



Conservation Code for 2018 Season

River Forth

The Forth District Salmon Fishery Board, in consultation with the River Forth Fisheries Trust, are issuing the following conservation guidelines for the forthcoming season. It is expected that all anglers will follow these in order to protect and conserve stocks of migratory fish.

These Conservation Codes supplement Regulations issued by the Scottish Government and referred to in the Conservation Limit (CL) setting evaluation below. Under the Conservation of Salmon (Annual Close Time and Catch and Release) (Scotland) Regulations 2014 **no fish to be retained before 1st April**. Under the Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017, the Forth has been given an assessment category of **2**

Category	Probability of Meeting CL	Effectively CL Met in:	Advice
2	60-80%	3 out of 5 years	Management action is necessary to reduce exploitation; mandatory catch and release will not be required in the first instance, but this will be reviewed annually.

The Board is aiming to achieve 100% catch and release of spring salmon and sea trout across the District. For the latter part of the season the Board is promoting restraint and anglers are advised that the following guidelines outline the maximum number and type of fish that should be taken. It is hoped that many anglers will be satisfied with taking fewer fish than these guidelines permit:

Salmon:

No retention of salmon greater than 28" (70cm)

1st Feb – 31st May - All salmon and grilse should be returned.

1st June – 31st Oct: No angler should kill more than one salmon or grilse in any given day

No angler should kill more than a maximum of two salmon or grilse.

No hen salmon or hen grilse caught in September or October should be retained.

If anglers feel they must take sea trout the following guidelines should apply:

Sea trout

No retention of sea trout greater than 20" (50cm)

No retention of sea trout smaller than 14" (35cm)

1st Feb – 31st May - All sea trout should be returned.

1st June – 31st Oct: No angler should kill more than one sea trout in any given day

No angler should kill more than a maximum of two sea trout.

No hen sea trout caught in September or October should be retained.

Rates of catch & release: The Board has set an aim of 85% catch & release for salmon or grilse and 75% for sea trout for 2018. This will be reviewed annually and used to inform Conservation Codes for following years.

Baits & lures: Before 1st June: Barbless hooks to be used.

Between 1st February and 31st May and between 27th August and 31st October: No organic baits to be used.

Note: River Forth outflow point is the Railway Bridge in Stirling, below this point is Category 3 and 100% catch and release.

Approved: FDSFB (13th December 2018)