

USE OF LOCH TAY

The aim of these guidelines, issued by the Loch Tay Association, is to provide a code of conduct for the loch so that all users may enjoy the pursuit of their choice without undue interference and in safety.

GENERAL

All Loch users are responsible for taking adequate precautions for the safety of themselves and of others who may be affected by their activity. Although this Code provides some basic guidelines on safety, it is no substitute for common sense, care and watchfulness.

The loch can be dangerous as it is deep and subject to squalls. The shoreline is steep in many places and some sandy beaches which appear shallow and safe, shelve very steeply a short distance from the shore. The water level of the loch can change by as much as ten feet during the year, there are many rocks close inshore which, with the changing water level, are a hazard to navigation. They are unmarked. Being a large water mass fed by rivers bringing melted snow down from the mountains, the water temperature for much of the year is very cold. It is strongly recommended that buoyancy aids should be worn at all times by those participating in water sports.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

There are no rescue patrols on the loch. In the event of an accident or other emergency the normal emergency services should be called immediately on 999 or 112 from the nearest telephone which, in the absence of a mobile phone, is most likely to be the nearest house or passing vehicle.

BOATS

Access to Loch

Under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, you can carry non-powered craft, such as canoes, surfboards and dinghies to Loch Tay for responsible recreation, however you cannot take a vehicle (with or without a trailer) across land to get to the water or take your powered craft (*any craft with an engine*) across land to Loch Tay or tributaries without first obtaining the permission of the owner of the land.

INSURANCE

All boat users should be covered by a third party public liability insurance. The consequences of any mishap can be drastic and very expensive.

FISHING

Salmon

Fishing is strictly controlled on the loch and its tributaries. For salmon fishing the loch is divided into three sections, east, central and west. Salmon fishing is limited to those with a

legal permission known as a 'Right' to fish in a specific area. It is a criminal offence to fish for salmon without a salmon right or the permission of the owner of that right.

Those fishing for salmon are strongly advised to have the written authority of the 'Right' owner so that they may show it to the water bailiff. Salmon 'Rights' are allocated a number and this must be clearly displayed on boats. Salmon fishing is forbidden on Sundays by statute.

When trolling, i.e. towing a fishing line behind a boat, it is advised that a 'trolling shape' should be displayed, being a round orange coloured ball approximately 200mm in diameter, on a fixed pole or rod 750mm long and positioned in an appropriate part of the fishing boat where it is clearly visible all around. No vessel should approach within 100m astern of a fishing boat engaged in trolling and displaying a trolling shape.

Trout

Trout fishing is subject to the River Tay Protection Order and a written permit for either bank or boat fishing must be obtained in advance. Fishermen are required to comply with the regulations shown on the permit which includes information on the area covered by the permit.

Bank fishing permits may be obtained from local angling clubs, Kenmore Post Office, Kenmore Hotel, Kenmore Caravan Site, News First (Killin), local hotels in Killin and riparian owners.

Permission to fish for trout from a boat can be obtained from certain hotels, landowners and boat operators.

RESTRICTED AREAS

East end: Powered boats should stay away from the beach area marked on the plan by the solid green line or beyond the bridge over the River Tay. Water skiers should avoid the area to the east of the line being a projection between the posts on the Dalerb jetty on the north and Croft na Caber flag pole on the south (*marked by a line of green dashes on the plan*).

Again, for reasons of safety, a speed limit of 8km (5mph) is to be maintained inside areas where boats are moored (*marked on the plan in green*) and on the Rivers Lochay and Dochart.

SPEED LIMIT

All powered boats and personal water craft should not exceed 8km per hour (5mph) within 150 metres of loch shore or island shores – and comply with the speed limits for all

restricted areas because of underwater hazards.

Caution is required where there is a lot of sailing and windsurfing activity.

Power boats should reduce speed or avoid going near canoeists. Remember that many canoeists are novices and under instruction. Always be on the lookout for swimmers.

YOUNG PERSONS

No power-driven boat of greater engine power than 5hp (3 kilowatts) should be under the command of a person under the age of 16 years.

WATER SKIERS

Boats towing skiers, boards, ringos and the like should carry an observer in addition to the driver to relay information and to assist in any way ensuring the safety of the skier, and be fitted with a driving mirror so that the driver can see the skier and other boats behind.

The boat should have an adequate alternative means of propulsion to enable it to pick up a fallen water skier in the event of an engine failure.

NOISE AND SILENCERS

All outboard engines or engines installed in personal water craft (PWCs) should be efficiently silenced. No person should operate a craft on the loch in such a manner or for such a time as to give any other person reasonable cause for annoyance. It is requested that power boat and PWC users do not use the loch before 9.00am and after 9.00pm.

Boat owners should be aware that all noise whether engine or voice, carries further on water, particularly at night.

LITTER

Please take your litter home with you and keep Lochtayside a litter free area.

BATHING

Bathing is dangerous except in shallow water - even here a bather can quickly be out of their depth if they step over a hidden shelf. The water is likely to be very cold and could cause cramp, exhaustion or hypothermia very quickly. Safety aids where appropriate should be worn.