

PREPARING FOR PHASE ONE

WHEN WE FISH AGAIN

Phase One Guidelines For Clubs & Fisheries

Published: 10/05/2020



SUPPORTED BY:



INTRODUCTION

Getting us fishing safely again



Working in partnership with stakeholders across the angling community, we have set out in this document some clear guidance for clubs and fisheries on how to safely manage a return to angling.

Please remember that we all have a responsibility to act as ambassadors for angling. If we fish safely we will continue to support the national effort to combat COVID-19 transmission while being able to enjoy our wonderful sport.

We feel that it is important that once angling is resumed that best practice is followed in line with the advice and guidance set out in this document. So if you as a club or fishery owner are uncomfortable about your ability to safely re-open once restrictions are relaxed and do not feel able to follow this advice then we would advise you not to re-open your water. Alternatively, please contact your regional representative, whose details you will find on page 7, for further support.

Within these guidelines are some legal requirements, including the right to fish and the obligation for all freshwater anglers to hold a valid EA rod licence. Beyond these we hope that this sensible and practical advice, which is being employed by member clubs and fisheries across the country, will be applied by everyone to ensure the return to fishing that we have all worked so hard to secure is safe and allowed to continue.

Jamie Cook
Chief Executive
Angling Trust
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IMPLEMENTING PHASE ONE GUIDELINES

These guidelines are designed to make angling compliant with current Covid-19 regulations.

1

Managing the number of people at your venue

- You should consider how many people each venue can safely cater for. Our recommendations are for anglers to remain 15m apart whilst fishing.
- To ensure a safe return to angling post lockdown you should consider a phased opening of venues to ensure controlled management.
- For popular venues you should consider using a simple booking system to avoid breaching any of the current Government regulations and becoming overcrowded. For example you could ask people to book in with a nominated bailiff or club official.
- Online platform Castbooker (www.castbooker.com) provides a simple system to pre-book and pay for day tickets online. If no system is currently in place, it is recommended to look at Castbooker or similar providers.
- Where relevant, angling clubs should consider initially restricting or stopping day ticket sales to help manage demand.
- As competitions are organised gatherings these should not be permitted or accommodated, as they do not meet current social distancing guidelines from the Government.
- Anglers should refrain from using keepnets.

2

Shared Facilities & Hygiene

- Onsite shared facilities such as cafes, fishing huts and club houses should remain closed.
- Onsite tackle shops should employ strict social distancing measures, limit the number of customers at any one time, accept card only payment and ensure that appropriate hygiene products are available. Please note that these facilities are places of work and must therefore adhere to government guidance.
- Access to toilet facilities should only be considered if cleanliness of the facility is guaranteed to be maintained in accordance with current Government guidelines.
- The cleaning of gates, locks, boats, catch return boxes and other items that will be handled by anglers as part of their fishing session should be considered and wherever possible the number of individuals coming into contact with these items should be reduced.
- Consideration should be taken as to whether access gates could be maned or left open, reducing the need for visiting anglers to touch and handle them.
- Club and fisheries should consider the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff members and volunteers. Government guidelines on appropriate PPE can be found here.
- Fisheries who provide shared equipment such as landing nets, matts, sling etc. – should ensure that this equipment is cleaned appropriately prior to every use.

IMPLEMENTING PHASE ONE GUIDELINES

These guidelines are designed to make angling compliant with current Covid-19 regulations.

3

Bailiffing and Enforcement

- Bailiff numbers and patrol rounds should be increased where possible.
- Bailiffs should maintain a 2m distance and not physically handle members permits - instead request 'sight' of permit and membership number.
- Consideration should be taken to ensure that bailiffs are fit and healthy, those identified as vulnerable by the government should not perform bailiff duties.
- In addition to general club or fishery rules Bailiffs should ensure that all Angling Trust phase 1 guidance is adhered to.
- In order to support bailiffs, clubs or fisheries may consider reserving one swim on each fishery to aid bailiffs in managing compliance and maintaining a presence.
- Compliance with government travel guidance is a matter for individual anglers and enforcement a matter for the police.

4

Day Ticket and Membership Sales

- Anglers should be advised not to travel to a fishery or water without confirming their ability to fish.
- Clubs and fisheries should employ remote membership options via post and online platforms wherever possible. Support to set up online membership payments is available through Angling Trust partner [Clubmate](#), who are offering their services free of charge for three months.
- Contactless payments should be encouraged.

5

Communicating with members and customers

- During this time, clubs are advised to display the guidance that anglers must follow in this first phase of our return to fishing.
- We've included basic templates in this document that you can use on your website, social media and also print off to display at venues.
- You may need to consider adjustments to your venue rules as a result of these guidelines - these should also be clearly communicated.

A PHASED APPROACH

A reminder of our phased approach on how we start to fish again, safely.

CURRENT PHASE **PHASE ONE**

Angling to be undertaken on a solitary basis - social distancing in accordance with Government guidelines must be maintained at all times.

Local fishing only – anglers must follow current Government guidance on travel for the benefit of recreational activity.

All freshwater anglers must be in possession of the relevant EA Fishing licence.

Sea angling from beach and shore to resume along with small scale private boat fishing - in adherence with social distancing guidelines.

No sharing of fishing positions (swims) except by members of the same household.

No sharing of fishing tackle or any other items.

No angler to fish within 15 metres of any other angler.

No keepnets or competition fishing.

Online and electronic day ticket payments to be made wherever possible.

Onsite shared facilities such as cafes and clubhouses to remain closed.

Fisheries unable to adhere to these guidelines should remain closed until further notice.

Anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or who shares a household with any individual displaying symptoms, should not go fishing and should continue to follow Government advice on isolation.

A PHASED APPROACH

A reminder of our phased approach on how we start to fish again, safely.

FUTURE PHASE

PHASE TWO

SUBJECT TO ONGOING GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

Private and guided boat and kayak fishing to resume on rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

Competition fishing should only be undertaken if compliant with all Government guidelines and in accordance with the Angling Trust's existing best practice [COVID-19 guidance](#).

Charter boat fishing to resume under strict guidelines. Boat skippers must ensure that social distancing is always possible by limiting numbers on charter boats if not members of the same household.

Shared facilities at fisheries to re-open if compliant with current Government guidelines

Travel restrictions to be reviewed to facilitate outdoor recreation in line with Government priorities.

FUTURE PHASE

PHASE THREE

Angling to continue whilst adhering to any social distancing guidelines that may be in force.

HELP AND SUPPORT

We're here to help you get started fishing again safely

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VISIT OUR SUPPORT HUB



APPENDIX ONE

Sample Game Angling Club Template

Arriving at the fishery:

- Anglers should arrive on their own unless they can prove they are travelling with someone they live with.
- Anglers are encouraged to park in every other parking space.

Day Ticket Payments & Bookings:

- Pre-Booking & prepayment for Day & Member rods will allow the fishery to control numbers & if necessary, stagger their arrival time. Pre-booking will also allow a fishery to update customers on guidelines, it will also reduce the necessity to enter the lodge. Contactless and cashless payment is strongly encouraged.

Bank anglers:

- To fish a minimum 15m apart. To ensure bank anglers observe social distancing, it is insisted they arrive at the fishery by themselves unless they can prove they are a husband / wife / partner or parent & child who reside at the same address.

Boat anglers:

- Boats will be single person boats unless they can prove they are a husband / wife / partner or parent & child who reside at the same address.
- To ensure social distancing on the pontoon it is suggested that 50% of the fleet is operated.
- By reducing a daily boat fleet by 50% it will allow a fishery to allocate every other boat which will ensure social distancing on the pontoon & in the boats moored onto it. It will also allow a fishery to fully disinfect boats and life jackets after every use, with boats and lifejackets usage rotated for every other day.

Cleanliness:

- Entrance gates will be opened by fishery staff or landlord representatives. Fishery staff will be disinfecting gates, styles and any surface that anglers will be in contact with. Lodge doors, desk, phone etc all touching points will be disinfected every hour. Catch return forms will be encouraged to be submitted electronically.
- Anglers who require to enter the lodge to purchase tackle will be required to use the hand sanitiser by the door, a one in one out policy should be considered.

Fishery Staff:

- Staff will all be issued with Face Shields, disposable gloves with hand sanitiser available at the lodge door, pontoon gate for customers to use. Further guidance on suitable PPE can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

Competitions:

- No competitions are allowed in phase one - as they are organised gatherings and these are currently not permitted under Government guidance.

APPENDIX TWO

Sample Coarse Fishery / Club Template

Day Ticket Payments & Bookings:

- Pre-booking of swims or pre-payment of day tickets is encouraged. This will allow the club/fishery to control numbers & if necessary, stagger arrival times. Only anglers who are 'booked in' to be allowed to visit the venue. Contactless and cashless payment of day tickets is strongly encouraged. Online platform www.castbooker.com can provide this pre booking system for a club/fishery if required.
- Angling clubs may restrict or stop day ticket sales on their venues at this time.

Arriving at the fishery:

- Anglers should arrive on their own unless they can prove they are travelling with someone they live with.
- Anglers are encouraged to park in every other parking space where possible. Where parking spaces aren't present, anglers are encouraged to leave suitable space (approx. 2m) in between cars.

Anglers:

- To fish a minimum 15m apart, in most cases fishing every other swim/peg.
- To only fish alone unless they fishing with someone who resides at the same address.
- An Anglers fishing time to be restricted to a set period of time (suitability dependent on venue). This will allow for the maximum number of members to be able to get back fishing.
- Encouraged to bring disposable gloves and anti bacterial hand sanitiser to use when handling, gates, locks and other surfaces that anglers come into contact with.

Cleanliness:

- Entry gates to be opened by fishery staff/club representative and remain open (where possible) to minimise the number of people handling them.
- Toilet facilities may remain open but keeping them clean will be vital. A club/fishery must be confident they can keep them clean, regular disinfecting of key touch points (handles, doors, seats) will need to take place.

Fishery Staff and Club Representatives:

- Personal Protective Equipment should be considered. Appropriate Government guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>.
- Pre-booking systems will assist club/fishery bailiffs and minimise requirements for close interaction with anglers.

Competitions:

- No competitions are allowed in phase one - as they are organised gatherings and these are currently not permitted under Government guidance.

APPENDIX THREE

Sample Sea Angling Club Template

Distance to your beach or estuary and travelling to your venue:

- Only fish within a short car journey of your home, travel alone or with someone who resides at the same address. anglers must follow current Government guidance on travel for the benefit of recreational activity.

Anglers:

- Fishing should be a minimum of 15m apart. Where beaches have natural breaks like groynes then one angler for each section of beach.
- To only fish alone unless fishing with someone who resides at the same address
- No sharing of fishing tackle, bait or other items.
- You are encouraged to bring disposable gloves and anti-bacterial hand sanitiser to use when handling, gates, locks and other surfaces that anglers come into contact with.

Boat and Club facilities:

- Clubhouse will remain closed but boat yards and other outdoor facilities which are allowed to open should operate a strict check in facility with only authorised boat users who have arranged in advance using the facilities.
- Social distancing should be strictly adhered to.
- While Marinas remain closed to non-commercial traffic access to boats will be restricted/prohibited according to the policy of the facility owner.
- If going out in a boat please make sure you have a full set of functioning safety equipment, radio, phone, GPS and that the engine and boat is in good working order. It is not recommended to go out solo. **Please remember if you get into difficulties for any reason the emergency services, which are already under enormous pressure, will be put under greater strain by your actions.**
- Always make sure to tell someone you have gone out and when you are planning to return.

Kayak anglers:

- If launching and landing on a public beach make sure you are properly distanced from other beach users.
- Do not travel long distances to launch.
- When on the water make sure you are equipped with the relevant function safety equipment.
- Remember the emergency services, including the RNLI, are at full stretch and make sure you tell someone where you are going when you are launching and returning.

Breakwaters, Harbour Arms and Piers:

- Venues should only open where facilities for an advance booking policy are in place. Only limited numbers should be allowed to fish at any one time, government guidelines on social distancing should be adhered to 15m between anglers. If this isn't possible, they should remain closed.
- Any facility open to the public like piers and marinas will remain closed to anglers.

APPENDIX THREE

Sample Sea Angling Club Template

Competitions:

- No competitions are allowed in phase one - as they are organised gatherings and these are currently not permitted under Government guidance.

Bait digging and collection:

- Bait collection is allowed only if the collector is solo or with someone residing with them in the same house.
- Sharing or selling of collected bait is not allowed – unless specific distancing policies are in place -i.e. a commercial transaction in a shop or online.

WHEN WE FISH AGAIN - FRESHWATER

Current Guidance - Published 09/05/2020

Full details at - www.anglingtrust.net/covid19



PHASE ONE

! ALL FRESHWATER ANGLERS MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF THE RELEVANT ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FISHING LICENCE

- ✓ YOU SHOULD ONLY TRAVEL TO FISHING VENUES ON YOUR OWN OR WITH MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD & ABIDE BY CURRENT GUIDELINES ON SOCIAL DISTANCING
- ✓ MAINTAIN A DISTANCE OF 15M FROM OTHER ANGLERS WHILST FISHING
- ✓ ONLY TRAVEL BASED ON WHAT IS ALLOWED BY CURRENT GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES
- ✓ MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO FISH BEFORE TRAVELLING. MANY CLUBS & FISHERIES HAVE IMPLEMENTED BOOKING SYSTEMS. FISHING WITHOUT PERMISSION IS ILLEGAL
- ✓ PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO CLUB & FISHERY NOTICES - IF UNSURE SPEAK TO A VENUE FOR GUIDANCE
- ✓ USE HAND SANITISER BEFORE & AFTER TOUCHING LOCKS, GATES ETC HANDLED BY OTHER ANGLERS. DISPOSABLE GLOVES ARE RECOMMENDED
- ✗ DO NOT LEAVE HOME IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 & FOLLOW GOVERNMENT ADVICE ON ISOLATION
- ✗ NO KEEPNETS OR COMPETITION FISHING - THE CURRENT ADVICE STILL PROHIBITS ORGANISED GATHERINGS OF ANY KIND
- ✗ NO SHARING OF FISHING POSITIONS / PEGS EXCEPT BY MEMBERS OF THE SAME HOUSEHOLD
- ✗ NO SHARING OF FISHING TACKLE OR OTHER ITEMS

WHEN WE FISH AGAIN - SALTWATER



Current Guidance - Published 09/05/2020

Full details at - www.anglingtrust.net/covid19

PHASE ONE

! AVOID FISHING FROM PIERS & BREAKWATERS IF YOU HAVE OTHER ALTERNATIVES, TO HELP AVOID OVER-CROWDING

<p>✓ YOU SHOULD ONLY TRAVEL TO FISHING VENUES ON YOUR OWN OR WITH MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD & ABIDE BY CURRENT GUIDELINES ON SOCIAL DISTANCING</p>	<p>✓ MAINTAIN A DISTANCE OF 15M FROM OTHER ANGLERS WHILST FISHING</p>	<p>✓ ONLY TRAVEL BASED ON WHAT IS ALLOWED BY CURRENT GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES</p>	<p>✓ SEA ANGLING FROM BEACH AND SHORE IS ALLOWED ALONG WITH SMALL SCALE PRIVATE BOAT FISHING (WITH MEMBERS OF YOUR OWN HOUSEHOLD) - BUT STICK TO SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES</p>	<p>✓ PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO CLUB, HARBOUR & LOCAL COUNCIL NOTICES - IF UNSURE SPEAK SEEK LOCAL GUIDANCE</p>	<p>✓ USE HAND SANITISER BEFORE & AFTER TOUCHING LOCKS, GATES ETC HANDLED BY OTHER ANGLERS. DISPOSABLE GLOVES ARE RECOMMENDED</p>	<p>✗ DO NOT LEAVE HOME IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 & FOLLOW GOVERNMENT ADVICE ON ISOLATION</p>	<p>✗ NO COMPETITION FISHING - THE CURRENT ADVICE STILL PROHIBITS ORGANISED GATHERINGS OF ANY KIND</p>	<p>✗ NO SHARING OF FISHING POSITIONS / MARKS EXCEPT BY MEMBERS OF THE SAME HOUSEHOLD</p>	<p>✗ NO SHARING OF FISHING TACKLE OR OTHER ITEMS</p>
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