

2011 RULES REGULATING THE IAC RIVER NESS FISHINGS

1. Fishing Seasons

1.1 Salmon – January 15 (start delayed to February 1) to October 15. Brown Trout – March 15 to October 6. Sea Trout and Finnock – March 1 to October 15. Estuary Beat (from Black Bridge to the sea) – March 1 to October 15. All sea trout or finnock under 10 inches must be returned unharmed to the water.

2. Permits

2.1 Only members of Inverness Angling Club, and holders of visitor or free day permits, may fish on the club's water on the River Ness. Permit holders are entitled to fish with rod and line on both banks of the River Ness from Clachnahagaig Stone to the sea – a distance of some three miles.

2.2 No permit holder may fish without his permit in his possession. Permits must be produced on request by a river watcher or other permit holder on production of their authority card or permit. Permit holders must allow committee members of Inverness Angling Club, or their appointed watchers, to inspect fish and tackle in their possession.

3. Fishing Methods

3.1 The following are strictly prohibited – fishing from bridges, abutments or boats; bait fishing with natural shrimp or prawn (and the possession, on the river bank, of these baits and associated tackle); and the use of the gaff.

3.2 Worm fishing is permitted between March 15 and 30th September.

4. Order of Fishing

4.1 Anglers arriving at either side of a beat will begin fishing, in order of arrival, at a beat post and move down two yards at every cast until either terminating fishing or reaching the next beat post. When an angler has moved down 30 yards, the next angler will follow. On reaching the next beat post, an angler must give up his place and take his turn behind those waiting.

4.2 An angler at a beat post who is not ready to fish will lose his turn and take next place.

4.3 A waiting angler will not commence fishing if an upstream angler is within 30 yards of the beat post. He must wait until the other angler reaches the post and leaves the water.

4.4 After landing a salmon or grilse, an angler must leave the water and take his place behind those waiting. An angler who loses a fish may continue fishing.

5. Catches

5.1 Anglers must observe a daily catch limit of two fish (salmon or grilse). Thereafter, anglers may continue fishing on a catch and release basis.

5.2 Permit holders are required to submit a return of their catches, including nil returns, on the card attached to the permit. Returns must be received by the secretary no later than October 23. Failure to comply will mean automatic suspension.

5.3 All heavily coloured or gravid fish must be returned to the water unharmed.

6. Trout Fishing

6.1 All of the above rules apply to trout fishing, with the exception of 4.4 and 5.1