

Getting back out fishing around the Forth

In recognition of the evolving guidance from Scottish Government on measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it is recommended that fisheries who opt to re-open ensure they support anglers to follow social distancing and avoid contact with others; anglers, fishery managers and the public.

Below are things that fisheries could consider implementing if the lockdown restrictions are loosened to allow angling as an activity. This has been produced based on guidance and advice from other national bodies across the UK for fishery managers.

- Angling to be undertaken on a solitary basis – social distancing in accordance with Scottish Government guidelines must be maintained at all times. If lone fishing is not possible (due to location, or other reason) then fishing should only be permitted with others if they are members of the angler's household.
- Anglers should be able to fish at a minimum distance of 15 metres away for each other and other members of the public.
- Local fishing only – to help reduce the spread and risk of transmission to other areas of Scotland, anglers should be encouraged to fish locally and follow all government guidance on travel. Ideally fishing should only take place where anglers can travel without using a car or public transport although it is appreciated that this will not always be possible. Consideration should be given to whether car parking facilities should be opened or remain closed.
- Fisheries should not provide fishing tackle to others, even junior members at this time. This will ensure there is no sharing of fishing tackle or any other item except between individuals within the same household.
- All anglers must have permits to fish rivers and lochs around the Forth. Contactless payment reduces the spread. Consider having an online payment process. Fishing Around the Forth offers online permitting which allows the purchases of a permit without any physical contact. You can find out more at Fishing around the Forth www.fishforth.org.
- No competition fishing or club/fishery gatherings as group gatherings may still be prohibited even after the lockdown
- Any onsite facilities such as catering facilities, huts and toilets should remain closed. If angling locally this should not be a problem.
- Please notify the Fishery Board of your intended re-opening date to allow for efficient use of the Board's enforcement team

Anglers:

- Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19 or shares a household with any individual displaying symptoms, should not go fishing and continue to follow government guidance on isolation
- Maintain social distancing and abide by fishery rules.
- Fish locally - avoid travel.
- Do not share tackle outwith the members of your household.
- Buy a permit, support your local fishery and please respond positively when asked to show your permission to fish.

You can find out more at Fishing Around the Forth www.fishforth.org. Some clubs and fisheries also offer contactless permit purchase through the Fishing around the Forth website. This allow the purchase of a permit without any physical contact.

Should anyone decline to show a permit or is suspected of not having a permit, please call our superintendent on 07887 835549 or the police on 101.