



**ENVIRONMENT  
AGENCY**

## Introducing fish, fry or ova

Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, Section 30

### Guidance notes

Please read these guidance notes, the form and notes on the back of the form carefully before you start to fill it in.

If you need any advice on introducing fish or any aspects of fisheries management, please

- talk to your local Environment Agency office, details at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) or
- get in touch with us on 01480 483968 or
- visit [www.efishbusiness.com](http://www.efishbusiness.com)

### Why you need to apply for consent

Under Section 30 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 (SAFFA), the Environment Agency regulates the movement of fish within all inland waters in England and Wales. It aims to prevent the spread of fish diseases and to minimise damage to fisheries or the environment that may be caused by inappropriate fish introductions.

This means you must have written permission (consent) from us before you introduce new stocks of fish into any inland water.

*If you do not comply with the regulations we may prosecute.*

We have produced form *FR1 Application to introduce fish, fry or ova* to help you give us the information we need to decide if we can issue a consent. Please read these guidance notes, and the notes on the back of the form, before you start to fill it in.

The information in these guidance notes includes

- how to fill in the application form
- the consents you need to stock non-native fish
- the risks associated with stocking a site with fish.

It is recommended that before submitting your application, you discuss your planned fish introduction with your local Environment Agency office. We would be happy to advise you on health check requirements, conservation regulations etc.

### Other relevant documents

As well as these guidance notes and the application form FR1, these leaflets may be useful to you

- *Stocking fish – a guide for fishery owners and anglers*
- *'Buyer beware' – your guide to stocking fish*
- *Controls on the keeping or release of non-native fish in England and Wales*
- *Keep fish diseases out.*

If you would like any of these documents contact us on 01480 483968 or ask your local Environment Agency office.

You can also find information at [www.efishbusiness.com](http://www.efishbusiness.com)

### Making an application

This application should relate to *one source water* and *one receiving water* only. Separate applications are needed for introductions at other sources or receiving waters.

*If you send in a form with information missing or incomplete, we will not be able to process it.*

### Information about the fish you plan to introduce

We need to know exactly where the fish came from (the *supplier* and *source*), where you plan to introduce them (the *receiving water*) and the number and species of fish involved.

If the fish being introduced have been raised on a fish farm, we usually do not need to know the source of the broodstock fish.

#### Trout introductions

It is important that we know the sex of the fish, and if they are triploid or diploid. *Further guidance on fish species can be found at [www.efishbusiness.com](http://www.efishbusiness.com).*

### Identifying the source of the fish and the receiving water

Please give us the Ordnance Survey national grid reference (OSNGR) for both sites when you answer the questions about the source and the receiving water.

*If you are not sure how to find the OSNGR, please contact us.*

You can also send us a map of the area with the site marked clearly on it, using its full name. The map should show the location of the *source* or *receiving water* in relation to

- the nearest town or village
- major roads
- any other water courses such as rivers or streams.

### Sites with a special conservation designation

We aim to process applications within 10 working days. However it may take longer if you plan to introduce fish into a site with a conservation designation such as

- a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- a Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- a County Wildlife site.

If you need to check the status of the site, please ask English Nature 01733 455000, the Countryside Council for Wales 01248 385500 or your local county council wildlife officer.

*We will consult these organisations about your application if the site has a conservation status.*

### Changes to the consent

The written consent only applies to the date, the site and the fish you specify in your application form. If any of the details change, you must get in touch with us at the office which issued the consent.

## Changing the date of introduction

Once we issue your written consent, you can only change the date you introduce the fish in exceptional circumstances. To find out if you can, contact us on 01480 483968 as soon as possible, allowing at least 1 working day before the new introduction date.

If the new introduction is due to take place within 4 weeks of the original date, you may not need to re-apply.

When the date of introduction has been changed, we will send you a letter and a new consent. You should have these and the old consent with you when you introduce the fish.

## Multiple (block) introductions

It may be possible to issue a consent which covers more than one date, or a specific period. For example,

- 1 If you plan to introduce multiple stocks of trout bought from a single registered fish farm into
  - stillwaters or
  - certain rivers where the Agency considers the ecological risks are minimal.
- 2 If you plan to introduce coarse fish into a water where we would not usually insist on a health check. For example, if
  - you were moving large carp by rod and line from a water where netting or electrofishing was not possible
  - the source water is being drained.

Please give the dates for the beginning and end of the period in Section 5 of the form. If you are not sure if you can apply for a multiple consent, please get in touch with us.

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## Consents for removing fish

Rules on removing fish from inland waters are covered by separate legislation. You may need to complete a separate form FR2 *Application to use fishing instruments (other than rod and line) and/or remove fish from inland waters*.

For more information, please contact the Environment Agency regional office which covers the source water.

Visit [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/contactus/](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/contactus/) for a list of offices.

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## Risks associated with introducing stocks of fish

The Environment Agency is responsible for ensuring that

- the movement of fish stocks from one site to another minimises the risk of disease transfer between sites
- damage to the site is minimised by avoiding the introduction of too many fish or the wrong type of fish.

You should also make sure that the fish you buy are healthy and do not carry the risk of introducing disease into the site. Certain parasites and diseases may damage the fish on the site, and affect angling quality.

More details about preventing the spread of fish diseases can be found in the leaflets *Buyer Beware* and *Keep fish diseases out*. You can get copies from us by phoning 01480 483968 or visit [www.efishbusiness.com](http://www.efishbusiness.com)

## Introducing non-native fish species

The greatest risk comes from importing fish from outside the UK. If you want to stock your site with a 'non-native' species you must have a licence from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) or the National Assembly for Wales (NAW) as well as consent from us.

Details about these licences are set out in the leaflet *Controls on the keeping or release of non-native fish in England and Wales*. It also contains a list of the species of fish which are classed as non-native.

You can get copies of these and the licence application form from DEFRA, NAW and at [www.efishbusiness.com](http://www.efishbusiness.com)

DEFRA, Room 109 Whitehall Place East 10 Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH 020 7270 8221	National Assembly for Wales Crown Buildings, Cathays Park Cardiff CF1 3NQ 029 2082 3567
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It can take up to 2 months to get your licence from the time you submit your application to DEFRA or NAW.

The requirements regarding non-native fish are set out in

- the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- the Prohibition of Keeping or Release of Live Fish (Specified Species) Order (1998) made under the Import of Live Fish (England and Wales) Act 1980 (ILFA).

*The Environment Agency; Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS); English Nature and Countryside Council for Wales are all consultees on ILFA.*

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## Data protection notice

*The Environment Agency is responsible for regulating environmental protection, flood defence, water resources and fisheries. It has a duty to discharge its functions to protect and enhance the environment and to promote conservation and recreation.*

The information provided will be processed by us to deal with your application.

We need the information on the form if we are to

- consider your application
- provide an efficient service.

It will also be processed to

- monitor compliance with the consent/permit conditions
- process renewals
- maintain the relevant public register(s).

We may also use and/or disclose it in connection with

- offering/providing you with our literature/services relating to environmental matters
- consulting with the public, public bodies and other organisations (for example DEFRA, CEFAS, English Nature, Countryside Council for Wales) on environmental issues
- carrying out statistical analysis, research and development on environmental issues
- providing enquirers with information from the public register
- investigating possible breaches of environmental law and taking any resulting action
- preventing breaches of environmental law
- assessing customer service satisfaction and improving our service.

*Our agents or representatives may do any of these on our behalf.*

You should ensure that anyone named on this form are informed of the contents of this data protection notice.