



Scottish Flyfisher

Quarterly Magazine

April 2021

Teaching Children to Fly Fish

It's Mayfly Mayhem Time

Fishing Etiquett



Robin Lambert Editor
www.scottishflyfisher.co.uk

Welcome to the Scottish Flyfisher Magazine's quarterly April 2021 edition.

It has been quite a hard couple of months for the fly-fishing community and fly fishers with the lock down due to the current situation with the Corona Virus and the travel restrictions still set in place.

If you would like to let other people know about your fly-fishing day out, or want to say something or ask a question about the fly-fishing in Scotland then email in to me at editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com and I will add them to the magazine or to the "Have Your Say" page.

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Cover Photo: Editors Grandson on first fly fishing trip.



Have Your Say Here

If you have any questions or issues regarding fishing within Scotland, then why not have your say here and see what advice you can get from the great Scottish fly-fishing community.



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Editors Blog

Well, it's that time of year when all the lakes; lochs and rivers should be open in Scotland and some cracking trout and salmon fishing is to be had in the upcoming months. However, it looks like the restrictions are starting to be lifted and we can all now start travelling further afield for a day on our favourite fishery, river or loch.

But remember to still follow the guidelines set out by the government so that we don't fall back into a major lockdown and be put back into being stuck within our 5-mile limits again.

I for one had been looking forward to getting out in a boat on my favourite locations; Glencorse Reservoir, the Lake of Menteith and Linlithgow Loch, all stunning locations which offers some fantastic fishing for both Brown and Rainbow Trout. So, for now until we can travel freely without being restricted, it looks like it will just have to be Linlithgow Loch and the local rivers and trout fisheries as they are within my catchment area.

Spring is nature's way of saying; get the fly rod out and visit your favourite river. Why is spring fishing some of the best of the year?

After a long winter, water temperatures begin warming, sparking insect activity and the trout need to feed.

Some trout spawn in the spring and need to eat heavily both before and after. Brown trout become more active as well, preying on insects, trout eggs and fry. The lower waters of many spring rivers provide good sight fishing opportunities and allow anglers a chance to target some of the biggest trout of the season!

It is also a great time of year to get out on the water and blow the cobwebs away.

During springtime fly fishing is really about problem-solving. Every cast you make is an attempt to answer one essential question: — Am I going to catch a fish today?

To that end, fly fishermen are no different than any other sportsmen. They must have a deep understanding of how to fish at the beginning of the season as this depends on the weather of the previous month, has it been a severe winter or has it been milder than usual as this will affect the way the fish will act at this time of the year.

The brown trout season on most rivers is from 1st April to 30th September. Mid to late spring is usually the best time for trout, especially for the larger specimens which inhabit them. Spring and summer evenings provide some great sport on the dry fly, but trout will readily take dry flies during the day too.

Although the dry fly is probably the most exciting method of pursuing brown trout, there are other methods depending on how the fish are feeding. If you love fishing nymphs, start using them the week before the mayfly is supposed to hatch. Example: Say the Green Drakes usually start hatching in early June. Their nymphs will start becoming active a week or so before that. You won't see them, but they will be there. Remember that your nymph will never be as deep or moving as slowly as you think because the water at the surface is always faster than water closer to the bottom. So be sure to add more weight, throw farther upstream, to give it time to sink to the correct depth.

In the spring the fish tend to congregate in the slower sections of the rivers and not in the colder faster moving water. So, if you want to try using dry flies at this time of year, you should target those areas first before moving on to the traditional nymphs and wet flies.

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Classic² Fly Reel/Spool/Fly Line Combi Kits

For 2020, we have a new starter kit! Tear up one of our new **Classic² Fly Reel/Spool Kits** from p22, add three **Classic fly lines** in floating, intermediate and fast-sink descent and you have the perfect 'starter kit' to get you fishing! Covering the full range of options, whatever the weather, or whatever depth the fish are at, from bank or boat there's a line to reach them. And best of all, when you purchase the complete kit, starting at under £120, there is a **saving of 20%** on the full 800!

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Teaching Children to Fly Fish

The Editor

For the passionate fly angler, teaching your children or grandchildren all about the pastime will seem like a natural progression.

Fly fishing is a great way to get outdoors, learn new skills and wind down away from the bustle of everyday life – something your kids might thank you for later on. But knowing when to put the fly rod into a child's hand is a completely different matter.

Introduce the sport too seriously, too young and you risk losing their interest altogether.

Every fly-fishing parent has a dream; that their children will follow their footsteps down to the river and take up fly fishing. In another age, it was very likely that if you fly fished and shared a love of the outdoors with your kids, they would follow suit. Today, with competition from video games, the Internet, and the general urbanization of our culture, it's becoming a rarity. Most kids today would rather spend their time adding friends on Facebook than tying flies or looking under rocks for stoneflies.

I took my grandson out for the first-time fly fishing. Of course, he had to have his own fly-fishing gear he did not want to use mine; so, my poor wallet got a good bashing getting him the entire rig out he needed: new rod; fly reel and spare spools, fly lines; fishing bag, leader material and fly boxes (of course full to bursting with various flies, buzzers, lures etc)

I took him to the wee trout fishery near me [Allandale Tarn](#) in West Calder to teach him the finer art of the sport.

Needless to say, like all kids he was over keen to get on to the water to catch some fish and it was some effort to get him to calm down so that I could show him how to handle the fly rod and to cast a few practice casts on the grass so that he could get used to handling the rod and how to cast out extra line and teach him the health and safety of fishing before we ventured near the water's edge.

Teaching your children to fly fish will give you a lifetime of memories. Fly-fishing is a great way for you and your child to have something in common and which you both enjoy. You never know you might have the next international fly fisher champion standing next to you.

Is fly fishing a sport that children can enjoy?

Fly fishing is a sport for the entire family.

Each year more and more children are taking up the fine art of fly fishing.

How old should a child be before they are taken out the first-time fly fishing?

My grandson has always been keen to start fly fishing with me. I would suggest if the child is strong enough to handle a light rod and reel and has some good coordination, then their ready.





(My grandson Ethan catching his first Trout, a cracking 3lb 6oz)

What would I recommend as a good way to start?

If you have the patience of a saint you can take the child out with you and teach them the finer points, however; you may pass on your own bad habits, or better still link the child up with a fly-fishing instructor that is competent and capable of handling young children. It is very important to have an instructor that has great patience and is familiar with the needs of the child.

What type of rod should they start off with?

Today's children have a selection of quality rod and reel offerings specifically geared toward the younger angler. Something shorter than the —standard 9-footer can make a rod more manageable in the hands of a child, and a slow-medium action blank ensures that young casters can feel the rod loading; that's if like my grandson you can get them to slow down and —feel the rod loading.

Like my grandson; children may start out by simply waving the rod back and forth without regard for what the rod tip, and subsequently the line is doing. But giving them a good piece of hardware that is not a broomstick will greatly improve their casting once they get the hang of it. If you have kids then you know that they like having their own stuff, so if a fly rod to call their own makes them more excited to get out there and use it, then that is a good thing. When they do start fly fishing, do not just unload your old tackle on them. Children are small, but that does not mean they are second-class citizens.

When they catch a trout for the first time by themselves, they feel a sense of accomplishment—and pride of ownership of legitimate fly tackle not only encourages them to become more familiar and proficient with the tackle, it also gives them the independence they need to succeed outdoors.

The Glasgow Angling Centre has a large selection of starter kits, fly rods, reels and lines etc for the budding fly fisher kid of tomorrow.

You would probably aim for the lower end of the price range to make it accessible and affordable for the kid's gear.

I started my grandson off on the Airflo Starter Kit, which contains a fly rod, reel and line and sunglasses to protect his eyes when he was thrashing the rod back and forward.

The kit is just the right size, weight and when they get their casting right can get a good line out for them.



A wooden fly fishing rod case is open, revealing a custom cane fly rod with a cork handle and red accents. The rod is laid out in its compartments. In the foreground, there is a book with a red illustration and the text 'FRANK SAWYER' and 'PER THE AM'. A spool of yellow thread is also visible. The background shows a wooden surface with a small metal tray.

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It's Mayfly Mayhem Time



At last, it's coming up for the Mayfly season.

This is the time of year that I love and for many Fly Fishermen/woman, fishing the Mayfly is a wonderful experience, not only because you have a better chance of catching fish but because the imitation Mayfly is big - to imitate the real insect which can be up to 25mm long - so it is easy to see on the water's surface and you don't have to strain your eyes like you do with some of the smaller flies.

Few people other than trout fishers are familiar with mayflies. On a global basis, the mayfly is well known as being closely associated with trout, especially the brown trout, and forms an important staple food item to the fish in freshwater streams and lakes.

Mayflies are aquatic insects that complete almost their entire life cycle under water.

They require clean cool water from which they obtain dissolved oxygen through feathery external gills that can be found on the sides of their bodies. Healthy quantities of aquatic plants are necessary for their food and shelter.

The wonderful thing about mayflies is that trout love to feed on them.

It is not essential to have a comprehensive knowledge of the different species to catch trout, but it is useful to have some knowledge of their habits, especially when a hatch is experienced or to be expected

The takes are also spectacularly exciting as the trout rise and feed off the surface with an exploding splash.

At times the water can resemble a bubbling melting pot and the whole river/lake seems to come alive. Also, the Mayfly conveniently start to hatch when the weather has started to warm up, the sun starts to shine and we have longer brighter days to enjoy the sport.

It is not such a great time for the Mayfly, having spent the last two years on the river or lake bed, snuggled down in gravel, sand or silt, it now struggles to the surface and if it's not eaten by a fish it will be dead within 24 hours anyway.

The family name for Mayfly is *ephemeroptera* (from the Latin *ephemera* which refers to its short life cycle and the *ptera* which is Greek for 'things with wings').

There are three species within the UK: *ephemera danica* which is the most common type of Mayfly we get, *ephemera vulgata* which is also known as the Dark Mackerel because of the patterning on its wings, and *ephemera lineata* which is more than likely now extinct.

Mayflies or **shadflies** are insects belonging to the order **Ephemeroptera** (from the Greek εφημερος, *ephemeros* = "short-lived" (literally "lasting a day" "daily" or "day-long"), πτερον, *pteron* = "wing", referring to the brief lifespan of adults). They have been placed into an ancient group of insects termed the Palaeoptera, which also contains dragonflies and damselflies.

They are aquatic insects whose immature stage (called "naiad" or, colloquially, "nymph") usually lasts one year in fresh water. The adults are short-lived, from a few minutes to a few days, depending on the species. About 2,500 species are known worldwide, including about 630 species in North America. The naiads live primarily in streams

under rocks, decaying vegetation, or in the sediment. Few species live in lakes, but they are among the most prolific. For example, the emergence of one species of *Hexagenia* was recorded on Doppler weather radar along the shores of Lake Erie.

Most species feed on algae or diatoms, but a few species are predatory. The naiad stage may last from several months to several years, with a number of moults along the way. Most mayfly naiads are distinctive in having seven pairs of gills on the dorsum of the abdomen. In addition, most possess three long cerci or tails at the end of their bodies. Some species, notably in the genus *Epeorus*, have only two tails. In the last aquatic stage, dark wing pads are visible.

Developmentally, these insects are considered hemimetabolous. A more casual and familiar term is "incomplete metamorphosis". Mayflies are unique among insects in that they moult one more time after acquiring functional wings (this is also known as the alate stage); this last-but-one winged instar usually lives a very short time, often a matter of hours, and is known as a subimago or to fly fishermen as a dun. Mayflies in this stage are a favourite food of many fish, and many fishing flies are modelled to resemble them.

The lifespan of an adult mayfly is very short and varies depending on the species. The primary function of the adult is reproduction; the mouthparts are vestigial, and the digestive system is filled with air.

The wings are membranous, with extensive venation, and are held upright like those of a butterfly. The hind wings are much smaller than the forewings, and may be vestigial or absent. The second segment of the thorax, which bears the forewings, is enlarged, holding the main flight muscles.

Adults have short, flexible antennae, large compound eyes and three ocelli. In most species, the males' eyes are large and the front legs unusually long, for use in locating and grasping females during mid-air mating. In some species, all legs aside from the males' front legs are useless.

Uniquely among insects, mayflies possess paired genitalia, with the male having two penises and the female two gonopores. The abdomen is roughly cylindrical, with 10 segments and two long cerci at the tip.



Because of the short lifespan of the highly visible, winged adult form, the mayfly is called 'one-day' or 'one-day fly'.

Often, all the mayflies in a population mature at once (a hatch), and for a day or two in the spring or fall, mayflies will be everywhere, dancing around each other in large groups, or resting on every available surface.

The hatch of the giant mayfly *Palingenia longicauda* in mid-June on the Maros (Mureş) River and the Tisza River in Serbia and Hungary, known as "Tisza blooming", is a tourist attraction.

In regions of New Guinea and Africa, mayflies are eaten when they emerge *en masse*.

The famous British chalk streams are probably best known for Mayfly hatches, these charming ephemerids are just as likely to thrive in less fertile rivers too.



Loughs and lakes in Scotland too provide an ideal habitat for the beloved Mayfly and if these are chalk or limestone based then so much the better.

Preferring silty areas, mayfly nymphs often reside in burrows.

Measuring more than an inch in length on maturity, nymphs attain quite a size. Prior to hatching, like other up winged nymphs their wing buds darker considerably. With a long, sinuous body, three tails and feathery gills lining their abdomens these elegant nymphs are very distinctive. As ever, coloration depends on location though overall

nymphs wear a creamy-yellow coat. If there's still any doubt, dark brown markings on the upper abdomen are a dead giveaway and are most conspicuous on the three abdominal segments nearest the tail.

So if you get the chance and have some cracking imitates of a Mayfly in your fly box get out there and give it a go. Best times for a good hatch are from 11am onwards with a heightening activity usually between 3-4pm. Don't forget to incorporate some spent spinners in your arsenal as well. Once the fish are tuned in and are aware of the Mayflies you will experience some fantastic sport.

Fly-fishing from a drifting boat is a great way to present the mayflies to a large number of trout.

A boat provides great mobility. Many trout will see your flies if the boat is handled correctly and bag limit catches are possible and not uncommon.

Fly-fishing from the shore or better still, wading or even float tubing, can also be rewarding and quite relaxing if you are fit and mobile, and good presentations can even the score a little. It depends also on factors such as your personal taste, your budget on where you can fish and the conditions of the day.

Mayfly

There are three species (*danica*, *vulgata* and *lineata*) but treat them as one. All are so large you cannot mistake them for anything else! Nymph Walkers Mayfly Nymph size 12

Dun Thomas's Mayfly 8-10 French Partridge 10-12

Grey Wulff 8-10

Spinner Spent Mayfly 10 Iron Blue

Good for May, September and October. Likes to hatch on cold, wet, blustery days.

Iron Blue 16

Lunn's Particular 16 Pheasant Tail Nymph 16 Hawthorn & Black Gnat

Two closely related terrestrial species. Hawthorn at the start of the month, Black Gnats good for the whole month and summer. Hawthorn 12- 14, Black Gnat 16-18

Fishing Lochs of the Sutherlands

Loch Shin is in the Scottish North West Highlands.

To the south is the small town of Lairg. The loch is the largest in Sutherland, runs from the north-west to the south-east and is 17 miles (27.2 kilometre) long and is also the largest loch in Sutherland.

Some of the lochside is wooded, and this is a perfect location for relaxing.

Close to Lairg is the River Shin, which leaves Loch Shin and travels towards the Kyle of Sutherland, which in turn becomes the Dornoch Firth. The Falls of Shin, located on the River Shin, offer an impressive waterway through a rocky gorge; and this is an excellent place to watch the salmon leaping up the Falls.

People come from all over the world to fish Highland lochs for their wild Brown Trout.

The local Overscaig House Hotel has gained an excellent reputation over many years as a traditional Sutherland fisherman's haven with fishing rights on Loch Shin, Loch a'Ghriama and Loch Merkland all within a short distance from the hotel.

With 6 boats available there are plenty of good drifts where you could find that record breaking trout and many believe that the British record will be broken by a trout from Loch Shin.

Trout in this loch average 1/2 to 3/4 lb although there are some very large fish lurking in the depths and double figure trout are caught quite regularly. There is also the possibility of the occasional Salmon. Loch Shin also have a population of Artic Char that can be caught on the fly occasionally.

Although primarily a fly-fishing water, spinning and bait fishing are allowed on Shin although set lines are banned in common with most other fisheries.

Both boat and bank fishing are allowed.

Lairg Angling Club administers the fishing on the loch.

There are so many good spots on the loch, the bay where the Tirry enters the loch near Shinnes can be special, where the river Fiag enters the loch two thirds of the way up the loch on the A838.



Lairg Angling Club

Salmon & brown trout fishing and boat hire on Loch Shin. Wild brown trout fishing by boat on Loch Craggie and Loch Beannach.

Web: www.lairg-angling-club.co.uk/

Traditional patterns work so well here, wet Greenwells, Black Pennel, Bloody butcher, and March Brown from size 12 to size 8s.



Simon Barnes owner and rod maker extraordinaire has been enjoying fishing for trout almost all of his life – from being taught by his grandmother to guddle trout and then upstream worming in the burns in the Borders and Northumberland from the age of seven.

Indeed, this love of the trout, angling and the environment led Simon away from his father's profession as a GP and into trout farming. How could Simon not enjoy rearing these beautiful fish and releasing them for anglers to catch?

He had farmed trout for over 30 years in Scotland and in particular enjoyed opening a beginners' trout fishery where anglers of all ages would catch their first fish. The trout farm and fishery in Comrie won many awards over the years and people still to this day tell him that they continue to enjoy angling after these first introductions.



He has fished all over for trout and salmon from the wee hill lochs up in the Highlands to the massive Irish loughs such as Lough Corrib. The enjoyment of being in such wonderful places, the camaraderie of anglers – and the total pleasure of being outside and seeing fantastic things – from wonderful skies, views and wildlife totally unaware of your presence.

It was his mother who instilled in him a love of things well-made. Anything from shoes to fishing rods – whatever it is, quality will shine through. With the huge increase in mass-made fishing rods, Simon felt that he would like to make rods, both for myself and for others and to take the time to make them as individual pieces that will give years of service and pleasure. The care, passion and enthusiasm that took Simon through years of trout farming and dealing with fisheries and anglers has served him well in his desire to make fly rods of quality.

The heart of a good fly rod is the quality of the blank and the design within it to suit its particular style. From delicate dry fly rods to loch-style rods for loch and reservoir fishing right through to salmon rods to fish the famous salmon rivers, Simon's goal has always been the same - to source the best available blanks for his rods.

Simon can offer the dedicated fly fisher a number of trout fly rods in lengths, line weights and action. He can also build you any salmon rod to your own personal specification's.



If your interest is in saltwater fly fishing then he can build that rod also for you. These rods are stiffer and faster-actioned than their freshwater counterparts, with fittings and guides that are salt-water-resistant. These rods also make excellent predator fly rods.

Lightweight range

Due to increasing demands from anglers who wish to fish with lighter lines, Simon can offer a lightweight range including:

9ft rods, 3, 4 and 5 weight, 4 sections.

10ft 6 rods, 2, 3 and 4 weight, 4 sections.

All are four pieces.

And for the nymphing enthusiast, Simon has the following rods on offer for you: -

11ft, 3 or 4 weight, 4 sections

11ft, 4 weight, 5 sections

12ft, 4 weight, 5 sections.

An essential to protect your lovely rod. Simons rod tubes are made here in Crieff with genuine Harris Tweed fabric. The tube carries the Harris Tweed logo as proof of its authenticity. A beautiful product that will be admired by many.



Apart from the cracking rods designed and made to your own specifications, Simon also has an exclusive range of gorgeous Harris Tweed bags and accessories. The bags can be used as fishing bags, workbags or simply handbags.



Some of the bags feature a removable waterproof liner, others feature a removable tweed I-pad/tablet or laptop sleeve – also in tweed. These can either be clipped into the bag or used on their own.

He also has traditional fleece lined fly wallets and will be introducing further products in due course.

The bags are traditionally made in the UK by Chapman, the well-known Carlisle traditional bag-makers, with excellent quality leather and brass fittings. A joy to own....

The last year has been rather difficult with the lack of shows and game fairs. Simon really enjoys them and it gives you the opportunity to handle and try all his rods and reels. You can discuss with him the rod you would like and how you would love it to look.

Trying out a rod in the casting areas is vital. So, without the shows Simon have decided to offer to send out a demo rod for you to try at your home to.

Please get in touch with him if you would love to try one.....

Bowden Springs Fishery



(Cracking 8lb 10oz brown trout caught by the editor)

Bowden Springs Fishery
Carribber Reservoir
Armadale Road
Linlithgow
West Lothian
EH49 6QE
01506 847269 /07836 209050
Email tonguefishing@outlook.com

Bowden is run by Jim and Jacqui Gargaro, along with Morgan, Flo and an assorted band of cats and interested parties.

Jim and Jacqui took on the fishery in 2004, and in 2006 were voted one of the top three fisheries in Scotland by readers of Trout Fisherman, sponsors of the popular Troutmaster Competition.

In addition to improving bankside facilities and removing some of the more intrusive vegetation, they have established a deserved reputation for the quality of the Bowden fishing experience.

The fishery has a two-acre fly pond and a five-acre bait pond which are home to trout of over 12lbs.

They have also now added three self-catering cottages to the site, so you can spend even longer there!

Bowden has prolific hatches of damsel flies and nymph imitations are popular with anglers who come from all over Scotland to fish.

Dry fly anglers have success with hoppers, emergers and sedge imitations. Both lochs are regularly stocked with quality trout from the spring-fed Yarrow Fisheries in the Borders.

The fishery is easy to get to from Edinburgh and Glasgow and the fishery is on the A706 from Linlithgow Bridge signposted Lanark. The fishery is around three miles from Linlithgow on the left.



The fly-fishing pond is stocked on a regular basis up to double figures and the bait pond is stocked regularly from 2lb 8oz up to 8lbs. You can also fly fish on the bait pond, so you have plenty of choices to make and a better chance of catching a good sized fish.

The fishery is cash only. No night fishing. Ring 07836 209 050 for information (please don't message).

Open from 8.30pm to dusk six days a week. The fishery is closed on a Tuesday. Their prices are below.

Fishing Prices: catch and release: £18 for four hours: £22 six hours: £25 for eight hours.

Fly Loch:

Four hours, kill two fish £22

Six hours, kill three fish £27

Eight hours, kill four fish £32

Eight hours, kill five fish £38

Children (under-14) sharing the bag are £5 each

Catch and release may be practised after your bag limit has been reached.

Finally, you do not have to cast far to hook into fish at Bowden but I would strongly advise you not to go with line less than 8lbs as you will be broken.

I was there on the 10 March for 4 hours and even though it was a wet and windy day, and a bit tough going I still enjoyed the few hours I had on the water.

There was a couple of knocks and tugs on the buzzers and nymphs I was using, but no joy. So, I changed up to lures and after a couple of casts caught a cracking 8lb 10oz brown trout which gave me a great fight getting it to the net and it was returned safely to fight another day.

The fishery has its own wee tackle shop, so if you're needing anything hopefully, they will have it in stock.





Outdoor Access

What the Scottish Outdoor Access Code says about fishing.

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you are in the outdoors or managing the outdoors, the key things are to:

Take responsibility for your own actions.

Respect the interests of other people.

Care for the environment.

Responsible behaviour by anglers

Although access rights do not extend to fishing, anglers should be aware that people can exercise their access rights along riverbanks and loch shores, as well as on the water.

Anglers need to be careful when casting lines so be aware of where people are on the water and on the land. If a kayaker, canoeist or other person on the water is close by, wait until they have passed by before casting. If you have a line in the water, allow people on the water to pass at the earliest opportunity.

Standard hand signals exist to allow safe passage through the water for kayakers and canoeists. The angler must point to the route where the paddler should pass and not to where the line is. A raised hand with palm towards the paddler indicates that they should wait until the line has been secured.

They should be allowed to pass at the earliest opportunity as it can be difficult to maintain position in flowing water. Indicating where you would prefer kayakers, canoeists or rafters to pass by can help but be aware that it might not always be possible for them to follow the route you suggest.

Responsible behaviour by land managers

Respect the needs of people exercising access rights responsibly. If a canoeist, rafter or other person is on the water, let them pass by before casting a line.

Ensure your clients are aware that people can exercise access rights along riverbanks and loch shores, as well as on the water. Where appropriate, work with your local authority and recreation bodies to help integrate access with fishing and other riparian activities, and help facilitate responsible access along riverbanks and loch shores.



Tackle Review Time

If you want an honest and frank review of your fly-fishing or fly-tying tackle please email me at editor.scottishflyfisher@gmail.com



The new Stillwater Storage fly box designed and manufactured by the Glasgow Angling Centre has over 1000 separate large foam slits, making it ideal for Lures, saltwater and Salmon flies. BUT can equally be used for small flies too as the tight slits are guaranteed to hold even the most delicate flies in place.

The Clearview Storafly 4-sided box is made from high impact plastic, and sports rust proof hinges, a convenient fitted carry handle, and above all else is completely waterproof. And of course, it floats as I should know when I accidentally knocked it overboard a couple of times.

I have been using two of the boxes for about a year now and find them very useful when out in a boat loch style fishing. I have every fly/lure I need all set out nicely in the boxes and with the boxes being water tight the flies are kept dry even during rough weather.

The foam inserts are extremely strong and hard wearing due to the slits in the foam, which adds a longer life span to the foam and the box. Size: 27 x 20 x 6cm

RRP: £34.99 Now Only: £29.99

Available from the [Glasgow Angling Centre](#)

Airflo Outlander Vest Pack 25L

Airflo's fantastic Outlander Vest and Back Pack provides the angler with enough space for everything required for a day on the water. Multiple front pockets house enough room for two large fly boxes and other items, while dual zinger attachments keep fishing gear on hand and ready to use for that all important quick change.

The integrated backpack system has enough room for all those not so frequently used essentials, such as a light rain coat, spare fishing reels or drink bottles. The backpack uses an expander pocket to extend the backpack for that bit of extra room, for those days when you just need a little extra gear.

Features: •Capacity: 25 Litres •Front vest with pockets galore •Houses all your essentials. •Zip down fly trays. •Left and right vertical box pockets •Mesh pockets on inside and out. •6 front D rings. •Zinger attachments •Gear attachment zones. •Integrated back pack design •Double pocket and expander pocket for larger items. •3 back D rings. Internal bladder hydration pocket. •Adjustable one size fits all system

I found the back pack ideal for those long walks up the mountains to some of my favourite out of the way lochs, or strolling along the river bank searching for the elusive wee brownie.

It saved me from carrying too much, all I need to do was put all the fly boxes; leaders and 2 fly reels in the pockets; plus, all the smaller items required for a good days fishing; then attaché the landing net to the rear D ring. Added my packed lunch to the expandable back pack and off I went.

Available from [Angling Active](#) in Stirling
Only £59.97 instead of £89.99



Prolite LED Fly Tying Pro Lite with Magnifier



At last, a great item for the keen fly tier, and if you have slight sight issues like me then this is the perfect gadget for you.

An LED fly tying lamp that is extremely bright and has a wide enough illumination angle for comfortable vision at the tying bench.

You can manoeuvre both the lamp and magnifier to the best position so that it does not impede you when tying the flies.

Comes complete with magnifier, base, and C-Clamp.

Features: High intensity lamp with magnifier 60-degree light cone; 140 lumens for plenty of illumination Heave vice base with built in storage tray Mounts to stand 3/8" vice stem C-Clamp for a bench mount. The pure daylight illumination is great for tying your flies without getting any colour distortion when working.

You can obtain this great piece of work from most fly-tying shops and websites around the world.

Price £99.99

E-Thrust 55LB Boat Engine



For those who fish smaller, intimate fisheries or even large lochs and need to take a more stealthy approach to your fishing; the E-Thrust 55lb Engine is ideal: it is silent, doesn't wobble or vibrate and is highly portable (it weighs just 9.7 kilos or 21lb)

Once you are clamped-on it is a simple matter of connecting to your 12-volt battery and twisting the accelerator. Off you go!

With the 5 forward and 2 reverse gears; I found this to be a great wee engine for keeping the boat in the catch zones up at the Lake of Menteith and Linlithgow Loch, there was no noise or disturbance as I would normally have with a petrol engine. All I had to do was give the engine a slight shunt either forwards or backwards to keep in the hotspots.

Only slight issue I had with the engine was the length of the aluminium column; you could not shorten it for stacking away in the car, I had to fold one of the back seats down to get it in along with the battery and all my usual fly-fishing gear (which I must admit can be a bit toooooo much at times).

You can obtain the engine from any good online tackle store I got mine from [The Glasgow Angling Centre](#).

Prices from £189.99 - £229.99

Fishing Etiquette

Boat Etiquette

Even if you use a Fishery regularly, please take the opportunity to read the following common sense guidance notes for boat fishing. They will help you and other fishers have a much more enjoyable session.

Fish can sense and are disturbed by undue noise, e.g., stamping on the floorboards from within a boat. Try to keep noise to a minimum.

Always remember an outboard engine is a means of propulsion, and not necessarily a way of getting directly from A to B in the straightest line or the fastest time, especially if it disturbs your quarry and other fishery users.

Do not leave litter, especially nylon traces as they can kill birds. At the end of the day remove all litter from the boat and draw your boat up adjacent to other boats.

If you do not know the water, ask for a map of the fishery, showing depths, etc. This will help you avoid disturbing fish in —hot spots such as shallow ground, and also prevent engine damage.

Try to maintain a good distance, (say 150 metres wherever possible), from any shoreline when travelling between marks or renewing the drift.

Try not to cross within 150 meters of another boat's drift, especially at full speed. Do not motor at full speed over known drifts, or when moving away from a drift.

If your drift tends to run into a shoreline, move out either by using the oars, very low engine revs, or an electric engine.

Do not hog a productive spot or backtrack over your old drift if other fishers are on the same drift. When you have exhausted a drift and wish to run through again, take your place at the end of the boats on the same drift, bearing in mind the above points.

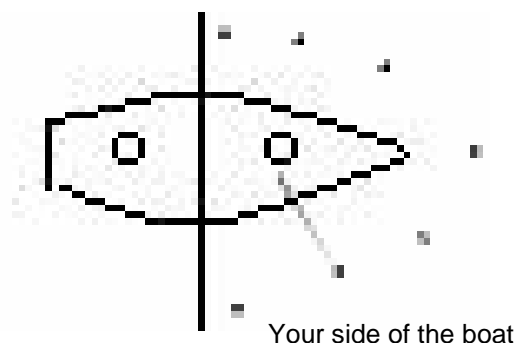
Always try to be aware of the location of other fishers and what type of fishing they are doing. Do not encroach too close to drogue drifters. Bear in mind a drogue drift is much slower than a standard drift.

Also remember onboard etiquette when fishing with a boat partner. If you are not experienced in casting from a boat, it is recommended that once your boat partner has finished casting and their line is in the water you can start casting. It can be quite hazardous if two of you are casting at the same time when there is a stiff breeze, the lines can be caught up in each other.

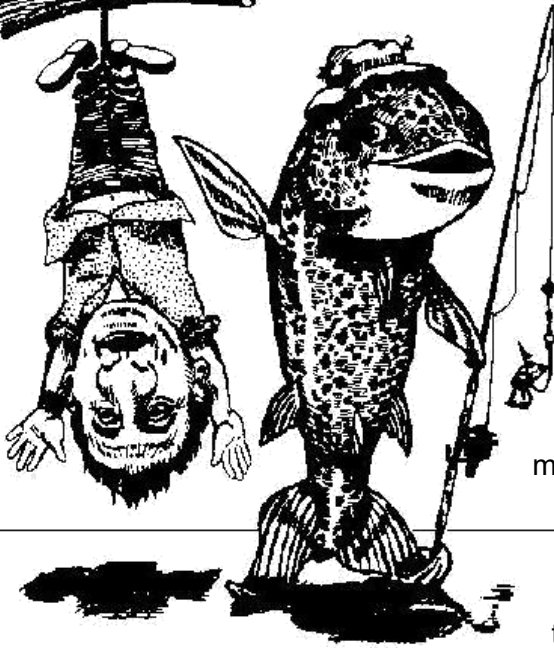
There is also an invisible demarcation line on the boat, never cast into your boat partner's area unless they have specifically advised that you can do so.

This is for two reasons: firstly, it is just like bank fishing, if your partner is into fish on their side of the boat, there is nothing worse than someone casting over your line to get into the fish, and secondly the lines will get entangled and the possibility of losing a good fish. It will not only cause friction between you but also spoil a good days fishing.

You can come to an agreement that after every 2 hours change sides, that way you can both decide on what area to fish and both have equal chances of catching fish.



CATCH OF THE DAY



Bank Etiquette

When bank fishing from a river, stream or fishery; bank etiquette should always be followed. It not only enhances the other fly fisher's enjoyment of the sport but your own also. If you are courteous so other fly fishers will be courteous to you.

There is nothing worse than trying to cast your line in a tight but productive spot to find that other fly fishers are crowding in on your area, casting over your line or standing right next to you so that you have no space to cast yourself.

Remember anglers are naturally protective of a fishing spot that they have found or are using. Common courtesy and manners make his and your day a pleasant one.

Keep away from other anglers fishing.

Do be aware of other fly fishers within casting distance; there is the accepted distance to keep away.

Respect the other angler's markers, stay away; this is his spot.

When passing another angler in a narrow area ask permission first.

Do not fish while passing close to him but wait until well clear.

A friendly greeting goes a long way to ensure a safe passage past.

When leaving fishing spots with others in close proximity or passing anglers casting give them a wide berth.

The Right of Way: - When it comes to fishing etiquette, the right of way is something that you'll need to learn. The rule of thumb is that the angler who is already in the water is given the right of way. The rule also applies if you're walking along the bank or floating. If you need to move locations try to move up-river or along the bank whenever possible. You never want to intrude on another fly fisher without asking first.

If you do get permission to enter the same waters make sure that you do so up-river or further along the bank and allow the other angler lots of space.

Taking out your Line: - Common courtesy dictates that you take your line out of the water for any angler who has a fish on the line. This is so that they have plenty of space in order to land their fish. This rule is very important if you're fishing down-river from the other angler. Make sure that you never step into the space of an angler who is releasing or landing a fish on the bank.

Silence: - Whenever you're fly fishing you'll need to be as quiet as you can...and this means leaving your dog and the radio at home. There

are two reasons why you want to be as quiet as possible: (1) you don't want to spook the fish, and (2) you don't want to disturb other fly fishers. Many people enjoy fly fishing for the peace and solitude that it affords them.

Lend a Helping Hand: - Always be willing to help out other anglers. This can be as simple as helping them retrieve something that has floated downriver or lending them something that they need, such as extra line. You're all there for a fun day of fly fishing so helping each other out just lends to the experience.



Fish of The Week Competition



At Fishing Megastore, we are passionate about fishing and we are always interested in what our customers are getting up to. We want to know what you are catching, and we'd love to see a picture of you and your catch.



For your chance to win £150 worth of [Daiwa Fishing Gear](#), simply send us a photograph of you and your catch with a little description. You can also enter in store - just ask a member of staff for assistance. The winner will be chosen by a panel of judges in our Glasgow store and will feature in the Scottish Daily Record newspaper on the Friday of each week. The winner will be announced on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) social media pages.

To enter online click [HERE](#)

Good luck and we look forward to seeing the entries!

Fishing a Sedge (caddis fly)



Sedges are one of the important species of fly in the fly fisherman's fly box. There is nothing like seeing sedge skating across the surface of a river or lake, especially when we see that great wake or hear the big 'sloop' as it is swallowed down by a greedy trout.

There are actually over 200 species of sedge flies identified in the UK but only 20 are of major interest for fly fishermen with really 4 of key interest on rivers and streams.

The sedge or caddis fly is found on both running and still water and is eaten by trout and grayling alike. I love to fish during a sedge hatch in the summer months and on those long hot summer days it is sometimes the saviour of a hard days fishing at dusk.

When a trout takes a sedge nymph or adult it is both visual and noisy. Trout chasing the nymph will often be noticeable as a bow wave often followed by a splash as it hits the nymph and when hitting the adult or hatching nymph the splashy rise is a dead giveaway.

There are great sedge fly patterns, particularly the Goddard's Caddis and Elk Hair Caddis patterns that provide deadly sport on both rivers and lakes. Another great fly imitating the caddis is the Stimulator patterns.

Caddis flies are far more flexible than is first envisaged when used in a team. As sedge / caddis flies skate across the surface of the water, these are great flies to suspend buzzers or nymphs below on rivers and lakes.

This deadly technique works by allowing the sedge to drift with the buzzer or nymph below. Both flies are deadly, often called "Bankers" by river fishermen.

Try stopping the sedge which forces the suspended buzzer or nymph to rise and then drop again when the sedge is released on a downstream drift.

On lakes and reservoirs, a caddis team with buzzer or nymph is best positioned suspended in the feeding zone, which is commonly only 18" to 2 feet down. Simple slow retrieves of the caddis fly, about 12 to 18 inches at a time with a pause between retrieves, causes the sedge to ripple across the lake, simultaneously lifting the buzzer which then drops back down into the feeding zone. This technique looks both like a natural caddis moving across the water and the buzzer lifts and drops like the natural buzzer emerging in the water.

Fishing with Stimulator's in this manner is a deadly summer technique, especially early in the evening as the caddis is more prevalent.

Takes are often severe as the fish try to make sure of their quarry's downfall and hook ups are often almost guaranteed. When fishing a dry pattern such as the G&H Sedge you will often find that if you pause the fish is gone, strike early and if you miss, pause and you will often find that the fish, or another opportunistic fish, will take it on the second go.

When fishing the nymph or an Invicta pattern don't follow the usual advice when nymphing or retrieving with a varied figure of eight but, instead, pull the fly with long and short draws and watch for the follow. If the follow is maintaining its distance behind the fly stop dead then strike and you will often find the fish has taken your fly.

Fishing a sedge hatch can be the most fun you can have with a fly rod.



Fly Tying



In broadest terms, flies are categorized as either imitative or attractive.

Imitative flies resemble natural food items.

Attractive flies trigger instinctive strikes by employing a range of characteristics that do not necessarily mimic prey items.

Flies can be fished floating on the surface (dry flies), partially submerged (emergers), or below the surface (nymphs, streamers, and wet flies).

A dry fly is typically thought to represent an insect landing on, falling on (terrestrials), or emerging from, the water's surface as might a grasshopper, dragonfly, beetle, stonefly or caddis fly.

Other surface flies include poppers and hair bugs that might resemble mice, frogs, etc. Sub-surface flies are designed to resemble a wide variety of prey including aquatic insect larvae, nymphs and pupae.

Wet flies, known as streamers, are generally thought to imitate minnows, leeches or scuds.

Artificial flies constructed of furs, feathers, and threads bound on a hook were created by anglers to imitate fish prey. The first known mention of an artificial fly was in 200AD in Macedonia. Most early examples of artificial flies imitated common aquatic insects and baitfish. Today, artificial flies are tied with a wide variety of natural and synthetic materials

Every fly fisherman has his or her own reasons for starting into fly tying. Some do it to save money from all the flies left in the trees and shrubs streamside. Others do it to learn more about the life cycles of the flies they like to use. Whatever your reasons,

There are many websites, books and videos available that are much better at writing than I am. I also highly recommend a hands-on fly-tying class. These are offered by many of the fly fishing clubs within your area or by professional fly-fishing coaches.

When you do decide to take up fly tying, there is absolutely hundreds of books, e-books and video clips on the web for you to choose from to show you how to tie buzzers, wet and dry flies also hundreds of different kinds of lures to cover every eventuality when you are out fishing.

There is so many variations and hybrids to the original fly/lure designs, sometimes I find it a bit daunting myself after all those years choosing what to tie. In fact, I have flies and lures in my many fly boxes that have been there for years and have never seen the day light never mind gotten wet.

However; everyone has their own preferences on what they like to use on certain waters despite all the information and advice out there.

I will talk about the tools, materials and supplies needed, some tips, tricks and worthwhile resources and will list the more popular fly patterns/recipes for trout

If you are new to fly tying it can be a bit daunting to know what you need in relationship to tools, materials, hooks and all the other requirements to tie your first artificial fly.

There is nothing better than tying your own flies and catching fish on them, it not only gives you self-assurance that you have tied the fly correctly but you can also catch on them. Tying your own fly can also save you money in the long run as the materials you use can be used for a vast variety of flies and lures.

Below I have listed a general idea of all the tools you will require to start you off in tying your own flies. The tools you will need

Vice - Today you can buy an adequate vice for as little as £20, but you can pay hundreds. Buy the best you can afford.

Scissors - You will need a pair of fine pointed very sharp scissors. Embroidery scissors are good. A good pair should last you for years as long as you dont go cutting wire with them.

Bobbin Holder - The early models had no ceramic inserts in the tube and eventually started fraying the threads. It is worth the extra cost to buy ceramic models.

Hackle Pliers - Basic models are not expensive and will do the job adequately. I still have my original one that my mentor made for me from thick wire, and it still works.

Dubbing Needle - I still use hat pins. They are handy for cleaning out varnish from the hook eye and applying varnish to the head of the finished fly. You can buy the proper tool cheaply.

Threader - An indispensable tool for feeding your thread onto the bobbin holder.

Whip Finish Tool - If you can use one of these then use it. If you cannot, tie off with the traditional double half hitch (like me).

Varnish - You only need clear to start with. Apply with dubbing needle. Very good advice is to remember to put the lid straight back on the bottle when finished as if you're like me and forget the next time you want to use it it's gone gloopy or hard.

Beeswax - Indispensable for dubbing.

Pliers - A pair of small fine nosed pliers for de-barbing hooks

Dubbing Brush - Used for raising dubbed hair.

You can buy beginners complete fly-tying kits that offer all the tools, instructions and materials that you would require to start off with; they can vary in prices from £30 for a very basic kit to £100 for a more comprehensive kit. There are also available from all good tackle shops and online stores beginners tool kits, with all the above items that you would require to start your fly tying with.

The information booklets with the beginner's kits gives you all the information you will require to tie some of the best known and most used flies and lures today.

Fly Tying Time

The Hot Head Spider



This pattern is essentially a black and peacock spider. The traditional pattern is excellent in a midge rise on both still waters and rivers.

The addition of the hot head bead to substitute a thorax gives the fish a hitting spot.

The big advantage of this pattern is that it can be fished at all depths with any kind of retrieve.

If the fish are in an aggressive mood pull this fly and it will reap dividends.

As the pattern resembles naturals in the water the fish will not be put off as per a standard lure from seeing the same fly too often.

Hook – Kamasan B175 16 to 10

Thread – Black

Hackle - Black Hen

Body - Peacock Herl

Rib - Fine Silver Wire

Thorax - Hot Head Bead Lime Green.

Fly Tying Method

Step 1: Slip on the glow bead and place near the eye of the hook. Bed hook with thread behind the bead.

Step 2: Tie in the peacock herl and silver wire rib.

Step 3: Cut off excess, continue bedding hook with thread and return to just behind the glow bead.

Step 4: Wrap the body with peacock herl and tie in.

Step 5: Trim the excess and rib the body with the silver wire,

Step 6: Tie off, trim excess and whip finish behind the glow bead.

Step 7: Push the bead slightly back onto the body and bed the hook between the eye and the bead.

Step 8: Tie in a black hen hackle at the point. I personally prefer a longer than standard hackle due to the extra movement. Here experiment to obtain the look and movement you require.

Step 9: Trim the tip of the hackle fibre and give the fly 1 or 2 turns of hackle. Catch the hackle in, form a neat head, whip finish and varnish.

Crystal Montana



Montana's are another one of those flies that are one of the staple patterns of fly anglers. Consequently, the variations on this pattern are endless.

Montana's are tied to represent the stonefly nymph and has great success throughout the world.

The above pattern has been tied to international competition standard but works equally well with the inclusion of a brass bead or a hot head bead at the head and a longer marabou tail.

This pattern works well on all densities of lines and throughout the year. It can be pulled during the winter as a lure and fished slowly on a floating line during the summer.

The inclusion of the pearl crystal hair gives the fish a real hitting spot.

Hook: 14 Heavy Nymph to 8 Long Shank

Thread: Black

Tail: Black Marabou

Rear body and thorax cover Micro Black Chenille

Wings: 3 Strands Pearl Crinkle Flash

Thorax: Micro Chartreuse Chenille

Fly Tying Method

Step 1: Bed the hook with tying thread and continue to the rear of the hook.

Step 2: Take a pinch of black marabou and tie this in at the rear, bed the hook shank well with tying thread making sure there are no bumps from the marabou.

Step 3: Select a section of micro black chenille and using your thumb and forefinger strip the chenille to reveal the inner core. Tie this in at the rear by the core only - otherwise you will get a big bump at the rear of the fly.

Step 4: Wrap the chenille around the hook up to 3/4 the length of the shank.

Step 5: Tie off and pull the chenille up and back to the rear ready to use for the thorax cover.

Step 6: Take three strands of crinkle flash and tie following the shank of the hook as pictured and repeat on the other side of the fly.

Step 7: Tie off and trim both sides the same length.

Step 8: Strip a section of micro chartreuse chenille, tie this in and wrap towards the eye. Tie off and trim.

Step 9: Take the black chenille that was tied off and pull forward for the thorax cover.

Step 10: Tie this off, whip finish and varnish the head.

The Orange Blob



The Orange Blob is a fritz mini-lure and works superbly when fished very fast, ideal when trout are taking Daphnia. The pattern can also be tied in a mass of colours from dark to very bright on the colour spectrum. The darker coloured fritz are usually fished more slowly than the lighter-coloured ones.

Tying a blob is very straightforward. If you need a different coloured blob then the tying procedure is almost identical just substituting different material colours.

Hook: Kamasan B175 Size 10 – 14

Thread: Orange

Body: Fire Orange Fritz

Tail: Orange Marabou

Head Globrite Floss in fire orange

Fly Tying Method

Step 1: Wind thread to just before the barb.

Step 2: Take a pinch of Hot Orange Marabou and secure with winding turns along the hook shank. Return the thread to just opposite the barb.

Step 3: Take a length of blob fritz, strip a small amount of fritz fibres from the end so the centre core is left bare. Tie the core in and secure with thread.

Step 4: Now return the thread to the eye of the hook.

Step 5: The easiest way to tie blob fritz is to perform one wrap of fritz around the hook shank, then wet your fingers and stroke the fritz fibres back towards the hook bend, then another wrap of fritz, wet fingers, stroke back and repeat.)

Step 6: About 5mm from the hook eye, hold the fritz taught and strip away the fibres from the core of the remaining fritz. Brush the fibres back with wet fingers from the last wrap that you did.

Step 7: Now wrap the striped core around the hook shank a couple of times and tie off with thread.

Step 8: Now trim the waste core and whip finish and trim any other waste including thread.

Step 9: Now to finish the head. Take your preferred colour of Globrite floss, catch in and produce a neat head. Whip finish and varnish.



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Fly Fishing Safety and First Aid

When fly fishing it is always advisable to consider yours and other Flyfisher's safety, whether it is on the bank or in a boat. There is nothing worse to spoil a good days fishing by injuring yourself or falling and getting soaking wet. If you follow the 14 safety hints below it will enhance your days fishing and you will return safely to your loved ones and to fish another day.

1. In the event of an accidental slip while wading - always wear a wading belt with waist or chest waders to avoid filling up with water. If you do fall in whilst wading always try to make sure your feet are facing downstream if you cannot get up straight away or are swept away downstream. This is to ensure that you do not obtain a head injury, it is easier to repair a broken leg than a split head or worse a broken heart.
2. When crossing fast currents, make your way by wading downstream at an angle across the river.
3. Always carry a wading staff if fishing in unfamiliar or fast-moving water
4. Always dress for inclement weather, it is advisable to multi layer your clothing as it is easier to take off clothes than trying to find extra clothing to put on when the weather changes.
5. Wear non slip shoes that are appropriate for the type of fishing you are doing. Rubber soles for sand, gravel or silt.
6. When fishing in fast moving water, always have an exit strategy. Water levels, especially in the mountains, can rise quickly.
7. A Personal Floatation Device is recommended when fishing on a boat or wading in deep water, it is better to float than to sink even when wet.
8. If travelling far by foot, I always wear or bring extra food and water with me just in case the weather changes drastically and you are stranded till it clears, a good Kelly Kettle for boiling up water is perfect as it not only gives you plenty of hot water, but it can also be a good source of heat if you hit inclement weather.
9. If you're hiking a long distance, maps, compass, and a GPS system are recommended to avoid getting lost.
10. Sunscreen and bug spray, I always wear Skin so Soft by Avon as the midges in Scotland don't just bite, they come at you with knives and forks ready for a feast.
11. If possible, carry a full first aid kit with you if you can, before every trip inspect and restock your first aid kit. Make sure that your container is waterproof and durable. It is important to know how to use everything and advisable to take a first aid and CPR course.
12. Before you go, make sure that you know about the hazards of the area that you are visiting. Poisonous plants, poisonous or dangerous animals, fire conditions and a weather report.
13. If possible, go fishing with a minimum of two people.
14. Always tell people where you are going and when they should expect your return.

When fly fishing from either the bank or within a boat always think of safety first. In addition to the above information and safety tips, I would highly recommend that you wear sun glasses to protect your eyes from the glare of the sun which would spoil your enjoyment of fishing. The wearing of the glasses is also to avoid getting a hook in your eye, it is better to have the hook bounce off your glasses and hook your nose than to lose your eye.

Did you know that when casting a fly can be travelling up to 90mph, imagine the damage to your body if hit by a car at 45mph then imagine the damage a fly/lure can do to your eyes at 90mph?

Polarised glasses are the best type to wear in addition to protecting your eyes from the glare of the sun they will help you to see through the water levels a lot better. There are 3 types of polarised glass lenses for each type of condition you will be fishing in.

When wearing the glasses always wear a lanyard attached to the glasses, it's not the first time I have lost a pair of glasses in the lake/reservoir when being caught by a flying fly/lure.



Always wear a good fishing hat or baseball cap to protect you from the glare of the sun, there is nothing worse than getting both sun burn and sun stroke when fishing. You might not believe it but whilst fly fishing during even a slightly sunny day you get more of a tan from fishing that you would from sun bathing on the beach or your back garden as the water bounces back the rays and magnifies their effect. So, put on your cap/hat and plenty of high factor sun tan cream to lessen the effects.

A good fishing hat/baseball cap also helps to protect your head from any untoward fly/lure that might go adrift when casting by yourself or your boat partner especially if it gets really windy. It's not the first time and I doubt it will be the last time either when I have been hit on the back of the head by a missed cast lure either by myself or my boat partners.

As recommended by the editor, an all-in-one Fly-Fishing Waistcoat and Automatic Inflatable Fly Vest is the ideal life vest whether you are wading in a large Salmon River or boat fishing on a reservoir or lake. The Airflo Wave-hopper on the left gives you the peace of mind and functionality of both a normal fly-fishing vest and a life jacket.

The Waistcoat/Life Vest provides ample storage for all your tackle needs when travelling light along the rivers and lochs, also for all your spare spools, leader material, snips, pliers and other tools required when boat fishing. In fact, I think it's about time to get myself a new one as the one I'm wearing is years old and a wee bit sorry for wear and tear due to the abuse it's had tramping through bushes etc to get to the river bank.



Recipe of the Month

Rainbow Trout Stuffed with Crabmeat

Ingredients:

2 pounds rainbow trout, deboned and cleaned
1 cup crab meat
1/2 cup onion
1/2 cup mushrooms
1/4 cup butter
1 pound bacon
Grape leaves
2 tablespoons flour
1 teaspoon parsley
A touch of Paprika
A touch of Ground pepper
1 teaspoon oregano
1 teaspoon thyme

Method:

In a frying pan, preferably a heavy iron one, cook the onion, mushrooms and flour to a golden brown.

Toss in the crab meat and toss to cover evenly.

Dash in the pepper, oregano and thyme. Place some of the mixture on the trout fillets and fold the halves together.

Wrap these in the grape leaves. Now wrap bacon around this until totally covered.

Put in a pre-heated 320-degree F / 160 degree C oven on a sheet of foil. Bake for approximately 60 minutes.

Remove from oven and garnish with paprika and parsley for colour and a beautiful presentation.

Manua Loa Trout Serves 2 – 4

Ingredients:

2 (8 oz.) rainbow trout
2 oz. King crab meat
2 oz. raw scallops
4 lg. bok choy leaves
2 egg yolks
1 orange
2oz. butter, melted
Salt to taste Pepper to taste

Method:

Filet the two trout and skin.

Puree the scallops and crab for the stuffing.

Place an ounce of stuffing on each of 4 fillets and then roll up the filet and place in a bok choy leaf. Roll and tuck.

Place in a steamer and cook for 10 minutes.

For Orange Hollandaise Sauce: Strain the juice from 1 orange into a small bowl add the yolks and whip over low heat until thick.

Remove from heat and whip in the butter a little at a time.

Add white pepper and salt to taste.

Cover the dinner plate with the sauce and place two pieces of trout on the plate.

Garnish with strips of orange rind from the left-over orange.

Fishing for Ferox Trout in Scotland's Lochs

Scotland is blessed with wild salmon and freshwater fisheries resources of world renown.

Rivers such as the Tweed, Tay, Dee and Spey are synonymous with both salmon fishing and Scotland and Loch Leven is world famous for its unique brown trout population.

Some of our large, deep lochs, such as Loch Awe, are home to the famous 'ferox' trout, attracting specimen anglers from far and wide.

Ferox, like other trout, feed chiefly on invertebrates when young. After ferox reach a length of 30 – 35 cm, a change

occurs, with a switch to an almost entirely piscivorous (fish- based) diet. This change is size-related rather than age-related and has a dramatic effect on ferox growth (Mangel & Abrahams, 2001); tagging studies have recorded a 10lb (4.5 kg) increase in weight in 4 years!

Ferox, particularly in the cold, acidic lochs of the Scottish Highlands, are long lived (a 23-year-old fish from Loch Killin, Inverness being the oldest on record). This fact, combined with their protein-rich diet, translates into much larger sizes than the average brown trout angler will ever encounter.

The current British rod-caught record is a 14.4 kg (31.7lb) fish from Loch Awe, Scotland, a renowned ferox loch.

Tagging work on ferox in Perthshire has found that ferox will make wide ranging movements, probably searching out shoals of baitfish such as Arctic char. Ferox have been found to congregate around Loch outlets during the salmon smolt run. Ferox are active during the day, and have been recorded making dives down to 30 metres, possibly in pursuit of char. The presumably means that ferox are active pursuit predators as opposed to ambush predators using cover to attack prey.

Arctic char are of great importance to ferox diet, particularly in Scottish lochs. Where present, whitefish species (coregonids) are commonly taken, for example in Loch Lomond. Other brown trout will also occasionally be taken (this why ferox have long been labelled as cannibalistic browns), as will coarse fish such as perch. In the Irish limestone loughs such as Corrib, ferox have switched from a char- dominated diet to a roach-dominated diet following the extinction of char after the introduction of the latter.

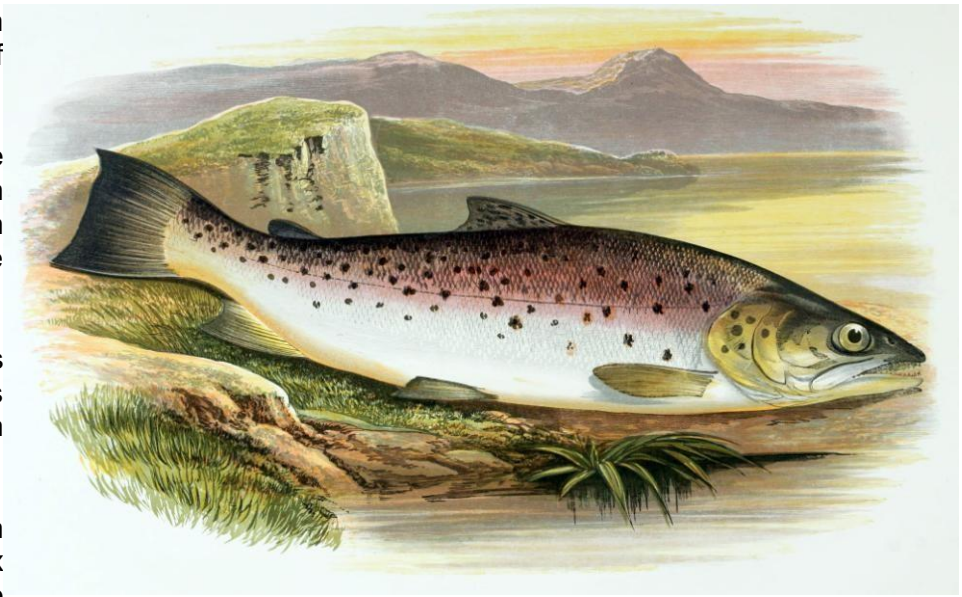
On Loch Awe the best fly fishing for wild brown trout is to be had during the first few months of the season before fish move into deeper water and at the back end of the season when the fish move back into the shallower water.

Traditional drift fishing over shallower water during these times can produce some very nice catches of hard fighting brown trout averaging 3/4lb with fish of 1 -2lb are not uncommon with the odd 5lb+ fish being caught.

Trolling for Ferox trout is a very successful and popular fishing method used on Loch Awe and the other Scottish Lochs. Ferox trout are large predatory Brown trout which spend most of their time in the depths feeding on the loch's abundant population of Arctic char and Roach.

Again, best times for this type of fishing is early and late season though large double figure fish are caught throughout the season.

It is widely believed that Loch Awe is easily capable of producing more 30lb+ fish. Ferox trout (*Salmo ferox*) is a variety of trout found in oligotrophic lakes of Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.



Where you fish for arctic char then a good chance the water will hold ferox trout - rule of thumb no char no ferox trout?

Top locations include: Lochs Lomond, Tay, Awe, Rannoch, Laidon, Garry (including the river) Laggan, Ness, Lochy, Arkaig, Quoich, Morar, Sionascaig, Loyal, Calder, Shin, Earn, Foin Loch in Scotland.

Taking ferox on the fly is of course not the most common way to catch them, trawling is the way to get into them.

Recommended tackle is an old salmon fly rod of 13 or 14 feet set up with a good centre pin reel, with a large line capacity, filled with braid of 25lbs. For bait ferox prefer char but char can be hard to come by so many anglers will use quarter pound trout which are more readily available. Dead bait, spoons, spinners, minnows or rapalas are all effective for ferox (live bait is no longer permitted to be used within Scotland's lochs).

Ferox trout is a traditional name for large, piscivorous trout which in Scotland feed largely on Arctic char. It has been argued to be a distinct species, being reproductively isolated from "normal" brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) of the same lakes, particularly in Ireland. However, it is uncertain whether the ferox of different lakes all are of a single origin. This fish can grow to a length of 80 centimetres (31in)

Scottish authorities currently do not regard Scottish ferox to be taxonomically distinct from *Salmo trutta*. Although in the past, it was referred to as a separate species, *Salmo ferox*, this is no longer the case.

The Ferox life history is one of a number of life strategies adopted by one species, the brown trout, *Salmo trutta*.

Research into the genetics of Ferox trout, has shown them to be genetically distinct from other trout in some lochs), but recent unpublished research from a variety of Scottish Lochs has shown that this is not the case in all populations. Data from Loch Rannoch samples, for example, have shown that a wide genetic variability exists within its Ferox population. Ferox trout display a wide variety of shape, colouration and spot patterns.

The condition of individual fish is also very variable and depends on factors such as age; season, whether it had spawned during the previous winter and possible parasite infestation.

Life History- After subsisting on invertebrates, some brown trout switch to a diet based mainly on fish.

Brown trout that switch to piscivory find that the switch not only boosts their growth, but also adds to their longevity. The current UK rod caught record stands at 31lb 12oz (14.4kg). The oldest recorded ferox trout in the UK is a fish of 23 years of age.

Documented evidence of growth potential has been obtained from recent research carried out in Loch Rannoch where increases of over 300 per cent bodyweight have been recorded.

Diet and Behaviour - Ferox trout have an unjustified reputation as cannibals, in part due to the misuse of the word cannibal to describe any trout that eats fish. Ferox have a marked preference for Arctic char. True cannibalism is probably less common than might be supposed - but in the absence of other prey fish, ferox will certainly prey on their own kind. Growth potential is influenced by the size spectrum of available prey.

Ferox trout are present in most if not all large Scottish lochs. They are highly prized by anglers and in recent years, angling pressure upon them has steadily increased.

Ferox are becoming rare and are extremely difficult to catch. Catching one of these fish can often be a fish of a lifetime. Trolling for ferox trout will test your skill, endurance and patience. You could fish for hours, days, weeks or months without catching a ferox trout. On other occasions you might catch three or four in one day. The most important thing is that we protect this fish and return any ferox that we catch back into the loch. You never know the next time it is caught it could be a lot bigger. I would highly recommend anyone who catches a ferox to release it safely so that we can continue the existence of this fascinating fish within the great Scottish Lochs.

Below - Ferox Trout with Artic Char



Conservation

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Freshwater Fish Specialist Group regard ferox as a separate species.

Ferox is listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species with its status being given as —Data Deficient

Whether or not ferox are considered a distinct species, their low numbers (at least in Scottish lochs) and distinct genetic characteristics (as in Loch Melvin) warrant enhanced conservation status.

Large, predatory fish like this are prized by anglers yet only a tiny proportion of the trout in a loch is ferox; the ferox trait is therefore, valuable and rare.

There is some justification in the call for ferox to be accorded species status rather than the less valued (in an EU context) sub-species status.

This echo calls by researchers for effective conservation of brown trout to be based on genetic differences between populations. Threats to ferox trout include:

Overfishing: tag-and-release studies in Loch Rannoch suggest that ferox densities in these nutrient-poor lochs are likely to be low. Even low intensity ferox angling therefore has the capacity to impact on ferox numbers. Catch-and-release is therefore of utmost importance and the same studies suggested that angling mortality is acceptably low. Because of their longevity, the impact of exploitation is likely to be greater than it would be for a shorter lived species.

Spawning tributaries: Spawning areas for ferox may be fairly specific and limited. In Lough Melvin, ferox achieve reproductive isolation by spawning in a single, deep river. Obstructions can block access to spawning tributaries and outflow dams on Lochs Rannoch and Laggan may have negatively impacted on ferox recruitment. In Scandinavia, a number of studies before and after hydropower development have been carried out and are fairly applicable to the British Isles. In upland areas, intensive commercial forestry can also severely limit primary productivity in streams and increase acidity to dangerous levels during peak flood events.

Introduced species: In relatively pristine post-glacial fish communities like Lough Melvin in Ireland, ferox hold the top predator position. Introduction of pike in these lakes could lead to the replacement of ferox as the top predator. Pike and ferox coexist in Loch Awe and more study is needed into the relationship between these top predators. Potentially more serious is the introduction of the filter feeding zebra mussels into Lough Melvin. These are highly efficient filter feeders and their introduction could have disastrous effects on the lakes native planktivores (e.g., sonaghen trout and charr) that ferox rely on. Ferox are adapted open water pelagic predators. The replacement of charr for example by littoral or benthic feeding fish could therefore have unforeseen consequences for ferox - again, a precautionary approach and more research is needed.

Fishing the Lake of Menteith

Editors favourite fishing location



Set in the Trossachs, amidst magnificent scenery where the Highlands meets the Lowlands.

The 700-acre Lake of Menteith is a well-regarded rainbow and brown trout fishery in Scotland and is reputed to be the best location for fly fishing for rainbow trout and brown trout in Central Scotland.

Its central location (Glasgow 45 mins, Edinburgh 60 mins, Perth 50 mins) makes it ideal for meeting with friends for a day's or evening's fishing.

The lake is stocked weekly with 1000 to 1500 quality trout, and yields an average landed fish weight of over 2lbs.

The 30-strong fleet of Lomond (Sweeney) Boats has recently been upgraded, and all are equipped with Yamaha or Suzuki outboards.

The impressive fishery cabin, with Permit Office/Tackle shop, Fishers Cafe and wood burning stove howff area are available to the anglers. Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions the café is closed, but teas, coffees and snacks can be had in the shop.

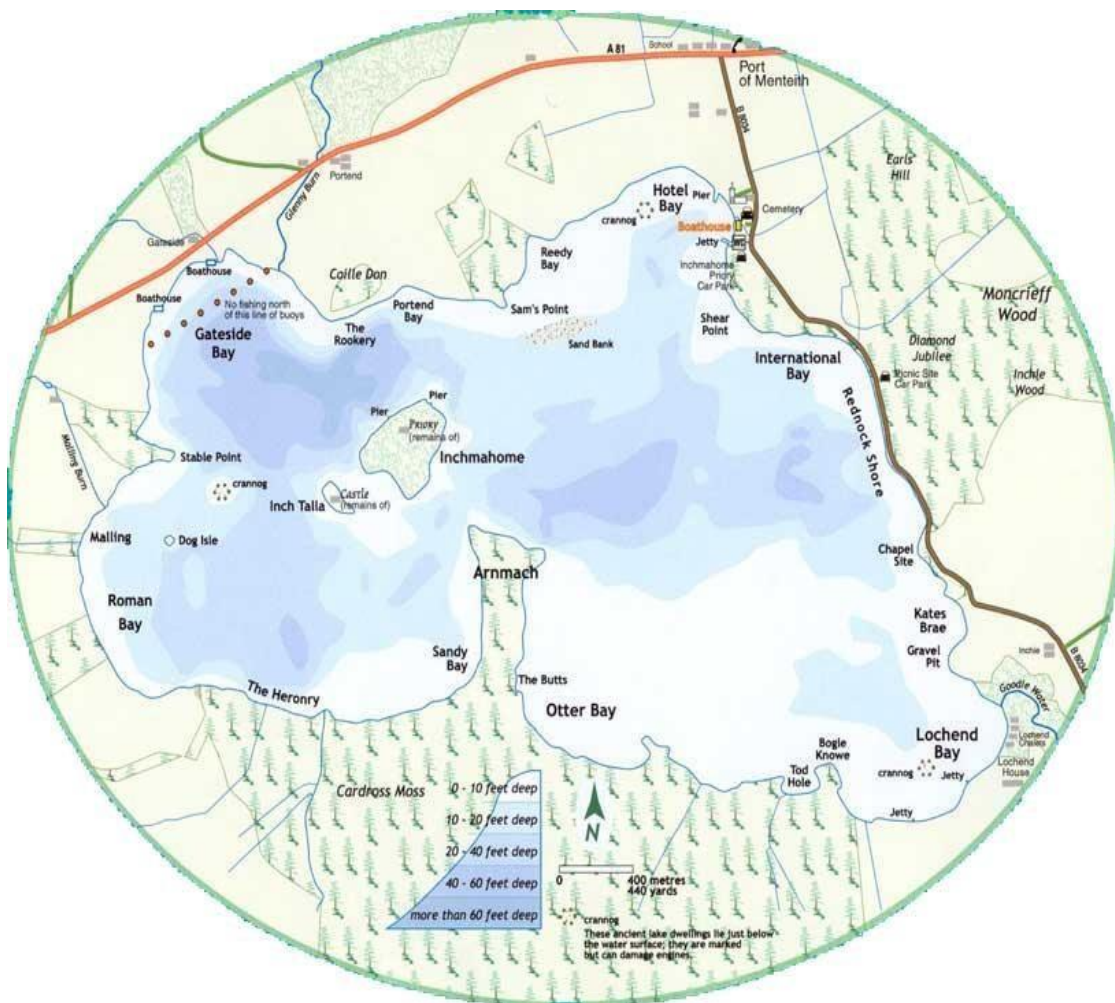
The Lake has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest due to its exceptional fauna and flora. Historically the lake has much to offer, with the impressive and tranquil ruins of the 13th century Inchmahome Priory situated on the largest of the Lake's three islands.

These attributes make the lake an outstanding venue for some of the most prestigious fishing competitions and a great day out for all fly anglers.

When you leave the harbour area; you start to wonder where about to fish this expanse of water. If the wind is blowing into the shore road, I would normally start of heading left and begin a drift into the reed beds at Sheer Point just as you turn the corner passed the boat jetty this is sometimes a great wee location and don't be afraid to drift and cast right up to the reed bed as the fish can be tight in.

Next stop along is International Bay; this can be an excellent drift from about 50 yards out right into Rednock Shore, if you drift in and out the full length of the shore road up to Kates Brae you can guarantee to hit into some good fighting fish. Fish right up to the shallow rocks; you can still find cruising trout hard up against the edge of the lake.

Whilst along that end take a long relaxing drift from Bogie Knowe down towards the lodges in Lochend Bay. A good method for fishing Lochend Bay is a booby on the point and 2-3 buzzers/nymphs on the droppers.



A great area for the dry fly aficionado is Sandy Bay as it is a shallow weedy area and has a prolific hatch all day long, you can sometimes see massive clouds of flies coming off the water at the right time, so if you can try to match the hatch as the trout will be preoccupied feeding of the surface and if you have not got the right dry fly on it can be like dropping a pebble in the ocean, it won't be seen or make a difference.

Another great drift is right along the Malling Shore; Roman Bay and The Heronry.

Then along the other way towards Gateside Bay passing Stable Point, if the conditions are right Stable Point can be a hot spot as the fish travel in and out of Gateside Bay through this route.

Fishing Gateside Bay can be sometimes a hit or miss, it used to be great for catching the bigger trout in here due to the keep nets and fish food escaping into the bay, however since the new stocking policy and stocking all over the lake the fish are dispersed elsewhere.

Drifting down from Gateside Bay to Hotel Bay passing Reedy Point/Bay can be very productive as this is mostly shallow water averaging between 3 – 10 feet and is great for the dry fly, once into Hotel Bay the depth can go up to 30 feet so a slow intermediate/midge tip with a small booby on the point and buzzers/nymphs in size 12/14 can be really productive fished either

static or on a very slow figure of eight.

If you are out on an evening session then dry fly is the best method as you can see the fish rising all over the Lake. Even in the middle of the lake you can find some bigger and better fish rising as this area seems to be forgotten about by the other boats who are concentrating around the margins of the lake.

Fly Fishing for Pike

Fly fishing for pike is one of the fastest growing sectors in angling and is the least stressful to the pike as only one barbless hook is in contact with the fish.

Fly Pike fishing is available throughout the main season to the general public as per trout fly fishing (book online).

Prices are as for trout angling.

Tuition is readily available as is tackle hire.

Fly fishing for pike is available when convenient and by arrangement – throughout the winter (mainly weekdays – book on line through the website).

To book boats contact the fishery on: - 01877 385664.

To book by email use booking@menteith-fisheries.co.uk

[Home - Lake of Menteith Fisheries \(menteith-fisheries.co.uk\)](http://menteith-fisheries.co.uk)



Fishing the River Teith

The River Teith in Callander and the River Forth in Stirling, whilst not as glamorous or as well-known as their cousins the Tay and the Tweed, they do offer excellent fishing with nearly 700 Salmon and over 400 Sea Trout caught last year.

Day Permits may be obtained locally either in advance or on the day and they will advise you of the most convenient location once they know where you want to fish.

Situated in the heart of Callander, Stirling Council Fisheries offer accessible fishing for anglers far and wide.

As Callander is the outdoor capital of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, it offers a great base to sample this fishery.

The Teith beat's upstream march is marked by the red iron bridge on the Leny at the top of the Callander Meadows recreation ground. The fishing here is left bank only. The confluence of the rivers Eas Gobhain and Leny at a pool called The Meetings is where the beat becomes double bank, and the River Teith is formed. There is a small section of the right bank of the Eas Gobhain available to anglers of the council water too and this is marked with a sign about 100m upstream. The river flows down through Callander, and with the exception of a small section at the Roman Camp Hotel, the fishing is double bank to the tail of the Turn Pool.

All year optimal fishing – Starting at the bottom of the beat, Turn Pool is fished best from the inside bend on the right bank, however it can be fished at the neck from the left bank. The Islands is a small stretch of fast shallow water that holds running fish in a very small pocket before they dart up and through to the Geisher pool above.

Wading here is generally shallow enough but swift, so take a wading stick. The Geisher is the favourite pool for fly fishers.

There are two taking spots, one being at the top of the pool as the streamy water slows in the far-to-middle opposite a large log on the right bank. The second is down from the wooden disabled platform, this is the main taking spot. Concentrate all the way down this pool and cast a long line and bring it right round.

Sea Trout will show in the tail of the pool in the evenings.

The Green Isle is a lovely pool but requires a little bit of bank scrambling and awkward wading. This whole section is accessible from an angler's car park at the bottom of Geisher Road.



Skipping up past the Roman Camp section of private fishing, the next pool within the council permit is the Black Hole. This pool is the perfect spinning pool and provides a good number of fish in Spring. Tom Na Khessog pool just upstream of the red bridge is a good cast from either bank, spin from the right bank and fly from the left is the norm unless it is high. Norman's Pool is the eddy/lagoon and this holds good Brown Trout and Sea Trout. Salmon will sit on the edge of the current all season. Car Park Run is fished from the Meadows Car Park.

The Bathing and Pipers Pools are the most productive pools on the SCF Teith beat. Fished from the left bank they are best enjoyed with the fly.

The Meetings is excellent fly water and holds fish all season. This is an excellent spot for Brown Trout and Sea Trout too down to the tail of Bathing pool.

Permits: -

Stirling Council Fishery – 2021 Season Permit – Adult £200.00

Stirling Council Fisheries Adult season permit (Forth and Teith)

Stirling Council Fishery – 2021 Season Permit – Youth £15.00

Stirling Council Fisheries Youth (12 – 21) season permit (Forth and Teith)

Stirling Council Fishery – 2021 Season Permit – Concession £150.00

Stirling Council Fisheries Concession season permit (Forth and Teith). Concession permits available for anyone over 60, in the military or has a registered disability. ID required for the permit to be valid.

If you bought a permit before 24th March 2020 last season you will receive a discount code from Stirling Council Fisheries in the post with 23% off your 2021 season permit. Please wait until you receive this discount code before purchasing as the discount code cannot be taken off retrospectively. If you have not received your code, please contact Stirling Council Fisheries direct.



Three Monthly – Feb to Apr £100.00

Stirling Council Fisheries Three-month permit allows fishing during the months of February, March and April. (Catch and Release only)

Three Monthly – May to Jul £100.00

Stirling Council Fisheries Three-month permit allows fishing during the months of May, June and July. (Catch and Release only)

Three Monthly – Aug to Oct £100.00

Stirling Council Fisheries Three-month permit allows fishing during the months of August, September and October. (Catch and Release only)

Grayling Day Permit From: £9.00

Stirling Council Fisheries offer day permits to fish for grayling on their Callander beat only at an affordable rate. Max 5 day permits available per day. Each permit is £9 per rod per day. Catch & release only.

Fishing is still permitted for Council areas in Level 4 but you should not travel between local authority areas. Therefore, please only book if you live in Stirling Council area.

Bailiffs Will Withdraw Permits, If Necessary, When Rules Are Not Observed

Permits available online through [Fishforth](#)

Wild Trout Fishing Loch Ness

Loch Ness is a large, deep, freshwater loch in the Scottish Highlands extending for approximately 37 kilometers (23mi) southwest of Inverness. Its surface is 15.8m (52ft) above sea level. Loch Ness is best known for alleged sightings of the cryptozoological Loch Ness Monster, also known affectionately as "Nessie". It is connected at the southern end by the River Oich and a section of the Caledonian Canal to Loch Oich.

At the northern end there is the Bona Narrows which opens out into Loch Dochfour, which feeds the River Ness and a further section of canal to Inverness. It is one of a series of interconnected, murky bodies of water in Scotland; its water visibility is exceptionally low due to high peat content in the surrounding soil.

Loch Ness is the second largest Scottish loch by surface area at 56km (21.8sq mi) after Loch Lomond, but due to its great depth, it is the largest by volume. Its deepest point is 230m (755ft), making it the second deepest loch in Scotland after Loch Morar. It contains more fresh water than all the lakes in England and Wales combined, and is the largest body of water on the Great Glen Fault, which runs from Inverness in the north to Fort William in the south.

In addition to a well-known monster, Loch Ness holds many trout of more modest proportions, as do the lochs in the hills above, with excellent trout fishing in lochs such as Loch Ruthven, which are well worth a visit.

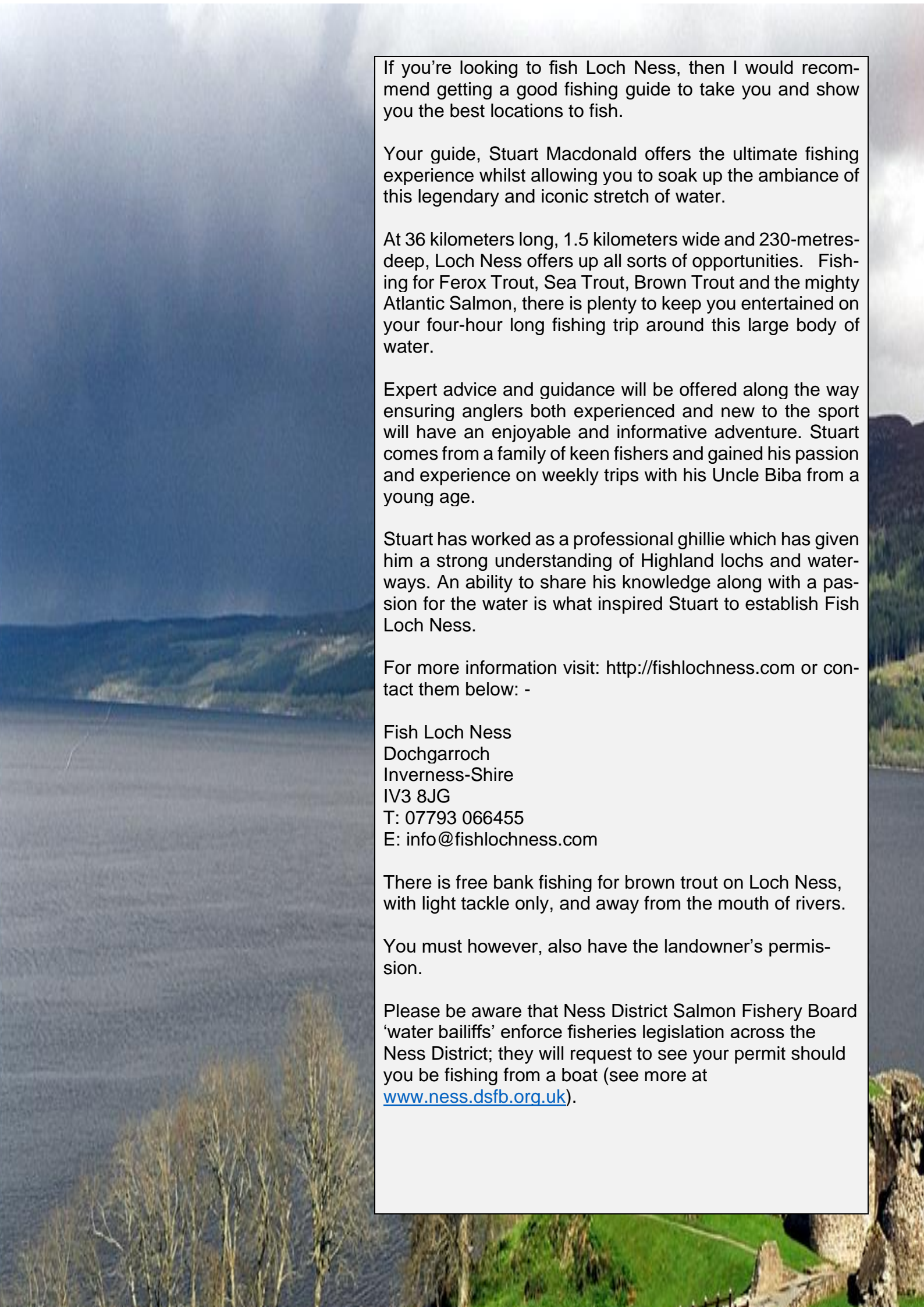
Loch Ness is one of the largest of the Scottish lochs, offering salmon fishing as well as trout fishing, with the salmon being taken mainly by trolling.

Seasons of Fishing

The season for brown trout fishing is from 15 March to 6 October. Salmon and sea trout fishing seasons vary and depend on the location and permit restrictions so please check with the relevant issuer. There is no closed season for pike fishing in lochs or on rainbow trout in stocked lochs or fisheries. There is no closed season for fishing in sea lochs (lochs which open to the sea) for species of sea fish only but not including migratory fish such as salmon and sea trout.

Fish Loch Ness is located ten miles from the picturesque village of Drumnadrochit and only four miles from the city of Inverness.





If you're looking to fish Loch Ness, then I would recommend getting a good fishing guide to take you and show you the best locations to fish.

Your guide, Stuart Macdonald offers the ultimate fishing experience whilst allowing you to soak up the ambiance of this legendary and iconic stretch of water.

At 36 kilometers long, 1.5 kilometers wide and 230-metres-deep, Loch Ness offers up all sorts of opportunities. Fishing for Ferox Trout, Sea Trout, Brown Trout and the mighty Atlantic Salmon, there is plenty to keep you entertained on your four-hour long fishing trip around this large body of water.

Expert advice and guidance will be offered along the way ensuring anglers both experienced and new to the sport will have an enjoyable and informative adventure. Stuart comes from a family of keen fishers and gained his passion and experience on weekly trips with his Uncle Biba from a young age.

Stuart has worked as a professional ghillie which has given him a strong understanding of Highland lochs and waterways. An ability to share his knowledge along with a passion for the water is what inspired Stuart to establish Fish Loch Ness.

For more information visit: <http://fishlochness.com> or contact them below: -

Fish Loch Ness
Dochgarroch
Inverness-Shire
IV3 8JG
T: 07793 066455
E: info@fishlochness.com

There is free bank fishing for brown trout on Loch Ness, with light tackle only, and away from the mouth of rivers.

You must however, also have the landowner's permission.

Please be aware that Ness District Salmon Fishery Board 'water bailiffs' enforce fisheries legislation across the Ness District; they will request to see your permit should you be fishing from a boat (see more at www.ness.dsfb.org.uk).

Fishing the Great River Tweed



The River Tweed, or Tweed Water, (Scottish Gaelic: Abhainn Thuaidh, Scots: Watter o Tweid) is a river 97 miles (156 km) long that flows east across the Border region in Scotland and northern England. Tweed (cloth) derives its name from its association with the River Tweed.

The Tweed is one of the great salmon rivers of Britain and the only river in England where an Environment Agency rod licence is not required for angling. The name of the river comes from the Gaelic word for north, "thuaidh" which was later Anglicized into Tweed.

The river's valley floor is a drumlin field and the relic of a paleo-ice stream that flowed through the area during the last glaciation.

Major towns through which the Tweed flows include Innerleithen, Peebles, Galashiels, Melrose, Kelso, Coldstream and Berwick-upon-Tweed, where it flows into the North Sea.

The River Tweed and salmon fishing in Scotland are synonymous, and it's no wonder people come from all over the world to fish here. After three record breaking years, the Tweed is the top river in Europe, ranking among the very top salmon rivers in the world, but that's not all – for trout fishing in Scotland the River Tweed is equally hard to beat.

The Tweed's fame as a salmon river has meant that it has often been ignored for its other types of fishing. If you are interested in trout fishing in Scotland the River Tweed offers both excellent Brown Trout and Grayling fishing and provides a good year-round sport with some good-sized fish (2lb+) being caught regularly.

The Tweed from a few miles above Peebles down to Selkirk is known as Upper Tweed, set in some of the best scenery in the country, the Upper Tweed offers some excellent Salmon fishing at very reasonable rates (£40-£100) compared to the prime beats lower down river which can be booked up year after year.

If you are considering an angling holiday in Scotland then the best of Upper Tweed's salmon fishing season is essentially the months of September, October and November.

This section of the river is very water dependant and if early autumn enjoys heavy rainfall, September will encourage some summer salmon and sea trout into Upper Tweed. October will see good numbers of fish begin to appear through the beats with October and November the best months for this section of the river. To fish Upper Tweed during this month, offers the salmon angler an opportunity to fish pools that are quite simply alive with fish of all sizes.

A Peeblesshire Trout Fishing Association permit allows fishing on approximately 23 miles of the River Tweed and approximately 5 miles of the Lyne Water. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.peebleshiretroutfishing.co.uk/index.html>

The trout season extends from 1st of April until the 30th of September. Fishing is by fly only throughout the season. Anglers under 18 years of age may fish free of charge but only if they possess a valid free permit available from the outlets detailed below.

The river Tweed has some excellent hatches of fly throughout the season and as such, dry fly has traditionally been the preferred method. Hatch times vary depending on the river conditions but generally, these occur during the day in the early part of the season between April and June and in the evening during the warmer months of July and August.

Please note that the Peeblesshire Trout Fishing Association operates a strict catch and release policy for wild trout under 22" in length, and anglers are requested to use barbless hooks.

Fishing Tickets are available from the following outlets:

Peebles:

The Castle Warehouse, 7 - 13 Old Town, Peebles 01721 724267
Cardrona Hotel, Cardrona, Peebles 01896 833600

Tweedside Caravan Park, Montgomery Street 01896 831271

Tourist Information Office, High Street, Peebles 01721 723159
Cardrona Village Store, Cardrona, Peebles 01896 833486

Walkerburn:

Walkerburn Post Office 01896 870 205

Innerleithen

The Village Store 01896 830314

Broughton

Scott Vehicle Repairs, Carlisle Road 01899 830240

The Tontine Hotel, High Street, Peebles 01721 720892

St Ronan's Hotel, High Street, Innerleithen
01896 831487

Penicuik

Fishers, 10 John Street, Penicuik 01968 672877

Combined Trout and Grayling Fishing Tickets/Permits: Permit Type Locals & Visitors

Prices:

Season £30.00
Day £8.00

Discounts for Age

65 & Over 18 & Under
Half Price No Charge

Please note the new combined season ticket for trout and grayling allows fishing for grayling only from 1st January until 31st March.

From 1st April until 30th September anglers may fish for both trout and grayling.

Gone Fishing



[Gone Fishing \(fishingfliesandlures.com\)](http://fishingfliesandlures.com)



Gone Fishing emerges from COVID-19 challenges

No one is going to forget 2020 and the often-tragic impact on all our lives and businesses. If you had asked me in April 2020 how I saw the future of Gone Fishing, you would have received a subdued answer masking a real sense of pessimism as our orders evaporated or were vastly reduced. A successful business friend of mine upbraided me for not seeing that Covid would change the way people do business and that surely fishing would be seen as a safe pastime and that the market would pick up. Well, I wish the powers-that-be in the UK had seen it that way as the market dropped away and lock down specifically prevented people from fishing... what sort of philosophy endorsed that destructive idea?! However, he was right, I am glad to say.

It was enormously painful and expensive to have to pay off over 30 tyers and reduce staff to the barest minimum. Accounts and marketing staff found themselves packing orders and giving out materials, the person in charge of dying suddenly had cleaning duties and tyers shared the orders we had to maintain an income to as many people as possible. That all this was done with a cheerful acceptance that the world had turned upside down and that the survival of the business was at stake, was a tribute to the fortitude of all concerned. With so many people forcibly absent, social distancing was easy to achieve and we are happy to report that no one has tested positive. As the year has progressed it is heartening to see orders flooding in and the order books again in a healthy state with new customers added. In January we will be re-employing everyone who was laid off and running training again for new tyers.

We are looking ahead with more optimism as rates of infection reduce and the vaccines are rolled out. Stay safe and Go Fishing please! From all the team at Gone Fishing.



Gone Fishing Ltd – commercial fly-tying business for sale or partnership.

Gone Fishing Ltd has been supplying a wide range of superb flies to the fly-fishing world since 2005. Situated in rented buildings on a secure site on a farm in Kenya's Rift Valley, this business has developed markets all over the world with customers in the USA, Canada, The UK, Ireland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, France, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

The company is fully registered to import materials under bond and also to export finished product under AGOA and General System of Preferences trade agreements enabling customers who reside in countries that are members to import duty free.

The company is primed for expansion given access to more market. Pre-Covid, the number of employees was about 100 with ample room for more.

The company has an excellent managerial team and reporting process developed using the Kaizen philosophy of constant improvement.

The website has been recently overhauled and has been given the thumbs up by current customers.

The founder (and managing director (president)) is looking to retire in the next few years and gradually hand over the company.

Sale price will be driven by the value of the stocks and assets at the time of sale, including the website and also the customer base.

If you are interested further information is available on request. Please contact Johnny Onslow directly at jeonslow@fishingfliesandlures.com and he will be happy to discuss it with you.



The Fly Fishermans Trout and Salmon Cookbook

100 Recipes For the Discerning Fly Fisherman



By
Robin Lambert

100 delicious trout and salmon recipes for the discerning fly fisherman/woman

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Robin Lambert

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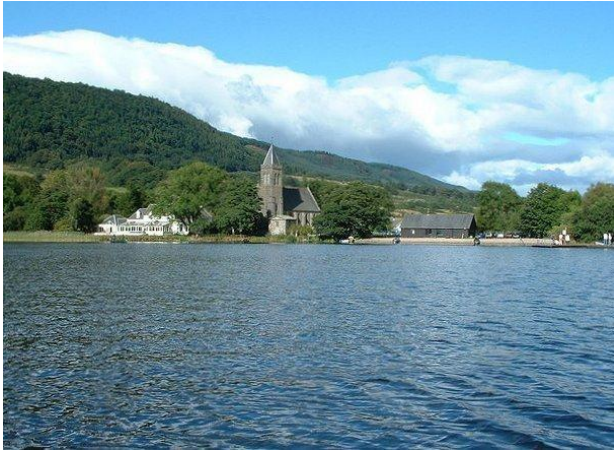
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For boat booking please call the fishery at 01877 385664.
To book by email use booking@menteith-fisheries.co.uk

Lake will be unlocked (hopefully) on the 26th April for non-Stirling Council residents

The first minister detailed the governments time line for lifting of travel restrictions as the 26th of April. We had hoped it would be sooner but happier at least that we will all be able to move about Scotland by that date. In the meantime, only Stirling Council residents or 12- to-17-year-olds who have permission to travel outside of their council area (more or less), can come and fish on the Lake. This put paid to our normal opening day and those of you who had requested an opening day boat and who live out with the Stirling Council Area will already be resigned to not being able to attend. We might manage 15 boats! Please get in contact if you are unclear.



We have carried out a preliminary stocking of 990 trout (554 of average wt 1.9lbs and 436 of 2.8lbs)- which is less than normal. In 2019 we stocked 1400 fish pre season with a bit of a record opening day catch. In 2020 it was 1010 fish. We may put a few more in prior to Saturday but are tempted to wait a little for the cormorants to migrate to their breeding grounds and then we will put in a lot of fish as we will need the room, similar to last year.

Pictured on the left are the fish going in.

Look forward to meeting up with those that we can on Saturday. There is a wee story about the Lake below the pictures.

PS Someone was asking us why we put up our prices at the weekend. Answer our income is limited by boat number as we have no bank anglers due to the SSSI status of the Lake, and effectively limits angling pressure/ income. So, it is market driven and helps revenue but also assists the folks who are hard at work during the week to get a boat at the weekend as it reduces weekend demand from others who can fish any day, e.g., retired folks – for whom we do a good value reduced weekday ticket :).



<http://www.swanswater-fishery.co.uk/index.html>

A settled week of weather with some warm sunshine and only light winds, saw some excellent fishing.

The water temperature rose from 5o to 7oC, and water clarity is very good. The fish were to be found anything from 2 to 5 feet down and were well spread out although the Dam and the Overflow were popular areas at certain times through the week.

The Brown Trout season got off to a good start with some lovely Brownies featuring in the catch returns, along with some big Golds and Blues.

Most fish were taken on lures with Ally McCoist, Dancer, Cat's Whisker, and Fritz the most popular patterns. Damsel, Cormorant, Buzzer, Bloodworm and Snatcher were also taking fish.

FRANDY FISHERY

Report Week Ending 21/3/21

Individual Bank Returns: Donald McPherson kept 2 fish weighing 5lb & released a further 6. Kenny Rodger caught & released 9. William McCallum caught & released 7. Ross Carnegie & Nichola Campbell kept 8 fish weighing 16lb & released a further 2. Davie Joyce caught & released 15. Ally Pratt kept 3 fish weighing 6lb. Mike Willis caught & released 8. Paul Holbourne caught & released 8. Ross Carnegie caught & released 8. Jim Donnelly kept 2 fish weighing 3lb 8oz & released a further 4. Raymond Pirrie caught & released 18. Ronnie Turnbull caught & released 11. Jimmy Miller caught & released 3. Ian Wilkie caught & released 10. Ryan Haskill kept 3 fish weighing 4lb 12oz.

Best fly/lure: Ally McCoist, Hot Head Damsel, Cats Whisker.

Best area: South Shore



Linlithgow Loch Catch Report - 20/03/2021

Things were pretty quiet on the loch during the last week. On Saturday, 13th few boats were out as the Clubs who had booked decided not to travel. The boats that did go out all had fish but no large catches. Best flies were tadpoles, damsels and cormorants mostly on midge tip lines. Things picked up on Sunday with Mr Johnston returning six fish all on damsels and a fast glass line.



Craig Cowan returned eight trout on buzzers and midge tips but he must have tried a lure at some point as he also returned a beautiful but very indignant pike of around 12lbs.

Ian Dobbie and boat partner fishing black and green snakes on fast glass line returned 16 fish for the boat. Jim Russel returned seven on yellow dancer and cormorants.

Ian Dobbie was out again on Monday and returned 17 fish again on black and green snakes. The other Monday boats managed a fish or two.

Gavin Dunn kept two fine fish for 8lbs and Doc Boyle returned two on buzzers. Trevor Gibson and partner had some good sport on Wednesday, keeping six fish for 23lbs and returning two all on damsels. Mr Walker returned seven on fabs.

Despite a large stocking on Wednesday, we didn't fish too well. On Friday four guys from Falkirk Fishing Club kept seven for 20lbs mostly on damsels. Nigel Muckle and partner returned 17 on black and green lures and Keith Anderson returned 10 on snakes.

The rest of the boats mostly had ones and twos.

As usual almost all the boats are concentrating on the Town Bay area – the entire Eastern half of the loch which shallow and easily covered by a floating line – is relatively untouched. Boats should be prospecting in this area looking for our wintered fish.

We continue to stock weekly.

Boats are available for most days for full day or 4-hour sessions but to avoid disappointment please call 01506 671753 or book online in advance.



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