



**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol  
Cymru  
Natural  
Resources  
Wales**

# Rod fishing byelaws 2017

## A guide for anglers in Wales



To find out how you can help stop the spread of harmful invasive species visit:  
<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/home/index.cfm>

## Introduction

This leaflet is a layman's guide to byelaws made under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, regulating fishing by rod and line within the area covered by Natural Resources Wales..

**This leaflet is for guidance only and is not intended to be a legal interpretation of the byelaws.**

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## **Fisheries District details**

### **Taff Fisheries District**

Incorporates the catchments of all rivers, streams and other watercourses entering the sea along the coastline between National Grid Reference (NGR) ST 020 663 at Limpert Bay in the west and NGR ST 227 777 at Lamby, Cardiff in the east.

Includes the following rivers (and their tributaries):-

Thaw  
Ely  
Taff  
Rhymney

### **Gower Fisheries District**

Incorporates the catchments of all rivers, streams or other watercourses entering the sea along the coastline between NGR SN 363 075 at St Ishmael in the west and NGR ST 020 663 at Limpert Bay in the east.

Includes the following rivers (and their tributaries):-

Gwendraeth Fach and Fawr,  
Loughor  
Tawe  
Neath  
Afan  
Kenfig  
Ogmore

### **West Wales Fisheries District**

Incorporates the catchments of all rivers, streams or other watercourses entering the sea along the coastline between NGR SN 607 890 at Upper Borth in the north and NGR SN 363 075 at St Ishmael in the south.

Includes the following rivers (and their tributaries):-

Clarach  
Rheidol  
Ystwyth  
Aeron  
Teifi  
Nevern  
Western Cleddau  
Eastern Cleddau  
Taf  
Tywi

### **Gwynedd Fisheries District**

Means the area of the former Gwynedd River Authority and includes the following rivers (and their tributaries):-

Dyfi  
Dysynni  
Mawddach  
Dwryd  
Artro  
Glaslyn  
Dwyfor  
Seiont  
Ogwen  
Conwy

**Section 1 - Open seasons and method restrictions for salmon (see notes on page 5)**

<b>River</b>	<b>Open season (all dates inclusive)</b>	<b>Method restrictions (all dates inclusive)</b>
Dee & tributaries	3 March to 17 October	Fly only .....3 March to 31 May Fly & spin only .....1 June to 15 June Fly, spin and permitted baits .....16 June to 30 September Fly & spin only .....1 October to 17 October
Clwyd & tributaries	20 March to 17 October	Fly & spin only .....20 March to 15 June Fly, spin and permitted baits .....16 June to 30 September Fly only .....1 October to 17 October
Usk Fisheries District - all rivers	3 March to 17 October	Fly only .....3 March to 31 May Fly & spin only .....1 June to 15 June Fly, spin and permitted baits .....16 June to 15 September Fly & spin only .....16 September to 17 October
Wye downstream of Llanwrthwl Bridge	3 March to 17 October	Fly & spin only .....3 March to 31 August Fly only .....1 September to 17 October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wye upstream of Llanwrthwl Bridge</li> <li>• all Wye tributaries</li> </ul>	3 March to 25 October	Fly & spin only .....3 March to 31 August Fly only .....1 September to 25 October
Gwynedd Fisheries District - Isle of Anglesey	1 May - 17 November	Fly & spin only .....1 May to 15 June Fly, spin and permitted baits .....16 June to 7 November Fly & spin only .....8 November to 17 November
Gwynedd Fisheries District - Llyn Peninsula	1 May - 31 October	Fly & spin only .....1 May to 15 June Fly, spin and permitted baits .....16 June to 16 October Fly & spin only .....17 October to 31 October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main River Seiont downstream of Pont Rhythallt, Llanrug</li> <li>• Main River Ogwen downstream of Bont Coetmor Bridge, Bethesda</li> <li>• Main River Dwyryd downstream of Glan yr Afon footbridge, Maentwrog</li> <li>• Main River Dyfi downstream of Dyfi Bridge, Machynlleth</li> <li>• Lower reaches of Main River Conwy (see notes below)</li> </ul>	20 March to 31 October	Fly & spin only .....20 March to 15 June Fly, spin and permitted baits .....16 June to 7 October Fly & spin only .....8 October to 31 October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwynedd Fisheries District - all other rivers, reaches and tributaries</li> <li>• Gwendraeth Fach</li> <li>• Gwendraeth Fawr</li> <li>• Loughor</li> <li>• Tawe</li> </ul>	20 March to 17 October	Fly & spin only .....20 March to 15 June Fly, spin and permitted baits .....16 June to 7 October Fly & spin only .....8 October to 17 October
All West Wales Fisheries District rivers	1 April to 17 October	Fly & spin only .....1 April to 15 June Fly, spin and permitted baits .....16 June to 7 October Fly & spin only .....8 October to 17 October
Other rivers	20 March to 17 October	Fly & spin only .....20 March to 15 June Fly, spin and permitted baits .....16 June to 30 September Fly & spin only .....1 October to 17 October
Upper Severn area	1 February to 7 October	Fly & spin only .....1 February to 15 June Fly, spin and permitted baits .....16 June to 7 October

**Section 2 - Open seasons and method restrictions for sea trout (see notes on page 5)**

<b>River</b>	<b>Open season (all dates inclusive)</b>	<b>Method restrictions (all dates inclusive)</b>
All West Wales Fisheries District rivers	1 April to 17 October	Fly, spin and permitted baits ..... 1 April to 7 October Fly & spin only ..... 8 October to 17 October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwynedd Fisheries District - Isle of Anglesey</li> </ul>	1 May - 17 November	Fly & spin only ..... 1 May to 15 June Fly, spin and permitted baits ..... 16 June to 7 November Fly & spin only ..... 8 November to 17 November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwynedd Fisheries District - Lleyn Peninsula</li> </ul>	1 May - 31 October	Fly & spin only ..... 1 May to 15 June Fly, spin and permitted baits ..... 16 June to 16 October Fly & spin only ..... 17 October to 31 October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main River Seiont downstream of Pont Rhythallt, Llanrug</li> <li>• Main River Ogwen downstream of Bont Coetmor Bridge, Bethesda</li> <li>• Main River Dwyryd downstream of Glan yr Afon footbridge, Maentwrog</li> <li>• Main River Dyfi downstream of Dyfi Bridge, Machynlleth</li> <li>• Lower reaches of Main River Conwy (see notes below)</li> </ul>	20 March to 17 October	Fly & spin only ..... 20 March to 14 April Fly, spin and permitted baits ..... 15 April to 7 October Fly & spin only ..... 8 October to 17 October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gwynedd Fisheries District - all other rivers, reaches and tributaries</li> <li>• Gwendraeth Fach</li> <li>• Gwendraeth Fawr</li> <li>• Loughor</li> <li>• Tawe</li> </ul>	20 March to 17 October	Fly & spin only ..... 20 March to 14 April Fly, spin and permitted baits ..... 15 April to 7 October Fly & spin only ..... 8 October to 17 October
Clwyd & tributaries	20 March to 17 October	Fly & spin only ..... 20 March to 31 May Fly, spin and permitted baits ..... 1 June to 30 September Fly only ..... 1 October to 17 October
Dee & tributaries	20 March to 17 October	Fly only ..... 20 March to 31 May Fly, spin and permitted baits ..... 1 June to 30 September Fly & spin only ..... 1 October to 17 October
Usk Fisheries District - all rivers	20 March to 17 October	Fly only ..... 20 March to 31 May Fly, spin and permitted baits ..... 1 June to 15 September Fly & spin only ..... 16 September to 17 October
Wye Fisheries District - all rivers	20 March to 17 October	Fly & spin only ..... 20 March to 31 August Fly only ..... 1 September to 17 October
Other rivers	20 March to 17 October	Fly & spin only ..... 20 March to 14 April Fly, spin and permitted baits ..... 15 April to 30 September Fly & spin only ..... 1 October to 17 October
Upper Severn area	18 March to 7 October	Fly, spin and permitted baits ..... 18 March to 7 October

## Notes

### Interpretation and definitions for Sections 1 & 2

- Isle of Anglesey means all rivers on the Isle of Anglesey;
- Lleyn Peninsula means the rivers Erch, Rhydhir, Soch and their tributaries, and all other rivers and their tributaries that enter the sea between SH460373 and SH430525 - this definition excludes the rivers Llyfni and Dwyfor and their tributaries;
- Lower reaches of the River Conwy with an extended season are defined as being from the estuary upstream as far as Ty'n y Cai pool at the confluence with the Lledr (NGR SH798542) but:
  - *excluding* the length of river between the weir upstream of the Cae Maelor confluence (NGR SH799608) and the upstream side of the B5106 roadbridge at Llanrwst (NGR SH798614); and
  - *excluding* the length of river between the gauging station cables at Cwmlanerch (NGR SH802582) and the upstream side of the railway bridge (NGR SH802595);
- 'fly' refers to unweighted artificial fly of less than 5g in weight;
- groundbait or feeder bait is not allowed at any time;
- maggots, pupae or non-aquatic larvae are not allowed (except within the Gwynedd Fisheries District where it is permissible to fish with maggots if they are used in conjunction with artificial fly when fishing between one hour before sunset and one hour after sunrise);
- it is recommended that, whenever fishing with the intention of releasing any fish that are caught, either barbless or de-barbed hooks are used.

### Catch & release restrictions

#### On all rivers:

- any salmon caught before 16 June must be returned with minimum injury and with minimum delay.

#### On the rivers **Wye, Taff and Ely** and their tributaries:

- all salmon and sea trout must be returned with minimum injury and with minimum delay.

#### On the rivers **Tywi, Taf, E&W Cleddau** and their tributaries:

- any salmon or sea trout caught after 7 October must be returned with minimum injury and with minimum delay.

#### On rivers **Seiont, Ogwen, Dwyrhyd, Dyfi** and **Conwy** and their tributaries:

- any salmon or sea trout caught after 17 October must be returned with minimum injury and with minimum delay.

### Rewards for tagged salmon and sea trout

Over the past few years we have released thousands of tagged salmon and sea trout into many Welsh rivers. The tag is buried in the nose of the fish - so you will not be able to see it - but to make tagged fish easily identifiable the adipose fin (the small, fleshy lobe on the back between the dorsal fin and the tail) has been removed. This does not harm the fish in any way.

If you catch any salmon or sea trout which has the adipose fin missing, and you intend to keep the fish (remember all salmon caught before 16 June must be released) you should:

- call your local NRW office;
- give your name, address and telephone number;
- give details of the catch (when & where it was caught, and the size & species of fish);
- keep the fish (or just the head) - frozen if necessary - and we will contact you to make arrangements for it to be inspected.

We will pay a reward if it carries a tag and, of course, you keep the fish. The information obtained from tagged fish is vital in helping with the assessment of fish stocks, fish movements and the success of our management and stocking activities. These assessments will, in turn, benefit you through the better management of our fish stocks.

**Section 3 - Open seasons for non-migratory trout, Arctic charr, coarse fish and eels**

<b>Species and location</b>	<b>Open season dates (inclusive)</b>
<b>Brown trout &amp; Arctic charr</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir</li> <li>• Llyn Trawsfynydd</li> <li>• Llyn Cwmorthin</li> <li>• Llyn Morwynion</li> <li>• Llyn Du Bach y Bont</li> <li>• Llyn Barlwyd</li> <li>• Llyn Ffridd</li> <li>• Llyn Manod</li> <li>• Llyn Conwy</li> </ul>	3 March to 30 September
All other stillwaters, other than enclosed stillwaters	20 March to 17 October
All fully enclosed stillwaters (brown trout only)	NO CLOSE SEASON
Rivers in West Wales Fisheries District	1 April to 30 September
River Teifi upstream of Lampeter road bridge	3 March to 30 September
Lower reaches of selected rivers (see Section 4)	31 May to 30 September
Rivers - all other reaches	3 March to 30 September
All rivers in Upper Severn Area	18 March to 7 October
<b>Rainbow trout</b>	
All stillwaters - no close season	NO CLOSE SEASON
All rivers	3 March to 30 September
All rivers (Upper Severn Area)	18 March to 7 October
<b>Coarse fish</b>	
All stillwaters and canals - no close season (except certain SSSIs - see Section 5)	NO CLOSE SEASON
All other waters	16 June to 14 March following
<b>Eels</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All stillwaters and canals - no close season (except certain SSSIs - see Section 5)</li> <li>• All rivers in Dee &amp; Clwyd, Gwynedd and Wye Fisheries Districts</li> <li>• River Usk below George Street Bridge, Newport</li> </ul>	NO CLOSE SEASON
All other waters	16 June to 14 March following
All rivers, streams drains (Upper Severn Area)	NO CLOSE SEASON *

\* During the coarse fish close season (15 March to 15 June, inclusive) hooks used in fishing for eels on rivers in Upper Severn Area must have a gape of at least 12.7mm (½").

**Section 4 - Open season for brown trout on selected lower reaches of rivers**

Open season on all listed reaches - 31 May to 30 September (both dates inclusive)

District & river	Location of upstream limit
<b>Gwynedd Fisheries District</b>	
Dulas	Railway bridge below Llanddulas
Aber	Railway bridge below Aber
Ogwen	Railway bridge at Talybont
Seiont	Seiont Bridge (A449)
Gwyrfai	Llanfaglan road bridge
Llyfni	Pont-y-Line
Soch	Abersoch road bridge (A499)
Rhydir	Riverside Bridge
Erch	Bridge below Abererch (A497)
Wen	Pont-Ffridd-Lwyd (A497)
Dwyfach	Bridge (A497)
Dwyfor	Llanystumdwy road bridge (A497)
Glaslyn	Pont Croesor (B4410)
Dwryrd	Maentwrog Bridge (A487)
Artro	Llanbedr road bridge (A496)
Mawddach	Llanelltyd Bridge (A487)
Wnion	Dr. Williams' school footbridge below Dolgellau
Dysynni	Dysynni Bridge (A487)
Dyfi	Dyfi Bridge (A487)
Leri	Glan-Lerry bridge below Dolybont
<b>Dee and Clwyd Fisheries District</b>	
River Clwyd and tributaries	Rhuddlan Bridge
<b>Usk Fisheries District</b>	
Usk	Two marker posts 2.7km below the road bridge at Newbridge-on-Usk
Sor Brook	Road bridge at Sor Mill to River Usk
Afon Lwyd	Road bridge at Ponthir to River Usk
All other Usk tributaries which join the Usk downstream of Newbridge	The lower 0.8km of each tributary
<b>Gower Fisheries District</b>	
Loughor	Road bridge at Pontardulais
<b>West Wales Fisheries District</b>	
Towy	Confluence with River Gwili
Teifi	Llechryd Bridge
Western Cleddau	Boathouse at Crowhill, Haverfordwest
Eastern Cleddau	Canaston Bridge
Aeron	Upper Town Bridge
Rheidol	Penybont Bridge
Ystwyth	Gosen Bridge
Taf	Confluence with the Afon Hydfron



**Section 5 - Open season for coarse fish and eels on selected canal & stillwater SSSIs**

Please note that the coarse fish close season has been retained on the following stillwater SSSI sites in Wales - the open season for coarse fishing on all of the sites listed below is from 16 June to 14 March following (both dates inclusive)

<b>Location</b>	<b>SSSI grid reference</b>
<b>SE Area</b>	
Berrington Pool; Hereford & Worcestershire	SO 509 630
Cwm Gwynllyn, Gwynllyn, Radnorshire	SN 945 692
Fforddfawr Mire; North Brecknock and West Dinefwr	SO 187 401
Flintsham and Titley Pools; Hereford & Worcestershire	SO 318 589 <i>and</i> SO 325 595
Glamorgan Canal & Long Wood; South Glamorgan	ST 137 814 - ST 143 804
Llan Bwch - Llyn Lake; Radnorshire	SO 119 464
Moccas Park; Hereford & Worcestershire	SO 341 425
Pentrosfa Mire, Pentrosfa Pool; Radnorshire	SO 059 597
<b>SW Area</b>	
Bishops Pond; Carmarthen	SN 445 209
Dinefwr Estate; North Brecknock and West Dinefwr	SN 610 223
Falcondale Lake; Ceredigan South	SN 570 499
Kenfig Pool and Dunes; Ogwr Borough	SS 797 815
Laugharne and Pendine; Carmarthen	SN 290 070
Llyn Llech Owain; Carmarthen	SN 568 152
Llyn Pencarreg; Carmarthen	SN 537 456
Llynoedd Talylychau, Lower/Upper Talley Lake; North Brecknock and West Dinefwr	SN 631 335
Machynys Ponds; Carmarthen	SS 512 980
Stackpole, Bosherton Lakes; South Pembrokeshire / Preseli	SR 976 945
<b>N Area</b>	
Hanmer Mere; Clwyd	SJ 453 392
Llyn Bedydd; Clwyd	SJ 471 391
Llyn Creiniog; Clwyd	SH 927 652
<b>Midlands Region, Upper Severn Area</b>	
Montgomery Canal; Powys	SO 169 967 - SO 173 970 <i>and</i> SJ 254 203 - SO 222 060
Montgomery Canal, Guilsfield Arm; Powys	SJ 252 148 - SJ 243 137
Shropshire Union Canal, Aston Locks to Keepers Bridge	SJ 328 257 - SJ 351 287
Prees Branch Canal / Shropshire Union Canal, Llangollen Branch	SJ 496 341 - SJ 497 332
Brown Moss	SJ 562 395
Cole Mere	SJ 433 332
Morton Pool & Pasture	SJ 301 239
Marton Pool, Chirbury	SJ 296 027
Shelve Pool	SO 335 979
Sweat Mere and Crose Mere	SJ 434 304
White Mere	SJ 414 330

## Section 6 - Use of lures and baits

### Use of lures and baits - general

- **Crayfish** - no crayfish, of any species, whether alive or dead, and whether whole or in part, may be used as bait for salmon, trout, freshwater fish or eels;
- **Livebaits** - livebait may only be used in the water from which it was taken and only during the same period of fishing;
- **Fish roe** - no fish roe, from whatever source, may be used when fishing for salmon, trout or freshwater fish.
- **Hooks** - Only one hook is allowed with lures and bait unless the gape of the hook (measured from the shank to the point) does not exceed 10mm (0.375 inch) with the exception that the gape of hooks attached to a plug bait may be up to 13mm (0.5 inch) and the plug is used without any weight.
- In no case shall any bait or lure have more than nine hooks and no weight or sinker can be attached below the lure or bait.

### Use of lures and baits - salmon & sea trout

- Sections 1 & 2 show the circumstances in which various baits and lures may be used.
- the use of a float in conjunction with any lure or bait to take salmon or sea trout is not allowed in the Wye Fisheries District or in the Upper Severn Area.

### Use of lures and baits - non-migratory trout, coarse fish and eels

#### Stillwaters (including canals):

There are no byelaw restrictions on the use of baits in reservoirs, lakes, ponds or canals but fishery owners may impose their own rules.

#### Rivers - non-migratory trout:

There are no byelaw restrictions on the use of baits in rivers, EXECPT:

- groundbait or feeder bait is not allowed at any time;
- maggots, pupae or non-aquatic larvae are not allowed (except within the Gwynedd Fisheries District where it is permissible to fish with maggots if they are used in conjunction with artificial fly when fishing between one hour before sunset and one hour after sunrise);
- only natural earthworm or artificial fly may be used within the Usk Fisheries District;
- in Upper Severn Area during the coarse fish close season no floats may be used and only artificial or natural flies, lures, minnows, worms, prawns or shrimps may be used as bait.

**Use of lures and baits - non-migratory trout, coarse fish and eels - continued**

**Rivers - coarse fish and eels:**

Within season all methods may be used subject to the following conditions:

- in the River Wye and its tributaries upstream of Boughrood Bridge, natural earthworm, prawn or shrimp are not allowed between 30 September and 1 November;
- in Upper Severn Area, when fishing for eels during the coarse fish close season (15 March to 15 June, inclusive) no floats may be used and only artificial or natural flies, lures, minnows, worms, prawns or shrimps may be used as bait;
- in Upper Severn area: during the period 8 October to 31 December (inclusive) the use of dead fish, worms, prawns, or lures (other than artificial flies) as bait is prohibited on the following rivers:
  - River Vyrnwy upstream of Meifod Bridge (SJ156128);
  - all tributaries of the River Vyrnwy upstream of Llanymynech (SJ268205);
  - River Severn upstream of Penstrowed railway bridge (SO074911); and
  - all tributaries of the River Severn upstream of Cilcewydd Brideg (SJ228041).
- maggots, pupae or non-aquatic larvae are only allowed in Wales as listed below:

River	Permitted dates (inclusive) for use of maggots, pupae or non-aquatic larvae when fishing for coarse fish or eels
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wye</li> <li>• Ithon and its tributaries</li> <li>• Irfon and its tributaries</li> <li>• Marteg</li> <li>• Llynfi, downstream of Llangorse Eel Trap</li> <li>• Duhonw</li> <li>• Edw</li> <li>• Elan, below Caban Coch Dam</li> <li>• Trothi</li> </ul>	15 September to 14 March following
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taff, downstream of Upper Boat, Treforest</li> <li>• Monnow and Lugg</li> <li>• Rhymney, downstream of Nant-yr-Aber</li> <li>• Dee and tributaries (excluding the River Ceiriog), downstream of Horseshoe Falls, Berwyn</li> <li>• Ely downstream of Pont Talybont</li> </ul>	16 June to 14 March following
Usk and tributaries, upstream of Llanfoist Bridge	1 October to 14 January following
Usk and tributaries, downstream of Llanfoist Bridge	16 June to 14 January following
Gwynedd Fisheries District - all rivers	1 June to 17 October

## Section 7 - Fishing near obstructions

Fishing is not permitted in the vicinity of the following obstructions:

River	Obstruction	Downstream limit	Upstream limit
<b>Usk District</b>			
Llwyd	Pontymoel Weir, Pontypool	50m below weir	50m above weir
Usk	Newton Weir, Brecon	25m below weir	25m above weir
<b>Taff District</b>			
Taff	Blackweir	75m below weir	27.4m above weir
Taff	Llandaff Weir	50m below weir	27.4m above weir
Taff	Radyr Weir	50m below weir	120m above weir
Taff	Treforest Weir	40m below weir	27.4m above weir
Taff	Merthyr Weir	50m below weir	27.4m above weir
Taff	Merthyr Vale Weir	52m below weir	27.4m above weir
Taff	Upper falls at Quakers Yard Gorge	113m below falls	27.4m above falls
Taff	Weir below A472 road bridge (ST 093 957)	50m below weir	27.4m above weir
<b>Gower Fisheries District</b>			
Afan	Dock Weir	New road bridge below weir	Crest of weir
Dulais (Neath)	Aberdulais Falls	50m below falls	50m above falls
Tawe	Wychetree Weir	25m below weir	25m above weir
Tawe	Tawe Barrage	100m below barrage	100m above barrage
Tawe	Panteg Weir	10m below weir	10m above weir
<b>West Wales Fisheries District</b>			
Camddwr	Smolt trap on R.Camddwr	50m below trap	50m above trap
Cleddau - Eastern	Canaston Weir	25m below weir	25m above weir
Cleddau - Eastern	Vicars Mill Weir	25m below weir	25m above weir
Cleddau - Western	Town Weir, Haverfordwest	91m below weir	New Bridge, Haverfordwest
Rheidol	Aberffrw'd Dam	Road bridge at dam	18.3m above dam
Rheidol	Rheidol Falls	Footbridge below falls	27.4m above falls
Syfywly	Llys-y-Fran Fish Trap	45.7m below trap	Llys-y-Fran Fish Trap
Teifi	Cenarth Falls	Two marks upstream of Cenarth Bridge: left bank 45.7m; right bank 54.8m	Two marks upstream of Cenarth Falls: left bank 54.8m; right bank 27.4m
Teifi	Cenarth Falls *	Two marks downstream of Cenarth Bridge: left bank 121m; right bank 121m	Two marks upstream of Cenarth Bridge: left bank 45.7m; right bank 54.8
	* this restriction does not apply to anglers using worm or bait with a hook smaller than size 6.		
Towy	Llyn Brianne Fish Trap (near St.Paulinus' Church, Ystradffin)	114m below trap	Llyn Brianne Fish Trap
Towy	Smolt trap at Llyn Brianne	50m below trap	50m above trap

**Section 7 - Fishing near obstructions - continued**

River	Obstruction	Downstream limit	Upstream limit
<b>Gwynedd District</b>			
Cefni	Dingle Weir	Disused railway bridge ca.70m below weir	Crest of weir
Clywedog	Bontuchel Weir fish pass	Road bridge ca.170m below weir	24.7m above weir
Conwy	Conwy Falls *	90m below falls	Confluence with Afon Machno
	* no fishing allowed for salmon and sea trout upstream of Conwy Falls		
Dwyfor	Bridge Pool	Left bank 16.5m below pool; right bank 14m below pool	Road bridge
Dyfi	Ceinws Falls	20m below falls	10m above falls
Dyfi	Llwyngwern Weir	20m below weir	10m above weir
Dyfi	Leri Mill top weir	20m below weir	5m above weir
Dyfi	Leri Mill middle weir	20m below weir	5m above weir
Dyfi	Leri Mill bottom weir	25m below weir	10m above weir
Dyfi	Abercywarch Falls	20m below falls	10m above falls
Dyfi	Cwyarch Falls	25m below falls	10m above falls
Dyfi	Crewi Mill Weir	20m below weir	10m above weir
Dyfi	Gwydol Falls	20m below falls	10m above falls
Gwynant	Abergwynant Falls fish pass	50m below fish pass	25m above fish pass
Lledr	Gethin's Viaduct	Footbridge at 73.2m below viaduct	Upstream side of viaduct
Lledr	Granllyn Falls	Downstream end of gulley leading to Granllyn Pool	22.9m above falls
Lledr	Pont-y-Pant Falls	Left bank 18.3m below falls; follow ridge of rock running diagonally across to right bank	Left bank 13.7m above falls; right bank 27.4m above falls
Llugwy	Swallow Falls	100m below falls	Top of falls
Llugwy	Llyn Du pool	d/s edge of Llyn Du	15m above Llyn Du
Llugwy	Pont-y-Pair Falls	Pont-y-Pair Road Bridge	Left bank 18.3m above falls; right bank 36.6m above falls
Ogwen	Ogwen Bank Weir	Old footbridge abutments 250m below weir	10m above weir
<b>Fishing for salmon and trout in the following areas of the River Lledr is restricted to unweighted artificial fly ONLY</b>			
Lledr	Pont-y-Pant Falls	Downstream edge of road bridge	Left bank 13.7m above falls; right bank 27.4m above falls
	Pont-y-Goblyn Falls	59.4m below road bridge	Head of falls (20.1m above road bridge)

## Section 7 - Fishing near obstructions - continued

River	Obstruction	Downstream limit	Upstream limit
<b>Dee &amp; Clwyd District</b>			
Dee	Chester Weir	Dee Bridge, Chester	18.3m above weir
Dee	Erbistock Weir	45.7m below weir	27.4m above weir
Dee	Horseshoe Falls, Berwyn	Left bank - meter house below falls; right bank - pumphouse below falls	27.4m above falls
Dee	Weir at Bala	Confluence of flood water channel of R.Tryweryn with R.Dee	45.7m upstream of confluence of low water channel of R.Tryweryn with R.Dee
Dee	Submerged weir at gauging station, Bala	18.3m below weir	18.3m above weir
Tryweryn	First weir downstream of Pont Tryweryn	Confluences of R.Tryweryn with R.Dee	27.4m above weir
Dee & Clwyd District - ALL RIVERS	Any other weirs, dams or obstructions	22.9m below any such obstructions	27.4m above any such obstructions
<b>Upper Severn Area</b>			
Severn	Penarth Weir, Newtown	25m below weir	15m above weir
Tanat	Carreghofa Weir, Llanyblodwl	25m below weir	15m above weir

## Section 8 - Use of rods

**In all cases where an angler is 12 years of age or older they must hold a valid Environment Agency rod licence.**

### When fishing for salmon, trout and other salmonids:

- a separate rod licence is required for each or any rod that is in use;
- on rivers, streams, drains and canals no more than one rod and line may be used at the same time; and
- on reservoirs, lakes, and ponds no more than two rods and lines may be used at the same time.

### When fishing for coarse fish or eels:

- up to two rods may be used for each valid rod licence that is held; and
- no more than four rods and lines may be used at the same time.

### When fishing with more than one rod and line at the same time:

- rods must be placed such that the distance between the butts of the end rods does not exceed three metres.

### Unattended rods:

- a rod must not be left unattended with its bait or hook in the water; and
- it must be possible to exercise immediate physical control over any rod and line left with its bait or hook in the water.

## Section 9 - Use of lead

### The use of lead weights is prohibited with the following exceptions:

- size 8 lead dust shot (0.06g) and smaller;
- lead weights of 1oz (28.35g) or more;
- lead within the construction of lures or weighted flies; and
- lead within lead-cored lines, swim feeders and self-cocking floats.

## Section 10 - Size limits

It is illegal to take fish not reaching the following size limits (measured from tip of the snout to the fork of the tail):

Species & area	Size limit
Salmon	30cm (12")
Sea trout	23cm (9") - excepting Gwynedd District where the limit is 21cm (8")
Brown trout	23cm (9") - excepting Gwynedd District where the limit is 21cm (8")
Brown trout and sea trout (Upper Severn Area) – upper reaches of: - River Severn; - River Vyrnwy; - River Banwy; and - River Tanat.	15cm (6")
Brown trout and sea trout (Upper Severn Area) – all other areas	20cm (8")
Rainbow trout	No size limit (individual fisheries may impose a limit in their rules)
Coarse fish (inc. grayling)	See Section 14 below

- individual fisheries may impose size limits that are more stringent or prescriptive than those outlined in the byelaws (as above); and
- undersized fish taken unintentionally must be released alive to the water immediately;
- upper reaches of the River Severn means the River Severn and tributaries upstream of its confluence with the Afon Clywedog (SN594847);
- upper reaches of the River Vyrnwy means the River Vyrnwy and tributaries upstream of Dolanog Weir (SJ067127);
- upper reaches of the River Banwy means the River Banwy and tributaries upstream of its confluence with the Afon Gam (SJ017103); and
- upper reaches of the River Tanat means the River Tanat and tributaries upstream of its confluence with the River Rhaeadr (SJ130247).

## Section 11 - Bag limits for salmon and sea trout - applicable within the West Wales Fisheries District only

Within the West Wales Fisheries District there is:

- a daily bag limit of two salmon and four sea trout; and
- a weekly bag limit of five salmon.

## Section 12 - Landing nets, keepnets and keepsacks

### Landing nets:

- must not have any knotted meshes or meshes of metallic material.

### Keepnets:

- must not have any knotted meshes or meshes of metallic material;
- must not have any holes in the mesh larger than 25mm internal circumference;
- must be at least 2.0m in length;
- must have supporting rings or frames any more than 40cm apart (excluding the distance from the top frame to the first supporting ring or frame); and
- must have supporting rings no less than 120cm in circumference.

### Keepsacks:

- must be constructed of a soft, dark coloured, non-abrasive, water permeable fabric;
- must have dimensions of at least 120cm by 90cm if rectangular, or 150cm by 30cm by 40cm if used with a frame or designed with the intention that a frame be used; and
- no more than one fish to be retained in a single keepsack at any time.

**NB - these byelaws do not apply to keepnets or keepsacks used for retaining eels which have been legally taken by instruments other than rod and line.**

### **Section 13 - Use of a gaff or tailer**

The use of a gaff or a tailer is prohibited at all times when fishing for salmon, trout, freshwater fish or freshwater eels.

### **Section 14 – Taking of fish (including Coarse fish, eel and shad removal byelaws)**

No live or dead fish may be removed from any waters except legally by rod & line, other than with special written permission obtained in advance from Natural Resources Wales..

On all rivers, streams, drains and canals, any salmon or trout hooked other than in the mouth or throat shall be returned to the water immediately.

#### **Coarse fish, eel and shad removal (national rod and line byelaws)**

##### **Rivers**

When fishing rivers anglers may take no more than:

- 15 small fish (up to 20cm) per day of native species listed below (other than grayling)
- 1 pike per day up to 65cm
- 2 grayling per day of 30 to 38cm.

The list of native species includes barbel, chub, common bream, common carp, crucian carp, dace, grayling, perch, roach, rudd, silver bream, smelt and tench.

The byelaw excludes 'tiddler' (e.g. gudgeon and bullhead) and non native species and ornamental varieties of the listed species (e.g. Koi and ghost carp).

These limits are subject to the permission of the fishery owner or occupier (who may set tighter limits).

##### **Stillwaters**

When fishing stillwaters (including canals in Wales) anglers may remove freshwater fish only with the written permission of the owner or occupier (normally through fishery rules printed on permits or day tickets).

**Note:** Llyn Tegid and Llyn Maelog because they have multiple ownership are treated in the same way as rivers.

##### **Eel and shad**

Removal of eels and shads (Twaite and Allis) by rod and line from any water (out to 6 nautical miles) is prohibited.

These byelaws do not apply to someone fishing with rod and line who, with as little injury as possible, either returns fish immediately to the same water alive or retains a fish in a keepnet or keepsack and then returns it to the same water alive on or before completion of fishing. The exceptions to this are Allis and Twaite shad – any shad caught by rod and line cannot be retained in a keepnet or keepsack and must be returned immediately.

### **Section 15 - Ban on the sale of rod caught salmon and sea trout**

It is now an offence to sell, barter or exchange for goods or services rod-caught salmon or sea trout in England and Wales.

### **SAFETY - don't cast your life away**

Fishing near overhead power lines can be extremely dangerous and has resulted in serious injury or death to anglers. Even if your rod does not come into contact with a power line electricity can arc across and deliver a potentially lethal charge to the angler.

Look up before you tackle up.



**REPORT IT – 03000 65 3000 (24 hours)**

If you see *any* of the following:

- damage or danger to the natural environment;
- illegal dumping of hazardous waste;
- poaching;
- fish in distress;
- pollution.

**... don't ignore it - report it ! – 0300 65 3000**