



River Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

Clerk: Will Cowie

Administrator: Valerie Wardlaw

Fisheries Office, Logie Steading, Dunphail, Forres, IV36 2QN

01309 611220

admin@fnlft.org.uk

www.fnlft.org.uk/river-findhorn

Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board Conservation Code 2017

RELEASE **Anglers must release:**

All fish caught up to 14th May inclusive (including dead fish)

From 15th May:

All fish over 9lbs / 28 inches (4 Kg / 72 cm)

All coloured, stale and gravid fish

As many hen fish as possible

RELEASE RATE **Anglers are asked to achieve a minimum of:**

75% of all salmon/grilse and sea trout caught **from the 15th May**

KEEP RATE **Guidance only as Release Rate above should take priority:**

A maximum of 1 salmon (under 9lbs) or 2 grilse (fish under 4lbs)
per rod per 6 days

METHOD

Before 1st May fly fishing is encouraged.

Most beats are fly only all season. From 1st May it is mandatory.

Pinched or barbless hooks are recommended.

Avoid using triple hooks.

CATCH & RELEASE

6 SIMPLE STEPS:

1. Use the strongest practical nylon cast to aid quick landing of fish. Long playing leads to the build up of harmful metabolites such as lactic acid which kills fish even after they appear to swim away unscathed.
2. Use single or double hooks but avoid using triple hooks. Pinch the barbs by carefully crimping them with slim-jawed pliers. This is better than using barbless hooks.
3. Try and plan your release strategy as you are playing the fish - think where the best area would be to net or beach, unhook & release your fish. Avoid sandy beaches and silty bays, and where there are extensive areas where the water depth is shallower than the depth of the fish.
4. Take great care in handling fish. It helps if there are two of you so try and fish in pairs. Do **not** pick the fish up by the tail and carry it to the bank for unhooking purposes. If possible use a wide-mouthed small knotless mesh net to minimise handling and remove the hook and release the fish while still in the water. Wet the hands first or use surgical gloves and wet them as well, avoid the gill area, do not squeeze the stomach and take care not to rub off scales. Turning the fish upside down will often prevent it from struggling. Use your knees or the river bank to keep the frame of the net level and just above the water surface.
5. Use long-nosed artery forceps or slim-jawed pliers for removing hooks.
6. Try to minimise out of water and handling times. Return the fish as quickly as possible. Some photographers keep fish out of the water far too long, considerably reducing their chances of recovery. Support it until it has recovered enough to swim away.

Fish Length and Weight

(Note imperial lengths are rounded to nearest ½ inch)

Length (in)	Length (cm)	Weight (lb.)	Weight (kg)
20	50	3	1.4
21½	55	4	1.8
23	59	5	2.3
25	63	6	2.7
26	66	7	3.2
27	69	8	3.6
28	72	9	4.1
29½	75	10	4.5
30½	77	11	5
31	79	12	5.5
32	81	13	5.9
32½	83	14	6.4
33½	85	15	6.8
34½	87	16	7.3
35	89	17	7.7
36	91	18	8.2
36½	93	19	8.6
37	94	20	9.1
37½	96	21	9.5
38	97	22	10
39	99	23	10.5
39½	100	24	10.9
40	101	25	11.4
40½	103	26	11.8
41	104	27	12.3
41½	105	28	12.7
42	106	29	13.2
42½	108	30	13.6
43	109	31	14.1