

## Glossary of Poaching Terms (England & Wales)

### Who is making the call?

**Deer Stalker**  
**Farmer**  
**Forester**  
**Gamekeeper/keeper**  
**Ghillie**  
**Landowner**  
**Stockman/ herdsman**  
**Water/ fish bailiff**  
**Any person, who is familiar with the ground**

All these people are likely to know if the person(s) they are reporting/referring to have permission to be on the ground or if the activity is legitimate.

### **Member of the public**

If the call is being made by a member of the public who is unfamiliar with the ground, then the person(s) they are referring to may be engaged in a legal activity and have permission.

### Some commonly used job titles/persons/organisations

<b>Angling Club Bailiff / Water Keeper</b>	A person nominated by an Angling Club to assist in the management of the fishery under their ownership. Such a person has no additional powers in law than an ordinary citizen
<b>Deer Stalker/manager</b>	Person who manages/controls deer
<b>Environment Agency</b>	Is the governing body responsible for regulating and enforcing fisheries legislation in England
<b>Fishery</b>	An area where fish are caught. This could include an area of river, stream canal, ditch, lake or pond
<b>Fishery Occupier</b>	Is a person or body who are for the time being in actual possession of the fishery
<b>Fishery Owner</b>	Is the lawful owner of the fishing rights and includes any person who is entitled to receive rents from a fishery
<b>Forester</b>	Employed person in timber/tree production, harvesting and management in a specified area(s)
<b>Gamekeeper</b>	Employed person in charge of breeding/managing gamebirds and



areas on a specific estate. Sometimes may be referred to regarding position i.e. as head, single handed, beat, under or trainee keeper.

<b>Ghillie</b>	(Usually a Scottish/North England term) employed person who manages deer/fish/gamebird stocks in a specific area(s).
<b>Natural Resources Wales</b>	Is the governing body responsible for regulating and enforcing fisheries legislation in Wales
<b>Poacher</b>	A person who illegally takes/kills game or fish. Can be referred to by different terms such as dog men etc.
<b>Stockman/herdsman</b>	Employed person who is responsible for management of farm stock (animals) on a specific farm(s).
<b>Water/River/Fish bailiff</b>	Is a person appointed to enforce fisheries legislation and is deemed to be a constable under the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. Such Officers are employed by the Environment Agency in England and Natural Resources Wales in Wales.
<b><u>Some Poaching terms</u></b>	
<b>Coursing</b>	Using greyhound or whippet type dogs to chase and catch deer, rabbits or hares. May be illegal, dependant on species pursued/caught and land owners/occupiers consent
<b>Day Poaching</b>	Under section 30 of the Game Act 1831 (England & Wales) it is an offence for any person to trespass in the daytime by entering or being upon any land in search or pursuit of game, woodcock, snipe or rabbits
<b>Daytime</b>	Identified in the Game Act 1831 as "One hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset".
<b>Game</b>	Hare, pheasant, partridge, grouse, moor game and black game
<b>Lamping</b>	Legal activity using a light to help spot and identify certain quarry species to be taken either by shooting or the use of a dog. This activity can be illegal if done without permission or if certain animals are pursued
<b>Lurcher/Long Dog/Sighthound</b>	A type of dog that is used to chase and catch quarry species, depending upon the species this activity can be illegal
<b>Night</b>	Is stated in Section 12 of The Night Poaching Act 1828 as "One hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise"
<b>Night Poaching</b>	This is covered by Section 1 of the Night Poaching Act 1828 and the Night Poaching Act 1844 (England & Wales)



- Snaring** A legal method of predator control (for some species) however might be used illegally by poachers to target others
- Trespass** Is a tort or civil wrong, but can be a criminal offence, for instance, armed or aggravated trespass

### Types of Guns / Devices Used

- Air Rifle** A rifle powered by compressed air, gas or a spring under tension, shooting a small projectile. May require firearms certification depending on the power output
- Bow / Crossbow** It is illegal to kill any bird or animal with a bow or crossbow
- Full Bore/centre fire** A larger calibre rifle that uses a high -velocity bullet and cartridge. This type of rifle bullet may be used over a long range. Requires a firearms certificate to possess
- Rimfire rifle** A rifle of small calibre, fired by striking the rim of a small cartridge. Requires a firearms certificate to possess
- Shotgun** A firearm that shoots a large amount of small shot. Requires a shotgun certificate to possess. May require a firearm certificate if it has a detachable magazine or is pump action or semi-auto capable of holding more than 2 cartridges in the magazine or has a barrel of less than 24”

### Some Legitimate Shooting Interests/Terms

- Deer Stalking** Managing/control of deer. Those carrying out this activity will often be alone and will often wear camouflage and operate around dawn and dusk.
- Game Shooting** Often involves a larger group of people who shoot on an organised day. There will usually be dogs (gundog breeds primarily) present which will be used to flush and retrieve shot game.
- Lamping** See lamping above.
- Pest Controllers** May be professional or amateur, their quarry can include rats, rabbits pigeons etc.
- Pigeon Shooters** Often they will be wearing camouflaged clothing and positioned in a camouflaged hide using shotguns to control pigeons.

<b>Rough Shooters</b>	Less formal type of game shooting
<b>Wildfowlers</b>	Usually only encountered on the coast or inland near ponds, often around dusk and dawn. Their quarry species are ducks and geese.
<b>Ferreting/Rabbiting</b>	Using ferrets to push/bolt rabbits from their burrows into long or purse nets, or towards waiting Guns. A legal activity however can be illegal if done without consent of the land owner/occupier. Dogs can often be used.
<b>Ratting</b>	Control of rats which generally involves the use of dogs or firearms. Can be an illegal act if done without consent of the land owner/occupier.
<b>Terriers</b>	Dogs can be used to bolt foxes under an exemption under the hunting act for defined purposes
<b><u>Fishing Terms</u></b>	
<b>Angling</b>	The sport or pastime of fishing with rod & line
<b>Byelaws</b>	Fishing in England and Wales is subject to both National and Local byelaws. They apply to all waters whether owned by Angling Clubs, Local Authorities' or private individuals. These byelaws include such restrictions as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seasons and times for fishing</li> <li>• Rules for retaining or returning fish</li> <li>• Use of lures and baits</li> <li>• Local prohibitions.</li> </ul>
<b>Coarse Angling/Fishing</b>	<b>Coarse fishing</b> is a term used in England and Wales for angling for <b>coarse</b> fish. <b>Coarse</b> fish are freshwater fish that are distinguished from game fish. Freshwater game fish are all salmonids i.e. particularly salmon, sea trout, trout and char – so generally <b>coarse</b> fish are freshwater fish that are not salmonids. Note: Eels are subject to National byelaws' with regard to statutory catch & release
<b>Elver</b>	Juvenile eel
<b>Game Angling/Fishing</b>	<b>Game fish</b> are <b>fish</b> pursued for <b>sport</b> by recreational anglers. <b>Game fish</b> can be eaten after being caught, though increasingly anglers practice catch and release to improve <b>fish</b> populations. Such fish include those of the salmon and trout families. Salmon and Sea trout and are subject to both National and local byelaws' with regard to statutory catch & release.



**Keep net**

A net for keeping fish alive until they are returned to the water. Can be legally used as an auxiliary to rod and line fishing

**Landing net**

A small, bag-shaped **net** with a handle at the mouth, for scooping a hooked fish out of the water and bringing it to shore. Can be legally used as an auxiliary to rod and line fishing

**Permission to fish**

In addition any angler must have permission of the owner/occupier of the fishery where they intend to fish, this usually comes in the form of a permit

Fishing without permission where there is a private right to fish is a recordable crime and a summary offence under the Theft Act 1968. The theft of fish from an enclosed water is 'Theft' contrary to Sections 1-7 of the Theft Act 1968

**Rod Licence**

Any angler aged 12 years or over, fishing for salmon, trout, freshwater fish, char, smelt or eels in England and Wales must have an Environment Agency/Natural resources Wales rod licence

**Prohibited methods of fishing**

**Crossline or setline**

A line left unattended in the water with lures or baited hooks attached

**Firearm**

Within the meaning of the Firearms Act

**Gaff**

A stick with a plain or barbed hook for landing large fish. Often used in conjunction with a light at night.

**Light**

Powerful torch/lamp used for the purpose of taking/killing salmon, trout or freshwater fish

**Nets.**

Nets are not illegal per se. However, their use for the lawful capture of salmon, trout, freshwater fish and eels are subject to authorisation from the Environment Agency in England and Natural Resources Wales in Wales.

There are numerous fish net types; the following being the most common.

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|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Long net</b>    | <b>Peg net</b>     | <b>Seine net</b>   |
| <b>Trammel net</b> | <b>Drift net</b>   | <b>Lave net</b>    |
| <b>Gill net</b>    | <b>Haaf net</b>    | <b>Coracle net</b> |
| <b>Bag net</b>     | <b>Box net</b>     | <b>Compass net</b> |
| <b>Draft net</b>   | <b>T and J net</b> | <b>Wade net</b>    |
| <b>Dip net</b>     | <b>Elver net</b>   | <b>Drop net</b>    |

**Otter lath or jack**

A method of running out lures or baits onto a water using a small vessel, board or stick. Can be hand-held or used with a rod and line

**Spear**

Can be single or multi-pronged, often used in conjunction with a light at night.



## **Traps**

Traps for fish can be lawful. Their use for the lawful capture of non-native crayfish, eels, salmon, sea trout, lamprey and smelt are authorised by the Environment Agency in England and Natural Resources Wales in Wales.

Such traps include:

**Putchers**  
**Putcheon**  
**Hives**  
**Pots**

**Baskets**  
**Fyke nets**  
**Pipe traps**

**Fixed eel trap**  
**Crayfish traps**  
**Crigg pots**

## **Wire or snare**

A trap for catching fish, typically having a noose of wire or cord. Can be hand held or attached to a handle.