

**LOCH ACHONACHIE ANGLING CLUB  
RULES & CHARGES 2024 ONWARDS  
EXCHANGE PERMITS OBTAIN MEMBERS CHARGES**

1. **MEMBERS' ROD CHARGES**

**Loch Fishing**

Loch Fishing .....Fishing from bank FREE.

Boat hire (2 rods) .....Dawn until 2pm - £15.00

Boat hire (2 rods)..... 3pm until dusk - £10.00

Boat hire (2 rods) ..... All day - £20.00

**Upper Blackwater**

April/May/ .....FREE

June/July/August/September.....Dawn until 2pm - £5.00

June/July/August/September .....3pm until dusk - £5.00

June/July/August/September .....All day - £10.00

**Conon**

April/May.....FREE

June/July/August/September.....Dawn until 2pm - £5.00

June/July/August/September .....3pm until dusk - £5.00

June/July/August/September .....All day - £10.00

2. **Outboard Hire**

Outboards are no longer available for hire.

3. Members are reminded that they must book in prior to fishing the rivers even in the free months – April and May. A telephone call to the main Booking Agent will be sufficient.

4. All Salmon and Grilse caught MUST BE REPORTED BY EMAIL **Email** to [achonachie.angling@yahoo.com](mailto:achonachie.angling@yahoo.com)

5. *VISITOR'S ROD CHARGES* ...../

## **5. VISITORS CHARGES – EXCHANGE PERMIT HOLDERS PAY MEMBERS’ CHARGES**

### **CONSERVATION MEASURES AND CATCH LIMITS**

6. **Catch and release** is actively encouraged by the Club. In accordance with Scottish Government legislation, all salmon must be returned up and until 1 May.  
In our waters this is extended until **1 JUNE**. Accordingly, all salmon caught in Club waters up to **1 JUNE must be returned**. The aim of 100% Catch & Release is strongly endorsed by Cromarty Firth Fishery Board from 2023 onward. Thereafter, only cock fish under 10lbs should be kept. Carcase tags will only be introduced if ever legislated for by Scottish Government.
7. The Club’s Executive Committee, in consultation with the Cromarty Firth Fishery Board, decides rules and conservation policies governing **salmon catches**. On LAAC waters **from 2023 onward** the number of salmon an angler may take per season is limited to only **four (4)**. After an angler has taken his or her seasonal limit then they may continue to fish on a **Catch and Release** basis only. All salmon catches must be reported to an office bearer of the club at the earliest opportunity either by phone, text or email; by a personal message (pm) posted to the club Facebook page or website; and on the Day Permit issued. Details of date, beat or loch where caught and approximate weight must be included. NB Any failure to do so may result in suspension from fishing.
8. All fish under 10 inches in length shall be returned carefully to the water.
9. All salmon kelts shall be returned carefully to the water immediately. NB It is not legal in Scotland to fish for kelts.
10. All undamaged hen salmon/grilse **must be returned** carefully to the water during the month of **September**. All gravid or coloured fish should be returned carefully to the river. **Treble hooks are not allowed on any club waters at any time. Barbless hooks are recommended in all Club salmon waters during the month of September to ease release in the water.**
11. Conservation policies regarding salmon are reviewed regularly and updated. Please consult and follow these policies.
12. Only knotless landing nets may be used. The use of a gaff is prohibited.
13. The no. of trout that may be kept by boat anglers is two (2) per rod up to a maximum of four (4) per boat if there are 2 or more anglers in the boat.
14. The number of trout that may be retained by an angler fishing from the bank is restricted to two (2) per day.

15. **NO FISH CAUGHT ON CLUB WATERS MAY BE SOLD.**
16. The holder of a salmon fishing permit is required to make a return of all fish caught **within 24 hours** of each catch with details of details of the **date ; fly/lure used; river beat or loch** where caught and approximate weight.
17. **The use of ANY form of bait is STRICTLY PROHIBITED on any of the Club waters. Bait includes prawn, shrimp, maggot, worm, dead bait, live minnow or any other live fish.** Where during the close season for game fishing from November to February, an angler fishing for PIKE with dead bait they must have in their possession a club permit to do so or written permission of the Chairman or Secretary of the club.

## CLUB WATERS

18. Members and permit holders are entitled to fish on the under noted fishings according to the Club's rules.
  - (a) **Loch Meig** Bank and boat fishing – **traditional fly fishing only**. No trolling of flies is permitted 1 April to 30 September – no booking is necessary for bank fishing. Four boats are available on this loch and these must be booked in advance from the Club's booking agents and a permit obtained for their use. Sunday fishing is permitted. The Club has a Wheelyboat on this loch for use by disabled anglers with a helper. The number of trout that may be retained by boat anglers is five (5) per rod up to a maximum of ten (10) per boat where there are two anglers in the boat. The number of trout that may be retained by an angler fishing from the bank is restricted to two (2) per day.
  - (b) **Loch Achonachie** Bank and boat fishing – **fly & spinning permitted for Salmon, brown trout and sea trout**. 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September – no booking is necessary for bank fishing. Two boats are available on this loch and these must be booked in advance from the Club's booking agents and a permit obtained for their use. Salmon may be taken from this loch. **Sunday** fishing has been allowed since 2016 but by **FLY ONLY**
  - (c) ~~**Loch Seardroy** Bank and boat fishing – **fly & spinning** 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September – **no booking is necessary for bank fishing** **but** bank fishing is permitted on both sides. Two boats are available on this loch and these must be booked in advance from the Club's booking agents and a permit obtained for their use. Sunday fishing is permitted.~~
  - (d) **Upper Conon River** Bank fishing (both banks) – **fly and spinning permitted for Salmon, brown trout and sea trout**. 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September – there are three (3) rods per beat allowed on the four beats (2 north & 2 south). **Spinning is permitted only** when the Lochluichart Power Station is generating or in spate conditions. Pools should be shared equally and normal fishing etiquette should be observed. Permits must be booked in advance from the booking agents. **Sunday** fishing for salmon is **NOT** permitted.
  - (e) **Upper Blackwater** Bank fishing (both banks) – **fly and spinning** permitted for salmon and brown trout. 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September for trout and salmon. There are nine (9) rods allowed on the Upper Blackwater which is a roving beat on both sides of the river. **Spinning is permitted only when the red marker is covered.** (The Club water extends from the pool immediately above Rogie Falls to the pool where the water flows out of Loch Na Croic). *Members are strictly forbidden to fish in Loch Na Croic.* Pools should be shared

equally and normal fishing etiquette should be observed. Permits must be booked in advance from the Club's booking agents. **Sunday** fishing for salmon is **NOT** permitted.

***Please Note:** When fishing the rivers, anglers must move down each salmon pool by taking a step forward after every cast. On reaching the bottom of a pool, and if the angler wishes to fish the pool again, he/she must take his/her turn again at the head of the pool. On an angler landing a fish, he/she must then move back to the head of the pool and again take his/her turn.*

## **GENERAL**

19. Permits are available only for the person in whose favour they are granted. Permits are strictly ***Non-Transferable***. Only one permit per rod can be granted and issued.
20. The holder of a visitor permit, e-permit/membership card must exhibit it at all times when asked to do so by the River Watcher, Water Bailiff, any member of the Club or other authorized person. Failure to comply may result in being asked to leave the water.
21. Holders of daily visitor permits **must complete the catch details on the permit** and return completed to the Club's booking agents Contin Filling Station at the end of the day's fishing.
22. No member may book or have booked on their behalf more than one day's fishing on a particular river beat. A member can then book a further day or session after the permit has expired or on surrender of his or her ticket to the booking agent. Any such booking must be paid for in advance.
23. Access to loch banks shall be by routes to be prescribed from time to time.
24. All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent disturbance to stock and game and no dogs should accompany anglers. Close all gates after opening.
25. No fires must be lit on loch or river banks and no litter should be left behind on banks or in the fishing huts. All litter – **especially discarded line** – should be taken away and disposed of safely at home. **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO LITTER.**
26. All boats used **must** be returned to the mooring from whence they were taken and secured properly. Keys for boat padlocks and gates must be returned to the booking agents from where they were collected. **Safe use of the pontoons and moorings is a condition of boat hire and any safety guidelines issued must be followed.**
27. Application for renewal of Membership, with the appropriate subscription fee, must normally be in the hands of the club secretary not later than 31<sup>st</sup> March each year. Late receipt of renewal applications will result in a £5.00 surcharge being applied. Any membership not renewed by [1<sup>st</sup> June] will be treated as lapsed. The lapsed membership will be treated as a new application if the former member wishes to join again.

28. **Annual Catch Return Compliance** In addition to the new requirements for salmon catches, members must keep an accurate record of all fish caught, retained and returned during the season and make a return of these details to the Club Secretary by 1 November each year. Nil returns are required. **Failure to make returns will result in a member being surcharged on renewal of their membership. Any continuing failure will result in membership being withdrawn.**
29. Club members shall be expected to give every assistance in their power to prevent illegal fishing, poaching and infringements of the Club rules.
30. All members are responsible for any club boats or equipment on hire to them. Any accidental damage or loss to boats and/or equipment must be reported to the club Secretary immediately.

### **Safety**

31. **Lifejackets must be worn in boats.** These can be obtained free of charge from the Club's booking agents. Detailed guidance on safe use of the Meig Pontoon Moorings is available on the club website, at Contin Filling Station with the boat keys, and has been issued to all members.
32. No boat permits will be issued to persons under 18 years of age and not more than two adults shall occupy a boat simultaneously other than when authorised for the Meig Open competition.
33. **All junior members fishing Club waters must be accompanied by an adult.**
34. The volume of water flowing into the Upper Conon river is largely dependent on the operational requirements of Scottish and Southern Electricity plc from time to time and no guarantee of redress can be given in this respect by the Club or by Scottish and Southern Electricity plc. **The fluctuations in water levels are considerable, sudden, and no prior warning is given.**
35. The Club and Scottish and Southern Electricity plc shall have no responsibility for loss, damage or injury of whatever nature incurred by the bearer of a membership card or permit, who fishes Club waters entirely at their own risk.

### **Infringement of Rules**

36. Members or permit holders infringing any of the Club rules and regulations or who may be caught and/or convicted of illegal fishing or any offence under the ACTS relating to salmon/sea trout/brown trout fishing shall ***forfeit their membership*** or suffer such penalty as deemed fit by the Executive Committee of the Club. Such forfeiture or penalty shall be sufficiently instructed by a letter under the hand of the Secretary of Loch Achonachie Angling Club directed to the member at the address shown on their application form.
37. Any breaches of Club rules/conservation methods etc noted by a member should be reported to the Club Secretary as soon as possible.