

Lancaster Canal Fishery Rules

The Pike Anglers Club of Great Britain (PAC) proudly welcomes all responsible anglers to their fisheries and is committed to continually maintaining and improving



facilities for anglers. We believe in using common sense and prefer not to have excessive rules and regulations. However, some rules are necessary to properly manage the fishery and ensure a sustainable environment for anglers. We have a dedicated team of Club Officials and Bailiffs, but we strongly encourage all anglers to treat this fishery as their own and actively participate in its maintenance. This can include picking up litter left by others or reporting any incidents, wrongdoings, or concerns.

1. Permits run for 12 months from the date of issue.
2. Permits remain the property of The Pike Anglers' Club of GB and may be revoked at any time by a Bailiff or Club Official.
3. Fisheries Bailiffs and Club Officials work in partnership with Local Authority Agencies and the Police and are authorised by the PAC National Committee to manage the fishery and enforce fishery rules. Anyone who obstructs or fails to comply fully with their instructions will have their membership revoked indefinitely.
4. Abusive language, words or anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated.
5. Fishing is only permitted from the tow path side, fishing in boat yards and marinas is NOT permitted as per CRT rules.
6. While fishing, you must be in possession of a valid PAC Lancaster canal fisheries permit and appropriate Environment Agency (EA) rod license(s) and these must be presented to a Bailiff/Club Official or Lancaster canal fishery member on demand. Bailiffs / members when checking licenses should produce their own card/badge.
7. No fish are to be transferred to, or removed from, the water no exceptions. All fish must be returned, catch and release (*the only exception being live baits in moderation see rule 11).
8. Pike fishing is available to PAC members who purchase a canal permit (see point 1 above). Pike fishing is also available on day ticket £5 two rods only dawn until dusk. Only PAC members who are also members of the Lancaster canal fishery may night fish for pike and can use up to four rods whilst pike fishing. Annual coarse fishing permit holders may of course night fish for coarse fish (not for pike).
9. Fishing lines – please use fishing line that is appropriate for the venue and conditions. We recommend using 18lb mono or 50lb braid for general all round pike angling line strength for pike fishing. It is advisable to use heavier braided line for large heavy lures and to ensure you can straighten hooks to retrieve end tackle.
10. Wire traces are mandatory for pike fishing, these should be a minimum of 18 inches in length for dead-baiting, shorter wire traces are OK for lure fishing and live baiting with an uptrace. It is recommended to use an uptrace longer than the bait trace for any form of bait fishing to avoid bite offs. For any form of lure fishing where the lure has a treble hook/s a wire trace must be used this is mandatory not optional. PAC do NOT advocate the used of mono or fluorocarbon bait or lure traces for pike it is quite simply NOT worth the risk. Minimum breaking strain of wire trace for pike fishing 30lb.
11. Treble hooks for bait fishing should be semi barbed (either manufactured as such or with crushed barbs), size 4s and 6s are perfectly adequate for bait fishing. Treble should be strong enough to land a large pike but not so thick as not to bend out if you get snagged.
12. Live baits are permitted in moderation (maximum number permissible 8 per day per angler) they must be caught from the venue, no transferring of fish, the size, use and retaining of live baits live baits must be in accordance with current EA regulations. Any live baits the angler has remaining after their fishing session MUST be returned to the water. Live baiting and dead baiting methods are restricted to the traditional pike season 1st October to 14th March. There is no closed season on lure/Fly fishing however NO pike fishing is permitted when water temperatures are at or above 18 degrees (if in doubt check/ ask, if still in doubt do NOT fish).
13. Littering will not be tolerated. Anglers are expected to take their rubbish with them and must ensure that the bankside is free of litter before leaving the venue.

14. Day tickets and Memberships are not available on the bank & MUST be purchased in advance.
15. No guest fishing allowed without the expressed permission of the Fisheries Manager
16. No fires. Barbeque equipment may be used but must not scorch the floor (i.e. raised off the floor) and all remnants must be taken away as litter.
17. Maximum 4 rods to be used by annual permit holder (day ticket two rods only maximum), and in accordance with EA regulations.
18. Rods are not to be left unattended. If you leave your swim reel in no exemptions.
19. All anglers should be equipped with adequate tackle for landing and unhooking their quarry. An unhooking mat must be used when targeting pike and perch. Landing nets for pike should be no less than 42-inch triangle or suitable equivalent oval / square oval (e.g. 85x70cm).
20. Long nose pliers or forceps should be used for unhooking and long reach wire/side cutters to cut hooks if needed
21. Gags, Boga style grips, gaffs etc are banned there is no place for such barbaric devices in modern angling.
22. Members are reminded that CRT towpaths follow the length of the canal, and these must not be permanently obstructed. Any temporary obstruction of the path must be kept to a minimum (as per CRT shared towpath policy).
23. You must treat other canal users and local residents with respect at all times. Anyone found to have brought the reputation of the club its members or the sport into disrepute may lose their membership and asked to leave the fishery.
24. Members are expected to fish within the boundaries of their swim and be courteous and considerate to fellow anglers. Rods must be spaced in accordance with EA regulations i.e. no more than 3m between all (not each) rod butt.
25. Noise must be kept to a minimum and reasonable level, including radios and bite alarms.
26. Night fishing is permitted throughout the fishery to season permit holders (day tickets are dawn until dusk only) but public rights of way must not be obstructed, bivvys are not allowed in the corner of where Glasson dock meets the canal this is to respect the privacy of the boat moorings and is mandatory not optional.
27. Accidental damage to any part of the fishery, fencing or equipment must be reported to the Fisheries Manager without delay.
28. Failure to comply with any rule may result in you being asked to leave the fishery or your permit being temporarily or permanently revoked.
29. Any wrong-doings or concerns such as pollution, breach of rules, poaching should be reported to a Bailiff, the Fisheries Manager or Local Authorities, as appropriate, at the earliest opportunity.
30. No firearms of any description are to be brought on to the fishery, including stored in vehicles.
31. The Pike Anglers' Club of GB accepts no liability for injury or damage to persons or property however caused. Anglers attend and fish the venue at their own risk. Any matters not covered by the above rules, will be decided by the Fisheries Manager.
32. In the unlikely event that a member feels that they have not been dealt with professionally, fairly or appropriately by a Bailiff or Club Official, they may make a written appeal to the PAC General Secretary, whose decision will be final.
33. Keepnets are permitted for general coarse fishing (pike should not be retained in keepnets), keepnets must meet the minimum EA standard i.e. - you must not use any keepnet: with knotted or metallic mesh, less than 2 metres in overall length, with holes in the mesh larger than 25mm in circumference, with supporting rings or frames more than 40cm apart (excluding the distance from the opening to the first ring or frame) with rings less than 120cm in circumference, fish must not be retained in a keepnet once you have finished fishing. In addition to this keepnets should be properly pegged / staked out in the water, in hot weather fish should not be held in a keep net for more than six hours, it is sensible not to keep more than around 50lb total bag weight of fish in any one keepnet at one time. As a sensible precaution to avoid any potential for disease spread keepnets should be dry before use. Keepnets used in approved matches may be subject to additional match specific rules at the discretion of the match organiser.
34. Reserving of swims other than for official events is NOT permitted.
35. Fishing from vehicles is NOT permitted, the angler MUST always be in control of their rods.
36. Any suggestions or ideas for improving the fishery are welcomed and should be discussed with a Bailiff or the Fisheries Manager.
37. These rules may change from time to time and without notice. The web-based rules will be amended and kept fully up to date. It is the responsibility of members to ensure that they are kept up to date with amendments.

Damian McHale, PAC General Secretary

Ian Hartley & Mark Jennings, Joint Fishery Managers