



# River Taw Fisheries Association Bye-laws and Good Practice Guide

2018

## River Taw Bye-laws

### 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

### 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 the highest level of "catch and release" especially for larger fish, the important brood stock of the future. As regards sea trout we strongly recommend the release of all fish under 1lb and over 4lbs. In the 2016 season over 75% of salmon and over 80% of sea trout were released. The Association is keen that these levels are maintained for salmon and increased for sea trout. The sustainability of fish stocks is key to the future of our river.

## Good Practice Guide

### 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.

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 <sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.rivertawfisheries.co.uk) or phone our Treasurer, Richard Nickell on 10271 344533 / 07884 073932