

Briefly out of water, Support the fish gently under the belly and loosely hold the tail. Avoid weighing the fish, if you must, weigh the net with the fish enclosed in it. Better still take a tape measure or mark your wading staff or the butt section of your rod as an easy indicator and measure your fish. Weight can be estimated from length, see the scale reproduced over. Fish should be measured from the nose to the fork of the tail.

If a hook is deeply embedded and cannot be removed, as a last resort the leader should be cut close to the hook. Fish released with the hook attached will generally survive, try not to squeeze the fish too hard. Remember to keep the fish in the water as much as possible

After removing the hook, support the salmon in the water, facing into the current to allow oxygen



uptake by the fish's gills, and give sufficient time for it to recover. Hold gently until capable of swimming away strongly, you will know it is time when

you feel it starting to pulse and kick softly. If it turns 'belly up' quickly recapture the fish, support it again for a while facing into the current to allow more oxygen from the water to be absorbed.

Survival rate is greatest at lower water temperatures so be aware of the necessity to quickly subdue and return the fish during the summer months. Bleeding fish can have a good chance of survival. If a fish is going to die from blood loss, it will do so very quickly.

SALMOMETER

in. / cm	lb. / kg	in. / cm	lb. / kg
19.0 / 48.3	2.7 / 1.22	36.0 / 91.4	18.2 / 8.26
19.5 / 49.5	2.9 / 1.32	36.5 / 92.7	19.0 / 8.62
20.0 / 50.8	3.1 / 1.41	37.0 / 94.0	19.7 / 8.94
21.0 / 53.3	3.4 / 1.54	38.0 / 96.5	21.2 / 9.62
21.5 / 54.6	3.8 / 1.72	38.5 / 97.8	22.0 / 9.98
22.0 / 55.9	4.2 / 1.91	39.0 / 99.1	22.7 / 10.30
22.5 / 57.2	4.6 / 2.09	39.5 / 100.3	23.5 / 10.66
23.0 / 58.4	5.0 / 2.27	40.0 / 101.6	24.2 / 10.98
23.5 / 59.7	5.4 / 2.45	40.5 / 102.9	25.0 / 11.34
24.0 / 61.0	5.8 / 2.63	41.0 / 104.1	25.7 / 11.66
24.5 / 62.2	6.2 / 2.81	41.5 / 105.4	26.5 / 12.02
25.0 / 63.5	6.6 / 3.00	42.0 / 106.7	27.2 / 12.34
25.5 / 64.8	7.0 / 3.18	42.5 / 108.0	28.0 / 12.70
26.0 / 66.0	7.4 / 3.36	43.0 / 109.2	28.7 / 13.02
26.5 / 67.3	7.8 / 3.54	43.5 / 110.5	29.5 / 13.38
27.0 / 68.6	8.2 / 3.72	44.0 / 111.8	30.3 / 13.74
27.5 / 69.9	8.6 / 3.90	44.5 / 113.0	31.0 / 14.06
28.0 / 71.1	9.0 / 4.08	45.0 / 114.3	31.8 / 14.42
28.5 / 72.4	9.4 / 4.27	45.5 / 115.6	32.5 / 14.74
29.0 / 73.7	9.8 / 4.45	46.0 / 116.8	33.3 / 15.10
29.5 / 74.9	10.3 / 4.67	46.5 / 118.1	34.0 / 15.42
30.0 / 76.2	10.7 / 4.85	47.0 / 119.4	34.8 / 15.79
30.5 / 77.5	11.1 / 5.03	47.5 / 120.7	35.5 / 16.10
31.0 / 78.7	11.6 / 5.26	48.0 / 121.9	36.3 / 16.47
31.5 / 80.0	12.0 / 5.44	48.5 / 123.2	37.0 / 16.78
32.0 / 81.3	12.4 / 5.62	49.0 / 124.5	37.8 / 17.15
32.5 / 82.6	13.0 / 5.9	49.5 / 125.7	38.5 / 17.46
33.0 / 83.8	13.7 / 6.21	50.0 / 127.0	39.3 / 17.83
33.5 / 85.1	14.5 / 6.58	50.5 / 128.3	40.0 / 18.14
34.0 / 86.4	15.2 / 6.90	51.0 / 129.5	40.8 / 18.51
34.5 / 87.6	16.0 / 7.26	51.5 / 130.8	41.5 / 18.82
35.0 / 88.9	16.7 / 7.58	52.0 / 132.1	42.3 / 19.19
35.5 / 90.2	17.5 / 7.94	52.5 / 133.4	43.0 / 19.50

These advisory notes have been adopted by a number of beat owners on the Wye as policy for their fisheries and the content is supported by Environment Agency [Wales], The Wye and Usk Foundation [WUF], Wye Salmon Fishing Owners Association [WSFOA] and River Wye Gillies Association [RWGA]. We commend it to you. Help the survival of Wye Salmon

Contact WSA at 07789133263
or
admin@wyesalmon.com



Catch & Release
An Anglers Guide
River Wye *Sept 2012*



Tackle Advice

Our review of hooks suggests the most effective and safest method to be in the use of de-barbed rather than barbless hooks. We advise the limiting hooks to single or double de-barbed or with barb crushed.



Flying C's, Rapala's and similar lures are the bait of choice for many spinning enthusiasts. It is not unusual for the often large and sometimes multiple trebles to cause a high degree of damage and a long spell of unhooking. Moving away from trebles in your lures can help to eradicate this. Single hooks can be successfully used on these lures with the other being removed altogether. There are a very excellent set of instructions for modifying various lures and tubes for use with singles provided by Ogmore Angling Association at: <http://www.ogmoreangling.com> [click on 'Conserve']



Guidance for Successful Catch & Release

Research has shown that exposing a salmon to air for even a short period, for example to take a photograph, can significantly reduce its chances of survival. Later in the season as the salmon

nears spawning time, lifting by the tail can cause the egg sac in females and milt sacs in males to rupture into the body cavity which can kill the fish in extreme cases.

Research has also shown that the survival rate of salmon caught and released may be close to 100% when we apply the following guidelines and practice.

Spawning success and viability of eggs will be unaffected in salmon caught and released in late autumn using these guidelines, and they can recover within twenty four to forty eight hours of being captured and are able to spawn successfully.

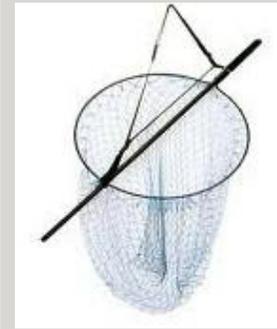
Ensure your rod is powerful enough to subdue a fish quickly. One min per pound weight is a reasonable suggestion of time for landing a fish. To avoid exhausting the fish it is prudent to use at least 15-20lb leader material. Salmon are not renowned for being cautious about leader visibility.



The use of braided nylon spinning line is encouraged as its lack of stretch means a greater chance of lures such as Flying C's, notorious for deep hooking, being lip or mouth hooked.

When playing the fish it should be the anglers aim to move the salmon out of fast current into quieter water and be positioned slightly below the fish. Keep the salmon in the water at all times. Do not at any time lift a salmon up by the tail. As

explained earlier this can cause damage .



Identify where a fish can be safely landed without risk of damage on rocks or stones. If fishing alone, take a net. Much as we hate them they provide a restrictive environment for the fish to be unhooked and save a lot of time searching for suitable

landing sites.

Traditional large mesh salmon nets can cause split fins and tails. Use a large Gye-type landing net similar to that shown above,



with knotless mesh which reduces damage to the fish's scales. **Knotless mesh is a legal requirement.**

Have long-nosed forceps or forceps close to hand



for prompt hook removal. It is wise to avoid beaching the fish on rock or gravel as this again can remove protective mucous and scales from which can

lead to fungal infection.. **The use of either gaff or tailer is illegal.**

Always handle fish with wet hands when removing the hook from the fish's mouth. This again prevents removing mucous which is the fish's first line of defence against disease and parasites. Never lift your salmon from the water by its tail, or gill cover.

When photographing a fish, keep it in, or only