

Abercorn Estates Fishing Regulations

When booking fishing with Abercorn Estates you need to be aware of what you can and cannot do when you fish. There are legal requirements, conservation codes, and specific rules for the Estate fishing beats and conditions that all need to be taken into account. These generally fall into three main categories:

A) River Mourne: Rules, Terms & Conditions

1. To help prevent an outbreak of **Gyrodactylus Salaris** which has had catastrophic effects on some foreign rivers, all rods fishing must complete a Gyrodactylus declaration on arrival at the fishery. This states that either you have not used your fishing tackle abroad in the last three months, or you have done so and had it properly sterilised, or you have done so and NOT had it sterilised. In the latter case, you must agree to sterilisation taking place before you start fishing, and accept that there may be some delay in getting this organised.
2. The season is from 1st April, and normally ends on 20th October, please note that fishing is allowed on Sundays in Northern Ireland. The Loughs Agency have the legal right and power to close the fishery in high water conditions subject to their sustainable management plans, as well as ending fishing prior to the 20th October.
3. Fly fishing only, No prawns, worms, shrimps, spinning or gaffs can be used at any time.
4. Only one person may fish a rod on any one day.
5. Starting and finishing times – 09:00-13:00, and 14:00 to 18:00.
6. Anyone fishing on the Rivers Mourne, Derg and Strule must be in possession of a current Loughs Agency licence. Licences can be obtained from the Baronscourt Estate Office or from David Campbell, 12 Killymore Road, Newtownstewart.
7. The rota system will be in operation throughout the season.
8. When fishing for salmon, rods are asked to fish pools down at a reasonable speed (e.g. 1 step per cast); this does not apply to dry fly or trout fishing, although salmon fishing takes priority.
9. When a rod has caught two fish, please make way for rods who have had no success, and move to a vacant pool for a reasonable period of time.
10. After a rod has landed a fish, please let any following rods fish through, before restarting.
11. The Loughs Agency bag limit is currently 1 salmonoid (salmon or sea trout) per person per day prior to 31 May, and 4 salmonoid per person per day after 1 June. In the interests of conservation, please consider not taking more than two fish per day, and also consider returning to the river any gravid fish caught, especially females, from September onwards. The Estate strongly supports catch and release, and would request that you handle all fish caught as carefully as possible.
12. Arrangements with the ghillie are made through the Estate Office: 0288 166 1683. Tipping the ghillie is at the discretion of the guest but it is generally accepted that a tip of £40-50 per day is given depending on the length of the guest's trip.
13. Details of all fish taken are to be recorded in catch record books in the fishing huts.
14. Please ring the Estate Office 028 8166 1683, at least two days before you come, to arrange a place and time to meet the ghillie.

B) Booking Conditions

1. 50% deposit is needed at the time of booking to secure your requested dates for fishing and accommodation. Once you have paid your deposit the balance is then due 30 days before your arrival. The Estate Office will issue you with an invoice and confirmation of booking by letter and or email. Once booked you cannot change your dates or number of rods. If you need extra rods or days, they can be booked separately if available. If you need less rods or days, or decide not to come after all, then we can try to relet them for you, but cannot guarantee to do so. If successful you will be charged a 10% cancellation fee + VAT, and the balance of the money returned to you.
2. Rods may not be shared on any day without prior permission of the ghillie or the Estate Office, which is often refused and should never be relied upon.
3. You cannot relet the fishing you book without the Estate's permission.
4. Please note that in line with general practice, we cannot give refunds for fishing spoilt by inclement weather or poor water conditions.
5. If you have any problems with the standard of service provided by the Estate, please tell the ghillie or the Estate Office straightaway, so we have time to act before you leave. Failure to do so will severely hamper any chances of fair redress for you after your departure.
6. All bookings are also subject to the estates rules, terms and conditions and safety notes.
7. Abercorn Estates reserve the right to immediately withdraw fishing without compensation from anyone who breaks these or associated conditions, or flouts normal standards of behaviour or fishing etiquette.
8. Abercorn Estates can not accept liability for personal injury or illness or loss or damage to luggage of other belongings or for any delay, inconvenience or other loss. A proper respect for the nature of the terrain and facilities and the vagaries of the Northern Irish weather must be accepted. You and your party will be solely responsible for your and their personal safety and without prejudice to that generality any equipment that is used is entirely at the risk of the sportsmen using it.
9. Without prejudice to the responsibilities on you and your party in terms of the Clause, you will be required to have Third Party insurance for a minimum of £2,000,000 (Two Million Pounds Sterling) for you and any member of your party.

Address:

Abercorn Estates
Baronscourt
Newtownstewart
County Tyrone
BT78 4EZ

c) Safety

We give here some general advice which may be helpful to you. It is not meant to be exhaustive and cannot cover every situation. So please do not rely on it, form your own cautious policy of what is sensible and safe and then stick to it!

Pay attention when wading

- Wherever possible, seek local advice before wading
- Wear a life jacket. It should be worn over all other clothing at all times.
- Ensure that your waders are in good condition and the soles are suitable for the type of river bed you will be wading on.
- Use a wading staff.
- Be constantly alert for changing water conditions.
- Do not wade in a spate.
- Take your time. Move deliberately and maintain a constant watch for changes in depth, boulders, loose gravel, underwater obstructions and shelving rocks.
- If you do fall in to deep water, try to stay calm. Float on your back with your feet pointing downstream and use your hands to guide you into shallow water. If possible crawl back to the bank before attempting to empty your waders.
- We strongly advise you to bring and wear your own buoyancy device / life jacket when using a boat or when wading in strong or deep water. If you don't, you are doing so at your own risk.

Avoid slips and falls

- Be especially careful on steep banks and where undergrowth obscures the ground. Look out for overhanging and unstable banks, deep mud, holes, slippery rocks and boulders.
- Always wear a life jacket when fishing from the bank.
- Wear appropriate footwear. Remember, felt-soled waders can be extremely dangerous on wet grass or on muddy banks.
- Use a wading staff for support.

Don't get hooked

- Always protect your eyes by wearing safety glasses or wrap-around sunglasses.
- Wear suitable headgear to protect the ears and to provide further protection for the eyes.
- When casting, pay attention to and make allowances for wind direction and strength.
- Be conscious of the other river users; check behind and around you to ensure that your backcast is clear before making each cast.

Fishing alone

- When fishing alone, leave details with a responsible person of where you are going and when you expect to return. If you change your plans, make sure that the responsible person is advised.

Electricity Kills

- Contact or near contact with overhead cables must be avoided. Look out and up for overhead cables for assembling a rod and before fishing begins.

- Carry rods parallel to the ground, never upright or over a shoulder.

Watch the weather

- Wear warm and waterproof clothing in cold weather.
- Reflection from water intensifies the effects of the sun. Use sun protection and cover up in strong sunlight.
- Don't fish during a thunderstorm. Lay your rod down and don't attempt to pick it up until the storm has passed.
- Never attempt to step on ice at the side of the river

Take care in boats

- Always follow the ghillie's advice.
- Avoid standing up in the boat.
- In the absence of a ghillie, boats should only be used by responsible and competent persons. Be aware of the prevailing conditions, seek local advice and if in doubt, don't go out.

Beware of the bull

- Pay attention to signs warning of possible dangers and, where possible, avoid crossing fields containing livestock.
- Leave your dog at home.