

ANGLING GOOD PRACTICE

- The Department promotes and encourages the use of barbless or crimped hooks at all times to prevent unnecessary damage and distress to the fish.
- Please consider the careful catch and release of all migratory salmonid fish to conserve Manx stocks.
- Fish to be returned should be handled as little as possible and placed gently back in the water.
- Support the fish at all times and unhooking should be done under water, in a knotless mesh landing net.
- **Never** lift a fish unsupported out of the water by the line, spinner, lure etc as this will cause considerable damage to the mouth of the fish.
- Make sure you can recognise kelts and unseasonable fish so you can comply with the legal requirement to return them to the water.
- It is recommended that children be accompanied by an adult whilst fishing on rivers and reservoirs.
- Anglers should carry and use a priest for the quick dispatch of fish.
- Other Water licence holders are asked to submit a catch return at the end of the season, as this will assist in the effective targeting of fisheries resources.
- Be safe, particularly near deep or fast flowing water and when fishing from slippery banks.
- Please respect any temporary reservoir closures which may be in place following stocking or as required by the Manx Utilities Authority.
- Please do not gut or clean your fish at the bankside of the river or reservoir. Take all litter home with you. Discarded fishing tackle can be very dangerous to wildlife.
- Avoid causing damage to the waterside or disturbance to wildlife and follow the Country Code.
- Please show consideration for other anglers and reservoir and river users and respect their right to enjoy their chosen pastime.

FISH MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS

Salmon	45 cm
Migratory trout	35 cm
Trout	25 cm

FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

When fishing rivers and private stillwaters access is at the courtesy of the landowner, whose permission must always be obtained in advance of fishing. See www.visitisleofman.com/things-to-do/activities/fishing for details of river stretches where permission can be assumed.

The fishing rights on certain stretches of river are leased out to fishing clubs and therefore designated as private fishing. Please check before you go fishing.

Reservoir access is courtesy of the Manx Utilities and due respect should be paid to their installations, property and Regulations.

Take special care to check that there are no people or animals around or behind you before back-casting, especially where their or your view may be obscured.

Please note that this leaflet is for guidance only. Anglers must ensure they are aware of and comply with all the relevant legislation relating to freshwater angling.

Full details can be obtained from:

**Fisheries Directorate
Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
Thie Slieau Whallian
Foxdale Road
St John's
IM4 3AS**

**Telephone: 01624 685857
Fax: 01624 685851**

**Email: fisheries@gov.im
Website: www.gov.im/recreationalfishing**

**Counter Opening Times:
Mon—Fri: 0900—1700**

Department of Environment Food and Agriculture

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Anglers Code of Conduct

The Fisheries Act 2012 and the Inland Fisheries Regulations 2017 provide the legislation for angling in freshwaters in the Isle of Man.

Anglers must ensure they are fully aware of all the relevant rules and regulations before they go fishing.

Full sets of the Regulations can be found on the Isle of Man Government website at:

www.gov.im/legislationpolicy

Please fish responsibly:-

All freshwater anglers MUST be in possession of a valid licence before going fishing, whether it be fishing in a river, reservoir or a stillwater (publicly owned or private).

Along with your licence, it is advisable to carry another form of identification with you when fishing.

A licence allows an angler to fish with a single rod and line only and anglers are not permitted to hold more than one of any type of licence.

Obtain permission from the landowner/occupier before starting to fish rivers and privately-owned stillwaters. Permission may be assumed at some river stretches; see the DEFA Inland Fisheries web site or *Isle of Man Angling Guide* for details.

With the exception of Concessionary Reservoir Season, all licences are available to purchase online from www.gov.im/onlineservices.

LICENCES

4 types of licence are available:-

- Reservoir licence — fishing for trout and rainbow trout in 6 specified reservoirs and in private & commercial fisheries.
- Concessionary reservoir licence — fishing for trout & rainbow trout in 6 specified reservoirs.
- Other Waters licence — fishing for salmon, trout, migratory trout, rainbow trout & eels in waters other than the 6 reservoirs or a coarse fishery.
- Coarse Fish licence — fishing for freshwater fish other than salmon, migratory trout, trout, rainbow trout and eels in a private or commercial coarse fishery and in Eairy Dam.

Concessionary reservoir licences are available for OAPs and disabled anglers and eligibility criteria apply. These licences are available to purchase from DEFA Offices at St Johns, the Welcome Centre at the Sea Terminal in Douglas or from Post Offices (**not online**).

Season, Week and Day licences are available for Reservoirs and Other Waters. Concessionary Reservoir and Coarse Fish licences are available for a Season only.

Child licences are available free of charge for children under 14 years of age. These are only valid until the child's 14th birthday.

Young persons' licences are available for persons under 19 years of age. These are only valid until the 19th birthday.

SEASONS

Fishing for **salmon & migratory trout**—**1 April to 31 October inclusive**.

Fishing for **brown trout & rainbow trout** in reservoirs and private & commercial fisheries—**10 March to 31 January inclusive**.

Fishing for **brown trout and rainbow trout** in any water other than a reservoir or private/commercial fishery—**1 April to 30 September inclusive**.

Fishing for **eels** in any waters—**1 April to 30 September inclusive (catch and release only)**.

Fishing for **coarse fish**— there is no close season for coarse fish, although a fishery owner may operate a discretionary close season.

RESERVOIR ANGLING

The 6 reservoirs are; **Clypse, Cringle, Kerrowdhoo, Ballure, Sulby and West Baldwin**.

Reservoir angling is permitted between the hours of 6.00a.m. or sunrise, whichever is the later and 30 minutes after sunset, or 10.30 p.m. whichever is the earlier. Please note that:

- (a) The total maximum casting weight of terminal tackle in reservoirs is 15 grams.
- (b) Clypse and Kerrowdhoo reservoirs are traditional fly fishing only.
- (c) Single barbless/crimped hooks must be used when fishing a buoyant fly or a buoyant lure sub-surface on a sinking line on reservoirs.
- (d) Sinking line means any line fished below the surface of the water, with the exception of the final tippet attached to a traditional floating fly line.
- (e) The daily bag limit is 4 fish from March to October inclusive.
- (f) The daily bag limit is 2 fish from November to January inclusive.
- (g) Concessionary Reservoir licence holders have a daily bag limit of 2 fish for the whole season.
- (h) Rubber worms or similar artificial bait are prohibited in any reservoir.
- (i) Live bait, worms, ground bait, organic matters and scented lures are prohibited in the 6 reservoirs.
- (j) Barbless/crimped hooks must be used for all reservoir fishing between November and January inclusive.

Eairy Dam and Block Eairy may be fished by anglers in possession of an Other Waters licence.

Eairy Dam can be fished for coarse fish by anglers holding a coarse fish licence.

RIVER ANGLING

- (a) The daily bag limit is 3 fish, of which no more than 1 may be a salmon or sea trout.
- (b) Fishing must cease immediately on the capture and retention of a salmon or a sea trout.
- (c) The total maximum casting weight of terminal tackle in rivers is 20 grams.
- (d) Only SEASON Other Water licences are valid for fishing in the month of October.
- (e) Anglers may not use any species of crayfish as bait.
- (f) Anglers may not use roe of any fish species as bait.

COARSE FISHING

Coarse fishing is permitted in private and commercial coarse fisheries and in Eairy Dam.

Coarse fishing is **catch and release** only—fish may be retained temporarily in keep nets/keep sacks but must be returned alive to the water they were captured from.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- Line breaking strain must not exceed 4.5kg / 10lbs.
- Hooks may not exceed size 6 with a maximum gape of 9mm.
- Any type of float may be used, provided it does not exceed the specified total maximum casting weight.
- There is no restriction on the length of spinners and lures.
- Multiple hooks may not be used except when:
 - i) a point with one or two droppers is used for fly fishing only.
 - ii) a spinner is used for spinning only.
- No more than three hook points are permissible at any time.
- Foul hooked fish must be returned to the water immediately.
- Anglers must carry a landing net, which must be used to remove fish from the water.
- All eels to be returned alive immediately on capture
- Fishing must cease once the daily bag limit of fish is caught and retained; do not continue to fish catch and release.
- Rods must not be left unattended with bait or hooks in the water; anglers must be able to control their rod at all times.
- Lead weights greater than 0.6 grams are prohibited, unless incorporated in the construction of a swim feeder, self-cocking float or fishing lure.
- Non-lead weights are permitted, provided they comply with the maximum casting weight rules.
- It is illegal to sell, offer or expose for sale any salmon, sea trout, trout, rainbow trout, eel or coarse fish taken on rod and line. This includes the barter or exchange of fish for goods or services.
- Landing nets, keep nets & keep sacks must be made of knotless mesh material.
- Bait fishing must be by single hook only.