It is an offence to release or allow the escape to the wild of any animal, which is a kind not ordinarily resident in and is not a regular visitor to England and Wales in the wild state. This applies to fish, amphibians and reptiles, and requires that all reasonable care and due diligence is taken to avoid their escape into the wild. This is to protect the wild populations of our native species. Failure to comply with these regulations can result in prosecution, with fines up to a maximum of £2500.

'Legislation includes The prohibition of the keeping or release of live fish (specified species) order 1998, under the Import of Live Fish Act 1980; Section 14 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and Section 30 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975.