



GENERAL SAFETY INFORMATION

For your comfort and safety and to help get the most out of your fishing experience, it is important that you read and follow these safety rules and guidance notes when fishing at Hanningfield Waterside Park.

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 when possible from the natural bank only.
- Wading is not permitted from the dam walls and where “No wading” signs are displayed.
- 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.
- 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 the wearing of a life jacket is compulsory.



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- 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 low water levels fishing may be suspended due to muddy areas becoming exposed.
- Unauthorised swimming in all Essex and Suffolk 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.

This list is not exhaustive if in doubt please consult our ranger team.

SAFETY INFORMATION FOR BOAT ANGLERS

- All persons in the boat must wear an approved life jacket. Life jackets must be worn over the top of all outdoor clothing. Essex & Suffolk Water provide 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.
- Single occupancy boats are available for those aged 16 and above.
- Boats hold a maximum of two people, at least and one person in the boat must be aged 18 years or over, the minimum age for children in a boat is 8.
- 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.
- 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.

This list is not exhaustive please refer to rules and important information or if in doubt consult your fishery ranger.

Please note:

Hanningfield Reservoir 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.

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.

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 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

- When bait fishing with a float and ledger rig a single hook must be used, a multi hook trace is not allowed.
- When bait fishing with a float and ledger rig the use of double and treble hooks is not allowed.

This list is not exhaustive if in doubt please consult our ranger team.

CATCH AND RELEASE GUIDELINES

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

- Only use barbless hooks, or standard hooks with the barbs removed or crushed.
- Only use knotless micromesh landing nets.
- Buoyant flies which are fished static on a sinking line must not be used.
- 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.

This list is not exhaustive if in doubt please consult our ranger team.



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 buy a permit before starting to fish and the purchase of a permit is acceptance of the fishery rules.
- Anglers are required to sign in and out and record their catch.
- Up to two children aged under 16 can fish for free on their parent, grandparent or guardian's permit with a shared catch limit.
- Credit cruncher: available daily from 1.00pm the catch limit on this permit is four trout.
- 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.
- It is illegal to leave your rod unattended while fishing.
- When landing a trout a landing net must be used at all times.
- All coarse fish must be returned unharmed to the reservoir.
- All trout for the table must be humanely dispatched using a priest.
- 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.



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- Bank fishing times are from 7am to 8pm or sunset whichever is sooner.
- Fishery Rangers reserve the right to inspect permits, tackle and catches.
- Essex and Suffolk Water reserve the right to change any rules or policy and to close part or the entire fishery without notice or redress.

This list is not exhaustive if in doubt please consult our ranger team.