

WHY RELEASE BIG MALE SALMON?

For genetic reasons, most males do in fact return as grilse but more females return as 2 sea-winter salmon. This is why male springers are rarer than female springers or why those 8 pound autumn fish are mainly male. Because of this the relatively few males which do return as large salmon have the best genes for producing larger salmon offspring. In the past large males were often viewed as expendable, but in fact they are much more valuable alive so the Board would prefer they are released.

NO WORMING IN SPRING OR AUTUMN

The Board requests that worms should not be used before 1 June nor after 31 August in any part of the district. As many fish are deeply hooked, the Board considers this method of fishing incompatible with conservation.

During the months of June, July and August the Board requests that worming should only be undertaken with Circle hooks or Shelton release hooks which are designed to help prevent deep hooking. Contact the Board for details of suppliers.

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December 2010

Salmon

Start of the Season to 31 May:

All fish are to be released.

Anglers should not fish with worms.

From 1 June to end of Season

All hen fish of any size and all cock fish over 10 pounds should be released.

All coloured and gravid fish should be released.

No more than one clean cock fish should be retained per angler per day weighing, where possible, less than 10 pounds.

Anglers should not fish with worms in September or October.

Sea trout

All sea trout should be released throughout the entire season

TAY DISTRICT SALMON FISHERIES BOARD

SAVING TAY SALMON

CATCH AND RELEASE CODE

2011

CONSERVATION

At the present time stocks of salmon are under pressure, most especially the early running spring fish for which the Tay was famed. Accordingly the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board is seeking to do everything possible to protect and enhance stocks. An important element has been to encourage catch and release by anglers, since studies have shown that over 80% of released fish survive and few are re-caught.

CATCH AND RELEASE PROGRAMME

The Board promotes a Catch and Release programme throughout the entire River Tay district. Since the programme commenced in 1999, the proportion of spring fish released has increased from around 10% to 80% in 2009 and hopefully even higher in 2010. The Board wishes this level to be maintained or ideally exceeded in order to see real lasting benefits in terms of more salmon in future.

REMOVE HOOKS FROM RAPALAS

Rapala and similar lures are popular on some beats on the Tay and in Loch Tay. As the number of treble hooks attached can lead to problems in hook removal it is recommended that such lures should be used with a maximum of one treble hook only.

SAFETY ON THE TAY

The Tay is a large river which is potentially dangerous for the unprepared. Accidents and fatalities have occurred when safety considerations have been overlooked. **Anglers fishing the Tay should always consider their own and others' safety. The Tay Board commends the use of lifejackets whether on a boat or wading.**

MAKING RELEASE A SUCCESS

It is essential that proper procedures are followed to minimise stress and prevent any damage to the fish and to allow survival to spawning.

Landing the fish:

- Use a fine, knotless meshed landing net and ensure the fish remains in the water. **Keep the fish in the net and in the water. Do not lift it out of the water**
- **Do not beach the fish**, as abrasion can lead to infection.
- **DO NOT LIFT BY THE TAIL!**
- Minimise handling the fish.

Removing the hook:

- Wet your hands. A dry, bare, warm hand can cause abrasion which later may lead to infection.
- Remove the hook gently. If possible remove the hook using forceps or a hook disgorger, taking care not to squeeze the fish.
- The use of barbless or micro barbed single hooks is recommended, as they make removing the hook easier.
- Take care with fresh, early fish as they are prone to damage and fungal infection.

Returning the fish:

- If possible, try to slip the fish out of the net **without touching it!**
- If you really must, then support the fish, in a current, facing upstream and allow time for the fish to recover and swim away on its own.
- Do not weigh the fish but estimate the weight of the fish from its length. Record all fish caught and released.
- Photographs by all means, but **do not remove the fish from the net** which should remain in the water. However tempting, **please don't grasp a fish's tail!!** This can result in fungal infection.