



RIVER DOON DISTRICT **SALMON FISHERY BOARD**

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CODE OF PRACTICE

The River Doon District Salmon Fishery Board has produced this Code to conserve our fish stocks for now and the future.

1. **Mandatory by Law:**

- (a) For the River Doon, the Salmon & Sea Trout Season is from 11 February to 31 October inclusive. The Brown Trout Season is from 15 March to 6 October inclusive.
- (b) It is a criminal offence to retain a salmon or grilse before 1 April, so they must be returned
- (c) It is a criminal offence to kill a coloured/gravid salmon.
- (d) All salmon, grilse or sea trout caught must be recorded in your catch returns.

2. The Board **strongly urges** Anglers to adopt a 100% catch-and-release culture throughout the season, to support conservation measures in the wild stock of salmon in our river. Therefore, we are asking Anglers not to kill **ANY** salmon or grilse.

3. *Gyrodactylus Salaris* Declaration Forms must be signed by Anglers before fishing.

4. **The Board recommends:**

- (a) On any spinning lure, only one treble hook should be used.
- (b) The use of barbless or crushed barbed hooks, so Anglers can return fish without unnecessary damage.
- (c) Against worm fishing for salmon. However, where worm fishing takes place, please use circle hooks, so Anglers can return fish without unnecessary damage.
- (d) Against the use of prawn, shrimp, or any organic baits at any time.
- (e) Try to minimise out of water and handling times. When returning fish, please be gentle and do not lift fish by the tail or gills. Always use both hands under the belly of the fish, facing upstream until sufficiently recovered.

5. Grayling – the Board has been made aware that Grayling may have been illegally introduced into the catchment of the river. This is a criminal offence. If you capture a Grayling, it should be humanely killed and the Board informed on the above contact details.

6. Farmed Salmon / Pink (Pacific) Salmon

If you capture a farmed salmon or pink (pacific) salmon, it should be humanely killed and the Board informed on the above contact details. Scale samples (in the case of pink salmon, the whole salmon) should be taken and sent to Ayrshire Rivers Trust. The capture should also be reported on the Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) Website Reporting tool at:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/1b8632f1d06c48c89bbac8901d084346>

FMS Guidance on identifying farmed salmon can be found at:

<http://fms.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/200908-Aqua-Guidance-for-Anglers.pdf>

Ayrshire Rivers Trust's video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwKwPv1yGBM&t=271s>

FMS Guidance on identifying Pink (Pacific) Salmon can be found at:

<http://fms.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/210519-INNS-Statement-Pink-salmon.pdf>

7. Giant Hogweed / Japanese Knotweed / Himalayan Balsam

See Ayrshire Rivers Trust leaflet at:

<http://www.doonfishing.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/ART-Invasive-Weeds-Information-30.06.21.pdf>

8. Be aware of safety on and around the River. Anglers approach the River at their own risk.

The Board recognises that observance of the Code is voluntary but expects that responsible Anglers will observe it as far as possible.

Please spread the word on this Code of Practice. Your Board are investing in the future so that we all can continue to enjoy the sport on the River.

INVASIVE WEEDS

- Giant Hogweed



- Toxic sap reacts with sunlight causing photosensitive dermatitis.
- Causes blistering to skin that can recur year after year.
- Can cause blindness if sap gets in the eyes.
- Skin contact with stem or leaves should be avoided.
- Skin can be left permanently discoloured and sensitised.



- Tall growing – up to 15 feet!
- Hollow stems
- Large umbrella like flowers.
- More than 50,000 seeds per plant.
- Quickly forms monoculture.
- Easily controlled by spraying.

It is essential that all flowering plants are controlled to prevent rapid increase of seed bank and years of further effort to eradicate this nuisance species. Contact Ayrshire rivers Trust for assistance and advice 01290 518130

- Japanese Knotweed



- Highly invasive, takes over and excludes all other plants.
- Spreads only by cuttings from root or shoot.
- Does not produce seed in UK.
- Difficult and expensive to control. Spraying is ineffective. Control is best achieved by stem injection with a measured dose of glyphosate weedkiller.
- Reduces land values especially where development is planned.
- Planning regulations require removal pre development.
- Strict control on disposal of waste plant material and contaminated soil.
- For specialist advice contact Ayrshire Rivers Trust 01290 518130

- Himalayan Balsam



- Highly invasive annual that forms large areas of monoculture.
- Leads to bare soils in winter & increased erosion. Contributes to diffuse pollution.
- Seed pods pop on contact in late summer spreading the seed for up to 7metres.
- Pale pink to deep purple flowers that resemble an upturned policeman's helmet.
- Highly attractive to bees leading to reduced pollination in native species.
- Controlled by manual pulling or spraying where dense.
- Best controlled late June and July

Contact Ayrshire Rivers Trust for advice 01290 518130.

