#WhenWeFishAgain Revisions & FAQs

In order to successfully secure an early resumption of angling following the easing of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, the Angling Trust adopted a deliberately cautious approach. The time is now right to make changes to our original #WhenWeFishAgain guidelines whilst still promoting safe practices within angling during the current health emergency.

All the revisions and updates to the FAQs can be found on the Angling Trust’s Angling Support Hub but we’ve included a summary of the main changes below:

**Keepnets**
Following the return of match fishing to the new COVID compliant best practice guidelines, the Angling Trust has revised the overall guidance in respect of no longer discouraging the use of keepnets. This was always intended as a temporary measure until we had secured consent to resume competition fishing.

**Peg Spacing**
With regard to match fishing, the Angling Trust is in favour of leaving peg spacing to the common sense of match organisers. Obviously, a 15 metre space would be preferable for pleasure fishing and it is the standard on our river matches, but we recognise that there are venues where this is impractical
Boat and Kayak Fishing

New government guidance issued on May 13th stated that “water sports practiced on open waterways, including sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, rowing, kayaking, surfing, paddle-boarding and the use of privately-owned motorised craft (in line with the guidance issued by the relevant navigation authority) are allowed”. The Angling Trust have had clarification that this includes solo boat and kayak fishing, boat fishing with a household member and shared boat fishing on both sea and freshwater with one other person where social distancing can be maintained. It will be possible to fish in a boat with five other people from June 1st where social distancing can be maintained.

Charter Boats

The Angling Trust is hopeful that the new rules permitting individuals to meet up with five other persons from June 1st where social distancing can be maintained could now make charter boat fishing viable. We will be updating Charter Boat information on Monday on the Angling Support Hub.

Tackle Shops

The Angling Trust was unsuccessful in attempts to persuade the government to allow the reopening of tackle shops to coincide with the resumption of angling on May 13th. It now looks as if they will be reopening on June 15th. Tackle shops are able to carry on trading by remote ordering (online, phone, text or post).

Fishing at Night

The Angling Trust successfully persuaded the government lawyers to amend the draft DCMS guidance (May 14) in a manner which allowed fishing at night to continue. Fishing at night was never specifically prohibited although there was a danger that it could have been impacted by other guidance without clarification.

Match Fishing Summary

The Head of Sports Participation at DCMS agreed that the new Angling Trust best practice guidelines were ‘sensible’ and could be issued as the basis for a safe resumption of match fishing in England from May 25th. DCMS also stated that they were looking for sports to satisfy themselves that all guidance they are producing for their members adheres to the overarching guidance published by the government. Our lawyers concurred that this was the case.