



River Taw Fisheries Association Bye-laws and Good Practice Guide

2019

RIVER TAW BYELAWS – MAIN POINTS

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
Sea Trout	Size limit 25cms
Brown Trout	Size limit 20cms

No rod caught salmon or sea trout to be sold or offered for sale

To protect our fish stocks RTFA strongly encourages catch and release. Additionally please remember that the EA now expects us to maintain release levels for salmon above 90%. Failure to achieve this could lead to the imposition of mandatory 100% catch and release for salmon which to date we have successfully campaigned against. Sea trout catches have fallen below salmon catches in recent seasons. Please therefore think carefully before taking a sea trout.

Good Practice Guide

Guidelines

Catching the fish

Use appropriate tackle. Rod and line should be strong enough to bring the fish to net swiftly. 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.

Playing the fish

When playing a fish you are going to release try not to play it to exhaustion but land it as quickly as is possible.

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 hold the fish lightly making sure you do not squeeze the fish. The less a fish is handled the better the chances of survival.

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. Please do not photograph your catch laying on grass, rocks or being held out of 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 inches	Length kg	Approx. wt. lb/oz	Approx. wt. cm	
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, Richard Nickell on 10271 344533 / 07884 073932