

# THE NATURAL RESOURCES BODY FOR WALES

## WATER RESOURCES ACT 1991

### THE RIVER SEVERN ROD AND LINE (SALMON AND SEA TROUT) (WALES) BYELAWS 2021

The Natural Resources Body for Wales in exercise of its powers under section 210 of, and paragraph 6(1)(b), 6(2)(b) and 6(2)(d) of Schedule 25 to, the Water Resources Act 1991 makes the following byelaws.

#### **Byelaw 1 – Title**

These Byelaws may be cited as the River Severn Rod and Line (Salmon and Sea Trout) (Wales) Byelaws 2021.

#### **Byelaw 2 – Application**

These byelaws shall be read in conjunction with the Rod and Line Byelaws 1995 as amended.

These Byelaws will apply to the River Severn save where expressly stated.

These Byelaws shall expire 10 years after the date when they first come into force

#### **Byelaw 3 – Interpretation**

In these Byelaws unless the context otherwise requires

- (a) “artificial fly” means a fishing fly that is primarily constructed from natural or synthetic fur and feather materials and which is designed to attract fish and which incorporates a fishing hook
- (b) “artificial lure” means any device including spoons, spinners, wobblers and plugs, or artificial imitation fish baits made of any material which is designed to attract fish and which incorporates a fishing hook.

- (c) "Bait" means any worm, prawn and shrimp whether natural or artificial;
- (d) "Barbless" means a hook with no barb or a hook with a fully crushed barb only;
- (e) "Hook Gape" means the widest opening of a hook used for rod and line fishing, the dimensions of which are measured from hook point directly across to the shank of the hook;
- (f) "Natural Resources Wales" means the Natural Resources Body for Wales.
- (g) "River Severn" means those parts of the River Severn and its tributaries in Wales, other than the River Wye and tributaries of the River Wye.
- (h) "Salmon" means both species Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Pink salmon (*Onchrynchus gorbuscha*);

"sea trout" means any fish of the salmon family commonly known as sea trout or sewin, (migratory trout) and also includes part of a sea trout

- (i) "the Rod and Line Byelaws 1995" means the Byelaws regulating fishing by means of rod & line and making certain general provisions relating to fishery matters made by the National Rivers Authority Welsh Region
- (j) Except as provided above or 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 and Environment Act 1995 or any statutory modifications or re-enactment thereof.

#### **Byelaw 4 - Catch and release with rod and line (salmon or sea trout)**

- (a) Subject to the provisions contained with existing fisheries byelaws affecting the River Severn, any person who removes any live or dead salmon or sea trout taken by rod and line in the River Severn without the previous written authority of Natural Resources Wales shall be guilty of an offence.

- (b) This byelaw shall not apply to any person who lawfully takes a salmon or sea trout and returns it immediately to the water with the least possible injury.

**Byelaw 5 – Prohibition of methods for fishing for salmon and sea trout by rod and line within the River Severn**

- (1) After paragraph (a) (1A) of Byelaw 10 of the Rod and Line Byelaws 1995 (Hooks and Hooking of Fish) (Barbless or de-barbed hooks) there shall be inserted –

“(1B) No person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for or attempt to take any salmon or sea trout with rod and line within the River Severn by any means other than an artificial fly or artificial lure.

(1C) No person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for or attempt to take any salmon or sea trout with rod and line within the River Severn using an artificial lure or fly unless fitted with barbless or de-barbed hooks.”

- (2) After paragraph (aa) (2) of Byelaw 10 of the Rod and Line Byelaws 1995 (Hooks and Hooking of Fish) (single hooks) there shall be inserted –

“(3) No person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for or attempt to take any salmon or sea trout within the River Severn with rod and line by means of any bait.”

- (3) After paragraph (c)(3) of Byelaw 10 of the Rod and Line Byelaws 1995 (Hooks and Hooking of Fish) (Treble Hooks) there shall be inserted -

“(4) No person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for or attempt to take any salmon or sea trout within the River Severn with artificial lures furnished with one or more treble hooks.

- (5) No person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for or attempt to take any salmon or sea trout within the River Severn with an artificial fly unless furnished with either a single barbless or de-barbed hook with a maximum hook gape of 13 mm OR a single barbless or de-barbed treble or double hook with the maximum hook gape of any treble or double hook(s) being no greater than 7 millimetres.
- (6) No person shall fish for, take or attempt to fish for salmon or sea trout within the River Severn catchment using artificial lures unless fitted with one single barbless or de-barbed hook with a maximum gape of 13 millimetres measured from the shank to the point.

The restriction to one single hook shall not apply to wobblers, plugs or artificial imitation baits which are allowed up to a maximum of 3 single barbless or de-barbed hooks with each single hook having a maximum hook gape of no more than 13 millimetres.”

**EXECUTED** as a Deed by  
**NATURAL RESOURCES BODY FOR WALES**  
by affixing the Common Seal in the presence of:



S i g n a t u r e :  
.....*S. Assrey*.....

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.....*CARDIFF*.....

TY CAMBRIA

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Occupation: HEAD OF LEGAL  
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