

# INSHORE NETTING

---

“

*The result of the introduction and proliferation of monofilament gill nets has been a severe decline in fish stocks and a deterioration of many inshore fisheries.*

---

**ANGLING TRUST**  
**POSITION STATEMENT**  
Author: Hannah Rudd  
Published: 01/03/23  
Review date: 01/03/24



---

## Background

The 1970s saw one of the most significant leaps forward in fishing gear technology - the development of monofilament gill nets. Their efficiency, availability, ease of use, low cost and versatility has seen their use explode over the decades and there are now unprecedented amounts of monofilament netting - both legal and illegal - deployed around the inshore waters and estuaries of the UK.

## Why it matters

The result of the introduction and proliferation of monofilament gill nets has been a severe decline in fish stocks and a deterioration of many inshore fisheries. Due to the complicated nature of UK fisheries management, the regulations covering netting are outdated, undermined by loopholes, and no longer fit for purpose.



---

## What is the Angling Trust doing?

The Angling Trust together with the Institute of Fisheries Management is calling for reform of the rules governing the use of nets around the inshore waters of England.

We have published seven key recommendations for reforming inshore netting regulations fit for the 21st century. Included within these recommendations is the requirement for the Inshore Fishery & Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) to review local netting bylaws and ensure they are fit for purpose.

Ultimately, we want to see the long-term sustainable management of inshore fisheries including the end to the use of gill netting in our estuaries and harbours. Reviewing the regulations around the use of nets includes the opportunity to see how our inshore fisheries could be managed more coherently and consider the unique management requirements of recreational sea angling and the socio-economic benefits that this would bring to coastal communities.

## How can you help?

Join the Angling Trust to support our work around inshore fisheries.

Read through the Angling Trust's seven recommendations for inshore netting reform, which are available on the [Angling Trust website](#).

Report illegal use of monofilament gill netting to your local IFCA.

Respond to and support associated consultations on netting related bylaws.

# Thank You!

TO ALL OUR TRADE  
ASSOCIATE PARTNERS  
FOR SUPPORTING THE  
WORK OF THE  
ANGLING TRUST



IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE ANGLING TRADE AND WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK, FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED BY EMAILING [JOHN.CHEYNE@ANGLINGTRUST.NET](mailto:JOHN.CHEYNE@ANGLINGTRUST.NET)



## ANGLING TRUST

We are a not-for-profit organisation representing anglers, fighting for fish, fishing and the environment. We are recognised by the Government as the National Governing Body for angling in England and partner with Visit Wales and Natural Resources Wales to promote Fishing in Wales. We are a member-based organisation made up of anglers of all disciplines providing a united front to represent, grow and protect our sport. By becoming a member of the Angling Trust you are helping to protect the waterways you fish in and the fish which live within them, ensuring their health and protection for future generations.

[Click here for more information about how to join the Angling Trust](#)

Angling Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee, company number 05320350.

Angling Trust & Fish Legal, Eastwood House, Rainbow Street, Leominster, HR6 8DQ.

Telephone: 01568 620447 Email: [admin@anglingtrust.net](mailto:admin@anglingtrust.net) Website: [www.anglingtrust.net](http://www.anglingtrust.net)