



River Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board

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Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board Conservation Code 2018

RELEASE **Anglers must release:**

All fish caught up to 14th May inclusive

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

If an angler catches a fish that they feel is likely not to survive, then the angler can retain it, but they must report immediately to the estate, the bailiff (Sean McLean 07920 483081) or the FNLFT (Bob Laughton 07887 535986), who will decide what to do with the fish. This course of action also applies to all fish over 9lbs, which would normally be returned throughout the season under the FDSFB Conservation Code.

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.
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 |