

Child Angling Licence – Information for Parents

DEFA Fisheries are keen to encourage young people to take up angling. The free of charge child licence was introduced to provide an affordable way for children to learn the art of freshwater angling. Checks by Fisheries Officers have indicated that some adults accompanying children fishing on a free licence are not clear of what level of assistance they may give the child without needing to purchase their own licence. We have put together this guidance information to clarify what is appropriate use of the child licence, along with some advice to help your child to continue enjoying this popular sport.

The requirement for a fishing licence:

- Possession of an appropriate licence when fishing on reservoirs and in rivers is required under in the Fisheries Act 2012. Fishing licences are not transferable and persons fishing without a licence are at risk of incurring a fine and confiscation of fishing equipment.
- Child licences are free of charge and may be used by children who have not yet reached their 14th birthday (there is also a young person's licence with discounted rates for those 14 to 18 years of age). Fishing licences are available at <https://www.gov.im/onlineservices/> as well as the Welcome Centre in the Sea Terminal Building and DEFA headquarters

How the Child Licence should be used:

- **The licence is for use by a child. An accompanying adult, who does not have an appropriate licence, may assist a child. This may include assisting the child to cast, but the child must be able to wind in and land a fish with the adult playing only a minor supporting role.** The rainbow trout in stocked reservoirs are generally in excess of 2lb in weight. It is unlikely that very young children would be able to play the main part in landing such a fish. Such children should be accompanied by a licensed adult who would then be able to carry out most of the fishing activity.

Please note the following:

- The *Isle of Man Angling Guide* gives details of where to enjoy a variety of both sea and freshwater angling available on the Island along with other information useful for those new to the sport. This guide and further information, such as the *Anglers Code of Conduct* can be found on the freshwater fishing pages of the DEFA website www.gov.im/defa. Alternatively telephone Fisheries on 685857 for information. DEFA Fisheries is also now on Facebook.
- **The *Anglers Code of Conduct* includes a summary of the legislation that freshwater anglers need to be aware of. Parents are advised to read this code of conduct and ensure that their child is aware of these regulations.**

Other information

A great way to learn more about angling is to join an angling club. The following organisations provide opportunities for junior members to take part in events:

- Ramsey Angling Club (sea angling only) www.ramseyanglingclub.co.uk Contact Andrew Dugdale (tel. 490312)
- Mannin Angling Club (sea angling only) www.manninanglingclub.com Contact Beryl or John Payton (tel. 427819/403528).
- Douglas Angling Club (sea and freshwater angling) www.douglasanglingclub.com Email enquiries@douglasanglingclub.com
- Manx Game Fishing Club fishes on four private river beats. Club members may take any of their children under 16yrs old (and licensed) with them to fish these beats for no extra cost, and there is a discounted membership fee for 16-17 yr olds. Tel. Gordon Simpson 316079.
- Isle of Man Fly Fishers, who can be found on Facebook, also organise angling events.

While it is not illegal for a child to fish alone, we strongly advise that they are accompanied by an adult because of the risks entailed in being near deep and/or fast-flowing water.