

Scotland's rivers and lochs have traditionally provided anglers with a pleasurable pastime. With the introduction of the *Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003* the public now has a right of responsible access to most land and inland water for recreational use other than fishing. This code offers guidance to anglers on good fishing practice and achieving good relations with other water users.

## Safety

All anglers should be aware of the inherent dangers of fishing to themselves and others. The following points should be observed:

- 1** Buoyancy aids should be worn especially in boats and when wading.
- 2** Help any other water user in difficulty without risking your own safety.
- 3** Rod and lines must be kept away from overhead power lines.
- 4** Wear head and eye protection particularly in windy conditions.
- 5** Do not fish during a thunder storm; stay low to the ground and lay your rod down.
- 6** When wading use a wading stick and always have one foot firmly on the river bed before moving the other.
- 7** Do not wade out of your depth particularly when trying to land a fish.
- 8** If a ghillie is in attendance pay attention to his safety instructions.

## Contacts

This outdoor angling code has been produced by Perth and Kinross Outdoor Access Forum with input from the following angling associations and other organisations. Further information is available from the websites or contact numbers listed.

Association of Salmon Fisheries Boards: [www.asfb.org.uk](http://www.asfb.org.uk)

Association of Scottish Stillwater Fisheries: [www.assf.net](http://www.assf.net)

Atlantic Salmon Trust: tel 01796 473 439  
[www.atlanticsalmontrust.org](http://www.atlanticsalmontrust.org)

Dumb Dumpers: tel 0845 230 4090 [www.dumbdumpers.org](http://www.dumbdumpers.org)

Fisheries Research Services (FRS): tel 01796 472 060  
[www.frs-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.frs-scotland.gov.uk)

FishScotland Ltd: tel: 01573 470612, [www.fishscotland.co.uk](http://www.fishscotland.co.uk)

Perth & Kinross Council: tel 01738 475000, [www.plc.gov.uk](http://www.plc.gov.uk)

Rivers and Fisheries Trusts for Scotland (RAFTS): [www.rafts.org.uk](http://www.rafts.org.uk)

Salmon and Trout Association (S&TA): [www.salmon-trout.org](http://www.salmon-trout.org)

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA): [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)  
Pollution hotline tel 0800 80 70 60

Scottish Federation of Coarse Angling: [www.sfca.co.uk](http://www.sfca.co.uk)

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH): [www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk)

Scottish Rural Property Business Association (SRPBA): [www.srpba.com](http://www.srpba.com)

Sport Scotland: [www.sportscotland.org.uk](http://www.sportscotland.org.uk)

The Grayling Society: [www.graylingsociety.org](http://www.graylingsociety.org)

The Scottish Canoe Association's Canoeist's Access Code:  
[www.scot-canoe.org.uk](http://www.scot-canoe.org.uk)

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code: [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

VisitScotland:

[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

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George Logan/SNH & Nick Chisholm/

Annan District Salmon Fishery Board



Perth & Kinross

# Angling Code

SAFETY

ENVIRONMENT

CONSERVATION

DISEASE

FISHING METHODS

SHARING THE WATER

CONDUCT

CONTACTS



## Environment

All anglers should be familiar with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and do all they can to avoid damage to wildlife and the environment. All litter, including nylon which is a hazard to wildlife, must be taken away and disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner. Any sign of pollution in or adjacent to water must be reported to SEPA, and fly-tipping should be reported to Dumb Dumpers. A list of useful websites and contact numbers are on the back of this code.



## Conservation

All fishing and management of fisheries should be conducted so that healthy fish populations are maintained. The river boards and fisheries trusts work hard to sustain fish stocks and should be supported by all anglers and fishery managers.

## Disease

Fish can be affected by various diseases, parasites and non-native species, so anglers should never move fish from one water to another without proper authority, and they should be aware of the following threats:

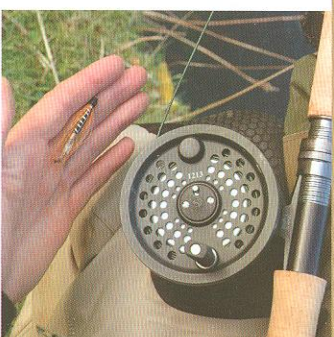
The parasite *GYRODACTYLUS SALARIS* has decimated fish stocks in Europe. To prevent it reaching the UK all anglers who have recently fished in Europe, Scandinavia and the former USSR ie Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Moldova via must disinfect all their fishing equipment before using it here.

**ARGULUS** is threatening some still water fisheries and anglers should observe local fishery protective measures to avoid its proliferation. Guidance on how to disinfect correctly can be obtained from the Association of Salmon Fisheries Boards.

**SIGNAL CRAWFISH** seen in a river should be reported immediately to the relevant Fishery Board.

## Fishing Methods

Some fishing methods may be controlled by regulation and baits and methods can be prohibited, so anglers should check and comply with the rules. Wild fish stocks are subject to many pressures so the use of barbless hooks is recommended to lessen injury.



## Sharing the Water

Anglers share the water with other users such as canoeists, rafters and the general public who walk and picnic by, or play in the water. It is consequently important for all to behave with courtesy and consideration so that everyone can pursue their chosen activities with the minimum of disruption.

A statutory right of non-motorised access to most land and inland water exists in Scotland. This right must be exercised responsibly and the *Scottish Outdoor Access Code* gives guidance to land managers and anglers as well as the general public on how this should be achieved. There are three principles:

- 1 Respect the interests of other people.
- 2 Care for the environment.
- 3 Take responsibility for your own actions.

Follow the *Scottish Outdoor Access Code* particularly in relation to other water users, controlling dogs, guarding against the risk of fires and leaving gates as you find them. Be careful when casting lines and be aware of where other people are. If other water users are close by wait until they have passed by before casting. If you have a line in the water, allow people to pass at the earliest opportunity. Pointing to where you would prefer canoeists or rafters to pass by can help but be aware that it might not always be possible for them to follow that route. Do not point to where your line is in the water as the canoeists will take it that this is where you want them to go.

## Fishing Conduct

Anglers are expected to obey the relevant laws and fishery regulations, and to avoid any behaviour which might bring their sport into disrepute. The following points should be observed:

- 1 Ensure permission to fish has been obtained.
- 2 Observe the bounds of any beat.
- 3 Give way after a pool has been fished and never fish too long in any one place.
- 4 Show courtesy and good manners to other anglers near you, on the bank, or in a boat by keeping well clear of their position.
- 5 Distinguish between takeable and non takeable fish, ie keltts and baggots.
- 6 Exercise restraint in the number of fish taken.
- 7 Acknowledge considerate behaviour by other water users.
- 8 Report irresponsible behaviour to the ghillie if present and if he isn't present to the Local Authority directly.
- 9 Do not obstruct gateways or cause a road hazard with parked vehicles.
- 10 Support the organisations that safeguard the sport of fishing.

