

River Taw Byelaws

Seasons

Salmon	1 March to 30 September
Sea Trout & Brown Trout	15 March to 30 September

Methods

Fly fishing permitted all season
Spinning permitted until 31 March
No other method or bait fishing permitted

Limits

Salmon	No salmon to be retained before 16 June No salmon greater than 70cms in length to be retained after 31 July
Salmon bag limits	2 fish in any 24 hour period 3 fish in any 7 day period 10 fish in a season
No rod caught salmon to be sold or offered for sale	
Sea Trout bag limits	5 fish in any 24 hour period 15 fish in any 7 day period 40 fish in a season Size limit 25cms
No rod caught sea trout to be sold or offered for sale	
Brown Trout	Size limit 20cms

- Please remember our **Voluntary Code** and return **ALL Sea Trout** under 1lb and over 4lb.

Good Practice Guide

General

The above bag limits should not be regarded as targets and Taw fishermen are encouraged to operate as far within these limits as they can. RTFA supports "catch and release" especially for larger fish, the important brood stock of the future. At present on the Taw over 65% of salmon are returned and the Association is keen that this level should be increased. Sustaining stocks is key to the future.

RTFA has a continuing commitment to restoring fish abundance on the Taw system. Jointly with the Torridge Association we have arranged the buy-out of 11 of the 14 estuary netsmen and in conjunction with the Westcountry Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency we are implementing plans for improving habitat and enhancing access over weirs for all fish in the Taw system.

Guidelines

Catching the fish

Use appropriate tackle. Rod and line should be strong enough to bring the fish to net swiftly and without playing it to exhaustion. Move the fish out of fast water as soon as possible. The use of

barbless single or double hooks is recommended. Barbed hooks can be rendered barbless by pinching with pliers.

Landing the fish

Use a fine knotless meshed landing net. No gaffs or tailers may be used.

Ensure the fish remains in the water at all times.

Do not beach or tail a fish that is to be returned.

All coloured fish should be returned

Handling the fish

Ensure that hands are wet and avoid squeezing the fish.

Removing the hook

Remove the hook gently, using forceps or a hook disgorger if necessary.

Should the fish be deep-hooked cut the line as near to the hook as possible.

Recording the fish

Do not weigh the fish, but calculate its length and subsequently use a length/weight conversion chart (see below) to find the weight. Suitable length marks on rod or wading-stick can be helpful.

Photographs of the fish should only be taken while the fish is in the water.

Reviving and releasing the fish

Support the fish with both hands in a gentle current and facing upstream.

Allow time for the fish to regain its strength and be able to swim away on its own.

Disease

To guard against disease that can damage our fish stocks fishermen are directed to the Environment Agency's website for "Guidance on Disinfecting Fishing Tackle".

The Environment Agency Incident Hotline

For reporting any serious environmental incident such as pollution, poaching or fish in distress is

0800 807 060

Salmon weight/length conversion chart

Length cm	Length inches	Approx. wt. kg	Approx. wt. lb/oz	
60	23.6	2.39	5 4	
65	25.6	3.03	6 11	
70	27.6	3.77	8 5	Max after 31 st July
75	29.5	4.63	10 3	
80	31.5	5.61	12 6	
85	33.5	6.71	14 13	
90	35.4	7.95	17 8	
95	37.4	9.33	20 9	
100	39.4	10.86	23 15	
105	41.3	12.55	27 11	
109	42.9	14.02	30 14	

- **RTFA strongly believes** that fishermen are the best guardians of our river and if you fish the Taw why not join the Association to support our efforts.
- **Contact us** via our website at www.rivertawfisheries.co.uk or phone our Treasurer , Mac McCarthy, on 01598 740 333