

## SOUTH WEST ROD & LINE FISHERIES BYELAWS

The following is only a summary of the South West Fishing byelaws. Please be aware that individual fisheries may have more stringent regulations or voluntary restrictions in place and therefore anglers should always check the Westcountry Angling Passport 'Token Fishery Guide' or 'Booking Office Beat Information sheets'. For a full copy of the SW Byelaws please go to: [http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/g303bhcfce\\_1193982.pdf](http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/g303bhcfce_1193982.pdf)

### NATIONAL ROD LICENCE

Before you fish for salmon, sea trout, trout, freshwater fish or eels in any\* water in England and Wales, you need to have both a current Environment Agency rod fishing licence and permission to fish from the owner of the fishery.

\*Except in waters where a general licence is in force - please check with the owner of the fishery in advance

### NATIONAL SALMON (& migratory Trout) BYELAWS

#### Summary of byelaws:

- No person shall sell, offer or expose for sale or have in possession for sale any salmon or migratory trout which has been taken by rod and line.
- Artificial fly and artificial lure only (where not already limited by existing byelaws) before June 16 for salmon fishing.
- Catch and release of salmon is mandatory to 16 June. Anglers are still encouraged to fish catch and release after 16 June and especially to return any large red fish late in the season which may be 'springers'.
- For many years there has been a byelaw on the Taw and Torridge providing mandatory release unharmed of all salmon over 70 cm between 1 August - 30 September.
- Permitted baits are restricted to artificial fly and artificial lure until 16 June. Exceptions where other restrictions remain include the Taw and Torridge (fly only from April 1) and North and South Wessex (fly only before 15 May).

### PERMITTED BAITS

The use of particular baits for fishing is regulated by byelaws and in some cases additional restrictions are imposed by the fishing association or riparian owner. The byelaw restrictions are shown in the table below:

FISHERY DISTRICT	SPECIES	BAIT (REAL or IMITATION)
<b>SW Region</b>	Salmon	Artificial fly & lure ONLY before 16 June
<b>Avon (Devon)</b>	Salmon & Trout	No worm or maggot
<b>Axe (Devon)</b>	Salmon & Trout	No shrimp, prawn, worm or maggot. Fly only after 31 July below Axbridge, Colyford
<b>Dart</b>	Salmon	No worm or maggot. No shrimp or prawn except below Staverton Br.
	Trout	No spinning above Holne br. Fly only.
<b>Exe</b>	Salmon & Trout	No worm or maggot
<b>Barnstaple Yeo (tidal)</b>	All species (inc.sea fish)	No fishing
<b>Taw &amp; Torridge (except Lyn)</b>	Salmon & Trout	No shrimp, prawn, worm or maggot. No spinning after 31 March
<b>Lyn</b>	Trout	No worm or maggot before 1 June
<b>Teign</b>	Salmon	Artificial fly & lure ONLY after 31 August
	Trout	No worm or maggot before 1 June
<b>Camel &amp; Fowey</b>	Salmon	No byelaw restrictions on bait after 16 June
	Trout	No byelaw restrictions on bait
<b>Tamar</b>	Salmon & Migratory Trout	No worm, maggot, shrimp or prawn after 31 August
<b>Wessex Area</b>	Salmon & Migratory Trout	Artificial fly only before 15 May
<b>Wessex Area</b>	All species in rivers, drains & canals	No maggot (or pupae), processed product, cereal or other vegetable matter during the coarse fish close season

### SIZE LIMITS

Length to be measured from tip of the snout to the fork or cleft of the tail. The size limits, below which fish must be returned, imposed by byelaws are set out in the table below.

AREA, DISTRICT OR CATCHMENT	MIGRATORY TROUT	NON-MIGRATORY TROUT	GRAYLING
Camel, Fowey, Tamar & Plym	18cm	18cm	N/A
Avon (Devon), Axe (Devon), Dart, Exe, Taw, Torridge & Teign	25cm	20cm	N/A
River Lim	N/A	22cm	N/A
Wessex (North) (except By Brook)	35cm	25cm	25cm
By Brook & tributaries	35cm	20cm	25cm
Wessex (South)	35cm	25cm	N/A

## MANDATORY BAG LIMITS

**Wessex (North):** The bag limits set out in the table above are imposed by the byelaws, however, some riparian owners or angling associations obtain dispensation to increase their bag limits. Anglers should familiarise themselves with bag limits before fishing. Once a bag limit has been taken, the angler may continue fishing for the same species, provided that any fish caught are returned without injury. Freshwater fish other than grayling, pike and eels may not be permanently removed from the water. **Taw and Torridge:** Since a Public Inquiry in 1997, byelaws have been in place on the Taw and Torridge for size and bag limits (see table). NOTE: Since 1 April 1999, with the introduction of national salmon byelaws, the bag limits apply after 16 June.

RIVER or AREA	SPECIES	24 HRS	7 DAYS	SEASON
Wessex (North)	Non-migratory Trout	2	N/A	N/A
	Grayling	2	N/A	N/A
Taw	Salmon	2	3	10
	Migratory Trout	5	15	40
Torridge	Salmon	2	2	7
	Migratory Trout	2	5	20

## ROD FISHING SEASONS

FISHERY DISTRICT	MAJOR RIVERS WITHIN DISTRICT	ROD & LINE OPEN SEASON		FISHERY DISTRICT	MAJOR RIVERS WITHIN DISTRICT	ROD & LINE OPEN SEASON	
		Starts	Ends			Starts	Ends
<b>SALMON</b>				<b>MIGRATORY TROUT</b>			
Avon (Devon)	Avon (Devon)	15 Apr	30 Nov	Avon (Devon)	Avon (Devon)	15 Apr	30 Sept
	Erme	15 Mar	31 Oct		Erme	15 Mar	30 Sept
Axe (Devon)	Axe, Otter, Sid	15 Mar	31 Oct	Axe (Devon)	Axe, Otter, Sid	15 Apr	31 Oct
	Lim	1 Mar	30 Sept		Lim	16 Apr	31 Oct
Camel	Camel	1 Apr	15 Dec	Camel	Camel, Gannel, Menahyl & Valency	1 Apr	30 Sept
Dart	Dart	1 Feb	30 Sept	Dart	Dart	15 Mar	30 Sept
Exe	Exe	14 Feb	30 Sept	Exe	Exe	15 Mar	30 Sept
Fowey	Fowey, Looe, Seaton	1 Apr	15 Dec	Fowey	Fowey, Looe, Seaton	1 Apr	30 Sept
	Tamar, Tavy & Lynher	1 Mar	14 Oct				
Tamar & Plym	Plym & Yealm	1 Apr	15 Dec	Tamar & Plym	Tamar, Tavy, Lynher, Plym & Yealm	3 Mar	30 Sept
	Taw & Torridge	1 Mar	30 Sept				
Taw & Torridge	Lyn	1 Feb	31 Oct	Taw & Torridge	Taw, Torridge & Lyn	15 Mar	30 Sept
Teign	Teign	1 Feb	30 Sept	Teign	Teign	15 Mar	30 Sept
Frome (Dorset) & Piddle	Frome (Dorset) & Piddle	1 Mar	31 Aug		All rivers in Wessex Area	15 Apr	31 Oct
	All other rivers in Wessex Area	1 Feb	31 Aug				
<b>BROWN TROUT</b>				<b>RAINBOW TROUT</b>			
	Camel	1 Apr	30 Sept		Camel & Fowey	1 Apr	30 Sept
	Other rivers in Devon & Cornwall area	15 Mar	30 Sept		Other rivers in Devon & Cornwall Area	15 Mar	30 Sept
	All rivers in Wessex Area	1 Apr	15 Oct		All rivers in Wessex Area	1 Apr	15 Oct
	All other waters in Devon & Cornwall Area	15 Mar	12 Oct	<b>GRAYLING</b>			
	All other waters in Wessex Area	17 Mar	14 Oct		Rivers, Streams, Drains	16 Jun	14 Mar

### Contact numbers for the Environment Agency

**Cornwall:** 01208 265012 **Devon:** 01392 316032  
**Wessex (South):** 01258 483454 **Wessex (North):** 01278 484450

Westcountry  
Angling Passport

[www.westcountryangling.com](http://www.westcountryangling.com)

