



The River Deveron District  
Salmon Fishery Board



Deveron, Bogie and Isla  
Rivers Charitable Trust

[www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)

# Catch and Release

## A Deveron Angler's Guide





## Catch and Release

Catch and release is vital to help protect and restore salmon and sea trout stocks in the Deveron. Give your fish the best opportunity of reaching the spawning redds. Follow the advice in this leaflet.

### TACKLE

- Use small, barbless hooks, singles or doubles:
- They do less damage
  - Unhooking is quicker
  - Use size 8, or preferably smaller.

Always use as strong a leader or line as possible. This will ensure the fish can be brought to the net quickly and safely.

### SPINNING

Salmon often take Flying Cs deep and more than 10% die. Fitting a barbless single will help but it's better to use other lures, with hooks altered, or to fly fish. Worm fishing often results in fish dying. Where worm fishing is allowed, using a circle hook (top right ) will reduce the chances of deephooking.

### PLANNING AHEAD

Before fishing a pool, always identify where a fish can be safely landed without risk of damage on rocks or stones. If fishing alone, take a net. Traditional large mesh salmon nets can cause split fins and tails. Have long-nosed forceps or a similar tool close to hand for prompt hook removal. If you want a photo of your salmon before release, have your camera ready, for example, on a neck lanyard.

### LANDING FISH

Fish should be played as quickly as possible so that they can be Released before becoming too exhausted.

- Encourage them to the place you identified for landing before starting to fish.
- Fish should not be dragged across stones.
- Fish should not be taken out of the water unless it is essential.
- Fish should never be lifted from the water by its tail or gill cover.

### RELEASING SALMON & SEA TROUT

- Fish should be retained in the net on the surface of the water whilst the hook is removed.
- The hook should be removed as quickly as possible and the use of a pair of long Forceps, which can fit in the pocket, causes less damage and stress.
- Slide the Fish from the net and hold it gently by the wrist of the tail, with the second hand under the belly, and its head upstream in steady flowing clean – but not fast flowing - water.
- Fish take differing times to recover – be patient, it will tell you when it is ready to leave, and that is the time to release the wrist.



## RECORDING YOUR FISH

This should clearly be done as quickly as possible.

- **PHOTOGRAPHY** Keep the fish in or briefly just above the water. Support it gently under the belly and loosely hold the wrist of the tail.
- **WEIGHING** If possible use a weigh net or scales hooked on to your net. Some luggage scales are small enough to fit in a pocket.
- **MEASURING** Do it in the water. Take a tape in your pocket or mark up your wading stick or the butt of your rod. Fish should be measured from nose to fork of tail. Use the recognised scale reproduced below.

Length (ins)	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Weight (lbs)	5	6	6½	7½	8¾	9¾	10½	12	13	14¾	16	17	19	20¾	22½	24¾	26¾	29	31

### Further information:

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