YTHAN CONSERVATION CODE 2026 SEASON

General Rules.

- **All kelts, coloured fish, salmon and sea trout parr, smolts, and brown trout under 10 ins. must be returned carefully to the water.**
- **All salmon caught must be returned carefully to the water.**
- **All sea trout caught after 30th September must be returned carefully to the water.**
- **All finnock (sea trout of 10" - 13") must be returned carefully to the water.**
- **All foul hooked fish (hooked behind the head) must be returned carefully to the water.**
- **No rod caught fish to be sold. (It is illegal in Scotland to sell rod caught salmon or sea trout.)**

- ***NOTE – IT IS ILLEGAL TO KILL A SALMON FROM THE RIVER YTHAN – YOU WILL BE LIABLE TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION IF YOU DO SO.***

Bag Limits (Fish killed) Over the Entire River by Any One Angler – Sea Trout only

- **Sea Trout are in decline across all waters. Anglers are encouraged to return all the fish they catch across all rivers and their estuaries.**
- **Bag limits are not targets; anglers should only retain fish they will use.**
- **Anglers are encouraged to return fish.**
- **Annual bag limit for sea trout shall be 1 fish.**
- **Daily bag limit for sea trout shall be 1 fish.**

Baits and Lures.

- **No live or deadbait (other than worms) to be used.**
- **Barbless or de-barbed hooks are recommended.**
- **Only one treble hook per lure is recommended.**

Fish Landing Equipment.

- **The use of gaffs and tailers is not permitted.**
- **Only knotless landing nets are permitted.**

Handling and Returning Fish

- **Treat fish with care and respect.**
- **Fish should not be lifted, otherwise unsupported, by the wrist of the tail, or damage to the spine may result. Similarly holding up fish by the gill covers may well inflict mortal injury.**
- **If fish are to be kept, dispatch them quickly with a forceful blow from a suitably hefty instrument.**
- **Fish to be returned should be held firmly and unhooked quickly, using forceps.**
- **Fish to be returned to the water should be carefully supported, head to the current, and held until recovered sufficiently to swim free. (This may take several minutes.)**