

General Safety information

For your comfort and safety and to help you get the most out of your experience, it is important that you read and follow the safety rules and guidance notes below when visiting and fishing our sites. We would also encourage adults and parents to point out these safety considerations to children:

- Look out for and abide by any safety notices or warning signs – they are there to protect you.
- Children under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by an adult.
- Please make yourself familiar with lifesaving equipment before fishing.
- Wading to thigh depth is permitted except from dam walls and where “No wading” signs are displayed.
- Chest waders are permitted for warmth and comfort.
- To avoid slipping, please wear ankle supporting footwear with good grip and take extra care on dam walls and grassy banks.
- When the water level is low, avoid areas of soft ground and other hazards, which may become exposed.
- Wear head, eye and neck protection especially when fly fishing.
- Always check behind you before casting in case anyone is passing by.
- Keep rods and lines away from overhead power cables.
- In an electrical storm, cease fishing, put the rod down and move well away from it.
- Beware of adders (Britain’s only venomous snake); if you spot one please leave it alone, they are harmless if left undisturbed.
- When fishing from a boat on Kielder Water the wearing of a life jacket is compulsory.
- Waterside Parks Rangers reserve the right to cancel or suspend fishing due to adverse weather or any other safety consideration. E.g. fly fishing from dam walls may be suspended during periods of high-water levels or fishing may be suspended due to muddy areas caused by low water levels.
- Unauthorised swimming in all Northumbrian Water reservoirs is prohibited.
- Be prepared to help others in difficulty but do not put your own life at risk.
- The lighting of fires is not allowed.
- For the comfort and safety of all visitors to our sites all dogs must be kept on a lead.
- **This list is not exhaustive please refer to rules and important information or if in doubt consult our Waterside Parks Ranger Team**

Any method rules

Our any method trout fisheries allow you to use a variety of fishing techniques.

The most popular methods are bait fishing with either float or ledger rigs; you can also spin with a variety of artificial spinners, spoons and lures. The most popular baits are worm, maggot, PowerBait and sweet corn.

Our tackle shops stock a wide range of the most popular trout catching baits and artificial lures. In addition, you can use a swim feeder set up that can be filled with any attractant. The most popular feeder mix for trout fishing on our waters is our own Magic Dust which at times is dynamite!

Whilst you can use and enjoy a variety of fishing techniques on our waters there are some that we do not allow. This is to ensure that on our waters we can offer equal opportunities to all anglers whilst retaining an ethical integrity common to our sport.

Please note the following techniques are not allowed on our trout fishing waters.

- The use of fish live baits e.g. minnows is not allowed.
- When bait fishing a single hook must be used, a multi hook trace is not allowed.
- When bait fishing with worms and PowerBait etc the use of double and treble hooks is not allowed.
- The use of natural fish roe as a bait is not allowed.
- When multi bait fishing or spinning catch and release is not allowed.
- All stocked trout must be retained for the table.

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Please read the following guidelines to help with fishery management and fish welfare.

Catch and release guidelines

- Catch and release is not allowed whilst any method fishing.
- Only use barbless hooks, or standard hooks with the barbs removed or crushed.
- Only use knotless micromesh landing nets.
- If taking fish, once the stated permit limit has been reached, fishing must cease.
- All deeply hooked fish or fish showing signs of distress must be humanely dispatched using a priest.
- Play the fish firmly and get them to the net with minimum stress to the fish, this will ensure that they are not exhausted and will aid recovery.
- Keep handling of the fish to a minimum and always make sure your hands are wet before touching the fish, alternatively use a dampened cloth.
- If possible, unhook the fish in the water.
- If it is necessary to remove the fish from the water, keep it in the net and remove the barbless hook from the mouth, then quickly return the fish to the water.
- If anglers have purchased a take home permit but wish to fish catch and release, they may do so providing they fish with barbless hooks and have not caught their full catch limit.
- Once anglers have caught their catch limit, they are required to stop fishing. If the angler would like to continue to fish, they are required to purchase another permit first. For example; anglers fishing on an eight fish permit may fish catch and release on seven fish but once the eighth fish is caught, they are required to stop fishing, leave the water or purchase a second permit.

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Hints and tips

Following these simple hints and tips will help you catch more fish on our waters.

- Fish the margins! Most natural feed in upland reservoirs is land born insects and often trout will patrol close to the bank. Before wading or casting to the horizon, try a few casts at short range, many good catches are taken this way.
- Use a free running ledger – a common mistake some bait anglers make is to tie the ledger weight or feeder directly to the main line. The result is lots of missed bites as the trout feel the resistance of the weight or feeder. A free running set up will result in more confident bites and a better catch rate. If you are not sure how to set this up please ask the ranger team and we will be pleased to help.
- Washing line. When fly fishing in ideal conditions and trout are feeding in the top few inches even none weighted flies can drop below the trout's field of vision. Placing a booby or muddler on the point will hold the flies at a constant depth.
- Keep on the move especially during very hot or cold weather. It is essential to keep moving in order to catch consistently. Travel light and spend no more than 30mins in one area without success.
- Dry fly fishing. One method often overlooked by anglers is fishing dries 'blind' (when no fish can be seen rising) Often the only reason they cannot be seen is because there is simply no fly hatching.
- Try two different colours of PowerBait eggs on the same hook, this technique has been used very successfully over recent seasons. Try fishing a pink and yellow egg with a feeder filled with Magic Dust, this method has consistently taken limit catches when others have struggled.
- Depth can be crucial when spinning. Using a simple countdown method can pay dividends. Start the retrieve immediately on the 1st cast then after a count of two on the 2nd and so on until the fish are located.
- Set the drag! Many trout are lost due to incorrectly set reel drag systems. With many fantastic double figure fish waiting to be stocked this season we urge all anglers to ensure reels are at the correct setting before fishing. It is also good practice to ensure your reel line and leader material is in good condition by replacing annually. Renewing weak line and leader material will avoid lost fish.

If you would like some further advice and guidance please ask Waterside Parks Ranger team, who will be delighted to help and assist you in any way they can.

Fishing rules and important information

- All anglers aged 16 or over must be in possession of their own individual Environment Agency Rod License in addition to the fishery permit.
- Each angler must purchase a day permit before starting to fish and the purchase of a permit is acceptance of the fishery rules.
- Anglers are required sign in and out and record their catch.
- Up to two children aged under 17 can fish for free on their parent, grandparent or guardian's permit with a shared catch limit.
- Concessionary permits apply to the following: under 18s, those who are receiving the state pension, Blue Badge holders and those in receipt of Disability Living Allowance - evidence required.
- It is a criminal offence to take trout in excess of the permit catch limit; offenders will be prosecuted under the Theft Act.
- When landing a trout, a landing net must always be used.
- When retaining fish for the table a priest must always be used.
- All coarse fish must be returned unharmed to the reservoir.
- No gutting of fish is allowed on-site.
- Litter and nylon waste must not be discarded, please use the bins provided or take it home.
- Brown trout season opens on the 22 March, closing on the 30 September, except Kielder & Derwent which is 1 May to 31 October
- All wild brown trout under 9 inches (23cm) must be returned unharmed
- Bank fishing times Monday to Sunday are from 8am (Kielder Water 6am) to 8pm or sunset (whichever is sooner).
- Waterside Parks Rangers reserve the right to inspect permits, tackle and catches.
- Northumbrian Water reserves the right to change any rules or policy and to close part, or all of, any fishery without notice or redress.

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Safety Information for boat anglers at Kielder Water

- All persons in the boat must wear an approved life jacket. Life jackets must be worn over the top of all outdoor clothing.
Northumbrian Water provides life jackets free of charge.
Alternatively, if you wish to wear your own life jacket you may do so, providing it complies with British Standards and it has been approved by the duty ranger.
- Boats must contain a minimum of two people and a maximum of four.
At least one person in the boat must be aged 18 years or over.
- There must be at least 2 adults (aged 17+) on the boat and no child younger than 8 years old and up to a maximum of 4 persons on the boat altogether.
- If conditions deteriorate whilst fishing and it is safe to do so, navigate back to the boat jetty. A 'follow me' procedure will take place if the duty ranger determines that the conditions are no longer suitable for boat fishing. If this happens please follow the safety boat to a safe location.
- Waterside Parks Rangers reserve the right to suspend or cancel boat fishing due to adverse weather conditions or any other safety consideration.
- Whilst fishing from the boats or banks alcohol is not allowed.

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Kielder Water is a large expanse of water which is very cold and deep with underwater obstructions. Weather conditions can change rapidly. Health and safety is paramount; care and attention must be taken at all times.