

LOCKDOWN 2

Advice notes for anglers

Published 05/11/2020



Fishing in Lockdown - what we can and cannot do (England)

Under the November 5th 2020 Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations fishing is deemed a permissible form of outdoor recreation and a 'lawful excuse' to leave home. This has been confirmed by ministers and in subsequent government guidance.

<https://www.sportengland.org/news/national-restrictions-our-support-during-period>

However, certain limitations have been introduced and these are enforceable by law with fines of up to £10,000 now in place.

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2020/1200/pdfs/ukxi_20201200_en.pdf

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Pleasure Fishing

You can go fishing in the sea or in freshwater (with or without keepnets) in 'outdoor public places' which include: *neighbourhood streets, parks, beaches, and the countryside; public gardens and grounds (whether or not you pay to enter them).*

However, regulations are clear and you can only leave home to fish with members of your own household, your support bubble or with one other individual. The Rule of Six is now effectively the Rule of Two for most of us.

As the existing regulations, which allow for an activity to 'continue through the night', have not changed and there are no limits on the time that can be spent on outdoor recreation, anglers are able to continue fishing into and through the hours of darkness providing the other rules are observed. This is distinct from camping and campsites which are required to close.

Match Fishing

The tightening of the government's rules on 'gatherings' means that match fishing or any other organised fishing or amateur sporting event is prohibited by law during lockdown. However, competitive fishing will be able to resume once there is a return to the three tier system of restrictions.

Part Three of the regulations state:

Participation in outdoor gatherings

9.—(1) No person may participate in a gathering which—

(a) takes place in a public outdoor place and consists of more than two people, or

(b) takes place in any other outdoor place (including any outdoor part of a private dwelling) and consists of two or more people. (Para 8)

A similar offence is included for the organising of any such 'gatherings'. On this basis we can announce that all Angling Trust competitions are suspended for the period covering 5th November – 2nd December 2020.

HELP AND SUPPORT

We're here to help you get
continue fishing safely

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www.anglingtrust.net/covid-19

