



# Dee District Salmon Fishery Board

## THE DEE CONSERVATION CODE 2017

- A. The season will run from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 15<sup>th</sup> October up to Aboyne Bridge. Above Aboyne Bridge the season will close on 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- B. Salmon and Grilse: Prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April it is a criminal offence to retain a salmon or grilse. By law any salmon or grilse that is severely injured or damaged, dies or is killed before this date must be returned to the river.
- After 1<sup>st</sup> April there should be 100% catch and release for the entire season.
- Sea Trout (incl Finnock): There should be 100% catch and release for the entire season.
- C. At the beat's discretion spinning is a permitted option for the whole river between 1<sup>st</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> April. In addition spinning is permitted in August and September from the top of Maryculter Beat downstream. It is recommended that fly fishing should always be given a fair try in preference to spinning. Note spinning is not permitted anywhere in October.
- D. It is recommended that all hooks should be barbless or crimped. No treble hooks should be used.
- E. On the Dee After 1<sup>st</sup> April all severely injured or damaged fish should be handed to the proprietor. This applies to all beats.
- F. On the Cowie and Carron it is illegal to kill a salmon or grilse throughout the entire season. This is due to the Scottish Government classifying these two rivers as Category 3 under the terms of the 2016 salmon conservation regulations.
- G. Irrespective of the date of capture all fish handling should be kept to a minimum to avoid damage and stress. Guidelines on how to do this are available on [www.fishdee.co.uk](http://www.fishdee.co.uk).
- H. It is illegal to sell rod caught wild salmon or sea trout.
- I. All anglers are requested to read and act upon the biosecurity measures in place for each beat to prevent the introduction of *Gyrodactylus salaris* and other diseases to the Dee. This will involve the disinfection of waders and landing nets prior to fishing. All beats have the appropriate facilities on site but it may be necessary to check whether you will be required to disinfect the equipment prior to arrival or at one of the disinfecting stations listed on [www.fishdee.co.uk](http://www.fishdee.co.uk).

Remember, the Dee DSFB needs the vital help and support of all Proprietors, Ghillies and Anglers to realise the twin objectives of sustaining and enhancing the river's fish stocks and maintaining a viable, thriving fishery.

**Richard Gledson**  
Chairman, Dee District Salmon Fishery Board

**9<sup>th</sup> August 2016**