



Angling Scotland Limited

Angling included as part of Scotland's route
map for the relaxation of lock down

Phase 1 update 23 May 2020





Introduction

Angling Scotland Ltd has been working with the Scottish Government, Sport Scotland and Marine Scotland to ensure that angling can start again as soon as it is safe to do so. We offer this advice to anglers and fisheries as best practice. We will continue to work with the Scottish Government and its agencies as we follow the route map to the new normality.

We rely on the angling community to reflect itself well, to follow the Scottish Government guidance in letter and in spirit and in doing so strengthen our hand in being able to best represent anglers and angling, and to better influence government thinking in the angling environment.

We hope that you find this guidance as both useful and sensible as we begin to reintroduce Angling into our lives.

David Ogg
Chairman, Angling Scotland LTD





Useful Links

[Government guidance on physical distancing & travel](#) – Click Here

[NHS Inform Physical Distancing](#) – Click Here

[Government guidance on shielding](#) – Click Here

[NHS Covid-19 information](#) – Click Here

[Scotland's route map and framework for decision making](#) – Click Here

[Angling Scotland Website](#) – Click Here

[Angling Scotland Facebook](#) – Click Here

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a time limit of how long I can fish?

All fisheries are asked to put guidelines and measures in place to manage use of facilities to ensure social distancing at all times. It is a matter for each venue to determine availability/ capacity and whether to impose time limits.

Can members of the same household share tackle and fish together?

Yes – provided they live in the same household. You should update a fishery ahead of arrival, and make them aware of the situation.

Can over 70s fish?

Yes – however, members who are in the highest risk (shielding) group outlined by the Government are advised to practise caution and stay away from risk.

Do Anglers need to bring their own hand sanitisers?

It is recommended everyone brings their own hand sanitiser and uses frequently during their fishing session.





Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we have to book in advance? (freshwater fisheries)

Fisheries need to know in advance to ensure that they can maintain physical distancing – i.e control numbers for availability / capacity reasons. It will also help to keep a record of contact details which may help in future track, trace and isolate steps.

Whose role is it to monitor Anglers and ensure they adhere to the Phase 1 protocols?

It is the individual Angler's responsibility to adhere to the laws of the land. Fisheries however must ensure the sport is practised safely and in accordance with the protocol.

Are Anglers exempt from Government public health measures now?

No, fishermen are always expected to observe ALL public health guidance.

Can I travel to my preferred fishing spot?

Under the Government guidance individuals will be permitted to travel short distances for outdoor leisure and exercise but are advised to stay within a short distance of their local community and travel by walking, wheel or cycle where possible. 5 miles was stated as a guide, not a fixed distance, but should be considered in decision making. Anglers are therefore advised to exercise best judgement with respect to travel and to stay as local as possible.

Can our planned club outing go ahead if we maintain social distancing?

No – not in this phase. The Government guidance only permits individuals to arrange to meet with one relative or individual from another household at a time, and this must be outside and socially distanced. Despite applying the social distancing measures and complying with the travel restrictions, the government does not yet want us meeting in large groups due to the increased risk of spreading the virus. Planning to meet individuals from outside the household therefore breaches this guidance. We would advise everyone to take the opportunity to get out fishing but to do so alone until the restrictions on social gathering are eased further.

When can we fish competitions again?

Competitions will return at a later stage once restrictions on social gatherings are eased further. They are not permitted in this phase. The Government guidance only permits individuals to arrange to meet with one relative or individual from another household at a time, and this must be outside and socially distanced. Despite applying the social distancing measures and complying with the travel restrictions, the government does not yet want us meeting in large groups due to the increased risk of spreading the virus. Planning to meet individuals from outside the household for a competition therefore breaches this guidance. We would advise everyone to take the opportunity to get out fishing, but to do so alone for the time being. We have developed proposals for the way in which competitions could safely resume under COVID-19 restrictions and will be engaging with Ministers for these to be considered for implementation as soon as it is safe to do so.

