



LOSSIE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

Clerk: Crinan Dunbar

Administrator: Clare Walker

Fisheries Office, Logie Steading, Dunphail, Forres IV36 2QN

Tel: 07501 767801

Email: admin@fnlrt.org.uk

River Lossie District Salmon Fishery Board Conservation Policy 2025

New Legislation and Conservation Limits

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>

This new legislation does not apply to sea trout but given the poor returns of sea trout in recent years a stronger conservation policy is also required.

Salmon Conservation Policy

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

Sea Trout Conservation Policy

RELEASE

- All fish under 1 lb/14 ins
- All sea trout over 3 lbs/20 ins
- All stale and gravid fish

RELEASE RATE

- Sea Trout 75% ie, 1 sea trout in 4 may be retained

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.



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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 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.



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Fish Length and Weight

(Note imperial lengths are rounded to nearest ½ 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