



# ANGLING SAFETY AND RULES 2024

**ESSEX & SUFFOLK**  
**WATER** *living water*

## CONTENTS

## PAGE

GENERAL FISHING RULES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

3

ANY METHOD TROUT RULES

4

CATCH AND RELEASE RULES

5

PREDATOR FISHING RULES

6

CARP AND COARSE FISHING RULES

7

BOAT FISHING RULES

8

# GENERAL FISHING RULES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**For your comfort and safety, it is important that you read and follow the safety rules and guidance notes below when visiting and fishing our sites.**

- All anglers aged 13 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.
- Up to two children aged under 16 can fish for free on their parent, grandparent or guardian's permit with a shared catch limit.
- 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.
- Bank fishing times are from 8am to 8pm or 30 minutes before 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.
- All anglers must be in possession of a valid rod license.

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

# ANY METHOD TROUT RULES

- Our any method trout fishery allows you to use a variety of fishing techniques. (Fly, Lure and Bait).
- The use of a landing net is compulsory, as is a priest to humanely dispatch the trout once safely landed.
- **ONLY** Rainbow Trout are to be retained. All other fish species must be safely returned to the water unharmed.
- Keep nets and other fish retention equipment are not allowed.
- The most popular methods are fly fishing on both floating and sinking lines, 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 PowerBait, worm and sweet corn.

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.



# CATCH AND RELEASE RULES

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

- Only use single barbless hooks, or standard single hooks with the barbs removed or crushed. Only flies, lures, spoons and silicones with single barbless hooks may be used for catch and release no bait (worms and paste).
- Only use knotless landing nets, preferably rubberised.
- 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 and handed over to ranger team.
- 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.
- If possible, unhook the fish in the water.
- If it is necessary to remove the fish from the water, keep it in the net, off the bottom of the boat/any hard surface 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.



# PREDATOR FISHING RULES

- Imitation lures of any size.
- Pike flies over 3".
- Saltwater dead baits over 4" only. (No coarse dead, live worms or maggots).
- Any lures and Flies under 4" must be single hooks only, Larger than 4" may use trebles. Barbed and barbless are both allowed.
- Trout must not be targeted intentionally at any time. Accidental Trout catches must be unhooked in the net and returned to the water immediately. Any deep or badly hooked trout must be dispatched immediately and handed into the ranger team on return.
- All pike and perch must be returned to the water alive.
- A Maximum of two rods per angler.
- Appropriate nets and unhooking equipment must be used.

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



# CARP AND COARSE FISHING RULES

- All Carp and Coarse fish species must be returned to the water alive.
- **NO NIGHT FISHING.**
- Anyone found to be attempting to remove Carp or Coarse fish from site will be immediately removed and receive a lifetime ban.
- No more than 2 rods may be used by one angler. (A marker rod is allowed).
- Barbed or Barbless hooks may be used.
- No retaining of fish (unless given prior permission by fishery staff).
- All Carp captures over 30lb **MUST** be reported to the duty Ranger immediately.
- Appropriate nets and unhooking equipment/mats must be used.
- No standing while holding fish, either while taking photos or returning.
- No drones.
- All paths and footways must be kept clear of fishing rods/poles/shelters Trout must not be targeted intentionally at any time. Accidental Trout catches must be unhooked in the net and returned to the water immediately. Any deep or badly hooked trout must be dispatched immediately and handed into the ranger team on return.

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



# BOAT FISHING RULES

- All persons in the boat must wear an approved life jacket. Life jackets must be worn over the top of all outdoor clothing at all times. Essex & Suffolk Water provide life jackets free of charge.
- Single occupancy boats are available for those aged 18 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 you have any difficulties, please use your mobile phone to alert the duty ranger on their emergency phone. The number is on the plaque in the boat. If the outboard does not work are you are drifting towards a hazard, row with the oars to move away from the hazard.
- Use the anchor provided to keep the boat in situ or at least slow the boat from drifting towards a bank or other hazard.
- Only embark or disembark from the boat jetty at the lodge unless in an absolute emergency.
- Keep at least 100m away from any shore, dam wall or valve tower and 50m from the cages.
- Remain seated whenever possible.
- Ensure you are comfortable with the operation of the outboard motor. The duty ranger would be more than happy to assist in the safe operation of the motor. If the motor will not start, ensure the kill cord is in place. Please ask the duty ranger if unsure of what this is.
- 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 if in doubt please consult our ranger team.**