



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
INLAND FISHERIES REGULATIONS
SUMMARY**

The **Inland Fisheries Act 1976** and the **Inland Fisheries Regulations 1983** provide for general rules for angling in both reservoirs and rivers. These are summarised below:-

In particular, it should be noted that –

1. it is an offence to carry or use a gaff or tailer;
2. line is restricted to 4.5kg / 10 lb. breaking strain;
3. hook size is restricted to No. 6 Redditch scale, unless the hook is comprised in an artificial fly;
4. multiple hooks must not be used, except when –
 - i) Pennel or Stuart tackles are being used for bait fishing;
 - ii) A “point with two droppers” is being used for fly fishing only;
 - iii) A spinner is being used for spinning only;
5. there is a maximum length and weight for spinners, lures and spoons –
 - i) In reservoirs: 65 mm / 10 grams
 - ii) In rivers: 100 mm / 15 grams;
6. rubber worms or similar artificial bait must not be used in reservoirs other than the Eairy Dam;
7. all fish under 18 cm. long, and all foul-hooked fish, must be returned to the water;
8. a landing net must be used when fishing at a reservoir, and when fishing for migratory fish in rivers;
9. wading in reservoirs is prohibited.
10. fishing for salmon or sea trout from the foreshore, in any estuary or at sea is not permitted.

RESERVOIR ANGLING

The reservoir angling season runs from 10th March to the 31st of October.

With a ‘Reservoir Fishing Licence’ you can fish the Ballure, Block Eary, Clypse, Cringle, Eairy Dam, Kerrowdhoo, Sulby and West Baldwin reservoirs.

Angling at the reservoirs is allowed between the hours of 6:00 a.m. or sunrise, whichever is the later, and 30 minutes after sunset or 10:30 p.m., whichever is the earlier. It should be noted that –

- (a) live bait, worms, ground bait and organic matters, including substances with which artificial bait may be impregnated, shall not be used (except on Eairy Dam);
 - (b) Clypse and Kerrowdhoo Reservoirs are restricted to fly fishing only;
 - (c) there is an overall bag limit of 4 trout per day; catch and release must not be continued after the 4th fish has been caught.
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RIVER ANGLING

The river angling season opens on 1st April and runs through until the end of September for trout, with an extension to the end of October in respect of angling for salmon and sea-trout only. It should be noted that -

- (a) there is a daily bag limit for the rivers of 6 fish, of which **no more than 2** may be salmon or sea-trout; catch and release must not be continued after the 6th fish is caught and killed
 - (b) anglers must not in any way pollute or throw substances into the waters, damage any fences or other works belonging to the landowner, or leave litter
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LICENCES

All anglers **MUST** hold a valid freshwater angling licence issued by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Separate licences are required for reservoir and angling in other waters. However, apart from on small, restricted lengths of club waters in rivers, no other permit or licence is required.

Licences are available from

- (a) most Post Offices;
- (b) Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry;
- (c) Department of Tourism and Leisure;
- (d) Onchan Commissioners
- (e) Some tackle shops.

Concessionary licences are available at reduced rates for 'Students', i.e. persons who have not attained 19 years of age by 31st December.

Children aged 13 years and younger can fish for free, although they must hold a licence issued at zero rate of duty. 'Children' are those who have not attained their 14th birthday by 31st December.

Licences are not transferable and must always be carried with you whilst fishing. Licences must be produced on demand to any person authorised under the Act, or to a Police Officer. Failure to do so is an offence liable to prosecution, which could result in a fine, confiscation of tackle and 12 month disqualification.

For full details please contact the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, 51-59 Rose House, Circular Road, Douglas, IM1 1AZ (Telephone:- 01624 685857)