

Fishing on Perth Town Waters

Guidance Notes



Introduction

The following guidance notes accompany an application to fish for salmon and sea trout on the Council's fishing beats. Information has been given on conservation practices to be employed on the fishery, relevant legislation, self-completion of catch returns for 2026, and health and safety precautions to be taken.

Return of Scottish salmon and sea trout catches for 2026

Your catch return for the 2026 season provides valuable data which is used to protect and develop salmon and sea trout stocks. In order that the data is published as early as possible and to aid decision-making by fishery managers, you are required to complete your return card, including if it is a "nil catch" at the end of the season.

The deadline for us to receive this card is 31 October 2026.

You are reminded that failure to submit a catch return for salmon, grilse and sea trout will result in you not obtaining a permit next season.

River Tay Conservation Code

Numbers of salmon entering the River Tay in most months of the year have tended to fall in recent decades. The decline has been most marked among the early fish, the "springers" which come in during the winter and early spring.

The Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board have requested that the following conservation measures are practiced:

- Anglers are requested not to fish with worms up to 31 May or after 31 August. As many fish are deeply hooked, the Board considers this method of fishing incompatible with the need for conservation.
- Now that the Board is requesting 100% catch and release all season, it recommends no worming at any time of the year. Should it be undertaken, only circle hooks or Shelton release hooks, which are designed to help prevent deep hooking, must be used.
- From 15 January to 31 March, all salmon must be returned to the water, even if the fish is dead. **This is a legal requirement and failure to do this may result in a criminal conviction.**

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- From 1 April to 31 May, all salmon to be released alive.
- Remove hooks from Rapalas – as the number of treble hooks attached can lead to problems in hook removal, these types of lures should be used with a maximum of one treble hook only.
- From 1 June to the end of the season, all hen fish are to be returned. The aim should then be to return at least 50% of cock fish caught, in particular, cock fish weighing over 10lbs. All coloured fish to be returned to the water. Anglers should not use worms in September or October.
- Landing the fish – use a fine, knotless meshed landing net and ensure the fish remains in the water. Do not lift it out the water. Do not beach the fish as abrasion can lead to infection. Minimise handling the fish and do not lift by the tail.
- Removing the hook – wet your hands and remove the hook gently. Dry, warm hands may cause abrasion which can lead to infection. If possible, use forceps or a hook disgorger, taking care not to squeeze the fish. We recommend using barbless or micro-barbed single hooks. Remember and take care with fresh, early fish as they are prone to damage and fungal infection.
- Returning the fish – try to avoid touching the fish while slipping it out the net. Otherwise, support the fish in a current, facing upstream and allow time for the fish to recover and swim away on its own. Estimate the weight of the fish from its length – do not weigh it. Record all fish caught and released. If you wish to take a photo, please ensure the fish remains in the net and the water while taking this. Remember and under no circumstances, grasp the fish's tail.
- Please ensure that the breaking strain of your terminal leader is at least 5lbs (2.5kgs) less than that of your main line – this will minimise line breakage in the event of entanglement.
- Please check and replace your line if it is becoming worn. Remove and dispose of any broken or snagged line.
- Dispose of all litter responsibly, in a bin or at home.

[More information on the River Tay Conservation Code.](#)

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Salmon and freshwater fisheries legislation in Scotland

The enforcement of the law relating to salmon and freshwater fishing in Scotland is facilitated by the Scottish Government under the [Salmon and recreational fisheries policy](#). Please make sure that you are aware of all the offences within this.

Banned bait on the River Tay

Prawns and shrimps are banned as bait on the town water fishing beats administered by Perth and Kinross Council.

Prohibition of eel fishing

Under the Freshwater Fish Conservation Regulations 2008, no person shall fish for or take eels of the species *Anguilla Anguilla*, [except under the authority of a licence granted by Scottish Ministers](#).

Be Water Wise

All water features are inherently dangerous. This risk is enhanced by the tidal nature of the River Tay. The banks of the river can be very slippery, particularly after high tides. Some banks may be undermined and prone to collapse after flood and frost. The nature of the tidal fishery makes it unsuitable for elderly or infirm anglers.

Some pools may require anglers to wade into the water to fish. Where this is required, anglers are advised to only wade to a depth where the water does not extend beyond the knees unless the angler can touch the bank with their fingertips. Additionally, anglers are strongly encouraged to test the nature of the riverbed with a stick or landing-net handle prior to wading. It is advised that an escape buoyancy aid is worn at all times.

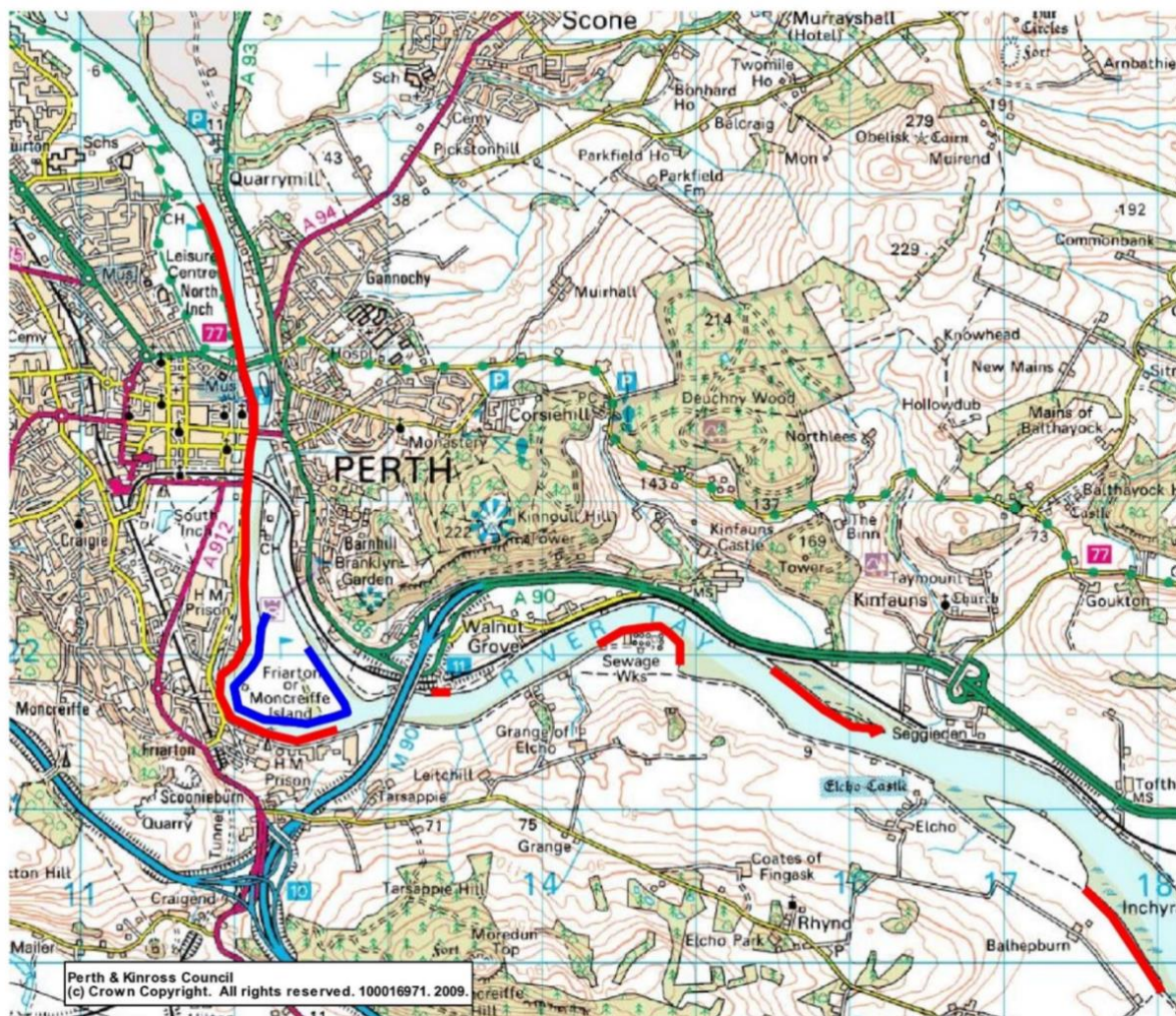
Anglers fishing in our waters should always consider their own and others safety and should adhere to all relevant safety advice.

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Perth Town Fishing Beats Map



Perth Town Fishing Beats



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You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All council services can offer a telephone translation facility.

BSL users can contact us via Contact Scotland BSL, the online British Sign Language video relay interpreting service. Find out more on the Contact Scotland BSL website <https://contactscotland-bsi.org>