Section 5
Fisheries

The Avon catchment is renowned for its salmon, migratory trout and brown trout fisheries and also its specimen coarse fish. The locations of the principle fisheries are shown in Figure 15.

Fisheries management has an important influence on the cSAC and includes a number of activities that have the potential to significantly affect the cSAC features and habitat. These include fish stocking, bank maintenance, weed cutting, gravel cleaning, electric fishing, and recreational and commercial fishing. Many fisheries management activities are regulated through Environment Agency consents and the English Nature Operations Likely to Damage (OLDS) list, which is detailed in Appendix A.

Particular attributes related to fisheries management are relevant to the species and habitats of the River Avon cSAC, and are shown in Table 12.

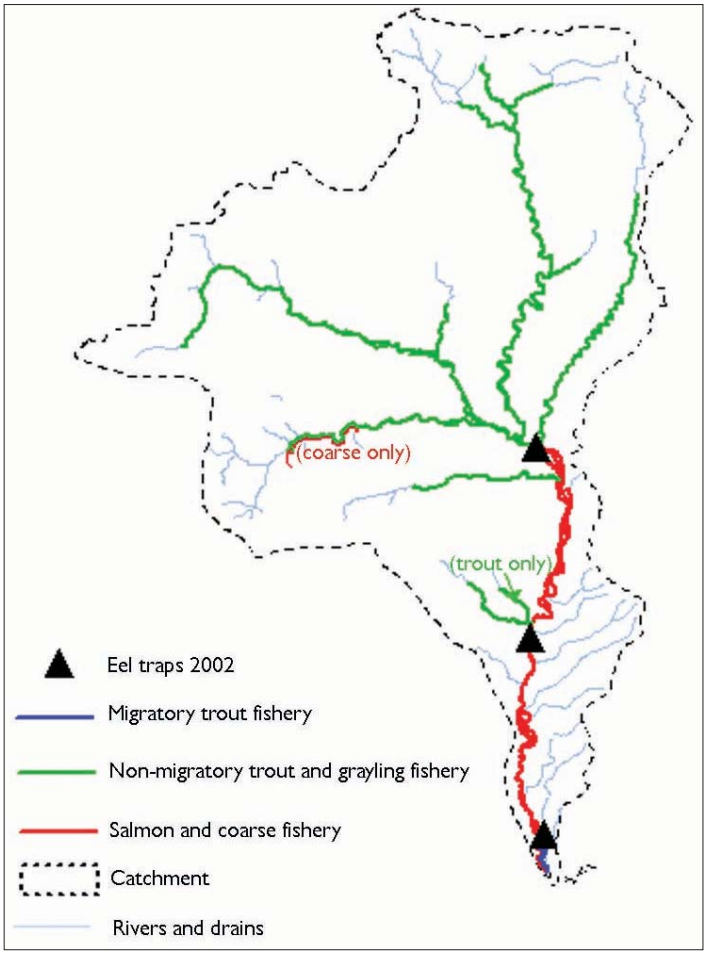

Figure 15. Principal fisheries in the River Avon cSAC.

5.1 Fisheries in the River Avon

5.1.1 Recreational Salmon and Coarse Fishery

Below Salisbury the Avon is important as a migratory salmonid and coarse fishery, with the most productive of the salmon rod fisheries occurring between Christchurch and Fordingbridge. Fisheries management is undertaken at a lower intensity than in the upper Avon. Fishing and riparian owners interests are represented by the Christchurch, Ringwood and District, and Salisbury and District fishing clubs, the Avon and Stour Rivers Association, Wessex Salmon and Rivers Trust and the Mudeford Netsman.

5.1.2 Recreational Brown Trout Fishery

The upper Avon, Wylye, Nadder and Till, and the lower reaches of the Bourne have been managed as brown trout fisheries for over 100 years, contributing to the creation of the semi-natural system that supports the cSAC features. Good-quality grayling fishing is also available in the upper Avon. Wiltshire Fishery Association (WFA) represents the riparian owners and fisheries interests in the Upper Avon, undertaking liaison between the regulatory bodies and fishing clubs.

Table 12. Relevant attributes related to fisheries management.

Attribute	Measure
River Form	River channel form assessed by geomorphological survey
Habitat structure	Distribution and area of spawning habitat
	Distribution and area of nursery habitat
	Extent of gravel/pebble-dominated substrate
	Presence of adult holding areas
	Area of emergent riparian vegetation
	Extent of submerged and marginal plants
	Extent of submerged higher plants
	Extent of bankside tree cover
	Extent of high canopy tree cover
	Extent of refuges
	Extent of woody debris
	Extent of bankside tree cover with submerged tree root systems
Access	Artificial obstructions
Water table (Rivers Fens)	Depth of water table below ground level Vegetation indicators of drying out
Extent and composition of *Ranunculus* communities	Mapping of extent and composition of *Ranunculus* communities at representative sample stretches
Reproduction of *Ranunculus* communities	Annual observations in June/July. Information will also be obtained from mapping of sample stretches for extent and composition Audit Weed Cutting Code of Practice every three years (EA and EN)
Access	Artificial obstructions
Biological disturbance	Introductions

5.1.3 Commercial Sea Fishery

The fishery in Christchurch Harbour comprises both a private and a public fishery, which present opportunities for recreational and commercial fishing. Commercial netting for bass, mullet, salmon and migratory trout takes place at the seaward end of the harbour. In the private fishery there is an excellent recreational fishery for thick- and thin-lipped mullet (NRA 1994).

5.1.4 Commercial Eel Trapping

A small amount of netting for brown eels (non-migratory stage) takes place in Christchurch Harbour and the lower Avon. Fishing for silver eels (migratory stage) takes place at several large, fixed traps. The locations of traps licensed in 2002 are shown in Figure 15.

5.1.5 Fish Farms

As described in Section 3, there are several large fish farms in the Avon system, all of which are subject to annual Environment Agency inspections of structures to ensure that wild salmonids are not trapped and that farmed fish do not escape.

5.2 Current Fish Stocks

5.2.1 Salmon

There has been a widespread decline in salmon stocks, both internationally and on a UK-wide scale, and the Avon stocks have declined acutely, as described in Section 2.5.1. This may be related to poor survival during the marine phase of the salmon life cycle. The declared rod and net catch shows that the population has suffered a severe decline over the last 10 years, with a crash occurring in the late 1980s–early 1990s. The population now appears to have stabilised, but at much lower levels than previously. The Avon stocks have been performing poorly against the conservation limit. However, the catch for 2002 indicates an improvement. Refer to Section 2.5.1 for details of the stock status.

5.2.2 Coarse Fish

In general, coarse fishing is of consistently high quality, but anglers with long experience of the river report a decline in numbers of coarse fish pre-dating the start of routine monitoring 1987. This decline is reported to be apparent both above and below Salisbury (Environment Agency 2000). However, recent Environment Agency abundance and distribution data indicate several very strong year-classes of younger fish in some locations, which should contribute to healthy stocks in future years.

5.2.3 Brown Trout

Poor recruitment of wild brown trout has been reported in recent years, which may be attributable to deterioration in spawning and incubation success. The behaviour and genetic background of stocked fish may also play a part (Environment Agency 2000). Stocking of brown trout has been undertaken for many years on the upper Avon and tributaries to supplement natural fish stocks for angling purposes. Brown trout stocking is an exemption on the OLDS list if undertaken at historic levels.

Tony Wells

The upper Avon and tributaries have been stocked with brown trout for many years for angling.

5.3 Influence of Recreational Fisheries

Fishing clubs have a major influence on the River Avon cSAC through their management activities. Since the designation of the River Avon as an SSSI there has been a growing awareness by these clubs (particularly in the upper Avon) of the coincidence of conservation and fishery interests. The main management activities that potentially influence the cSAC are:

- Bank maintenance and management
- Choice of appropriate materials
- Provision of access
- Use of fencing
- Vegetation management
- Fish stocking
- Catch and release
- Electric fishing
- Gravel cleaning
- Weed cutting

Many clubs have developed a constructive dialogue with English Nature and conservation bodies, with mutual benefit. Agreements have been drawn up for the management of specific sites, together with Site Management Statements, which are more general policy agreements that encompass the main fishery management activities.

5.3.1 Weed cutting

Channel vegetation, including *Ranunculus* communities, are managed for angling purposes in the upper Avon. The weed cutting is permitted by a special agreement between Wiltshire Fishery Association and the Environment Agency.

The impact of weed cutting depends largely on the intensity and nature of the cutting programme. If undertaken sympathetically, it can mimic the characteristic mosaic habitat of chalk rivers. Certain fisheries cut by boat, but much of the weed cutting in the upper Avon is carried out by experienced keepers using hand scythes, which means that this activity can be carried out sensitively. The long history of weed cutting on chalk streams suggests that much of the current wildlife community is in part a consequence of the weed-cutting regime (Lewis 1997).

The fishery objectives of weed cutting are essentially to:

- Maintain and extend the period of dominance by *Ranunculus* beds (and consequently maintain water levels and cover)
- Encourage trout to establish territories
- Generate focused scour of gravel substrates for salmonid spawning
- Maintain adequate open water for angling.

The maintenance of *Ranunculus* beds as the dominant feature of the plant community is not incompatible with the conservation objectives of the cSAC. However, it should be kept in mind that the designated feature is the *Ranunculus* habitat, which consists of the river itself and characteristic vegetation (Mainstone 1999).

It would be beneficial to develop principles for weed cutting in the upper Avon as part of guidance on sensitive fisheries management (see Section 5.3.6). Particular aspects to consider include:

- Allowing a significant proportion of the *Ranunculus* community to flower
- Catering for the plant community as a whole.

5.3.2 Electric Fishing

Electric fishing is a technique routinely used for two purposes: surveying and estimating densities of juvenile fish (including salmon), and selective removal of predators from game fisheries.

The Environment Agency issues consents for electric fishing under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act (1975). Due to the potential of the activity to injure salmon, bullhead and lamprey, the Environment Agency must also complete an Appendix 11 form to determine if an appropriate assessment is required. English Nature is consulted on electric fishing applications, as the activity is included on the River Avon System SSSI OLDS list.

Attention has been increasingly focused on the risk of damage to fish from electric fishing. Because Atlantic salmon are adapted for explosive bursts of energy, they are more vulnerable to injury than other fish species. The Environment Agency has recently published best-practice standards for electric fishing (Beaumont *et al.* 2002), which should safeguard cSAC fish species, including juvenile salmon.

Electric fishing is an essential tool for monitoring fish populations, and an approach based on a balance between risk and the need to monitor has to be adopted. Although a risk does exist to salmon, bullhead and lamprey, at a population level this risk is very small and therefore acceptable, given the need to monitor these species under the Habitats Directive.

In the upper Avon fisheries managers use electric fishing to remove pike and sometimes grayling, reducing predation on trout (and incidentally salmon). This activity is likely to have a net beneficial effect on salmon, if it is undertaken effectively following best practice before adult salmon reach the upper Avon. The Environment Agency conducts training events for river keepers on best practice, which should be extended to all fishing club members who regularly carry out electric fishing in the cSAC.

The Environment Agency/English Nature Freshwater Fisheries Technical Advisory Group is currently

considering the issue of electric fishing and may issue further guidance.

Action underway	Delivery		
	By whom	Mechanism	Date
Provide workshop on electric fishing best practice, with priority given to river managers regularly undertaking this activity in the cSAC.	EA	Workshop	Minimum every five years
Provide guidance on electric fishing best practice when issuing licenses.	EA	Licensing	Ongoing

5.3.3 Fish Stocking

All fish stocking in the River Avon system must be given consent by the Environment Agency under Section 30 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act (1975) in consultation with English Nature. Under the Habitats Directive, the Environment Agency must also establish whether an appropriate assessment is necessary, recording the decision on an Appendix 11 form. Given the potential for fish stocking to increase predation pressure on wild fish and competition for food and space, consideration must be given to the impact of stocking on the cSAC features.

In future, Environment Agency stocking policies will be guided by the National Trout and Grayling Strategy, which takes account of its responsibilities for both fisheries and conservation (Environment Agency 2000). The strategy will be delivered through the local Fisheries Action Plan (FAP), to be developed by the Environment Agency in consultation with local fisheries interests. FAPs will cover all types of fishery in the catchment.

Tony Wells

Angling clubs stock brown trout to the River Avon cSAC to supplement natural fish stocks.

5.3.3.1 Trout

Consents to stock approximately 24,000 hatchery brown trout of fingerling size and above are issued for the Avon system each year, and to stock two fisheries on the River Nadder with approximately 1,300 rainbow trout. It is likely that the fisheries could not be sustained without some stocking, with consequent implications for the local economy and the existing environment.

Traditional stocking of brown trout is listed as an exemption on the River Avon SSSI OLDs list, so permission from English Nature is not required. However, as detailed in Section 5.3.3, all fish stocking requires consent from the Environment Agency and consideration of the impact on the cSAC features of interest through an Appendix 11 form. Stocking should be included in guidance on sensitive fisheries management (see Section 5.3.6).

As part of the National Trout and Grayling Strategy it was recommended that guidelines on appropriate brown trout stocking levels and locations should be developed on individual rivers to minimise the risk of impact on wild salmonid stocks (Environment Agency 2001). Current knowledge of the interactions between stocked brown trout and wild salmonids will be drawn together, and further research undertaken in order to inform development of guidance.

Two fisheries on the River Nadder are currently stocked with North American rainbow trout. The draft National Trout and Grayling Strategy (Policy18) states that, where there is a history of stocking to sustain a fishery, stocking of rainbow trout will be permitted. However, the stocking of this territorial non-native species is at odds with the conservation of the native fish fauna of the Avon cSAC and SSSI. In the 1990s the Local Fisheries Advisory Committee for the Avon recommended that stocking of rainbow trout should be ended by persuasion, and this will continue to guide practice in the cSAC.

5.3.3.2 Coarse Fish

Enhancement stocking of coarse fish is undertaken on the lower Avon, particularly where populations are thought to be sub-optimal. However, addressing constraints on the coarse fish population is preferable to stocking, and relevant alternative actions to address constraints are set out in the LEAP (Environment Agency 2000).

Certain elements of coarse fish stocking may impact on River Avon cSAC features of interest and this interaction needs to be considered in the FAP.

Action underway	**Delivery**		
	By whom	**Mechanism**	**Date**
Knowledge on the interactions between stocked brown trout and wild salmonids will be drawn together and further research undertaken in order to inform development of guidance.	EA	NT&GS	?
Continue to use persuasion to reduce and ultimately end stocking of rainbow trout in the Avon cSAC as the environment of the Nadder improves and the reason for stocking this species is removed.	EA	S30 consents	Ongoing
Action required			
Avon FAP to take into account potential interactions between stocked brown trout and the River Avon cSAC/SSSI features.	**EA**, EN, WTs, fisheries interests	NT&GS, FAP	?
Avon FAP to address the issue of the stocking of rainbow trout in the Avon cSAC.			
Avon FAP to take into account potential interactions between the coarse fishery and the cSAC/SSSI features.			

5.3.4 Bank Maintenance and Repairs

Management of the river banks by fishing clubs and riparian owners includes the following:

- Maintenance and repairs to banks
- Management of vegetation
- Provision of access for anglers
- Fencing areas at risk from excessive cattle poaching.

These activities are primarily regulated by land drainage consents and the River Avon system SSSI OLDs list. In cases where land drainage consent is required, permission must be sought from the Environment Agency in consultation with English Nature.

The use of appropriate materials and techniques for bank maintenance and repair and access structures is important in order to maintain suitable habitat for a range of cSAC, SSSI and BAP interests. In certain cases, 'hard' engineering may be required, particularly where safety is an issue. However, in a low-energy system such as the Avon, 'soft-engineering' approaches are favoured to ensure banks remain as natural as possible.

5.3.4.1 Management of bank vegetation

Management of bank vegetation is undertaken for several reasons including agriculture, flood defence, land drainage and provision of access for fishing. In the case of vegetation management for angling, infrequent management of bank edges is typically accompanied by the cutting of narrow paths to facilitate access to the river. An appropriate management regime can allow characteristic vegetation to flourish. However, more intensive regimes can damage the vegetation community and related fauna, such as Desmoulin's whorl snail and nesting birds. Advice on appropriate management of bank vegetation should be included in the guidance described in Section 5.3.6.

5.3.4.2 Provision of access

Access (particularly vehicular) to the river within the Avon Valley may have an impact on the SPA, as birds and their habitat are sensitive to disturbance. Access to the river by vehicles and anglers should minimise potential effects on the SPA, SSSI and wider biodiversity.

5.3.4.3 Fencing

High livestock densities adjacent to the river can lead to excessive trampling and poaching, contributing to siltation and destruction of the characteristic bankside plant community. However, an appropriate level of grazing is required to maintain a diverse plant community and wetted margins suitable for invertebrates. In the lower Avon Valley, an increasing number of the river banks are fenced, and certain areas are dominated by monocultures of nettles, which require heavy mowing to provide access to the river.

Where high stock densities are creating bank erosion problems and efforts to reduce stocking levels have failed, fencing may be used in a targeted way to protect riverbanks. Temporary fencing should be considered, and measures to allow limited grazing beyond the fenceline. Depending on the proximity to the river, erection or modification of fences requires land drainage consent from the Environment Agency, which will consult English Nature.

The long-term solution to preventing cattle impacting on the cSAC is to ensure appropriate light stocking regimes are in place. This is consistent with the aims of the Avon Valley ESA scheme and Countryside Stewardship in the upper Avon.

Action underway	**Delivery**		
	By whom	**Mechanism**	**Date**
Encourage appropriate stocking densities next to the river through agri-environment schemes and farm advisors.	DEFRA, EN	ESA, CSS, management agreements	Ongoing
Action required			
In the Avon Valley SPA/SSSI, remove fences at the earliest opportunity once appropriate grazing regimes are established.	EA, **EN**, DEFRA, fisheries and landowner interests	ESA, CSS	2003+

5.3.5 Gravel cleaning

Since 1993, annual gravel-cleaning initiatives and evaluations of the use of cleaned sites have been undertaken by the Environment Agency and fisheries interests to improve the quality of spawning gravels for salmon.

Gravel cleaning requires consent from the Environment Agency. This activity is an exemption on the OLDS listed (depending on the technique used), but the Environment Agency consults English Nature on the potential impacts on the cSAC, using an Appendix 11 form.

The 1997 Salmon Action Plan (SAP) set out strategic measures to restore salmon stocks to sustainable levels on the Avon, including gravel cleaning. In addition to benefiting salmon, a limited amount of gravel cleaning is likely to benefit other interests of the river system that rely partly on clean gravels, including *Ranunculus* habitat, wild trout and lamprey.

While the issues affecting the salmon population can and should be addressed by changes in policy and practice, it is recognised that impacts on the river may be long lasting and therefore take some time to resolve. In the context of a programme of strategic measures, short-term measures such as gravel cleaning can be used to assist struggling salmon populations. The recently published results of a national Environment Agency research project, *Decline of Chalk Stream Salmon* (APEM 2002a), confirm that gravel cleaning by water jetting improves hatching rates and fry survival.

Technical aspects of gravel cleaning are set out in an Environment Agency protocol. This protocol requires revision to incorporate relevant findings of the national research, and the habitat requirements of the cSAC, including the need to avoid cleaning marginal silt beds used by lamprey, particularly in the lower Avon side channels. The revised guidance should be issued with gravel-cleaning equipment.

If future research indicates that the gravel-cleaning programme is no longer required, then the programme will be reviewed.

Action required	**Delivery**		
	By whom	**Mechanism**	**Date**
Revise the gravel-cleaning protocol to take into account the cSAC features and the findings of the *Decline of Chalk Stream Salmon* research project.	**EA**	Research	2003

5.3.6 Guiding principles for Fisheries Management

The development of guiding principles for sensitive management of fisheries (including the activities described in sections 5.3.1–5.3.5) would be a useful tool in assisting fishery managers to contribute to the conservation of the cSAC. Wiltshire Fishery Association has agreed in principle to assist with the development of guidance, and discussions should be opened with other fishing interests.

The guiding principles could be voluntarily adopted by fishing bodies and distributed to their members, raising awareness of how sensitive management can contribute to conservation of the cSAC, and highlighting interactions with the SPA where relevant.

Action required	**Delivery**		
	By whom	**Mechanism**	**Date**
Develop guiding principles for sensitive management of fisheries within the cSAC, in partnership with fishing interests.	EN, EA, WTs, WFA, A&SRA, fishing interests	Voluntary partnership	2004
Promote adoption of principles of sensitive management as a voluntary code of practice.			2004

5.4 Exploitation of Salmon Stocks

5.4.1 Rods

The practice of catch and release of salmon caught by rods is a valuable tool in the conservation of current salmon stocks. Catch and release of salmon before June 16 was instituted under the 1998 National Salmon bylaws throughout England and Wales to protect MSW salmon returning in the spring. This policy will be reviewed in 2008.

Voluntary catch and release has been promoted on the Avon by the Wessex Salmon and Rivers Trust, and sponsored by Tesco since 1995. From 2000 to 2002 the riparian owners have agreed to 100% catch and release throughout the season. The practice will hopefully continue until healthy stock levels are achieved and subsequently maintained. In order to ensure a low mortality rate from catch and release of all fish, the Environment Agency best-practice guidance should be promoted and followed.

Recent research suggests that successful catch and release of salmon is significantly affected by water temperature (Dempson *et al*. 2002). This may mean that if water temperatures are above a certain threshold, mortalities following catch and release start to rise. Further information on this aspect should be considered as it becomes available, and appropriate guidance for the Avon fisheries developed.

Action underway	**Delivery**		
	By whom	**Mechanism**	**Date**
Promote and encourage the adoption of catch-and-release best-practice guidelines in order to ensure salmon stocks are achieved and maintained.	EA, WSRA, A&SRA	Voluntary	Ongoing
Action required			
Keep catch-and-release guidance for the Avon fisheries under review and develop suitable guidance taking account of temperature effects.	EA, fisheries interests	Research	2003+

5.4.2 Nets

5.4.2.1 Migratory salmon and trout fishery

There is potential for the migratory trout and salmon fishery at Mudeford to have a significant effect on salmon stocks. The migratory trout and salmon fishery (known as the Mudeford nets) operates between June 1st and July 31st, allowing spring salmon to migrate successfully through the estuary before the netting begins. Sea trout make up approximately 80% of the catch (A Strevens pers. comm.).

A combination of measures is in place to minimise the impact of the Mudeford nets on salmon:

- Net limitation orders, bylaws and licences controlling fishing effort
- Statutory netting period providing protection to spring salmon
- Privately negotiated 100% catch-and-release scheme.

The maximum number of nets that the Environment Agency can licence is six, as set by DEFRA in a 10-year Net Limitation Order (NLO). The NLO is currently under review, and the Environment Agency may propose a reduction to a maximum of four licences, effective for three years from 2004. Subsequent NLOs may further reduce the number of licences if appropriate, taking into account the status of salmon stocks, measures to protect and enhance stocks, and socioeconomic factors.

Catch and release has a crucial role in minimising the impact of the nets on salmon stocks. Sponsorship of the scheme (previously by Wessex Salmon and Rivers Trust and currently the Avon and Stour

Association) and the co-operation of the netsmen has been an important factor in its success. During the net season, salmon are released at the end of each netting session.

Action underway	Delivery		
	By whom	Mechanism	Date
Review the Net Limitation Order in conjunction with legislative and voluntary means of ensuring that mortality is controlled to ensure healthy salmon stock levels are achieved.	DEFRA, EA,EN	NLO review	2002/3
Continue with catch-and-release approach at the levels necessary to ensure healthy salmon stock levels are achieved and maintained.	Mudeford nets, A&SRA	Voluntary catch and release	Ongoing
Action required			
Keep local sea fishery netting bylaws under review and if necessary and appropriate put forward proposals for further bylaws to protect salmon.	**EA**	Review	2003+

5.4.2.2 Mullet and bass fishery

As previously detailed, legal mullet and bass fisheries operate in Christchurch Harbour. Under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, any salmon caught as a by-catch of these fisheries must be returned, dead or alive. Monitoring and enforcement of this legislation encounters the same difficulties as measures to combat illegal fisheries (see Section 5.4.2.3 below).

Action underway	Delivery		
	By whom	Mechanism	Date
Maintain enforcement activity to ensure that the legal mullet and bass fishery returns all salmon and sea trout.	EA, police	Enforcement	Ongoing

5.4.2 3 Illegal fishing

Illegal salmon fishing is believed to occur in Christchurch Harbour, in the estuary and the sea immediately offshore, and on the spawning grounds. Evidence suggests that illegal fishing targets sea trout, and that salmon are a small by-catch. This fishery may be more of a problem in low-flow summers when salmon accumulate in the harbour and tidal river (Environment Agency 1998). Anti-poaching patrols are carried out by the Environment Agency at vulnerable times, but county/borough boundary issues mean that ensuring a consistent and adequate police response can be difficult.

Occasionally, spawning fish are caught illegally by foul hooking (snatching) in December/January, and the Environment Agency undertakes patrols to target this activity.

An initiative to tag legally caught sea trout was launched in 2002 by the Wessex Salmon and Rivers Trust and the Mudeford nets. Netsmen, wholesalers and retailers have co-operated fully, and all indications suggest that the local sale of illegally taken sea trout is now almost impossible. While the scheme targets sea trout, as a few salmon are a by-catch of the illegal fishery, they are therefore likely to benefit from the scheme.

Action underway	Delivery		
	By whom	Mechanism	Date
Maintain measures to prevent illegal exploitation of salmon.	EA, police	Enforcement	Ongoing
Tagging of legally caught sea trout.	WSRT, Mudeford nets, retailers	Voluntary scheme	Ongoing
Action required			
Work with the police to ensure an adequate response to illegal activity, particularly resolving county/borough boundary issues.	**EA**, police	Enforcement	2003+

5.5 Eel Traps

Several eel traps operate in the autumn in the Avon cSAC under a licensing system administered by the Environment Agency. The locations of traps licensed in 2002 are shown in Figure 15. There is a risk that traps can delay upstream salmon migration, with some exhausted salmon also falling back onto the traps and possibly dying. In certain conditions there is a risk that inappropriate eel trap operation can result in upstream flooding, having a negative impact on the Avon Valley SPA.

In order to minimise the effect of eel trapping, the Environment Agency has made recommendations to owners and operators and carries out inspections of the traps annually.

Action underway	Delivery		
	By whom	Mechanism	Date
Monitoring of fixed eel traps by Environment Agency staff to continue, and if there is evidence of a significant impact, appropriate action will be taken.	EA	Licensing	Ongoing
Action required			
Continue with actions underway	**EA**	Monitoring	Ongoing

5.6 Fish Farms

There are a number of large fish farms in the Avon system, all of which are subject to annual Environment Agency inspections. The potential impacts of fish farms on the cSAC include entrapment of wild fish (upstream and downstream), localised water quality problems (see Section 3) and escapes. Since 1999 all qualifying sites have been inspected and some recommendations made. A number of issues at low priority sites still must be resolved, and escapes from fish farms remain a concern.

Action underway	**Delivery**		
	By whom	**Mechanism**	**Date**
Pursue means of reducing and eliminating escapes from fish farms.	EA	Enforcement New legislation	Ongoing
Action required			
Continue with actions underway	**EA**	Enforcement	Ongoing