

THE NATURAL RESOURCES BODY FOR WALES

WATER RESOURCES ACT 1991

THE WALES ROD AND LINE (SALMON AND SEA TROUT) BYELAWS 2017

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 2017.

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 31st December 2026

Byelaw 3 – Interpretation

In these Byelaws unless the context otherwise requires

- (a) “Natural Resources Wales” means the Natural Resources Body for Wales.
- (b) “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.
- (c) “sea trout” means any fish of the salmon family commonly known as sea trout or sewin, including migratory trout and also includes part of a sea trout.
- (d) “bait” means worm, prawn and shrimp whether natural or artificial.
- (e) 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 1st 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 Twyi
- 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) Rver Taff
- xvi) River Ely
- xvii) River Afan
- xviii) River Neath
- xix) River Arto
- 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) 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 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.
- (2) No person shall before the 1st 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 Twyi
- 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 Arto
- xx) River Glaslyn
- xxi) River Dwryd
- xxii) River Seiont
- xxiii) River Nevern.”

(2) Paragraphs (a)(3)(i),(iii) and (iv) of Byelaw 9 are revoked.

(3) 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 lure in the Wye Fisheries District.”.

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

(5) 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 2nd day of March and the 1st day of June following.”.

(6) 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 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) No person shall use a bait or lure furnished with more than one hook unless the gape thereof measured from the shank to the point does not exceed 10 millimetres (0.375 of an inch) save and except that the gape of hooks attached to a plug bait may be as great as 13 millimetres (0.5 of an inch) provided that the said plug bait is used without any weight and in no case shall any bait or hook be furnished with more than nine hooks and no weight or sinker shall be attached below the lure or bait.

(aa) Single hooks

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 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 using a bait or fishing lure furnished with one or more treble hooks.”.

Byelaw 9 – Limits on Catch

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