



## LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

# River Lossie District Salmon Fishery Board Conservation Code 2026

Following extensive consultation by Scottish Government the killing of Atlantic salmon in inland waters will be managed on an annual basis by categorising fishery districts by their conservation status.

The approach uses catch data to determine if the numbers of adult salmon returning to the river are sufficient to maintain adequate spawning and egg deposition and ultimately smolt output. Catch data from five years is used and each river in Scotland is Graded Good to Poor. Good indicates the river has met its conservation limit while Poor means it has fallen below the limit. Rivers with Poor grading require to move to 100% catch and release for salmon and grilse and all rivers must prepare a conservation Plan to safeguard salmon stocks in the future.

The Lossie has been graded Poor.

The Salmon Conservation Regulations which come into effect on 1 April 2016 make it a criminal offence to kill any salmon within the Lossie district.

Further details can be found at:-

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/status>

In December 2023 Atlantic salmon were reclassified by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, from 'Least Concern' to 'Endangered' in Great Britain. Given the evidence of declining stocks of both Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout, Fisheries Management Scotland recommends a catch and release policy of 100% for both species, the LDSFB are in agreement with this policy and has therefore updated the conservation code to reflect that there should be **no deliberate killing of Sea Trout** until such time as the balance of scientific evidence suggests that populations are stable and recovering. The LDSFB already has a policy of no deliberate killing of Atlantic Salmon.

## Salmon Conservation Policy

All Salmon and Grilse must be released back to the river.

## Sea Trout Conservation Policy

All Sea Trout must be released back to the river.

## METHODS

- Fly fishing is encouraged.
- Use pinched or barbless hooks. Avoid using triple hooks.
- Shrimp and prawning is banned.
- Bait fishing (worming) may be used with the AA or owner's permission.



## LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

# BIOSECURITY

1. Anyone who goes fishing should be aware of the risks of transferring diseases and invasive non-native species (INNS) on clothing and equipment. By practising good biosecurity, you are helping to minimise the spread of non-native species, plant and animal pests, as well as their parasites and diseases.
2. Follow the 'Check, Clean, Dry' principles of biosecurity:  
**Check** - your equipment and clothing for live organisms - particular in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.  
**Clean** - wash all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly. Use hot water where possible. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.  
**Dry** - all equipment and clothing at 20 degrees centigrade or more for at least 2 days or deep freeze for at least 1 day

# **Catch and Release**

## **6 SIMPLE STEPS:**

1. Use the strongest practical nylon cast to aid quick landing of fish. Long playing leads to the build up of harmful metabolites such as lactic acid which kills fish even after they appear to swim away unscathed.
2. Use single or double hooks but avoid using triple hooks. Pinch the barbs by carefully crimping them with slim-jawed pliers.
3. Try and plan your release strategy as you are playing the fish - think where the best area would be to net or beach, unhook & release your fish. Avoid sandy beaches and silty bays, and where there are extensive areas where the water depth is shallower than the depth of the fish.
4. Take great care in handling fish. It helps if there are two of you so try and fish in pairs. **Do not** pick the fish up by the tail and carry it to the bank for unhooking purposes. If possible use a wide-mouthed small knot-less mesh net to minimise handling and remove the hook and release the fish while



## LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

still in the water. Wet the hands first or use surgical gloves and wet them as well, avoid the gill area, do not squeeze the stomach and take care not to rub off scales. Turning the fish upside down will often prevent it from struggling. Use your knees or the river bank to keep the frame of the net level and just above the water surface.

5. Use long-nosed artery forceps or slim-jawed pliers for removing hooks.
6. Try to minimise out of water and handling times. Return the fish as quickly as possible. Some photographers keep fish out of the water far too long, considerably reducing their chances of recovery. Support it until it has recovered enough to swim away.



## LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

## Fish Length and Weight

(Note imperial lengths are rounded to nearest  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch)

Length (in)	Length (cm)	Weight (lb.)	Weight (kg)
20	50	3	1.4
21½	55	4	1.8
23	59	5	2.3
25	63	6	2.7
26	66	7	3.2
27	69	8	3.6
28	72	9	4.1
29½	75	10	4.5
30½	77	11	5
31	79	12	5.5
32	81	13	5.9
32½	83	14	6.4
33½	85	15	6.8
34½	87	16	7.3
35	89	17	7.7
36	91	18	8.2
36½	93	19	8.6
37	94	20	9.1
37½	96	21	9.5
38	97	22	10
39	99	23	10.5
39½	100	24	10.9
40	101	25	11.4
40½	103	26	11.8
41	104	27	12.3
41½	105	28	12.7
42	106	29	13.2
42½	108	30	13.6
43	109	31	14.1