

PIKE FISHING REGULATIONS 2025

NEW for 2025: Hypodermic needles (used for injecting baits) are not permitted to be used or brought to site. If anglers wish to inject their baits, they must do so at home. Zero tolerance will be taken from 2025 onwards. (Hypodermic needles that are needed for medical reasons are permitted but must be discarded appropriately)

ATTEMPTS TO BREAK UK RECORD TO BE CARRIED OUT WHILST BANK ANGLING ONLY. BOAT ANGLERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BRING LARGE PIKE TO SHORE IN THE EVENT OF CATCHING POTENTIALLY RECORD-BREAKING PIKE. THERE IS NO EXCEPTION FOR CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE BANK FROM THE BOAT.

These regulations apply to pike fishing other than by fly-fishing on Chew Valley Lake only when permitted.

Bait boats must not exceed 100 metres from the bank whilst boat anglers are on the water. Boat anglers must stay 100 metres away from Dead bait/Lure bank anglers.

A maximum of two rods may be used. Rods must be no more than one metre apart. If one is being used while spinning or lure fishing the angler must remain within one metre of the other rod.

Minimum breaking strain of reel line must be 20lbs if using mono and 40lb if using braid. Wire traces must be used at all times: minimum length 18 inches, minimum breaking strain 40lbs. No heavy mono is to be used as a trace material.

The only methods allowed are artificial lure fishing and dead-bait fishing with sea fish baits. Only one prong of any double or treble hook being used for dead-bait fishing shall have a barb for the purpose of bait retention. All other hooks must be barbless. A maximum of 2 trebles or 2 doubles is permitted on any one trace.

Sea Baits may be enhanced with sprays/liquids and chopped baits are allowed. **All bait must be identifiable, or it will be seized. No other baits are allowed i.e. pellet and ground baits. Zero tolerance will be taken from 2024 onwards.**

The main body of any lure, spinner or replicant must be at least four inches not including any attachments e.g. hook, feather, tail, spinner blade etc. No freshwater fish, alive or dead, may be used or brought to the water (including lamprey, pollan or eel).

No pre-baiting permitted ahead of permitted fishing times.

All lures MUST be de-barbed.

Anglers must carry adequate means to unhook fish without harming them, i.e. long nosed forceps, unhooking mat, thick gloves, etc.

A minimum knotless landing net with arms of at least 36 inches, or a round frame of at least 30 inches must be used when fishing for pike. All nets must have a maximum mesh size of 15mm.

Fish must be returned to the water as soon as possible after capture. Trolling with dead-baits and lures is allowed but not under petrol engine power. Electric engines and oars may be used. No anchoring or mooring to buoys within 50m of any jetty or pontoon.

No bank fishing within 25m of the jetty areas.

Anyone found fishing in the restricted areas, boat or bank, will be asked to leave the water.

Anglers must not be on Bristol Water property nor their tackle outside of the stated permitted times. Anyone found on the bank outside this time will be banned, this also goes with fishing outside of the stated times. Tackle found will be seized and anglers asked to leave and face exclusion from the fishery. **Zero tolerance will be taken from 2024 onwards**

Return cards must be completed and returned to Woodford Lodge with catch details. Failure to do so will restrict bookings for the following year.

Any trout caught accidentally must be returned to the water immediately. Trout unavoidably killed must be handed to a Bristol Water employee. They must not be retained by the angler.

Purchasing tickets via proxy is only permitted with permission from Bristol Water Fisheries. Anyone found doing so without permission will not be allowed to fish and may face a ban.

No tickets are to be sold without prior consent of Bristol Water Fisheries. Bristol Water Fisheries must be informed of any planned changes to tickets or anglers fishing on a ticket. It is the responsibility of the named ticket holder to notify us of any possible changes.

All other Company rules & regulations also apply to all pike anglers. The laws enforced by the Environment Agency apply on this fishery and anglers require a national rod licence before fishing.

Please bear in mind that trout anglers may also be fishing the reservoir at the same time as you. For the future of the pike fishing please obey all the rules and regulations.

BOAT USE AND SAFETY

Bristol Water aim to get boats ready for 9am.

All boat anglers must watch and sign to say they have watched and understood the company Health and Safety DVD prior to boat fishing. This must be done on every visit.

When using boats, it is suggested that anglers read and understand the following instructions BEFORE going afloat.

Ensure you are confident in starting the engine before untying from the jetties. Please seek assistance from a member of staff if any issues arise.

Always wear a lifejacket before going on to the jetties. Lifejackets must always be worn when in the boat and/or on the jetty.

Keep at least 50 metres away from other boats.

Never anchor where other boats are drifting. Do not anchor in the area of the aerators by the Dam. Check your permit or ask staff for details.

Do not enter the area in front of Stratford Bird Hide marked by a line of yellow buoys.

Always make sure that you are back at the jetties within the fishing time stated upon arrival. If unsure about finishing time, please contact a member of staff.

In case of accident or breakdown stay with the boat. If engine difficulties arise, call the emergency line.

Take a mobile phone with you in case you need to contact the Lodge, 01275 332339. In an emergency ring 01275 332481. This phone is transferred to our Security Ranger mobile after 4:15pm.