

English Common Law

- The right to fish was tied to ownership of submerged soils.
- Generally, riparian landowners were deemed to own the beds of waterways running adjacent to their properties to the middle thread of the water, and the entire bed if they owned land on both sides.
- If submerged soils were privately owned, the riparian landowner had the exclusive right to fish.
- If submerged soils were owned by the Crown, the sovereign had the primary right to fish.

