

# Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Pàirc Nàiseanta Loch Laomainn is nan Tròisichean

The National Park is readily accessible by public transport from Glasgow, Balloch, Criannlarich and Argyll. For more information pick up a copy of 'Exploring the National Park by ferry, bus or train' or contact Traveline Scotland on tel: **0871 200 2233** or visit [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com).



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## FURTHER INFORMATION

- Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park**  
[www.lochlomond-trossachs.org](http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org) Tel 01389 722600
- Scottish Anglers National Association (SANA)**  
[www.sana.org.uk](http://www.sana.org.uk) Tel 01577 861116
- Pike Anglers Alliance for Scotland**  
[www.esoxecosse.com](http://www.esoxecosse.com)
- Scottish Federation for Coarse Angling (SFCA)**  
[www.sfca.co.uk](http://www.sfca.co.uk)
- Fisheries Research Services Freshwater Lab. Pitlochry**  
[www.frs-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.frs-scotland.gov.uk) Tel 01796 472060
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)**  
[www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk) Tel 01786 450 362
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)**  
[www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk) Tel 0141 945 6350

A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS LEAFLET IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication has been produced by the National Park Fisheries Forum which is an advisory committee for the National Park Authority and is composed of representatives of the various clubs and statutory bodies concerned with fish and the natural environment. The Forum members are grateful for the help given by National Park in publishing this leaflet.

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## Fishery rules

Each fishery that sells permits will have its own set of rules to protect the fishery from being over-fished. These rules will normally restrict the number of rods each angler can use, the size and type of hooks, type of bait and strength of line that can be used. They may also specify that all or some proportion of fish have to be returned unharmed and/or specify other conditions, such as providing catch returns to the fishery.

Catch returns record the number, weight, species of fish and whether retained or returned. It is a statutory requirement that the salmon proprietor collects accurate catch data for salmon and sea trout. Please, therefore, do remember to record the details (usually on the back of the permit) carefully and precisely and do not forget to hand them in after you have finished fishing.



### OTHER RULES

Other rules that apply to all types of fishing are largely a matter of common sense and consideration for other users. Anglers should be careful when casting lines so be aware of other people on water and land. Let them pass before casting. Dog owners, sailors, water skiers, power boat owners and canoeists should respect the needs of anglers by avoiding tackle, keeping a safe distance and minimising disturbance.

- **Fly fishing** requires care when casting but it is usual to rely on the good sense of the angler rather than to specify rules. Remember also the danger of using carbon fibre rods near to power lines.
- **Long troll lines behind a boat** could pose a problem for other boat or board users but again this will normally be the responsibility of those in charge of the boat. Trolling is not allowed on some waters. Please check fishing permit for local rules.
- **Live fish** must never be transferred by anglers between water bodies due to the great risks of spreading disease and causing other damage to natural fish populations.
- **Use of live bait fish is illegal.**
- **Wildlife Protection** Laws apply to many species including nesting birds and otters, ospreys and freshwater pearl mussels that may be encountered when fishing. Please leave them alone, avoid disturbing them and keep dogs under proper control at all times.
- **Byelaws** govern boating activities on Loch Lomond. Codes of conduct apply on Loch Ard, Earn, Eck and Venachar.
- **The Land Reform Act** gave access rights to non-motorised water sports - be aware of people on the water and respect their needs.

## Protect the Park

The National Park was established to:

- **Conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage**
- **Promote sustainable use of natural resources**
- **Promote understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities**
- **Promote the sustainable social and economic development of the Park's communities.**

Responsible fishing and good fishery management contribute to all of these aims. You can help to meet them too.

**Fires and litter** create the most trouble and, while not confined to the fishing fraternity, are the subject of most complaint and annoyance to residents and visitors. Do not cut live wood to fuel open fires. This leads to the destruction of trees and shrubs which are important to wildlife and the environment. Please use portable barbeques, heaters or stoves if you really need to, rather than open fires. Position these well away from trees and shrubs and do not place them directly on vegetation or picnic tables.



Endrick Water

**TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME** and do not discard fishing lines and hooks. These kill birds and other animals. Do not to bring the fishing community into disrepute and in summary please try to leave things in the condition you would like to find them. In particular:

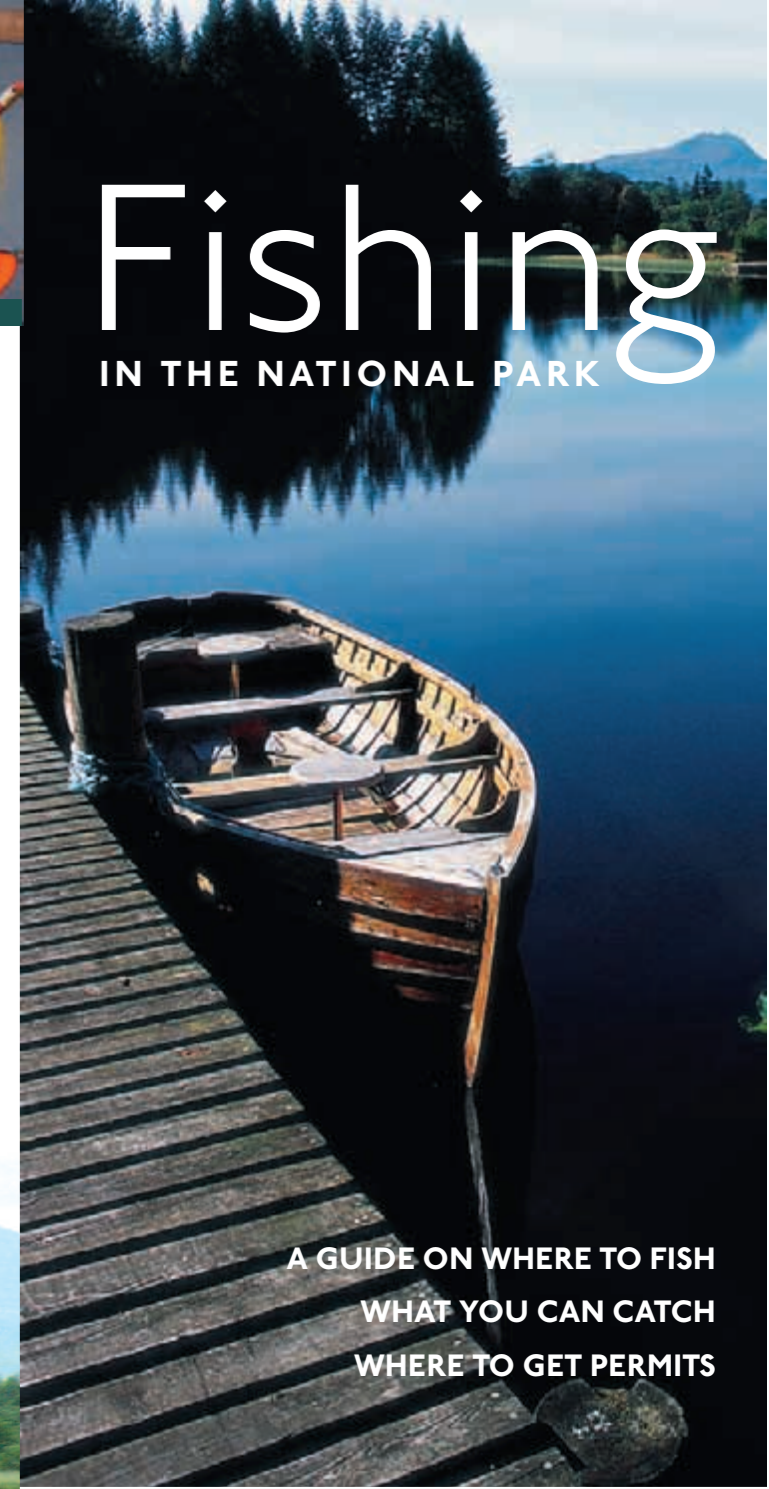
- take all your litter away with you
- use self-contained cooking or heating appliances
- bury or remove any unavoidable excrement
- follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

### Gs PARASITE ALERT

Many anglers are concerned about the introduction of the Gyrodactylus salaris (Gs) parasite to water bodies both within and outwith the National Park. We are anxious to prevent the arrival of this invasive species which has the ability to wipe out freshwater salmon stocks. Find out more about this parasite by reading a copy of the Scottish Government's leaflet *Home & Dry: Hang this Bug Out to Dry*. Visit [www.infoscotland.com/gsgbug](http://www.infoscotland.com/gsgbug) for more information.

# Fishing

IN THE NATIONAL PARK



**A GUIDE ON WHERE TO FISH  
WHAT YOU CAN CATCH  
WHERE TO GET PERMITS**

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK



## Where to Fish

There are excellent fishing opportunities of all types in the National Park: from high quality fly fishing on famous salmon rivers through loch fishing for brown trout and other species by boat or from the shore to fisheries re-stocked regularly with brown or rainbow trout and coarse fishing for pike and perch, etc.

Fishing is available to anyone by purchasing a FISHING PERMIT, on sale at a variety of outlets, such as fishing tackle shops, newsagents or individual proprietors in the case of salmon and sea trout.

Boats are available for hire on many lochs in the Park.

The map inside this leaflet shows game fishing and put and take fishery locations. The main locations with good coarse fishing opportunities are listed separately. Their locations can be found by referring to the names on the map of game fishings. Many fishing locations can only be accessed on foot, sometimes over rough ground.

Additional facilities such as good paths and wheelie-boats designed for wheel-chair users may be available at some locations. Please contact individual fisheries for details.

We hope you find the information in this leaflet useful. You will also find many other sources of information ranging from websites to published and unpublished leaflets and booklets. Some of these are included in this leaflet but you will find a visit to your nearest Tourist Information Centre or fishing tackle shop helpful.

### Quarry Fish Species in the Fresh Waters of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

**GAME FISH:** salmon, sea trout, rainbow trout, brown trout and grayling

**COARSE FISH:** pike, perch, carp, roach, dace, bream, gudgeon, chub, and all other species

## Do I need a permit?

A permit is always required to fish for salmon or sea trout. A separate permit is also required by law for all other fish species in areas covered by a Protection Order, such as the Earn and Tay systems which include Rivers Fillan, Cononish and Dochart and Lochs Iubhair, Dochart and Earn.

Elsewhere, for brown and rainbow trout, grayling and coarse fish, permission from the land owner is required but always seek a permit as evidence in case you are challenged by bailiffs. Permits are often very affordable (eg. £ 15 per single day for salmon on Loch Lomond) and help to pay for good fisheries management.

The Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for the Teith, Endrick and Fillan/Dochart system protect salmon and lampreys. The SSSI at Loch Eck protects its fish population. Although these designations mean that extra care should be taken, normal fishing rules still apply to these sites.

Many owners are willing to sell permits through tackle shops, local shops or post offices. Some fishing clubs have riparian rights themselves or have negotiated arrangements

with riparian owners and are willing to sell fishing permits or give temporary membership to avoid the need to obtain permission.

**NOTE:** The new right of responsible access under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 does not give the right to fish.

### GET PERMISSION - GET A PERMIT - GET FISHING

### Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.



**KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO**  
[outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://outdooraccess-scotland.com)

## Fishing Seasons

Statutory fishing seasons apply to game fish species to protect them during their breeding seasons.

The precise timing of the breeding seasons for salmon and sea trout vary from one river and loch system to the next, so there are small differences in the seasons. It is sensible to check, particularly for rivers and lochs at the head of a river system. This does not apply to the same extent for brown trout so that the statutory fishing season is the same for the whole of the National Park (and the whole of Scotland).

There is no statutory fishing season for coarse fish species so that they can be fished the whole year round, though local restrictions may apply.

Type of fish	River or Loch	Season
Brown trout	All locations	15 March to 6 October
Salmon or sea trout	River Dochart River Fillan Loch Iubhair	15 January to 15 October
	Forth Water River Teith River Leny River Earn Loch Lubnaig Loch Voil	1 February to 31 October
	Endrick Water River Leven Loch Lomond	11 February to 31 October
	River Eachaig River Massan Loch Eck	1 May to 31 October
Coarse fish and grayling	All locations (where present)	Throughout year. Local non-statutory restrictions may apply. April is excluded on the Tay System, and River Earn

**NOTE:** These dates apply to the main river systems, dates for upper reaches, tributaries and lochs may vary slightly so it would be wise to check for such locations before buying a permit.

Loch Earn

Lake of Menteith