



# Nith Conservation Code 2014



Nith District Salmon Fishery Board and Nith Catchment Fishery Trust are issuing the following guidelines for the 2014 season to encourage the conservation of salmon and sea trout within the River Nith and its tributaries. With both salmon and sea trout stocks at low levels it is more important than ever that anglers follow the following guidelines.

- All salmon caught prior to 1st June must be returned
- All hen fish caught in November must be returned
- All sea trout under 10 inches or over 3 lb must be returned
- No more than 2 salmon and 2 sea trout to be kept in any day
- Barbless hooks to be used to 1st June and during November
- Foul hooked fish must be returned to the water
- Ripe or darkly coloured fish should be returned to the water.  
If in doubt, RETURN it!



Further information can be found at [www.river-nith.com](http://www.river-nith.com)

To report a poaching incident contact the Head Water Bailiff on 07785 743 663 or the Police on 101.

# River Nith Catchment Fishery Management Plan 2014-2018

## Summary of Prescriptions

The following prescriptions have been agreed by fishery proprietors and managers as necessary to ensure the welfare of populations of fish within the River Nith catchment.

### Poaching (High Priority)

- maintain a team of Water Bailiffs commensurate with the threat of illegal fishing.

### Exploitation (High Priority)

- encourage the promotion of sustainable fishing throughout the catchment with all of its proprietors using the angling code and to develop an annual conservation code to be made available to all anglers.
- promote accurate recording of all catches.
- further endorse sustainable fishing via its education programme and by raising awareness of the benefits of catch and release.
- adopt and promote carcass tagging which is anticipated will be initiated within the term of this fishery management plan for the purpose of assisting with the sustainable management of fish stocks.
- discourage further exploitation of the resource.

### Engineering procedures (High Priority)

- respond to applications to conduct engineering and offer advice on mitigation and environmental protection in order to prevent degradation of habitat or fishing potential.
- conduct monitoring in relation to engineering works.

### Renewable energy (High Priority)

- respond and comment on applications to construct renewable energy projects.
- provide data and scientific input in relation to consideration of all renewable energy projects.
- conduct monitoring to establish fishery data.

- recommend mitigation to prevent damage to the resource.

### Biosecurity (High/Medium Priority)

- take full cognisance of the River Nith Bio-security Plan when responding to consultations.
- combat invasive non-native species throughout the catchment and continue to raise awareness about this issue.
- participate in catchment, local, national and international initiatives to combat INNS.

### Habitat degradation (High Priority)

- carry out habitat surveys within catchment to identify potential habitat improvements.
- carry out habitat works where identified and permitted.
- maintain existing habitat schemes.

### Access for fish (High Priority)

- prioritise barriers within the Nith catchment using recognised barrier assessment tools.
- remove temporary impediments to migration.
- seek removal of any man-made obstruction to fish.

### Water Quality (Medium Priority)

- liaise with SEPA and other agencies regarding potential or existing water quality issues.
- respond to any reported incident with the potential to impact on fish stocks and pursue through appropriate channels.
- expand the Riverfly Partnership Anglers Monitoring Initiative.

### Marine survival (High Priority)

- participate in appropriate local, national and international research projects.
- work with other agencies to gain knowledge.
- use latest science to advise and make informed

management decisions on local and national levels.

### Predation (Medium Priority)

- conduct predator counts to provide accurate data for license applications.
- apply for annual licences to predators.
- conduct annual licenced predator culls.
- conduct mink trapping within the Nith catchment.
- improve counting techniques and keep abreast of alternative means of control.

### Fish stock data (High Priority)

- conducting electrofishing surveys throughout the catchment.
- conduct repeat annual electrofishing surveys at core sites throughout the catchment to assess annual fluctuations.
- carry out scale reading of adult and juvenile salmonids to gain data on the structure of fish populations.
- continue to participate in national research programmes to determine stock dynamics and populations trends within the Nith catchment.

### Artificial enhancement programmes (High Priority)

- continue to operate a hatchery at levels agreed by the NDSFB Stocking Committee.
- endeavour to maximise natural stock production by improving habitat, access and conserving stocks of returning adults rather than stocking artificially.
- authorise and stock fry into areas identified.
- monitor any salmon and sea trout stocking.
- comment on applications made to Marine Scotland to stock brown trout.