



7. The byelaw proposals might have proved slightly more acceptable to rod fisheries interests if more had been done about nets, which take the majority of the actual catch. In a perfect world, the Agency might have proposed closure of the net fisheries, or a restriction to the netting season to that part of the year (essentially April/May) at which it is feasible to enforce C&R for salmon in the net fisheries while allowing sea-trout to be taken. A closure byelaw would provoke a storm of protest and its confirmation by Ministers would almost certainly be challenged in the Courts. Shortening of the season to cut out salmon netting altogether might eventually have to be considered, but we and the Agency thought that other options should be tried first. The hope was that the prospect of reducing Net Limitation Orders (NLOs) on both net fisheries might encourage netsmen to look for compensation from the rod fisheries interest and that the majority might leave the net fisheries. We had agreed in principle to part-fund net buyouts on both rivers but the proposed buyout for the Dart fell apart because an insufficient number of the 13 netsmen were prepared to sign up to it and there was no interest (from the nets or the rods) in a buyout on the Teign. Reducing NLOs would be of no immediate value and, since a decision to proceed with them in

## Conclusion