natural Resources Wales 2025) and/or the annual compilation of salmonid and freshwater catch statistics (Environment Agency 2026).

Building on the established separation between annual reporting and supporting documentation, the revised format strengthens the focus on recent stock status and management implications while maintaining access to underpinning data and methods.

These changes are intended to improve accessibility and navigation, enable faster access to key results and trends, reduce duplication across publications, and enhance transparency and consistency in reporting. Overall, the revised format provides a more effective, decision-ready product that better supports managers, policymakers, and stakeholders in interpreting and applying salmon stock status information.

A review of the annual salmon stock assessment methodology in England and Wales is underway. Information on any proposed methodological changes, their potential implications for users, and details of the associated public consultation and opportunities for stakeholder feedback will be published before any changes are implemented.

Tell us what you think

We would like to hear your thoughts on the usability of this new report format and layout, and how it could be improved. If you wish to provide feedback on the format and layout, then please email communications@cefas.gov.uk.

Any feedback on the statistics should be directed to enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk for rivers and fisheries in England, and enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk for rivers and fisheries in Wales.

1. Stocks assessed

Assessments of salmon stock status were undertaken for 64 Principal Salmon Rivers (PSRs) in England and Wales in 2025 (Figure 1). There were no changes to the number of salmon stocks assessed in 2025 compared to the previous five years.

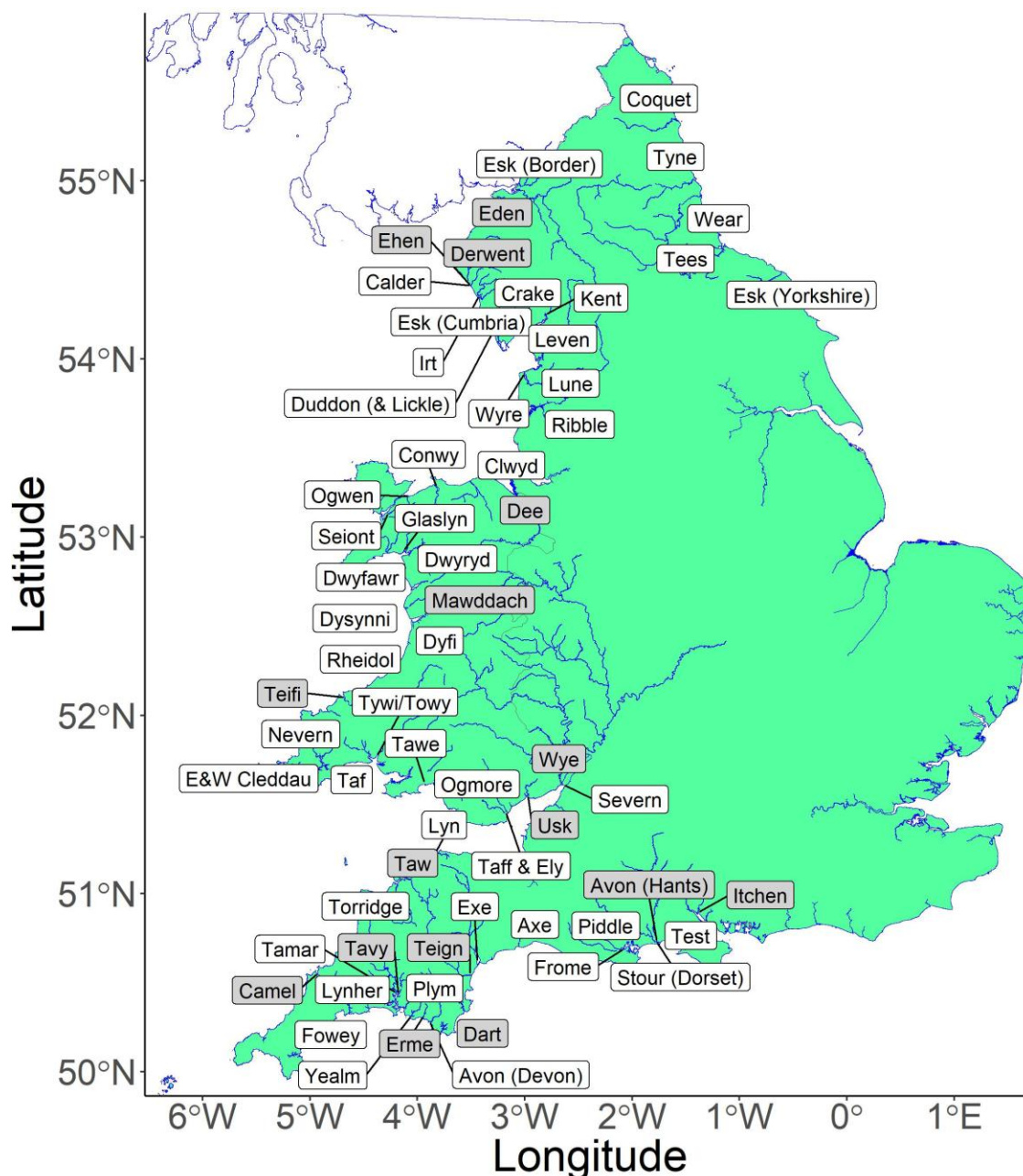


Figure 1. Map of England and Wales showing the 64 Principal Salmon Rivers where stock status assessments were undertaken in 2025. All these rivers have Salmon Action Plans and 16 have been designated as Special Areas of Conservation (grey labels) in which salmon must be maintained or restored to favourable conservation status.

2. Salmon fisheries

Fishing effort

A progressive decline in the annual numbers of net and fixed engine (stationary fishing gear) licences issued for salmon and sea trout fishing has occurred since 1971 (Figure 2). Commercial licences have been issued for 'sea trout fishing only' since 2019 in England and 2020 in Wales. Licence numbers in 2025 were the lowest in the time-series, with 7 fewer licences issued in 2025 compared to 2024.

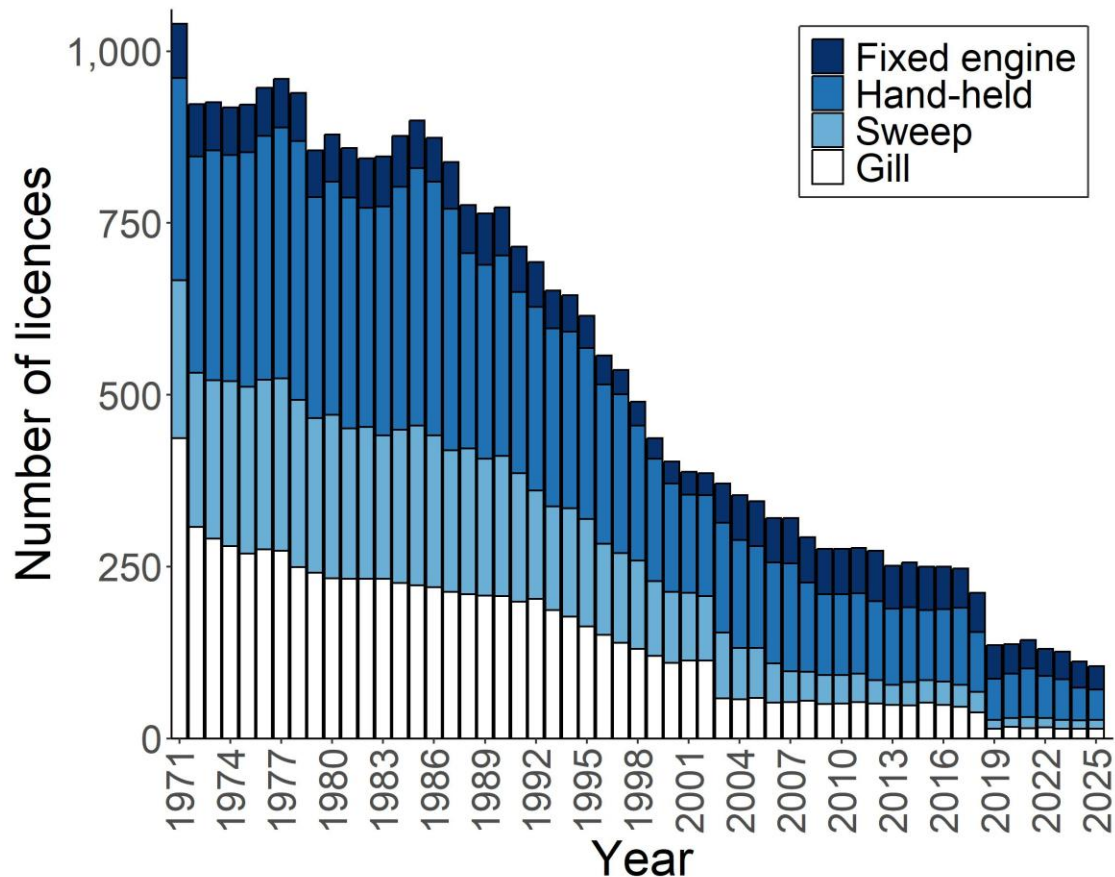


Figure 2. Annual numbers of net and fixed engine licences issued in England and Wales from 1971 to 2025. Note that, since 2020, net fisheries have operated for sea trout, and all salmon caught are required to be released. The data underlying this figure are published in Environment Agency (2026).

The number of days net and fixed engine fishers spent fishing for salmon and sea trout has declined steadily since 1999 (Figure 3). There was a sharp decline in effort after 2018 following the closure of a number of fisheries (particularly the north east coast drift net fishery) and effort specifically targeting salmon has been zero in England since 2019 and in Wales since 2020. Although net and fixed engine licences for salmon and sea trout fishing

continue to be issued, no fishing days for salmon have been available since the introduction of the National Salmon and Sea Trout Protection Byelaws in 2020.

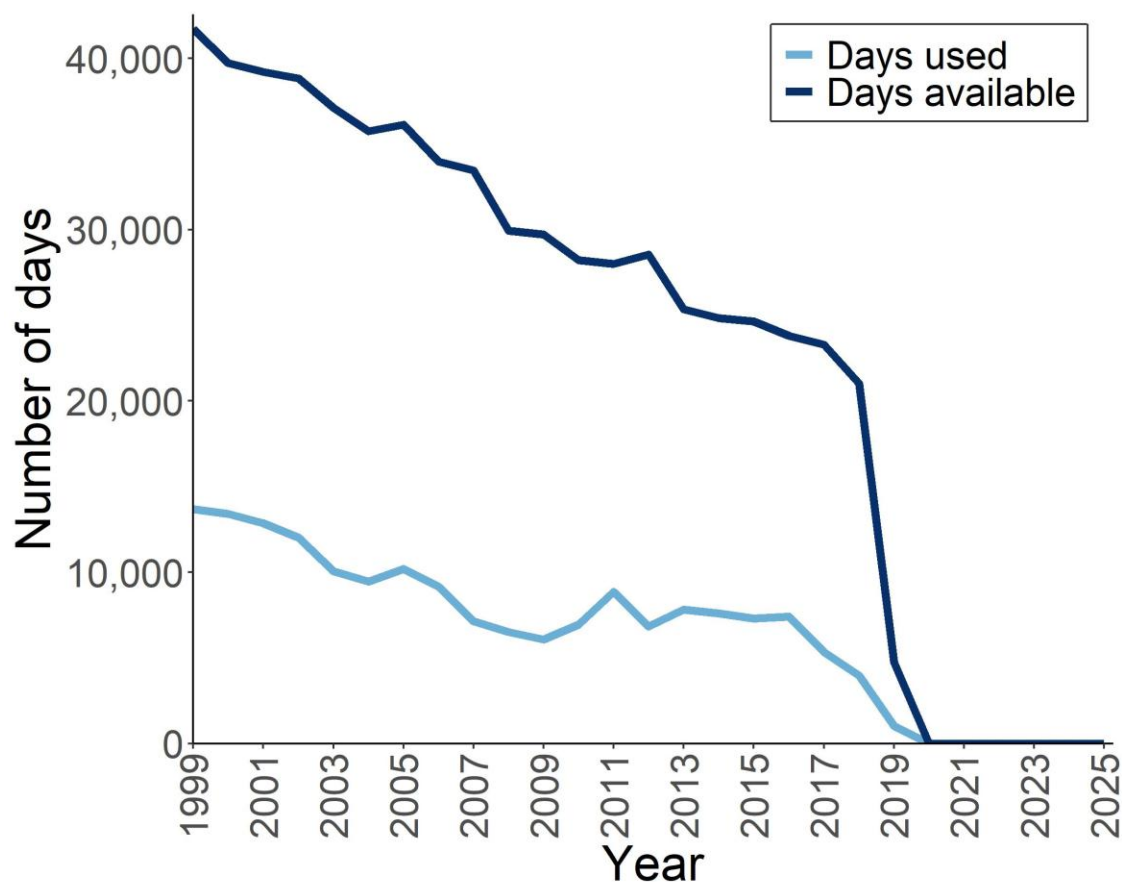


Figure 3. Annual numbers of fishing days available to net and fixed engine fisheries to target salmon in England and Wales, and the number of days used from 1999 to 2025. The data underlying this figure can be found in Environment Agency (2026).

The numbers of salmon rod licences issued since 1994 show variable patterns (Figure 4). Short-term (one-day and eight-day) licence numbers have progressively declined over the period, from a 5-year mean of 11,228 at the start of the period to a 5-year mean of 4,373 recently. In 2025, the number of short-term licences sold (4,332) was the third lowest in the time-series. In contrast, there has been greater variation in the number of annual licences issued. Annual licence numbers decreased sharply from 26,641 in 1994 to 14,916 in 2001. Sales of annual licences increased again after this date, reflecting Environment Agency efforts to promote angling and to reduce levels of licence evasion through targeted enforcement. Licence sales in the period 2009 to 2012 were around 26,000 but declined again after this. In 2017, new 365-day “annual” licences (valid from day of purchase) were introduced, primarily to allow greater flexibility for coarse fish anglers. Annual licence sales in 2025 decreased by 4% compared to 2024 and were the second lowest in the time series.

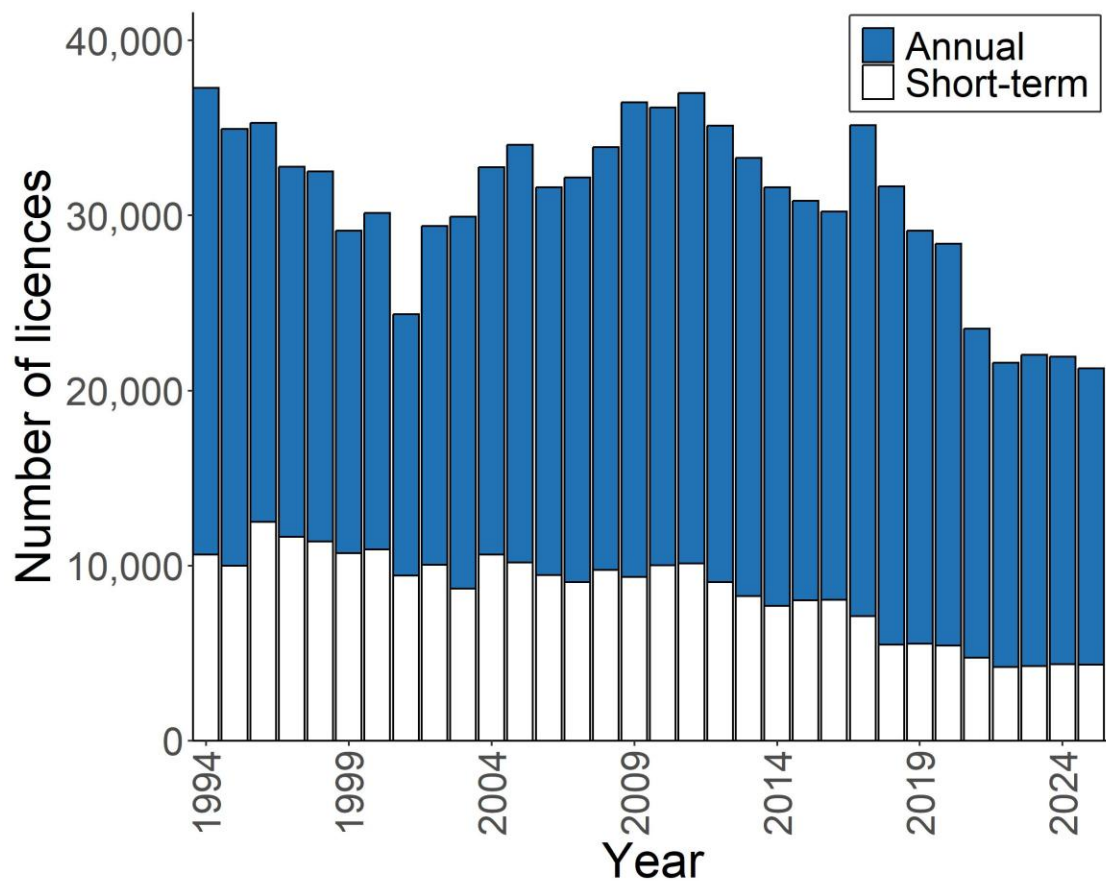


Figure 4. Numbers of annual and short-term rod licences issued in England and Wales from 1994 to 2025. The data underlying this figure are published in Environment Agency (2026).

Declared angling effort has generally declined over the last 30 years from a high of 292,447 days in 1994 to a low of 69,438 days in 2025 (Figure 5). The number of declared days fished by anglers in 2025 was 17% lower than in 2024 and 22% below the average from 2020 to 2024.

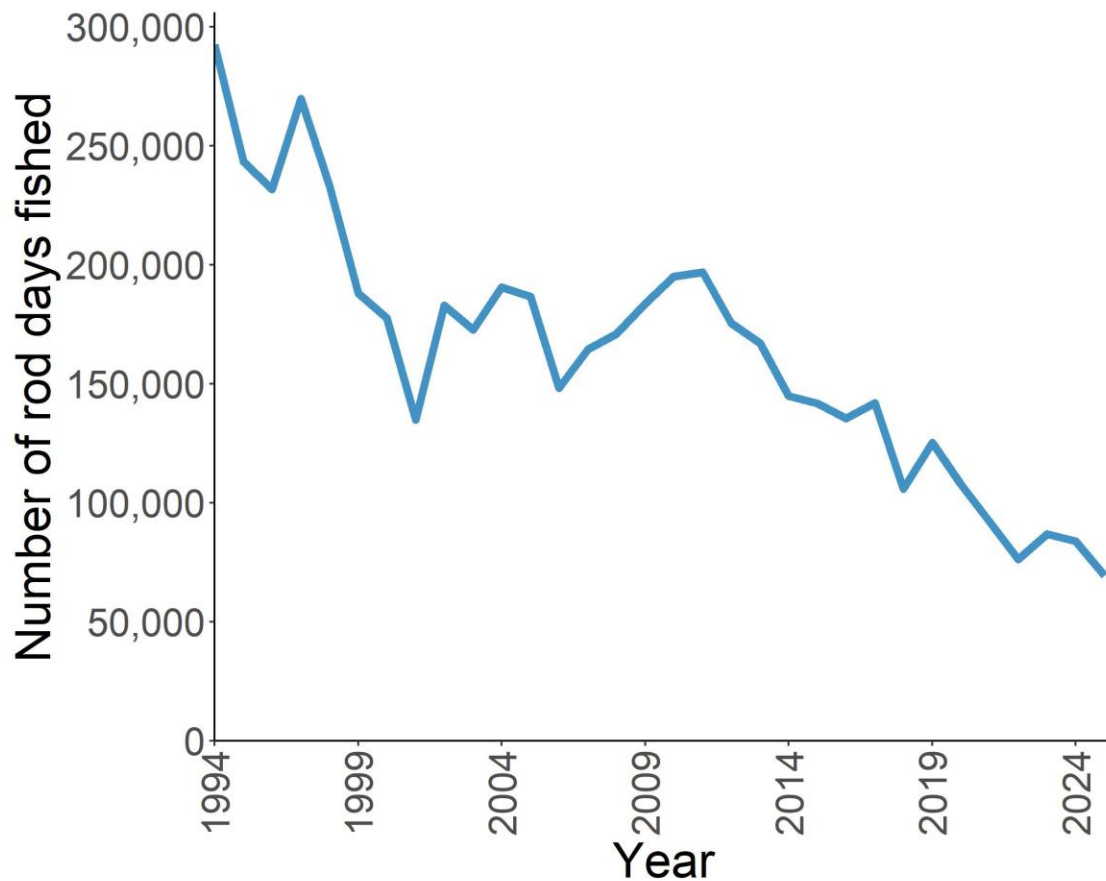


Figure 5. Annual numbers of rod days fished in England and Wales from 1994 to 2025. The data underlying this figure can be found in Environment Agency (2026).

Catches

The total declared salmon catch for 2025 was 4,309 fish (18.10 tonnes), comprising 256 fish (1.13 tonnes) caught by nets and fixed engines and 4,053 fish (16.97 tonnes) caught by rods. All salmon caught by nets and fixed engines were released. Of the rod caught fish, 3,977 fish (16.66 tonnes) were released, representing 98% of the catch by weight. Consequently, no salmon were retained in net and fixed engine fisheries, and anglers retained only 76 fish (0.31 tonnes).

In net and fixed engine fisheries, the total declared salmon catch in 2025 decreased by 37% in catch numbers and 32% in catch weight compared with 2024 (Figure 6). Relative to the 2020 to 2024 average, catch numbers and catch weight were 59% and 58% lower, respectively. Net catches have declined markedly over the past 20 years as a result of increased regulatory controls and the phased closure of some fisheries. The retention of salmon has been prohibited in net and fixed engine fisheries in England and Wales since the introduction of national byelaws in 2019 and 2020, respectively. A regional summary of the declared number of salmon caught by nets and fixed engines since 1971 is shown in Figure A1.

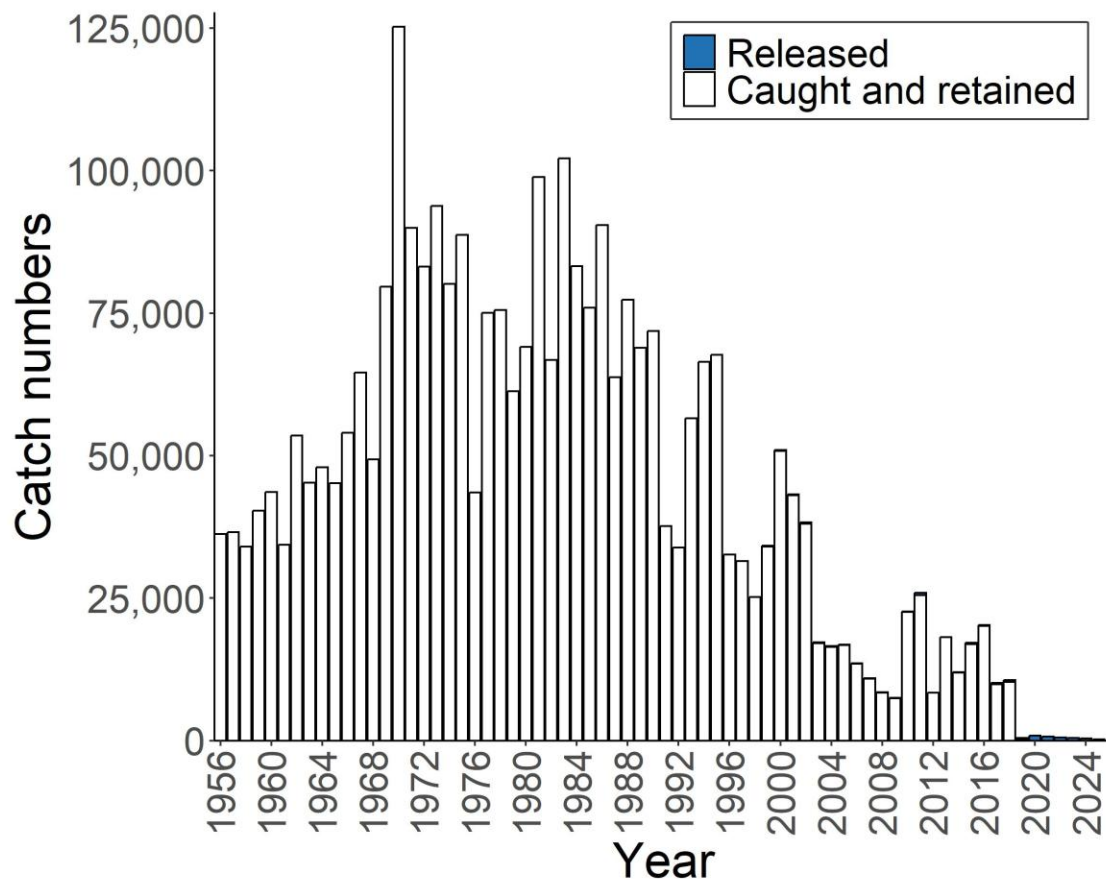


Figure 6. Declared annual numbers of salmon caught by nets and fixed engines in England and Wales from 1956 to 2025. Fish caught and released not reported prior to 1999. The data underlying this figure are published in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

In rod fisheries, the total declared salmon catch in 2025 (including released fish) decreased by 33% in catch numbers and 32% in catch weight compared with 2024 (Figure 7). Relative to the 2020 to 2024 average, catch numbers and catch weight were 42% and 43% lower, respectively. Long-term trends in rod catches indicate a progressive decline from the peak levels in the mid-1960s to the early 2000s. This was followed by a period of generally improved catches between 2004 and 2011, suggesting a partial reversal of the long-term decline, with catches typically remaining above the long-term average. Since 2012, however, catches have declined, and the declared rod catch in 2025 was the lowest in the time-series dating back to 1956. Figure A2 provides a regional summary of the declared number of salmon caught by rods since 1993.

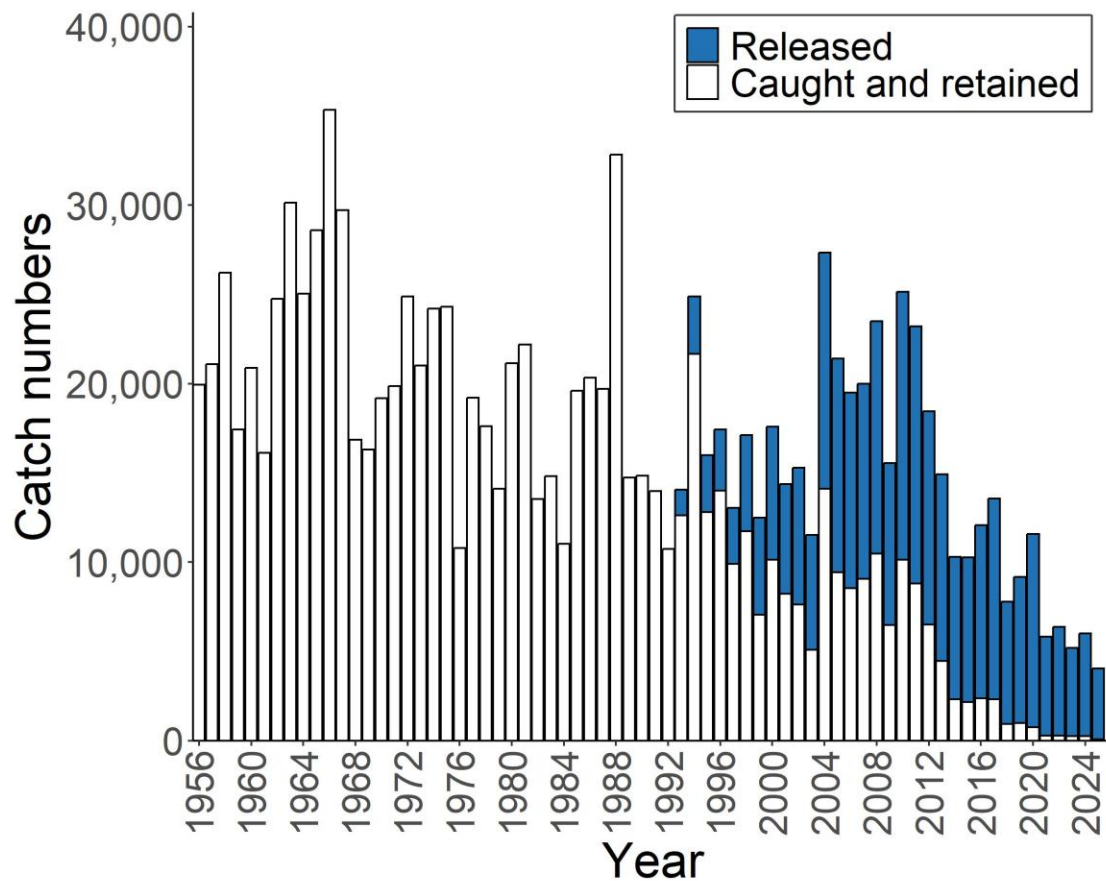


Figure 7. Declared annual numbers of salmon caught by rods in England and Wales from 1956 to 2025. Fish caught and released not reported prior to 1993. The data underlying this figure can be found in in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

A progressive increase in the percentage of rod caught salmon released by anglers has occurred over the available time-series (Figure 8), ranging from 10% in 1993 when such data were first recorded to 98% in 2025, which is the highest in the time-series.

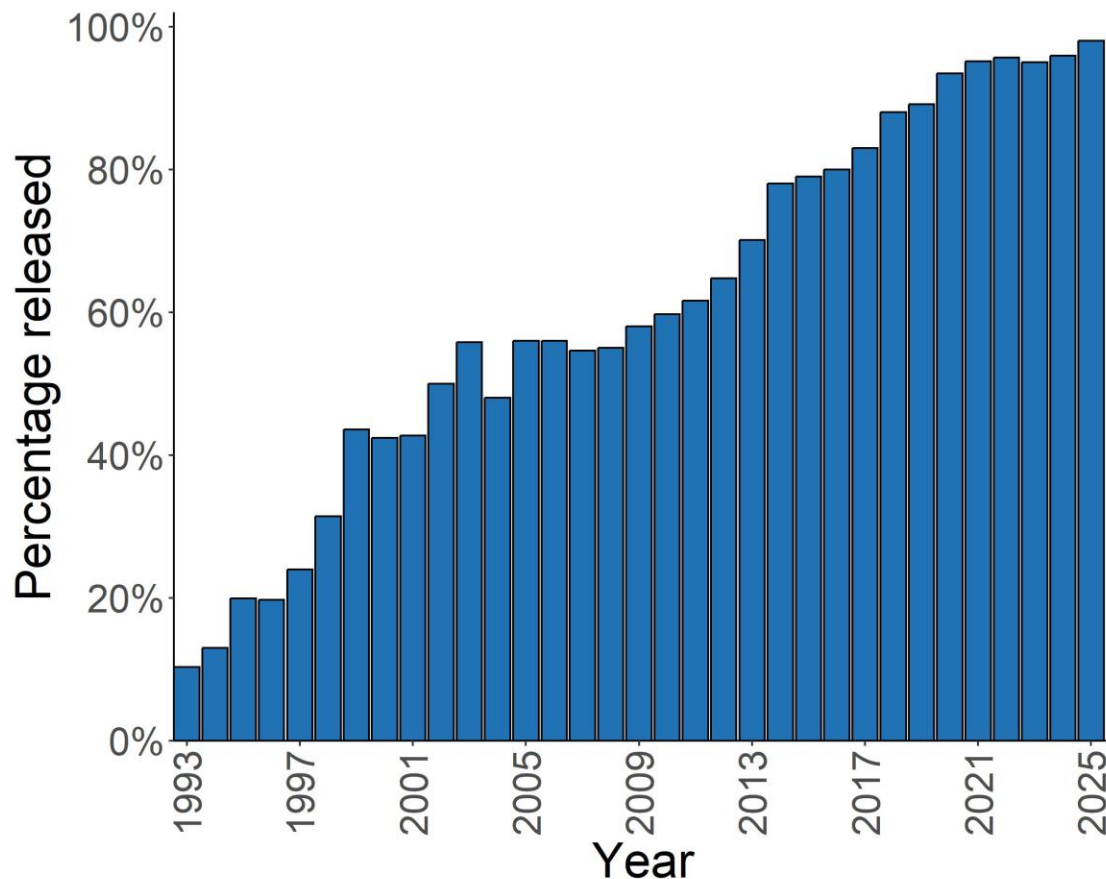


Figure 8. Annual percentage of declared salmon rod catch released by anglers from 1993 to 2025. The data underlying this figure are published in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

Rod catch numbers of one-sea-winter (1SW) salmon, adjusted for under-reporting, exhibit substantially greater year-to-year variability than those of multi-sea-winter (MSW) fish (Figure 9). Since 1992, adjusted catches of 1SW salmon have ranged from 24,223 in 2004 to just 1,946 in 2025, the lowest value in the time-series. In contrast, adjusted catches of MSW salmon have varied less (2,494 to 10,925 fish) and generally exhibited a positive long-term trend. Nevertheless, the adjusted MSW catch in 2025 was 36% lower than in 2024 and the lowest recorded since 1992. Over the last fifteen years, the percentage of MSW fish in rod catches has increased, while the number of 1SW salmon caught has declined. The number and percentage of 1SW and MSW salmon in regional rod catches are illustrated in Figures A3 and A4, respectively.

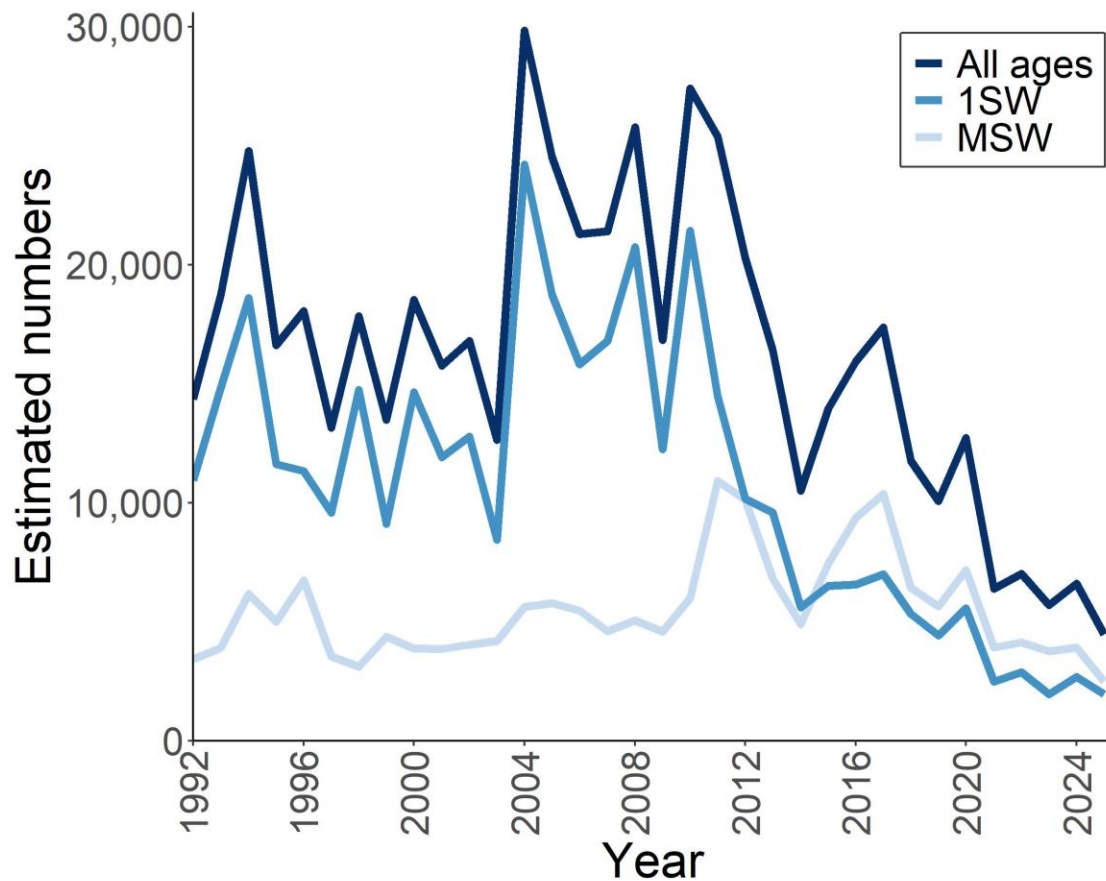


Figure 9. Estimated total annual numbers (corrected for under-reporting) of one-sea-winter (1SW), multi-sea-winter (MSW), and all salmon caught by rod fisheries in England and Wales (including fish caught and released) from 1992 to 2025. The data underlying this figure can be found in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

3. Exploitation rates

Decreases in rod exploitation rates relative to 2024 were reported on eight rivers (Figure A5: Tyne, Test, Itchen, Hampshire Avon, Fowey, Teifi, and Dee for 1SW and MSW salmon), with all values below the 2020 to 2024 average. In contrast, exploitation rates increased on two rivers (Frome and Tamar), but remained below the 2020 to 2024 average. Overall, salmon exploitation rates have declined in most rod and net fisheries, as has the proportion of fish being killed, although substantial variability remains among rivers and between years.

4. Stock monitoring

Returning stock estimates

Returning stock estimates and counts for 6 of the 11 rivers (55%) with validated fish counters or traps in 2025 were higher than in 2024, while returns decreased on the five remaining rivers (Figure A6). Increases in returns were estimated on six rivers (Fowey, Tamar, Itchen, Test, Dee, and Taff), whereas decreases were estimated on five rivers (Tees, Tyne, Hampshire Avon, Frome, and Teifi). Estimated returns were the lowest on record for four rivers (Hampshire Avon, Frome, Tyne, and Teifi). In most PSRs, particularly those flowing to the South West and North West coasts of England and in Wales, there is evidence of a marked decline in the numbers of returning salmon over the last decade.

Return rates to rivers

Evidence from monitored rivers around the North Atlantic indicates that salmon return rates have declined markedly in recent decades (ICES 2026). In England and Wales, the return rates of wild smolts to the rivers Dee, Tamar, and Frome have been at low levels in recent years (Figure 10).

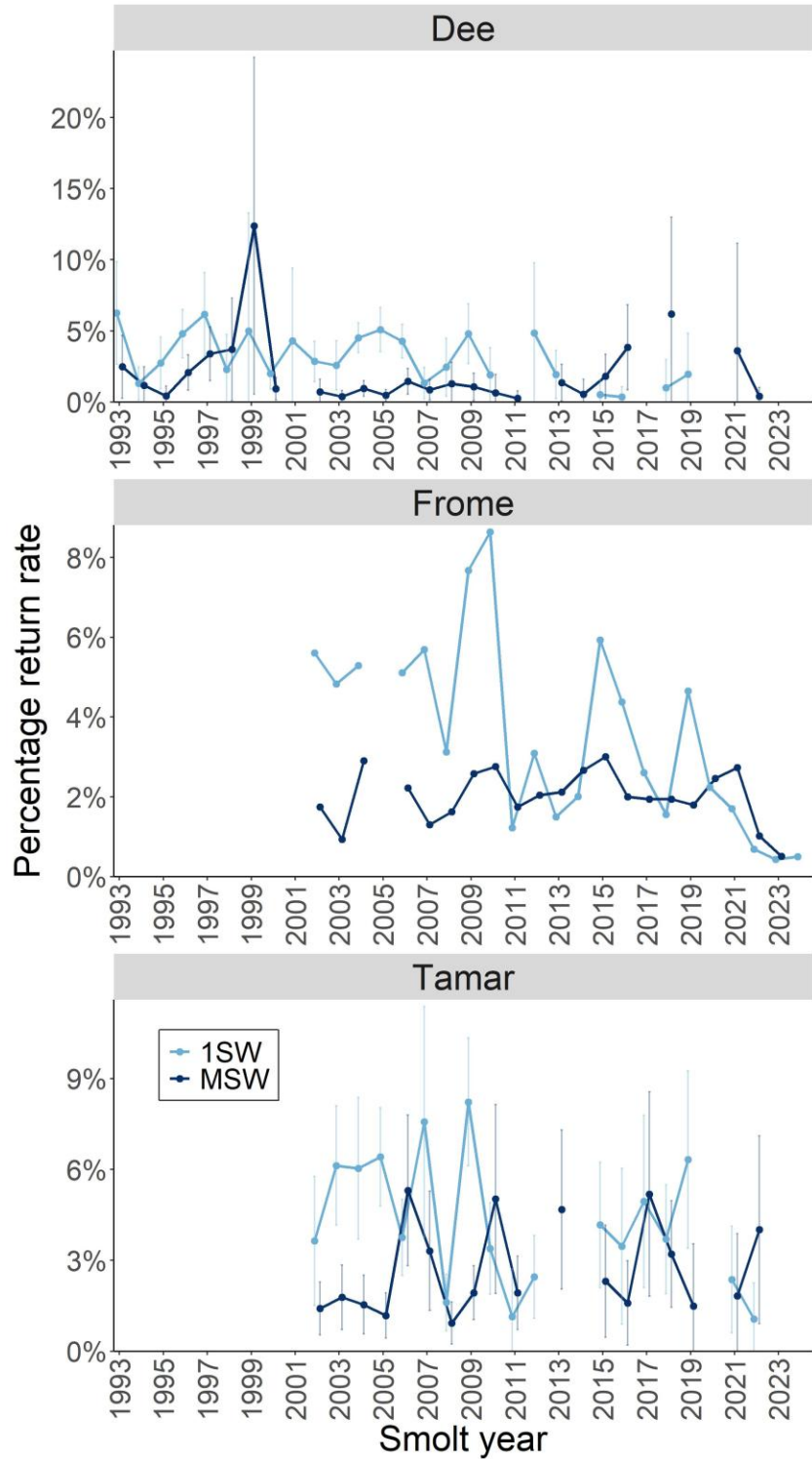


Figure 10. Estimated percentage return rates of wild smolts to the rivers Dee, Frome, and Tamar for one-sea-winter (1SW) and multi-sea-winter (MSW) salmon. Confidence limits are not available for the River Frome estimates. The data underlying this figure are published in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

Juvenile population monitoring

A classification scheme applied to juvenile salmon abundance data is used to determine the percentage of monitoring sites falling into different abundance classes (Classes A-F). The percentage of monitoring sites in the top three abundance classes (Classes A-C) is used to provide a measure of juvenile population status for each PSR over the period 2020 to 2025 (Figure 11). Annual estimates of the overall percentage of sites within PSRs falling within Classes A to C have varied over the time-series (2005-2025), with generally lower values in recent years (Figure 12). The data show considerable variability, ranging from 53% in 2009 to a low of 23% in 2016, a year of poor juvenile recruitment observed throughout England and Wales. There was a small improvement from 2017 to 2019, with the value for 2019 (36%) equal to the long-term average (36%). In 2024 and 2025, the percentage of sites falling within Classes A to C was 31% and 32%, respectively.

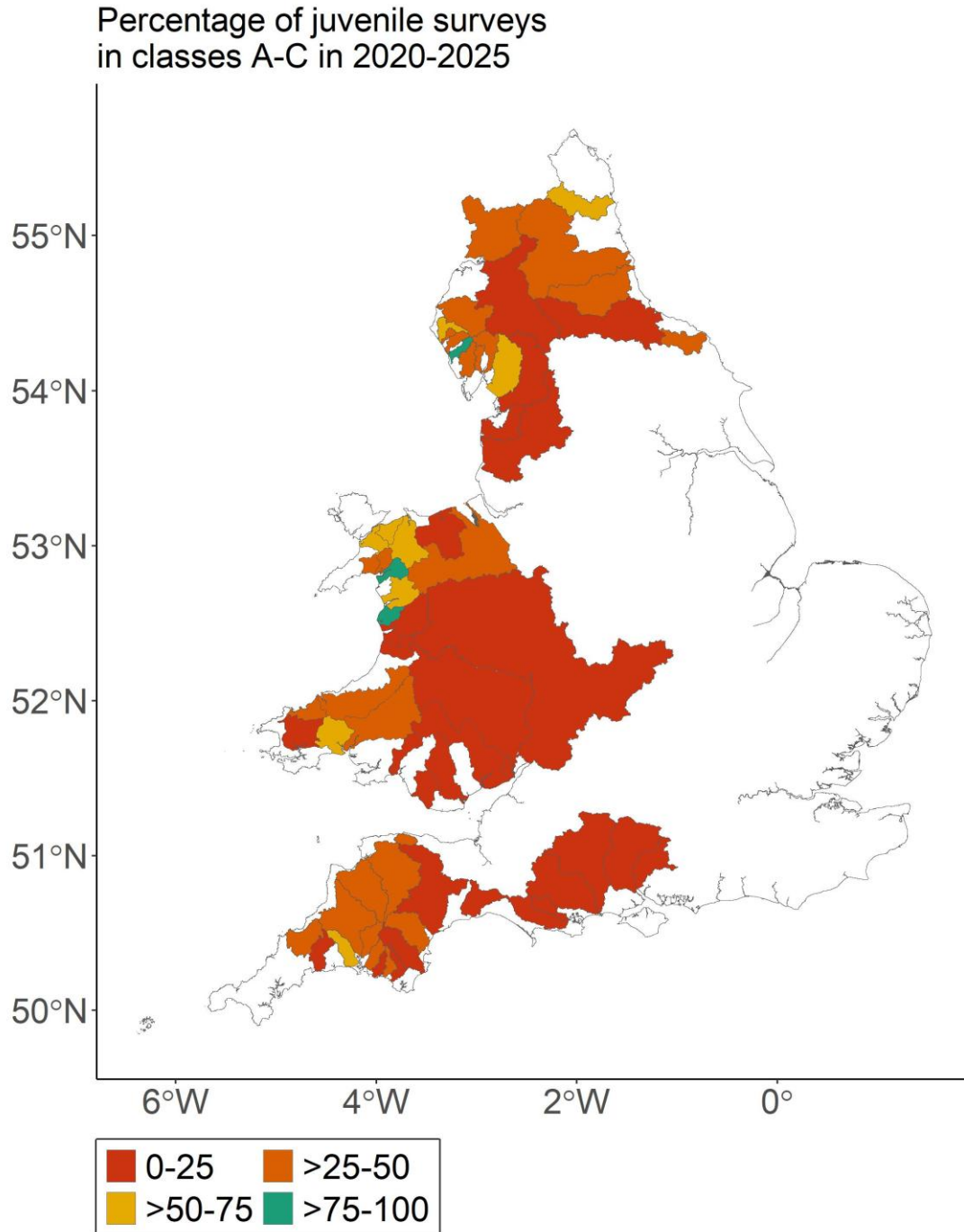


Figure 11. Juvenile salmon abundance indices for each catchment, presented as the percentage of electrofishing survey sites in classes A to C only from 2020 to 2025. Colours indicate the percentage of sites classified in Classes A to C, represented by red (0-25%), orange (>25-50%), yellow (>50-75%), and green (>75-100%). Note that no 2020 data are shown on the figure because COVID-19 access and movement restrictions prevented any notable juvenile salmonid monitoring. The data underlying this figure are published in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

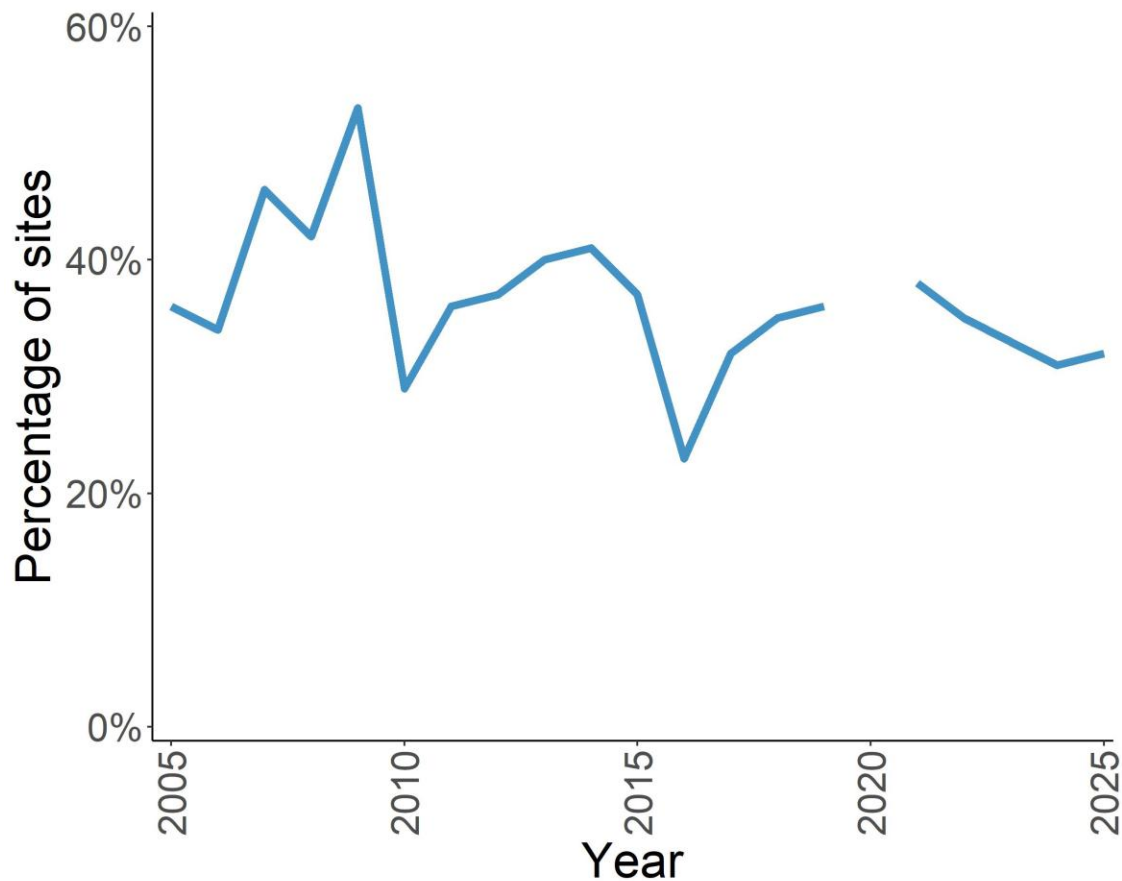


Figure 12. Percentage of juvenile monitoring sites in England and Wales in Classes A to C from 2005 to 2025. Data include all surveys conducted in a single year from Principal Salmon Rivers only. Note that no 2020 data are shown on the figure because COVID-19 access and movement restrictions prevented any notable juvenile salmonid monitoring. The data underlying this figure are published in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

5. Assessment of stock status

Annual estimates of the number of salmon eggs produced in each PSR are used to assess the status of individual salmon stocks in England and Wales. Stock status is evaluated annually against Conservation Limits (CLs) and Management Targets (MTs) in line with the requirements of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO). Full details of the assessment approaches are provided in the background report (Cefas, Environment Agency, and Natural Resources Wales 2025).

Stock status in 2025

Egg deposition estimates for 2025 have been calculated for 59 out of 64 PSRs in England and Wales using counter and/or catch derived estimates of adult returns and spawner

abundance. No egg deposition estimates for 2025 could be derived on five rivers (Yealm, Tavy, Ogmere, Dysinni, and Dwryd) due to declared rod catches of zero. Egg estimates, expressed as the percentage of the CL attained, are provided in Table 1.

Two rivers (3%) were assessed as exceeding their CL in 2025, down from seven rivers in 2024 and the lowest number in the time-series since 1993. A total of forty rivers (68%) were below 50% of their CL in 2025, unchanged from 2024. However, CL attainment could not be calculated for the Yealm, Tavy, Ogmere, Dysynni, and Dwryd because declared salmon rod catches were zero in these rivers, preventing the estimation of egg deposition. Consequently, direct comparisons of the number of rivers attaining their CLs between years should be interpreted with caution, as the number and identity of rivers included in the assessment may differ among years.

Table 1. Conservation Limits (CLs) and the percentage of the CL attained for Principal Salmon Rivers in England and Wales from 2016 to 2025. Current compliance against the Management Objective (MO) and projected compliance in 2030 are shown in the right-hand columns. Stock status category abbreviations include: NaR = Not at Risk; PNaR = Probably Not at Risk; PaR = Probably at Risk; and AR = At Risk. The data underlying this table are published in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

	EA Region/ NRW	Percentage of Conservation Limit attained (%) [a]																	Current compliance [b] in 2025	Projected compliance [b] in 2030
	River	Accessible wetted area (ha)	Conservation Limit eggs / 100m²	Conservation Limit eggs (x 10 ⁶)	Management Target eggs (x 10 ⁶)	2025 egg deposition (x 10 ⁶)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025				
North East																				
	Coquet	143.76	218.22	3.14	5.07	2.60	160.44	190.20	95.96	212.59	311.52	137.03	187.32	213.35	281.67	82.84	PNaR	PNaR		
	Tyne	541.60	207.74	11.25	21.67	22.77	558.50	439.63	369.70	272.87	288.68	264.54	416.76	248.67	271.07	202.34	NaR	PNaR		
	Wear	232.42	249.64	5.80	8.86	5.23	228.06	310.01	225.27	182.80	232.53	123.58	217.68	155.39	211.12	90.08	PaR	PaR		
	Tees	620.05	240.30	14.90	15.58	0.36	12.56	21.47	4.72	8.59	5.44	8.78	5.15	6.95	9.83	2.42	AR	AR		
	Esk (Yorkshire)	85.66	236.10	2.02	2.81	0.20	101.66	174.50	53.37	62.32	72.60	34.57	23.84	57.56	67.92	9.94	AR	AR		
Southern																				
	Test	138.21	246.34	3.40	4.80	1.52	99.15	127.78	58.74	69.31	194.14	60.22	49.21	42.93	47.90	44.72	AR	AR		
	Itchen	69.45	234.19	1.63	1.92	0.52	44.76	86.16	59.02	54.72	87.92	43.76	21.66	42.31	36.73	32.18	AR	AR		
South West																				
	Avon (Hants)	369.28	175.35	6.48	7.79	1.93	79.09	62.57	58.92	58.84	91.67	88.38	56.55	31.33	23.83	29.79	AR	AR		
	Stour (Dorset)	141.65	149.38	2.12	2.20	0.13	16.15	12.69	12.02	11.76	18.26	17.95	11.30	6.27	4.81	5.95	AR	AR		
	Piddle	17.54	176.85	0.31	0.36	0.12	69.82	82.32	67.18	40.87	82.00	57.23	82.62	47.82	46.21	39.15	AR	AR		
	Frome	87.64	170.90	1.50	1.90	1.19	124.64	150.71	122.88	89.98	167.74	121.82	166.82	96.37	93.92	79.45	PaR	PaR		
	Axe	82.97	174.76	1.45	1.60	0.05	36.61	15.80	2.07	10.92	5.24	NA	NA	NA	3.84	3.67	AR	AR		
	Exe	281.99	253.24	7.14	9.07	0.74	85.72	108.11	59.85	52.58	84.16	62.85	19.41	43.79	20.70	10.31	AR	AR		
	Teign	98.45	250.69	2.47	3.05	0.23	71.97	105.45	80.49	65.72	56.88	65.56	51.02	59.91	18.69	9.25	AR	AR		
	Dart	136.68	217.96	2.98	3.42	0.09	51.93	43.40	12.72	20.46	15.68	7.09	1.34	17.86	NA	3.19	AR	AR		
	Avon (Devon)	34.63	201.77	0.70	0.88	0.05	64.00	58.62	43.62	32.99	51.68	113.76	17.31	17.88	39.89	7.18	AR	AR		
	Erme	20.26	180.38	0.37	0.55	0.09	30.91	174.61	127.40	6.77	10.53	58.20	9.16	88.96	NA	24.15	AR	PaR		

	Yealm	11.38	212.05	0.24	0.27	NA	23.42	11.35	32.19	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	AR	AR
	Plym	29.43	188.37	0.55	0.60	0.05	6.96	28.84	18.03	12.28	29.29	5.86	2.80	19.32	NA	8.54	AR	AR
	Tavy	68.50	200.58	1.37	1.66	NA	35.37	84.70	29.16	26.36	47.28	45.69	22.31	7.05	5.02	NA	AR	AR
	Tamar	292.57	395.19	11.56	13.90	6.35	82.63	104.29	88.83	78.12	113.17	124.39	109.42	74.49	54.55	54.94	AR	AR
	Lynher	29.18	233.43	0.68	1.11	0.36	163.01	292.63	46.24	44.60	83.74	118.63	83.39	112.59	61.79	53.24	AR	AR
	Fowey	41.50	207.44	0.86	1.07	0.59	92.86	146.97	134.08	83.14	121.06	130.10	117.14	74.69	76.69	68.15	AR	AR
	Camel	55.70	176.31	0.98	1.20	0.68	104.70	93.22	82.16	45.72	50.55	34.85	93.13	85.66	117.38	69.56	AR	PaR
	Taw	273.91	210.89	5.78	9.05	2.83	139.44	250.62	62.35	74.16	126.89	59.51	43.74	56.25	25.24	49.05	AR	AR
	Torridge	198.31	206.59	4.10	5.19	0.84	83.17	105.78	47.67	18.52	28.32	21.08	17.46	22.14	14.80	20.51	AR	AR
	Lyn	27.06	359.12	0.97	1.71	0.17	60.42	257.80	38.82	208.20	192.23	211.55	39.28	46.53	131.59	17.51	AR	AR
Midlands																		
	Severn	898.07	143.13	12.85	16.91	0.67	107.07	101.79	65.84	51.16	63.27	27.31	19.34	17.73	6.53	5.23	AR	AR
North West																		
	Ribble	351.07	202.20	7.10	9.90	4.00	116.96	189.39	80.07	82.59	117.12	36.42	48.04	42.82	62.83	56.35	AR	AR
	Wyre	66.78	73.11	0.49	0.53	0.07	2.65	27.22	11.44	NA	23.19	3.62	18.79	6.02	5.26	14.26	AR	AR
	Lune	422.73	236.72	10.01	13.25	6.38	112.17	132.04	67.09	48.26	101.49	18.72	34.52	23.15	51.06	63.77	AR	AR
	Kent	68.13	223.41	1.52	1.97	0.61	105.34	113.41	107.59	76.38	101.55	24.84	36.10	41.61	50.26	40.39	AR	AR
	Leven	45.84	182.05	0.83	1.17	0.16	62.27	124.75	155.77	77.62	85.10	17.35	35.10	16.54	32.06	19.01	AR	AR
	Crake	16.33	193.63	0.32	0.38	0.23	13.43	59.92	76.62	22.65	31.46	22.93	40.51	23.35	48.57	72.31	AR	PaR
	Duddon (& Lickle)	25.67	120.99	0.31	0.65	0.60	341.85	548.48	351.89	193.74	380.18	115.14	195.48	286.43	155.41	193.70	PNaR	PaR
	Esk (Cumbria)	20.48	180.75	0.37	0.46	0.28	120.31	168.53	124.26	109.73	141.67	128.15	161.13	100.62	91.80	75.75	AR	AR
	Irt	34.85	197.55	0.69	0.89	0.47	62.90	86.65	56.66	58.39	154.23	80.90	91.75	18.72	86.84	68.51	AR	PaR
	Ehen	40.84	229.94	0.94	1.37	0.76	115.51	181.09	109.67	104.67	227.03	77.27	60.84	59.15	87.48	80.79	AR	AR
	Calder	12.61	260.69	0.33	0.40	0.26	15.67	42.42	24.33	39.83	103.32	54.43	55.35	30.44	38.90	77.66	AR	PaR
	Derwent	212.85	184.82	3.93	5.29	2.97	89.91	161.82	68.13	49.11	106.90	34.62	61.79	33.59	27.05	75.48	AR	AR
	Eden	687.53	199.99	13.75	17.26	3.77	113.79	93.29	82.69	57.81	104.87	47.38	48.80	32.82	53.77	27.42	AR	AR
	Esk-Border	305.63	255.05	7.79	10.42	4.49	89.59	81.11	171.78	67.96	120.42	43.47	59.66	59.13	42.62	57.58	AR	AR
Wales																		
	Wye	1,721.04	224.09	38.57	50.50	3.56	131.61	95.87	49.69	28.89	47.48	32.29	50.87	31.01	25.68	9.23	AR	AR
	Usk	407.09	248.35	10.11	16.89	2.18	227.69	237.89	60.94	63.72	82.65	53.15	38.68	36.51	32.81	21.59	AR	AR
	Taff & Ely	145.72	219.19	3.19	3.40	0.24	25.87	17.12	8.15	9.78	17.39	11.69	4.84	1.25	2.34	7.64	AR	AR
	Ogmore	61.21	180.45	1.10	1.23	NA	27.39	25.38	5.54	13.35	39.39	3.66	NA	2.54	4.71	NA	AR	AR
	Tawe	87.85	210.85	1.85	2.02	0.01	27.59	30.69	11.96	9.89	10.99	3.40	4.71	2.86	2.45	0.43	AR	AR

	Tywi/Towy	500.07	226.04	11.30	14.53	2.60	81.79	118.52	65.49	30.87	96.99	38.91	36.48	25.77	29.13	22.96	AR	AR
	Taf	90.12	188.59	1.70	1.97	0.14	31.23	54.23	47.93	35.85	32.14	14.32	7.96	3.83	2.08	8.51	AR	AR
	E&W Cleddau	86.61	179.42	1.55	1.68	0.28	24.34	48.29	20.67	19.49	17.50	18.66	13.50	21.01	26.37	17.76	AR	AR
	Teifi	325.92	265.34	8.65	9.14	1.52	32.51	28.16	22.24	30.65	27.95	19.53	39.06	19.75	22.64	17.63	AR	AR
	Rheidol	30.63	222.03	0.68	0.75	0.22	30.21	5.71	10.09	14.46	6.86	3.36	NA	3.34	NA	32.64	AR	AR
	NeVERN	18.55	259.36	0.48	0.63	0.01	72.40	117.05	38.76	14.06	65.52	12.54	16.67	21.15	19.73	2.29	AR	AR
	Dyfi	179.13	234.90	4.21	4.75	0.43	49.96	56.04	44.44	41.33	40.03	21.88	16.83	46.08	25.40	10.34	AR	AR
	Dysynni	31.49	216.27	0.68	0.72	NA	24.06	10.87	11.49	6.71	6.61	10.73	NA	10.41	2.61	NA	AR	AR
	Mawddach	56.66	241.86	1.37	1.84	0.56	143.49	154.03	95.65	122.25	119.78	82.20	78.19	42.84	57.88	40.75	AR	AR
	Dwyrdd	9.24	201.38	0.19	0.27	NA	47.61	186.20	57.95	15.84	97.83	19.81	29.17	31.64	17.08	NA	AR	AR
	Glaslyn	25.01	191.49	0.48	0.60	0.01	68.47	88.31	49.92	46.61	15.89	18.45	12.13	1.86	3.82	1.86	AR	AR
	Dwyfawr	33.31	257.59	0.86	0.94	0.23	38.34	3.61	7.55	21.53	12.02	12.84	1.60	20.16	NA	26.49	AR	AR
	Seiont	21.05	226.11	0.48	0.57	0.06	37.32	41.37	7.56	49.21	72.76	3.87	16.18	13.97	5.50	12.80	AR	AR
	Ogwen	23.90	362.29	0.87	1.39	0.56	101.32	269.70	109.49	152.97	149.75	69.46	6.73	58.47	87.90	64.47	AR	AR
	Conwy	63.01	185.06	1.17	1.86	0.15	134.37	221.48	162.21	145.40	121.85	32.99	34.19	43.85	40.91	13.22	AR	AR
	Clwyd	83.92	237.06	1.99	2.21	0.13	16.66	47.53	10.05	23.78	15.92	7.31	11.04	7.61	3.68	6.35	AR	AR
	Dee	617.04	247.92	15.30	18.10	7.32	66.42	72.86	90.89	33.31	85.78	66.10	58.55	42.07	25.08	47.82	AR	AR
E&W total	—	—	—	262.75	344.11	95.62	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[a] Estimates include eggs contributed by rod-released fish.[b] Basis for current and projected compliance explained in background report. Some entries in this table have been updated from those presented in previous reports as a result of river-specific refinements and corrections. On some rivers, catch returns from fishery owners (rather than declared catches) or data from counters/traps have been used to derive estimates of egg deposition where these are considered to provide the most complete record of the returning stock.NA refers to instances where it was not possible to derive egg deposition estimates and calculate the percentage of the Conservation Limit attained because of declared rod catches of zero.

Compliance with the Management Objective

Compliance with the Management Objective (MO) has been assessed for all 64 PSRs in England and Wales for 2025 and projected to 2030 (Table 1, Figure 13). The MO is that salmon stocks should meet or exceed their CLs in at least four years out of five (i.e., at least 80% of the time).

Compliance assessments are based on annual egg deposition estimates and projections of future egg deposition derived by extrapolating the most recent 10-year trend five years into the future. Consequently, compliance assessments for rivers with fewer egg deposition records are subject to greater uncertainty than assessments based on the full 10-year time-series. However, where fishing activity occurred but declared salmon rod catches were zero in consecutive years, the absence of salmon catches is considered indicative of an 'At Risk' stock. Further information on assessment methods, data limitations, and sources of uncertainty is provided in the background report (Cefas, Environment Agency, and Natural Resources Wales 2025).

The latest compliance assessment indicates that just one PSR (the Tyne) was classified as 'not at risk' in the current year (2025) – i.e., having a high probability ($p > 95\%$) of achieving the MO. This is the sixth consecutive year that the River Tyne has been classified as 'not at risk', but this is not projected to continue to apply for this river in 2030, if the trend in annual egg deposition persists for the next five years.

In 2025, 59 rivers (92%) were classified as 'at risk' – having a low probability ($p < 5\%$) of achieving the MO, a higher number than in 2024 (57), but 54 rivers (84%) are projected to be 'at risk' in 2030 if the trends continue for the next five years.

Just two rivers (3%) were classified as 'probably not at risk' ($50\% \leq p < 95\%$) in 2025. Two rivers (3%) in 2025 were classified as 'probably at risk' ($5\% < p < 50\%$ of achieving the MO); this is projected to rise to 8 rivers (13%) in 2030 if recent trends continue. The compliance figures are summarised, separately, for PSRs in England and Wales in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of river stock statuses for 2025 and projected to 2030 separately for England and Wales.

Stock status category	Probability of meeting the Management Objective	2025		2030	
		Number of rivers	%	Number of rivers	%
England					
Not at Risk	>95%	1	2.38	0	0.00
Probably Not at Risk	50-95%	2	4.76	2	4.76
Probably at Risk	5-50%	2	4.76	8	19.05
At Risk	<5%	37	88.10	32	76.19
Wales					
Not at Risk	>95%	0	0.00	0	0.00
Probably Not at Risk	50-95%	0	0.00	0	0.00
Probably at Risk	5-50%	0	0.00	0	0.00
At Risk	<5%	22	100.00	22	100.00

England

In England, the percentage of PSRs classified as ‘at risk’ has generally increased over the past 15 years (Figure 14). In 2025, the percentage of PSRs regarded as ‘at risk’ was the highest in the time-series since 2011 and would be projected to continue at a relatively high level if recent river-by-river trends continue. The percentage of PSRs classified as ‘not at risk’ was relatively stable, at about 10%, over the early part of the time-series, but just two rivers have been assessed as ‘not at risk’ over the last ten years and projections indicate that none of these rivers will retain this classification to 2030 if recent trends persist for the next five years. Two PSRs were classified as ‘probably not at risk’ in 2025 (Coquet and Duddon (& Lickle)) compared to three rivers in 2024 (Wear, Duddon (& Lickle), and Esk). Thirty-seven PSRs (88%) were assessed as ‘at risk’ in 2025, which exceeds all other years in the time-series. The 2025 assessment suggests that the majority (95%) of English rivers would be projected to fall in the ‘probably at risk’ and ‘at risk’ categories in 2030 if recent trends continue.

Wales

For Wales, the percentage of PSRs falling into the ‘at risk’ category has generally increased over time and very few rivers (≤ 2) have been classed as ‘not at risk’ since 2011 (Figure 14). In 2025, all the rivers (100%) were classified as ‘at risk’. The projected trends suggest that all the rivers (100%) will remain in the ‘at risk’ category in 2030.

Overall

From the latest assessment, it is evident that most salmon stocks in both England and Wales are in a depleted state, and projections suggest a limited likelihood of recovery in the near future.

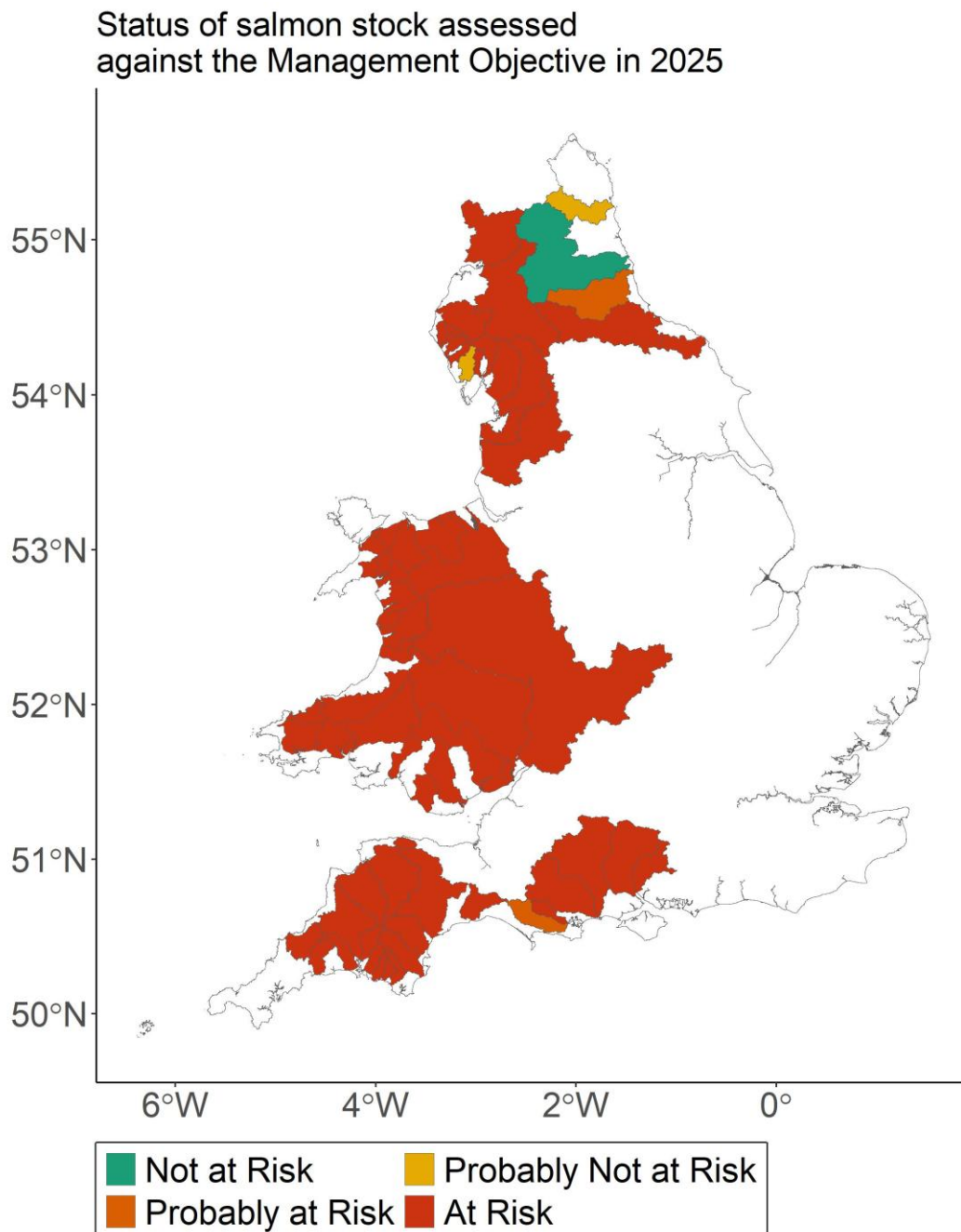


Figure 13. Status of river catchments in 2025 assessed against the Management Objective (i.e., that the Conservation Limit is met or exceeded in at least 4 years out of 5, on average). The data underlying this figure can be found in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

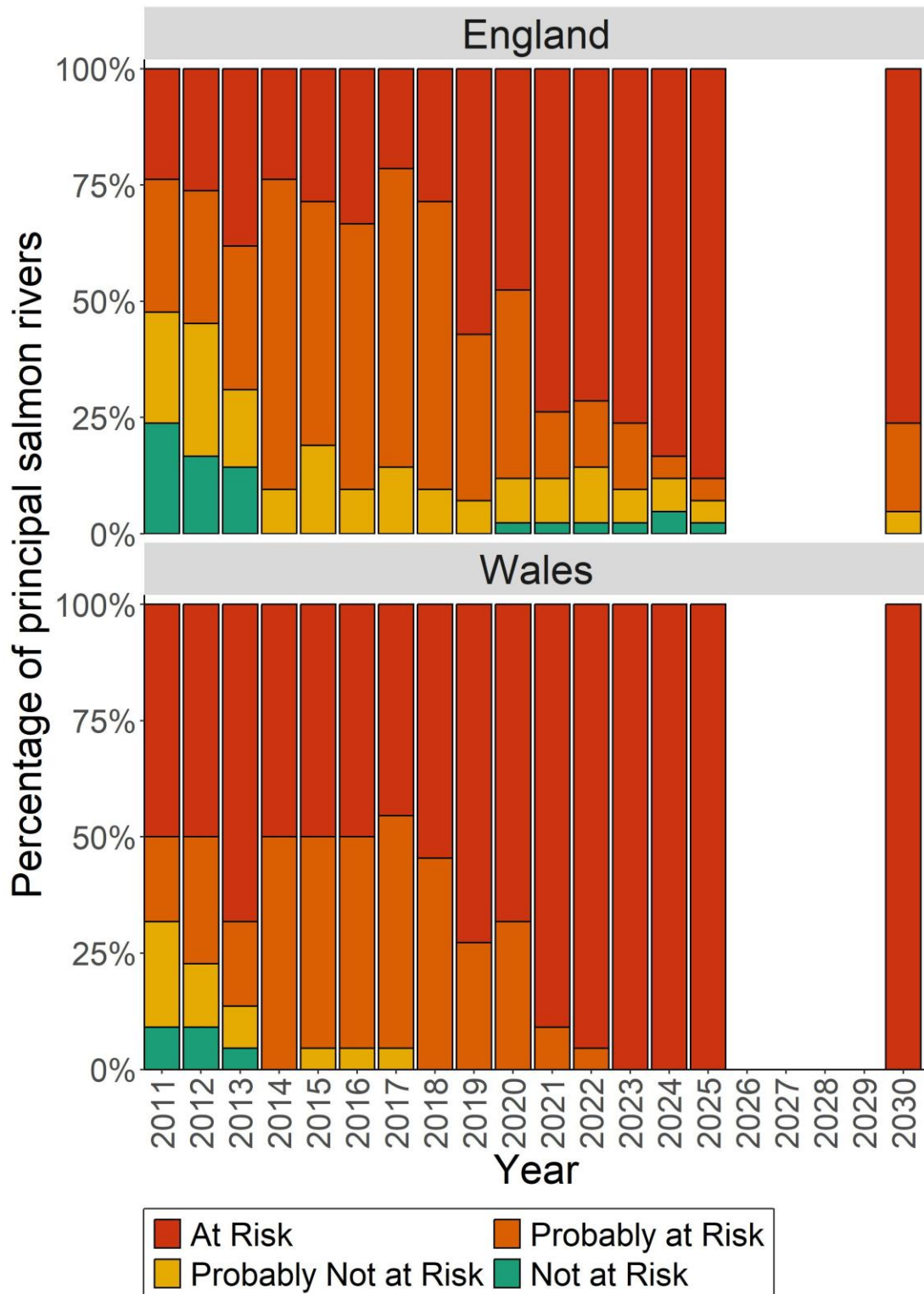


Figure 14. Percentage of Principal Salmon Rivers in each risk category, assessed against the Management Objective, from 2011 to 2025, and as projected for 2030, in England and Wales. The data underlying this figure are published in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

Adult returns and spawners

Overall, the estimated total annual numbers of adult salmon returning to PSRs in England and Wales have declined markedly since 1994 (Figure 15). Total spawner numbers have also decreased over the same period. In 2025, return and spawner estimates were the second and third lowest on record, respectively.

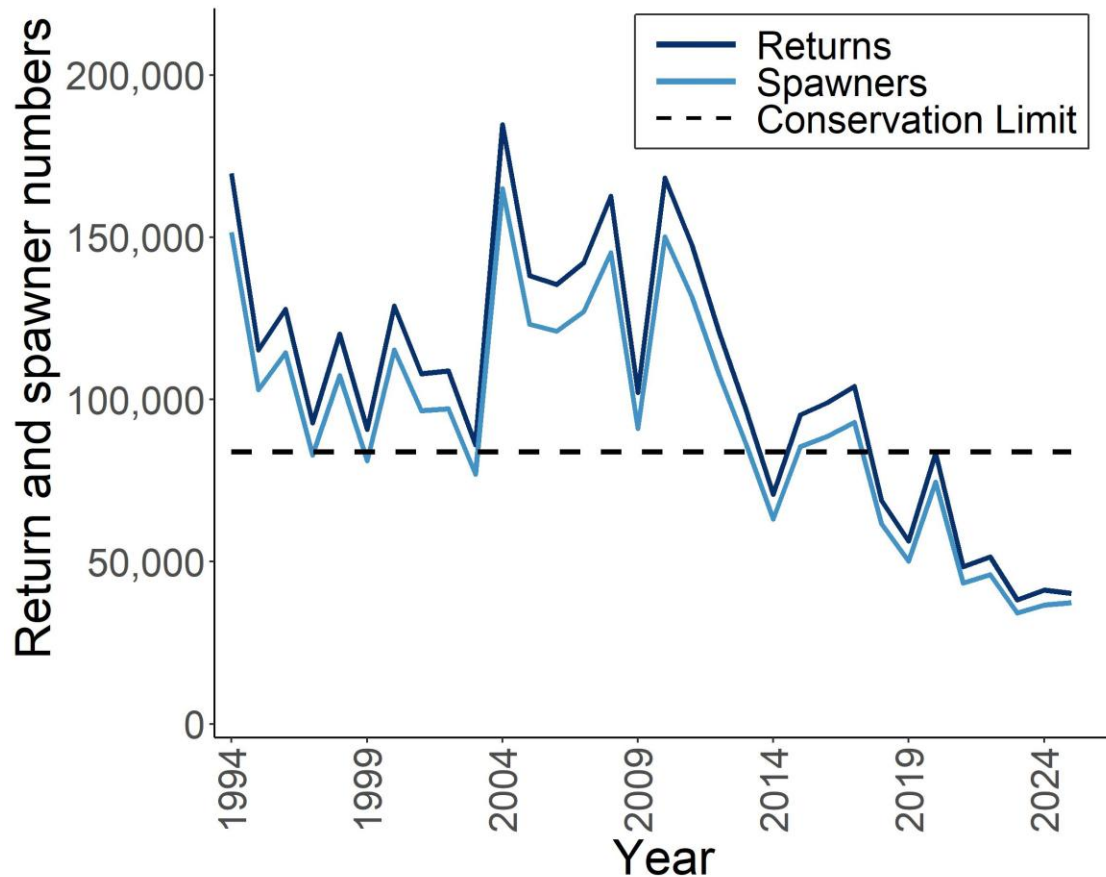


Figure 15. Estimated total annual numbers of adult salmon returning and spawning in Principal Salmon Rivers in England and Wales from 1994 to 2025, together with the national Conservation Limit (derived from the sum of river-specific Conservation Limits). The data underlying this figure are published in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

6. Fishery regulations

Management measures

Viewed against historic data, current stock status estimates provide ongoing cause for concern, hence the conservation of salmon remains a priority. As a result, the Environment Agency and NRW have developed a range of measures to protect salmon stocks in England and Wales, respectively.

In England, Salmon and Sea Trout Protection byelaws came into effect in 2019 for a 10-year period. The measures included the closure of most salmon net fisheries (with the need to release any salmon caught where a fishery is authorised to continue to operate for sea trout); a requirement for PSRs that were projected to be ‘probably at risk’ in 2022 to achieve a higher level of voluntary C&R (>90%) in rod fisheries within three years; and the implementation of mandatory C&R on PSRs that were projected to be ‘at risk’ in the 2017 assessment.

In Wales, measures were approved in late 2019 (following extensive public consultation beginning in 2017 – including a Local Inquiry in 2019). These measures came into force in January 2020 for 10 years (with a 5-year mid-term review) and include the mandatory C&R of salmon by net and rod fisheries across Wales, as well as restrictions on angling methods (e.g., the number, size, and type of hooks) to help maximise the survival of released fish.

7. Existing and emerging threats to salmon stocks

A detailed description of the threats to salmon stocks in England and Wales can be found in Gillson et al. (2022), NASCO (2025a, 2025b), and the background report (Cefas, Environment Agency, and Natural Resources Wales 2025). The following provides brief details on three issues:

Red Vent Syndrome and other diseases

Salmon have been observed returning to PSRs in England and Wales with swollen and/or bleeding vents since 2004. The condition, referred to as Red Vent Syndrome (RVS), has been subject to ongoing surveillance. In 2025, the incidence of RVS was above long-term averages in the rivers Tyne and Dee.

In response to increased reports of fungal (*Saprolegnia*) infections in salmon, the Environment Agency and NRW continue to monitor for disease problems in all the PSRs in England and Wales. No cases of significant *Saprolegnia*-related mortality were recorded in the PSRs in 2025.

Reports have been made since 2019 of salmon returning to rivers in Scandinavia, the Russian Federation, Ireland, and Scotland displaying signs of ventral haemorrhaging. This condition has been termed Red Skin Disease (RSD) and efforts are ongoing to monitor its

occurrence, confirm the exact characteristics of the skin lesions, and identify the cause. No elevated mortality has been reported because of RSD emergence.

Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)

Reports of captures of Pacific pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) in England and Wales have been made in previous years. Most recent reports have occurred in odd-numbered years (e.g., 2019, 2021, and 2023), consistent with the species' predominantly two-year life cycle and the dominance of odd-year spawning populations in northern parts of the Russian Federation and northern Norway, which are thought to be the source of these fish (NASCO 2024).

In 2017, widespread reports of pink salmon captures were made across the North Atlantic (ICES 2018). Relatively large numbers of pink salmon (around 200 fish) were taken in the English north east coast fishery, with additional fish reported from a number of river systems across the country. In 2019, far fewer pink salmon captures were reported, comprising three fish in the north east coast fishery and one in the River Dee. No reported captures of pink salmon were made in 2020. In 2021, there were 26 reported captures of pink salmon in England, but none in Wales. All were recorded in North East England, except for one captured in the River Tamar. In 2022, there was one credible but unconfirmed report of a pink salmon capture in England and Wales, from the River Lune. In 2023, two confirmed captures were reported in England, one in the north east coast fishery and the other in the River Great Ouse in the Anglian region, while none were reported in Wales. No confirmed captures of pink salmon were reported in England and Wales in 2024 or 2025.

Escaped farmed salmon

Concerns have been expressed about the potential impact of escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon stocks in England and Wales. Escaped farmed salmon can negatively impact wild salmon stocks through genetic introgression due to interbreeding, transmission of sea lice, and competition for resources. No reported captures of escaped farmed salmon in England and Wales have been made since 2020.

8. Acknowledgements

This report has been compiled jointly by staff from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the Environment Agency (EA), and Natural Resources Wales/Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (NRW/CNC). The monitoring and assessment of salmon stocks is funded by Defra and Welsh Government. All the participating organisations extend their thanks and recognition to all the anglers and net and fixed engine fishers for submitting catch returns, and to the operational fisheries staff who have collected and compiled the data for this report. Thanks are also due to the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) for data relating to the River Frome (Dorset), the General Secretary of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) for permission to cite the reports of the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) for permission to cite the reports of the Annual meeting and Theme-based Special Sessions.

9. References

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10. Appendix

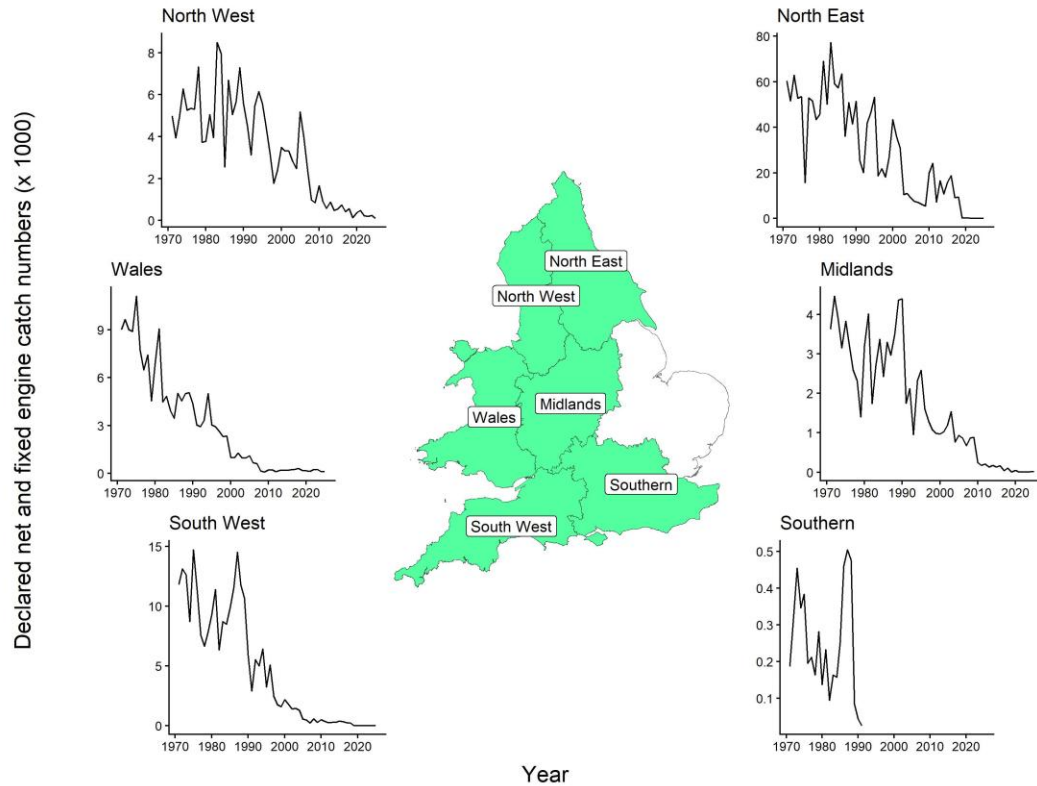


Figure A1. Declared annual numbers of salmon caught by nets and fixed engines from 1971 to 2025. Since 2020, all net caught salmon have been released, except in 2024 when one fish was retained illegally in Wales. Note that the figure axes are not drawn to the same scale. The data underlying this figure are published in Environment Agency (2026).

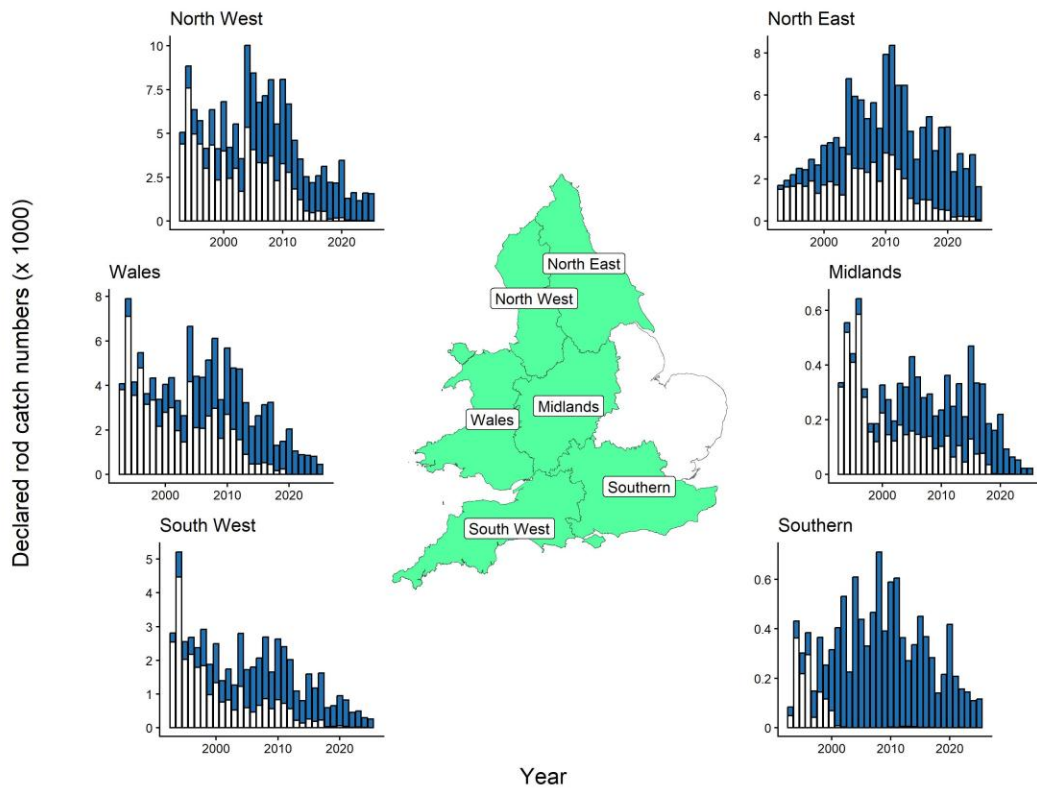


Figure A2. Declared annual numbers of salmon caught by rods from 1993 to 2025. The histograms display the total declared catch, with the white area denoting retained fish and the blue shaded area representing fish caught and released. Note that the histograms are not drawn to the same scale. The data underlying this figure can be found in Environment Agency (2026).

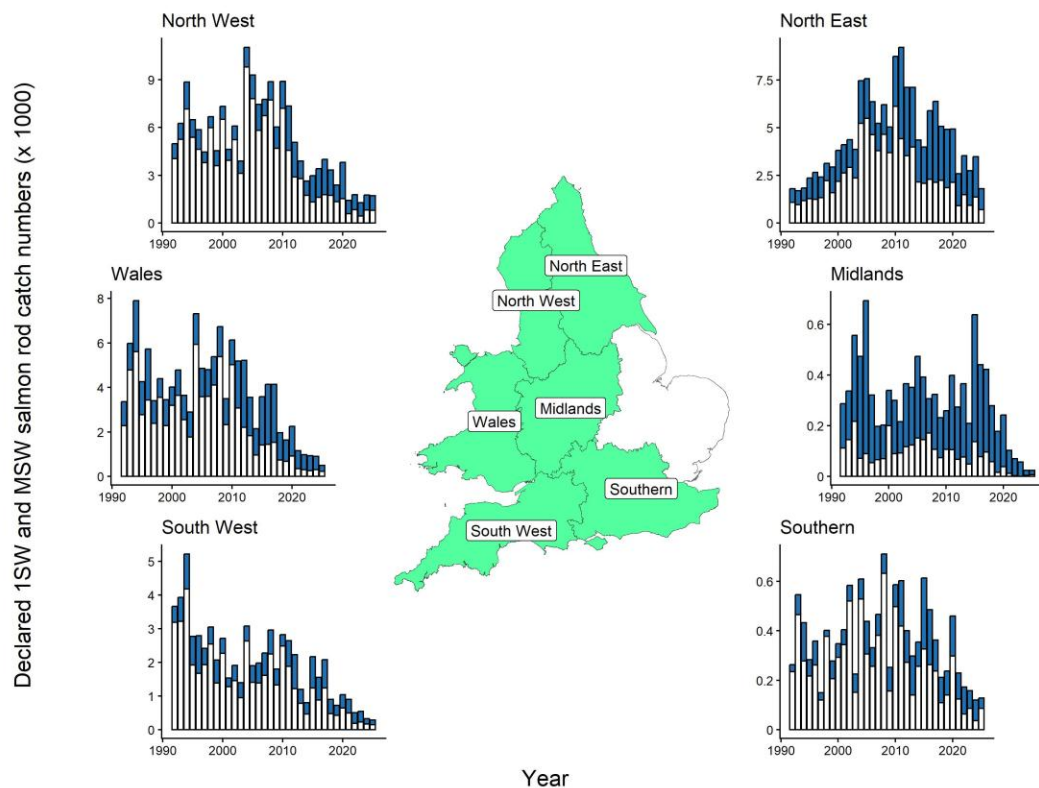


Figure A3. Declared annual numbers of one-sea-winter (1SW; white) and multi-sea-winter (MSW; blue) salmon caught by rods from 1992 to 2025. The data underlying this figure are published in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

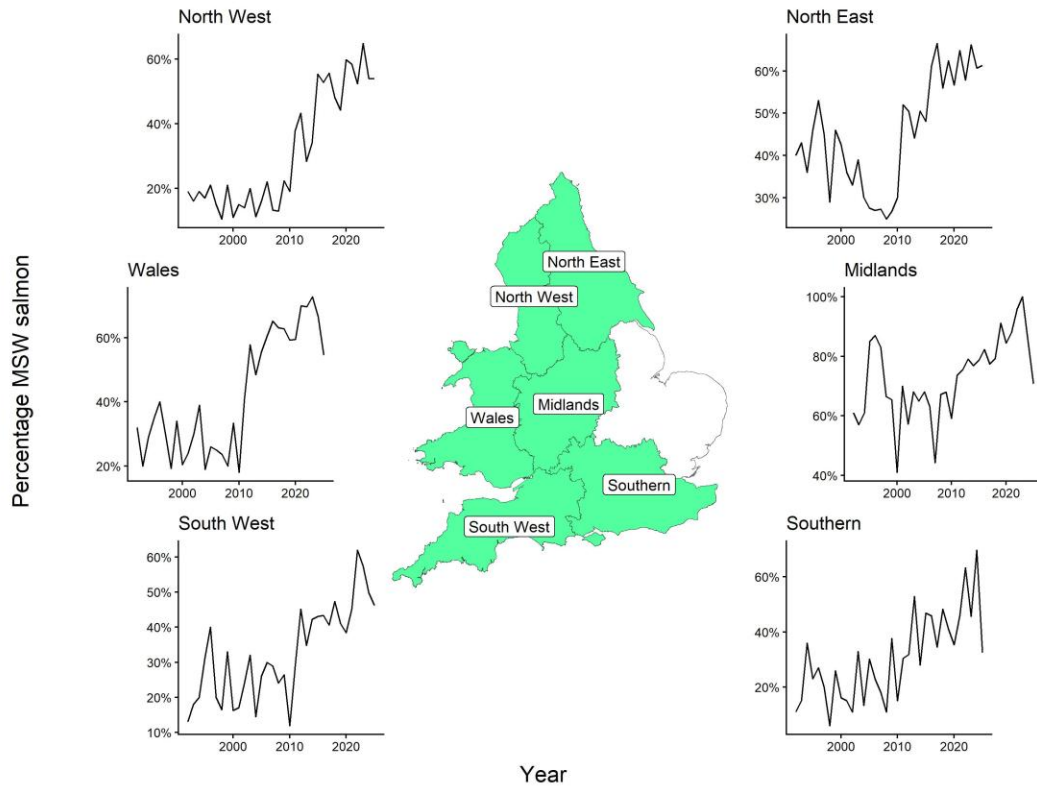


Figure A4. *Estimated annual percentages of multi-sea-winter (MSW) salmon caught by rods from 1992 to 2025. The data underlying this figure can be found in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).*

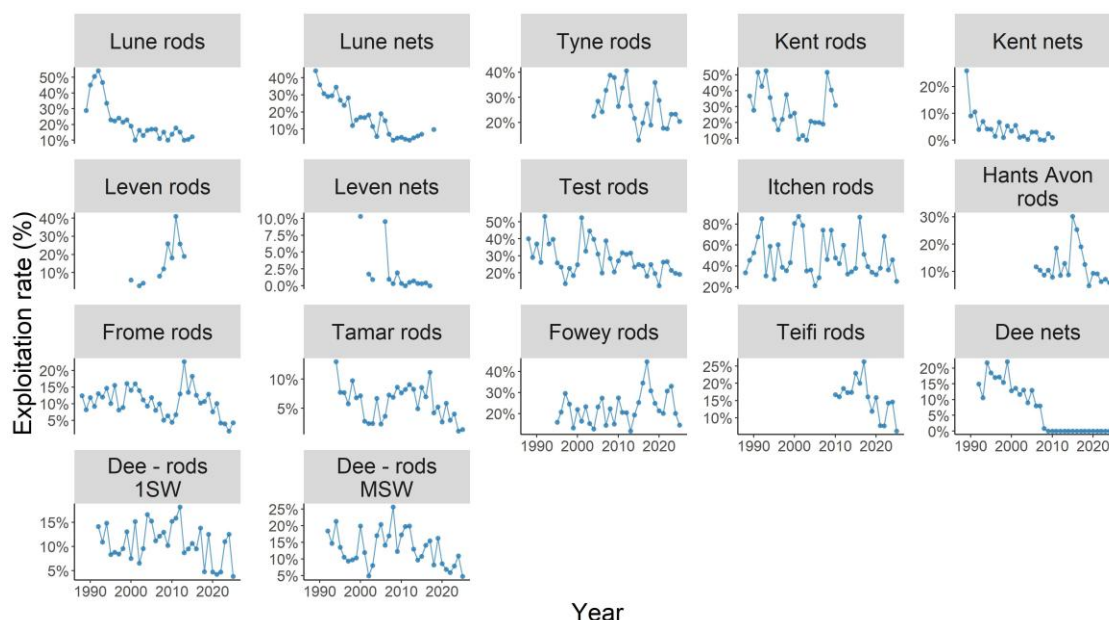


Figure A5. Estimated annual exploitation rates (%) for selected rod and net fisheries in England and Wales from 1988 to 2025. Note that estimates for the Dee rods have been split by sea-age class (1SW and MSW); all other estimates are combined for all ages. The data underlying this figure are published in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).

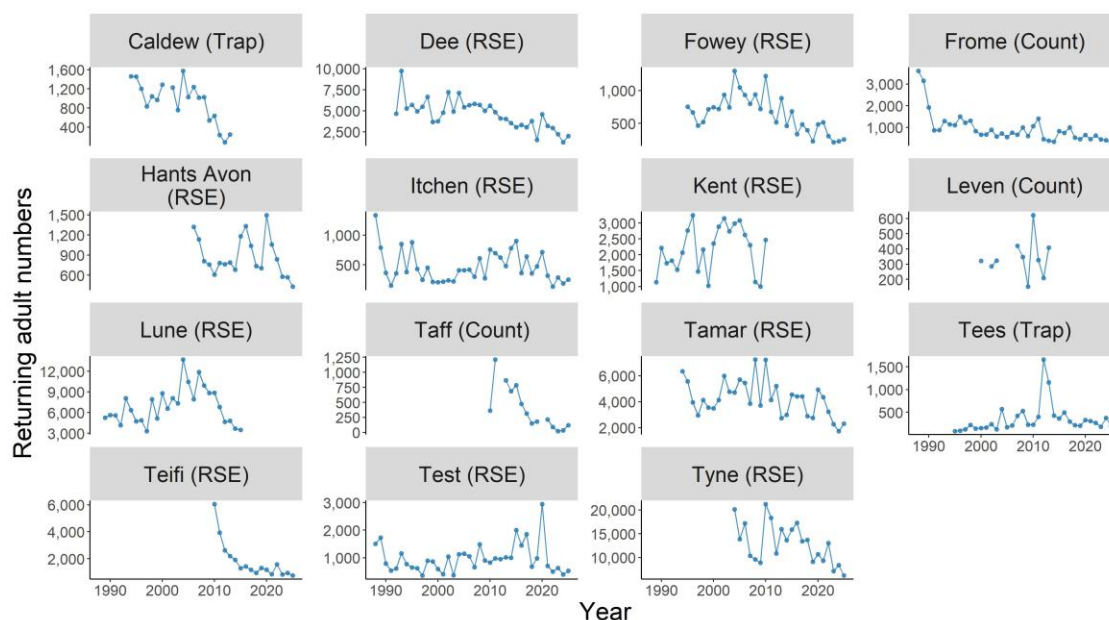


Figure A6. Counts from electronic counters and traps, and returning stock estimates (RSE) (based on trapping and tagging, or validated counts plus catch below counter) for selected salmon stocks in England and Wales from 1988 to 2025. Note that the y-axis scales differ. The data underlying this figure can be found in Cefas, Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales, and Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (2026b).