

Fishing Information

Tackle & Tactics

The Dartmoor Fishery is an excellent choice for anglers seeking wilderness fishing for wild brown trout and is Fly Only. Those who frequently fish for brown trout tend to develop their own set-ups to cope with the variety of fishing conditions on offer. In the smaller streams, a brook rod (6-7ft, 2-4wt) works well, although a longer 9-10ft 3-4wt can be useful for 'reaching' over riverbanks and boulders. On the main rivers, a 7½-9ft 3-5wt rod will suit most conditions.

For sea trout 9-10ft, 6-7wt outfits are the norm. Sea trout fishing on Dartmoor can be extremely exciting but, if you are going night fishing, be prepared - survey the river beforehand, take a torch and safety equipment and go with another angler.

For salmon fishing a 9-10ft, 7-8wt rod with a floating line (a range of sink tips is useful) and an intermediate line should cover most conditions. Focus on the larger pools and runs in normal or high flow conditions, but during low flows fish the pots where fish will hold in the tightest of spaces.

Fishing Safely and Responsibly

The River Dart and its tributaries epitomise 'wild fishing in wild places'. Most anglers have an appreciation of the countryside code and some understanding of the hazards that may be encountered. If you are new to angling, or you are fishing a river which is new to you, consider taking the services of a guide. The following points may also be useful.

1. Please follow the countryside code and the Dartmoor National Park Byelaws at all times - www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk
2. Parts of Dartmoor, including some areas of the fishery, are used for military exercise; these are shown on O.S. Explorer OL28. Full information is available at - www.gov.uk/government/publications/dartmoor-firing-programme
3. Please take great care if you need to cross or walk along roadways. Please follow the Highway Code at all times - www.gov.uk/highway-code
4. Take care when crossing stiles and gates, particularly when wearing waders. Watch out for barbed wire, slippery grass slopes and soft ground/ riverbanks. In some areas stock fencing may be electrified.

5. When wading great care should be taken at all times; use suitable soles (avoid felt soles as they have potential to trap invasive species), carry a wading stick and wear a life jacket.
6. Always wear a hat and eye glasses when fly fishing. Always keep a good distance away from other anglers and allow them sufficient time to fish a pool before commencing to fish nearby.
7. The minimum recommended distance from power lines horizontally is 30m; rods and fishing lines can conduct electricity without making contact with the power line.
8. Access to some areas can require considerable walking and the fishing can be physically demanding. Take a map (OS Explorer OL28), obtain local knowledge from other anglers/ guides, watch the weather and tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back.
9. Do not rely on there being mobile phone signal; often there will be no signal.
10. Night fishing for sea trout should only be undertaken by suitably experienced anglers and always in pairs or larger groups. Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back. Night fishing is only appropriate at times of low water.
11. In the summer it is quite easy to pick up ticks on bare skin. Some ticks may carry Lyme's disease; please check www.nhs.uk
12. Weil's disease, from rat urine, is unlikely but could occur. Consult your GP if in doubt.
13. There are also a number of diseases that can affect fish and other organisms in our water courses. Detailed information can be found on the Westcountry Angling website.
14. Invasive species. There are a whole range of non-native plant and animal species appearing in the UK that could be very detrimental to our native species. These include Signal Crayfish, Quagga Mussels, Killer Shrimp, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam to name a few. It is important that everyone takes care to prevent the spread of these. Anglers must **check-clean-dry** their equipment and footwear / clothing when moving between water bodies. Full details can be found at: www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry



All information in this guide was believed to be correct at the time of printing. For up to date information please visit the website at: www.westcountryangling.com
While Westcountry Rivers Trust endeavours to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate we cannot be held liable for any errors or discrepancies that occur. As with any fishing there are hazards involved as described above. While we endeavour to highlight these hazards you undertake the activity at your own risk. Neither the Trust nor the landowners can be held liable for any accidents, personal injury or damage to your equipment.

Conservation Measures & Regulations

The River Dart and its tributaries are some of the wildest and most pristine environments in the UK. The Duchy of Cornwall, as well as all those involved with managing the rivers and streams of Dartmoor, appreciate your support in protecting this valuable resource.

The following measures must always be observed:

1. An appropriate EA licence must be obtained before fishing.
2. Fly only on all rivers; Only fish with single or double barbless hooks, no larger than size six.
3. Sorry, no dogs are allowed.
4. Please respect other anglers - a 30 minute maximum fishing period should be observed if another angler is waiting to fish the same pool.
5. Anglers must carry their permit with them at all times when fishing.
6. ALL ANGLERS MUST COMPLETE AND SUBMIT A CATCH RETURN; this can be completed online at www.westcountryangling.com

Catch restrictions:

Sometimes it is necessary to use catch restrictions in order to protect vulnerable fish stocks. Please check our website in order to fish within current regulations and guidelines - www.westcountryangling.com/dartmoor-beats

Please note that you will also need an EA rod licence in order to fish in England with a rod and line, these can be bought from Postbridge, Princetown, and Buckfast post offices, as well as online.

Salmon: With the objective of achieving a 'catch and release' rate for salmon of 90%, as required by the

EA: **all salmon must be returned before June 16** (EA National Byelaws). After 16 June return the first salmon caught, thereafter **keep only one fish in the season** (preferably a cock grilse) i.e. all hen salmon or hen grilse should be returned. Notwithstanding the above, return all salmon over 10lbs (approx. 30" long) or which is coloured or tagged. **Sea trout:** No more than two fish may be kept per night, **all coloured fish, fish over 6lbs and fish under 12 inches to be returned. No angler may retain more than 24 sea trout in the season.** Please return all salmon and sea trout in September to help preserve stocks. It is recommended that you stop fishing if the catch limit is reached. **Brown trout:** Please return all trout under 9 inches and those of over 12 inches. One fish of between 9 and 12 inches may be kept per day. Catch and release strongly encouraged.

Please also remember: Members of the public may also have a right of access to the river bank. Please do not climb fences or walls - only use gates and stiles. Take a map with you; O.S. Explorer OL28 covers the Fishery.

Help protect Dartmoor Rivers:

The Dart Fisheries Association aims to conserve the natural environment of the River Dart and its tributaries. It works in conjunction with the Duchy of Cornwall, the Westcountry Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency to carry out a range of conservation works. To make a donation to help such works continue, to become a member or find out how you can practically assist, contact Bill Robertson on 01364 652574.

