

# THE NATURAL RESOURCES BODY FOR WALES

## WATER RESOURCES ACT 1991

### THE WALES ROD AND LINE (SALMON AND SEA TROUT) BYELAWS 2018

The Natural Resources Body for Wales in exercise of powers vested in it by section 210 of, and paragraph 6 of Schedule 25 to, the Water Resources Act 1991 makes the following byelaws.

#### **Byelaw 1 – Title**

These Byelaws may be cited as the Wales Rod and Line (Salmon and Sea Trout) Byelaws 2018.

#### **Byelaw 2 – Application**

These byelaws shall be read in conjunction with the Rod and Line Byelaws 1995 as amended.

These Byelaws will apply in Wales to those rivers and their tributaries where expressly indicated.

These Byelaws will cease to have effect on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2027 except for byelaws 4 and 5 which will cease to have effect in respect of the River Usk only on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

#### **Byelaw 3 – Interpretation**

In these Byelaws unless the context otherwise requires

- (a) “bait” means worm, prawn and shrimp whether natural or artificial.
- (b) “Natural Resources Wales” means the Natural Resources Body for Wales.
- (c) “salmon” means salmon of the species *Salmo salar* and includes part of a salmon
- (d) “sea trout” means any fish of the salmon family commonly known as sea trout or sewin, (migratory trout) and also includes part of a sea trout.
- (e) “Wales” means the whole of Wales, together with such part of the territorial sea adjacent to Wales as extends for six miles from the baselines from which the breadth of that sea is measured.
- (f) “the 1995 Byelaws” means the Byelaws regulating fishing by means of rod & line and making certain general provisions relating to fishery matters made by the National Rivers Authority

Welsh Region

- (g) Except where the context otherwise requires all words and expressions used in these Byelaws shall have the meanings assigned to them by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975, the Water Resources Act 1991 or any statutory modifications or re-enactment thereof.

**Byelaw 4 - catch and release with rod and line (salmon)**

Subject to the provisions contained with existing fisheries byelaws affecting the River Dee; River Severn; and River Wye, any person who removes any live or dead salmon taken by rod and line from any river in Wales without the previous written authority of Natural Resources Wales shall be guilty of an offence.

This Byelaw shall not apply to any person who lawfully takes a salmon and returns it immediately to the water with the least possible injury.

**Byelaw 5 - catch and release with rod and line (sea trout)**

Any person who before the 1<sup>st</sup> May removes any live or dead sea trout taken by rod and line from any of the following rivers and their tributaries without the previous written authority of Natural Resources Wales shall be guilty of an offence.

- i) River Tywi
- ii) River Taf
- iii) Western Cleddau
- iv) River Teifi
- v) River Dyfi
- vi) River Rhymney
- vii) Eastern Cleddau
- viii) River Usk
- ix) River Tawe
- x) River Loughor
- xi) River Gwendraeth
- xii) River Aeron
- xiii) River Ystwyth
- xiv) River Dysynni
- xv) River Taff

- xvi) River Ely
- xvii) River Afan
- xviii) River Neath
- xix) River Artro
- xx) River Glaslyn
- xxi) River Dwyryd
- xxii) River Seiont
- xxiii) River Nevern

This Byelaw shall not apply to any person who lawfully takes a sea trout and returns it immediately to the water with the least possible injury.

#### **Byelaw 6 – size limit (sea trout)**

The following paragraph shall be inserted after Byelaw 7 of the Rod and Line Byelaws 1995 (Size Limits - Trout (Excluding Rainbow Trout))

“Subject to the provisions contained with existing fisheries byelaws affecting the River Dee; River Severn; and River Wye, any person who removes any live or dead sea trout of a size larger than 60 centimetres with rod and line from any river or tributary in Wales shall be guilty of an offence. The size shall be ascertained by measuring from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail.

This byelaw shall not apply to any person who lawfully takes any live or dead sea trout of a size larger than 60 centimetres and returns it immediately to the water with the least possible injury.”

#### **Byelaw 7 – no bait fishing**

- (1) The following paragraphs shall be added to Byelaw 2 of the Rod and Line Byelaws 1995 (Interpretation)

(aa) “artificial fly” means a fishing fly that is primarily constructed from natural or synthetic fur and feather materials and which is designed to attract fish and which incorporates a fishing hook.

(ab) “artificial lure” means any device, including but not limited to spoons, spinners, wobblers and plugs, or artificial imitation fish baits made of any material which is designed to attract fish and which incorporates a fishing hook.

(ac) “salmon” means salmon of the species *Salmo salar* and includes part of a salmon

(2) For paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of Byelaw 9 of the Rod and Line Byelaws 1995 (Use of Lures and Bait with Rod and Line) (Salmon and Trout)) there shall be substituted –

“(a) Salmon and Sea Trout

(1) Subject to the provisions contained with existing fisheries byelaws affecting the River Dee; River Severn; and River Wye, no person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for or take any salmon with rod and line by means of any bait from any river or tributary in Wales PROVIDED that this restriction shall not apply to a person fishing by means of rod and line with a natural or artificial prawn or shrimp as bait from the 1<sup>st</sup> September up to and including the following dates:

- i) in the Gwynedd and West Wales Fisheries Districts and that part of the Gower Fisheries District which comprise the Rivers Tawe, Loughor, Gwendraeth Fach and Gwendraeth Fawr and their tributaries, the 7 October;
- ii) in the Usk Fisheries District, the 15 September;
- iii) in the West Wales Fisheries District, the 7 October;
- iv) in the rivers of the Isle of Anglesey and their tributaries, the 7 November;
- v) in the rivers of the Llen Peninsula and their tributaries, the 16 October; and
- vi) elsewhere (excluding the Wye Fisheries District) the 30 September.

(2) No person shall before the 1<sup>st</sup> May fish for, take or attempt to fish for or take any sea trout with rod and line by means of any bait from any of the following rivers and their tributaries without the previous written authority of Natural Resources Wales.

- i) River Tywi
- ii) River Taf
- iii) Western Cleddau
- iv) River Teifi
- v) River Dyfi

- vi) River Rhymney
- vii) Eastern Cleddau
- viii) River Usk
- ix) River Tawe
- x) River Loughor
- xi) River Gwendraeth
- xii) River Aeron
- xiii) River Ystwyth
- xiv) River Dysynni
- xv) River Taff
- xvi) River Ely
- xvii) River Afan
- xviii) River Neath
- xix) River Artro
- xx) River Glaslyn
- xxi) River Dwyryd
- xxii) River Seiont
- xxiii) River Nevern.”

(3) Paragraph (a)(3) of Byelaw 9 is revoked.

(4) For paragraph (a)(4) of Byelaw 9 there shall be substituted—

“(4) No person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for or take any salmon or migratory trout with rod and line by the use of a float in conjunction with any artificial fly or lure in the Wye Fisheries District.”.

(5) Paragraph (a)(5)(iii) of Byelaw 9 is revoked.

(6) After paragraph (a)(5) of Byelaw 9 there shall be inserted—

“(5A) No person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for or take any salmon or migratory trout by means of any lure other than an artificial fly weighing less than 5 grams and then only without any weight being attached directly or indirectly to the fishing line in the Usk Fisheries District between the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March and the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June following.”.

(7) For paragraph (a)(7) of Byelaw 9 there shall be substituted–

“(7) No person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for any non-migratory trout with rod and line by any other means than an artificial fly in the Usk Fisheries District at any time.”

### **Byelaw 8 – Hooks**

1. For paragraph (a) of Byelaw 10 of the Rod and Line Byelaws 1995 (Hooks and Hooking of Fish) there shall be substituted –

“(a) Barbless or de-barbed hooks

(1) Subject to the provisions contained with existing fisheries byelaws as amended affecting the River Dee; River Severn; and River Wye no person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for or take any salmon or sea trout with rod and line from any river or tributary in Wales except with barbless or de-barbed hooks.

(2) Subject to the provisions contained with existing fisheries byelaws affecting the River Dee; River Severn; and River Wye as amended no person shall use more than one hook with a bait; artificial lure; or artificial fly unless

- i) On artificial lures, the use is restricted to one single hook only to a maximum gape of 13 millimetres measured from the shank to the point PROVIDED that this restriction to one single hook shall not apply to wobblers, plugs or artificial imitation fish baits which are allowed up to a maximum of 3 single hooks
- ii) On artificial flies with a gape greater than 7mm measured from the shank to the point, the use is restricted to one single or one double hook
- iii) On artificial flies with a gape not greater than 7mm measured from the shank to the point, the use is restricted to a maximum of 2 hooks with a maximum of 4 points

and in no case shall any bait; artificial lure; or artificial fly be furnished with more than 3 hooks and no weight or sinker shall be attached below the bait; artificial lure; or artificial fly.

(aa) Single hooks

Subject to the provisions contained within existing fisheries byelaws affecting the River Dee; River Severn; and River Wye, as amended, no person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for or take any sea trout with rod and line from any river or tributary in Wales by means of any bait furnished other than by a single worm baited on a single barbless or de-barbed hook with the gape of any such hook measured from the shank to the point restricted to 8 millimetres.”

2 After paragraph (b) of Byelaw 10 there shall be inserted –

“(c) Treble hooks

No person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for or take any salmon or sea trout with rod and line from any river in Wales excluding the River Dee; River Severn; and River Wye

- i) an artificial fishing lure (including an artificial fly) furnished with one or more treble hooks EXCEPT an artificial fly with a gape of not greater than 7mm measured from the shank to the point;
- ii) a bait furnished with a treble hook with a gap of greater than 7mm measured from the shank to the point, or
- iii) a bait furnished with more than one treble hook.”.

**Byelaw 9 – Limits on Catch**

Byelaw 12A of the Rod and Line Byelaws 1995 (Limits on Catch) is revoked.

**Byelaw 10 – Fishing near Obstructions**

Byelaw 13(a)(2)(iii)(b) of the of the Rod and Line Byelaws 1995 (Fishing near Obstructions in the West Wales Fisheries District) is revoked.