

LOCKDOWN 2

Advice notes for anglers

Published 06/11/2020



Fishing in Lockdown - Boat Fishing

The Public Health, England (Coronavirus, Restrictions) regulations came into force in England from 5th November 2020 for a period of 28 days and whilst boating remains a permissible form of outdoor recreation, as evidenced by the Sport England guidance, there are impacts on recreational fishing.

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

Charter boats

The 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. The tightening of the rules on 'gatherings' means that club outings or any other organised fishing event is prohibited by law during lockdown.

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Charter boats are still able to operate as long as the current rules regarding people gathering outdoor for the purposes of exercise or recreation are followed, namely with one other person who is not a member of your household or your linked household. In effect, this means the skipper and one other only.

In line with previous guidelines, the cabin is off limits to all passengers at all times. This is to protect the health of the skipper and minimise risk.

Private boats

Neither harbours nor marinas are required to be closed although some may choose to do so. It is permissible to still use a private boat to go fishing as long as the rules on outdoor exercise and recreation with others is followed, namely, with one or more members of your household, or your linked household, OR with one other person who is not a member of your household or your linked household.

Travel Advisory

The travel guidance (below) is advisory rather than law but anglers are urged to exercise common sense and act within the spirit of the government's guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

It states that it is permissible to travel in order: *"to spend time or exercise outdoors - this should be done locally wherever possible, but you can travel to do so if necessary (for example, to access an open space)" (para 11)*

It is lawful to travel to go fishing but long journeys should be avoided 'wherever possible'. Sea anglers should focus on their local fishing marks and freshwater anglers should not be travelling hundreds of miles in search of fishing during lockdown. You must not leave home to fish if you have Coronavirus symptoms or are self-isolating.

The full regulations can be found here:

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

These Angling Trust guidelines cover the period of 5th November to 2nd December. Should the restrictions be lifted after 2nd December and England reverts to the three-tier system, the previous guidelines (version 15/10/20) will apply.

HELP AND SUPPORT

We're here to help you get
continue fishing safely

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