



INLAND FISHERIES ACT 1976

INLAND FISHERIES REGULATIONS 1983

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry by sections 14(1) of, and Schedule 2 to, the Inland Fisheries Act 1976(a) and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the following regulations are hereby made:-

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Inland Fisheries Regulations 1983 and shall, subject to section 14(3) of the Inland Fisheries Act 1976, come into operation on 1 March 1983.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations -

“the Act” means the Inland Fisheries Act 1976;

“foul-hooked” means hooked otherwise than by the mouth;

“leader” means the end portion of a reel-line to which the fly-hook or snell of the fly-hook is attached;

“the fishing season” is the period of a year which is not included in the annual close season;

“private fishery” means any waters where angling facilities are offered on a commercial basis to persons who hold a valid angling licence of either of the classes set out in regulation 4(2);

“the reservoirs” means any of the following reservoirs -

the Ballure Reservoir, the Block Eary Reservoir, the Clypse Reservoir, the Cringle Reservoir, the Eairy Dam, the Kerrowdhoo Reservoir, the Sulby Reservoir and the West Baldwin Reservoir;

“reservoir fishing licence” has the meaning assigned by regulation 4(2)(a);

“other waters fishing licence” has the meaning assigned by regulation 4(2)(b);

“snell” means a short line of gut, horsehair, nylon or other similar material by which a fly-hook is attached to the leader;

“Water Authority” means the Isle of Man Water Authority;

“waters has the meaning assigned to it by section 83 of the Act.

Annual close season

3. The annual close season, when it shall be unlawful to fish for, take or kill -
 - (a) salmon, shall commence on 1 November in each year and shall end on 31 March in the next year, both dates inclusive;
 - (b) freshwater fish in the reservoirs, shall commence on 1 November in each year and shall end on 9 March in the next year, both dates inclusive; and
 - (c) freshwater fish in any water other than the reservoirs or a private fishery shall commence on 1 October in each year and shall end on 31 March in the next year, both dates inclusive.

Fishing licences

4. (1) For the purposes of Part II of the Act and subject to the provisions of these Regulations, there may be issued for the fishing season commencing -
 - (a) in the case of the reservoirs or a private fishery, on 10 March in each year; and
 - (b) in the case of waters other than the reservoirs or a private fishery, on 1 April in each year,

the classes of licence specified in paragraph (2).

- (2) There shall be two classes of fishing licence, namely -
 - (a) a reservoir fishing licence, which shall authorise the person to whom the licence is issued to fish by a single rod and line only, in the reservoirs or a private fishery; and
 - (b) an other waters fishing licence, which shall authorise the person to whom the licence is issued to fish for, take or kill any freshwater fish by a single rod and line only, in any waters other than the reservoirs.

(3) No person shall hold for any period more than one licence of either class provided by paragraph (2).

(4) For the purposes of section 80 of the Act, the classes of licence specified in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) or paragraph (2) shall be deemed to be licences of the same kind.

Application for issue of licences

5. A person requiring a licence to fish for, take or kill any freshwater fish or salmon shall make application in such manner as the Department may specify and shall supply the Department with such information relating to the application and the intended fishing activities as the Department may require.

Fishing licence duties

6. . . . [dealt with in separate Regulations]

Foul-hooking

7. No person shall use a rod and line in such a manner as is calculated to foul-hook any fish.

Prohibition on killing of small fish

8. No person shall kill any freshwater fish or salmon which is less than 18 centimetres in length overall.

Restriction on placing fish, etc., in waters

9. No person shall, except with the written authority of the Department, place any fish or the fry or eggs of any such fish in any waters.

Prohibition of use of certain fishing equipment

10. (1) Subject to paragraphs (2), (3) and (4), no person shall, for the purpose of catching or killing or attempting to catch or kill any freshwater fish or salmon in any waters, use any of the following equipment -

- (a) a line any part of which has a breaking strain in excess of 4.5 kilograms (10 lb.);
- (b) a line with more than one hook attached thereto; or
- (c) a hook larger than No. 6 Redditch scale,

nor have such equipment in his possession in such circumstances as to satisfy the court before which he is charged that he intended at the time to catch or kill any freshwater fish or salmon by means thereof;

- (2) Paragraph (1)(b) shall not apply in respect of the following tackles -
- (a) the tackle known as Pennal or Stuart tackles;
 - (b) tackle comprising a leader and point fly, with one or two dropper flies attached to the leader by a snell where the court before which the person is charged is satisfied that it was being used or was intended to be used for fly fishing only;
 - (c) the tackles known as a spinner, lure and spoon where the court before which a person is charged is satisfied that the tackle was being used in a manner consistent only with the proper use of a spinner, lure or spoon;
 - (i) in a reservoir, where the spinner, lure or spoon does not exceed 10 grams in weight and does not exceed 65 millimetres in length, inclusive of hook and dressing; or
 - (ii) in a river, where the spinner, lure or spoon does not exceed 15 grams in weight and does not exceed 100 millimetres in length, inclusive of hook and dressing.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(b), save as respects the tackle referred to in paragraph (2), more than one bend having a common shaft or the shafts of which are, by whatever method, joined together, shall be deemed to constitute more than one hook.

(4) Paragraph (1)(c) shall not apply in the case of a hook comprised in an artificial fly.

(5) No person shall, for the purpose of catching or killing or attempting to catch or kill any freshwater fish in a reservoir, use a rubber worm or similar artificial bait.

Requirement to use a landing net

10A. Anglers must carry with them and use a landing net to land fish caught by rod and line when fishing -

- (i) in a reservoir, at all times;
- (ii) in waters other than a reservoir, when fishing for salmon.

Daily catch limit

11. (1) No person shall in any one day capture and kill -
- (a) in the case of the reservoirs, more than four trout;
 - (b) in the case of any waters other than the reservoirs, more than six fish, of which not more than two shall be salmon.

(2) No person shall continue to fish after capturing and killing the maximum number of fish specified in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of paragraph (1).

Prohibition of use of live or organic bait in Reservoirs

12. No person shall use in any reservoir, other than the Eairy Dam, any live bait, worms, ground bait or organic matters, including any substance with which artificial bait may be impregnated and which is designed to disperse through the water and attract fish by sense of smell.

Wading in Reservoirs

13. No person shall, for the purpose of taking any fish, wade in any reservoir.

Restriction on Reservoir fishing

14. (1) No person shall fish in any reservoir except between the hours of 6.00 a.m., or sunrise, whichever is the later, and 30 minutes after sunset, or 10.30 p.m., whichever is the earlier.

(2) No child, being the holder of a licence of the types specified in regulation 6(2), shall fish in any reservoir unless he is accompanied by a person over the age of 18 years.

Closure of reservoirs

15. A reservoir fishing licence shall not confer on any person any right of fishing -

- (a) in any reservoir; or
- (b) in any part of a reservoir

where -

- (i) the Water Authority has closed that reservoir or that part of a reservoir for fishing; or
- (ii) the inspector has temporarily closed that reservoir or that part of a reservoir for fishing for the purpose of stocking or enabling the carrying out of maintenance.

G.C. No. 18/83	Inland Fisheries Regulations 1983
G.C. No. 18/94	Inland Fisheries (Fees) Regulations 1994
G.C. No. 59/86	Inland Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 1986
S.D. No. 19/95	Inland Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 1995
S.D. No. 25/96	Inland Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 1996
S.D. No. 707/98	Inland Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 1998
S.D. No. 30/00	Inland Fisheries (Amendment) Regulations 2000

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