



## What To Do If..... Advice & Guidelines

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### Pollution

Pollutions are usually identified by fish-kills or by something being visibly discharged into a watercourse. It can come in many forms – sewage, slurry, chemicals, even silt running off a field.

If you come across suspected pollution in England please ring the Environment Agency's 24-Hour incident line immediately on **0800 80 70 60**. If it is in Wales, please report it to Natural Resources Wales's incident line on **03000 65 3000**.

When contacting the hotline, make a note of the Job Reference number, and, if possible, the name of the officer you spoke to. If you can take any photos of dead fish or invertebrates, or of the discharge itself then this will help the authorities to prosecute the polluter, or a fishery owner to bring a civil claim.

If it is during office hours please then contact WUF on 01874 712074/711714. We can try and contact the fishery directly. If it is out of hours please email us.

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### Poaching & Illegal Fishing

Poaching and illegal fishing occur from time to time. If you suspect any fishing activity that is in breach of byelaws (e.g. out of season, illegal methods, taking fish outside permitted dates, no rod licence etc) then you should always call the incident line: **0800 80 70 60 / 03000 65 3000**. It is important to do this as EA & NRW use the hotline to assess the number and location of such incidents. If nothing is reported, they will assume nothing untoward is going on.

Fishing without permission (i.e. where no breach of byelaws is taking place) can result in a prosecution for the culprits under the Theft Act and is something that the statutory bodies and police have been taking more interest in recently. If you encounter someone fishing a stretch and know that they don't have permission, please call the police on their 101 number. If you feel threatened, please call 999 immediately.

Any incidents on Passport beats should also be reported to WUF on 01874 712074/711714 as we will need to inform the fishery owner, ghillie or gamekeeper ASAP.

If you witness poaching or illegal fishing please also take a photograph and send it to us, **but only without endangering yourself**. This will help identify the culprit(s) and, in the case of canoeists, the canoe hire company or outdoor organisation who own the boats.

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## Water Temperatures

Over recent years in the summer months, river temperatures (on the Wye & Usk) have reached dangerously high levels. As the temperature rises the amount of oxygen water can hold decreases. This affects the ability of fish to recover from being caught and mortality rates post capture increase exponentially. **We advise taking a thermometer with you when fishing.** Water temperatures may fluctuate throughout the day and your fishing may be curtailed to early morning and or late evening. In higher temperatures, play your fish hard and get in the net as soon as possible, keep the fish wet, don't remove them from the water and skip the photo. Be patient, they may need more time to revive to swim off strongly.

We advise :

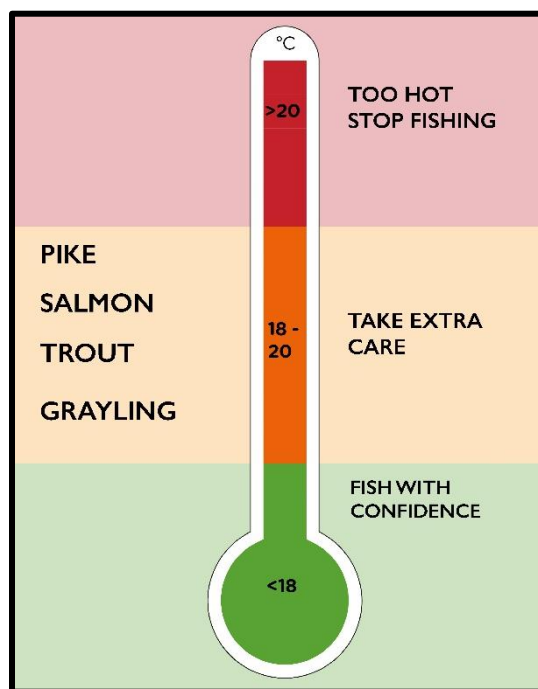
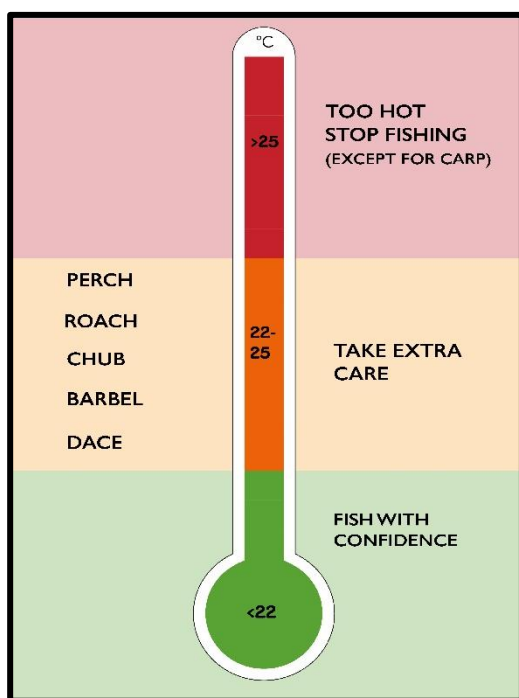
No salmon fishing when the water temperature is above 20°C

No trout, grayling or pike fishing when the water temperature is above 20°C

No coarse fishing when the water temperature above 25°C

Middle & Lower Wye temperatures can be found here: [https://telemetry-data.com/open?profile=River\\_Wye](https://telemetry-data.com/open?profile=River_Wye)

Upper Wye temperatures can be found here: <https://www.fishingpassport.co.uk/webcam/llanstephan>



For more information on thermal tolerance of fish and water temp. Please refer to the synopsis paper on the following link

<https://www.fishingpassport.co.uk/download/thermal-tolerance-of-fish-water-temp-synopsis-paper-2.pdf>

## Cattle

Do not, under any circumstances, park your vehicle in fields that contain cattle or those that cattle can access, even if the beat description tells you to park there. **Cattle will cause damage to your vehicle** and to your fishing tackle if it is left unattended on the bank. If you see cattle near the designated parking area on your beat details, either follow instructions to alternative parking areas or contact the Booking Office for further instructions. Cattle are nearly always moved from field to field without our knowledge so it is impossible to warn anglers in advance of their presence. Otherwise, you should always follow the Countryside Code.

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## Canoeists

Rights of navigation exist on some areas of river such as the Wye downstream of Hay-on-Wye. On many rivers, however, such as the Wye upstream of Hay-on-Wye or anywhere on the Usk, no such right exists. Negotiated access arrangements for canoeists may exist on the non-navigable sections at times of the year and at certain river heights which have minimal impact on fishing. Details of arrangements on the Wye & Usk can be found on the Wye and Usk Foundation website.

Should you come across any canoeists on a non-navigable river outside permitted times or heights, please report it to WUF. You may ask them to exit the river but please avoid confrontation at all times. If the canoeist(s) are from an official group or have an instructor with them, please make a note of this.

It's really important for "wild swimmers" to understand that if they enter any river outside a designated bathing area (even from a footpath) without riparian owner permission then it is a trespass and an unlawful act. That applies not just to the Rectory but everywhere else along the Wye, even the "publicly navigable" sections below Hay (swimmers are not included in the Wye Navigation Act) and all other UK rivers.

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## Wild Swimming

Whether people like it or not, rivers are owned privately by law. They are not a public asset. Whilst rivers should be enjoyed by all, it does not give everyone a right of access to the riverbank/bed, other than at accepted public sites. Permission should be obtained from the riparian owner. Anyone without permission is technically committing trespass although this is very difficult for fishery owners and fishermen to police. Our advice is to either to point out the potential trespass to the swimmer(s) and ask them to leave, or, to avoid unnecessary conflict ask the swimmer(s) to move to a part of the river which will not impact your fishing.

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While the Wye & Usk Foundation endeavors to ensure that the information provided in the Passport, booking confirmation details and on the website is accurate, we cannot be held liable for any errors or discrepancies that occur. Through the "Fishing Passport", miles of fishing that otherwise would be inaccessible to visiting anglers has been opened up. As with any fishing, there are risks involved. While we endeavor to highlight any such risks, the Foundation cannot be held liable for any accidents, personal injury or damage to property.

The Wye & Usk Foundation – July 2025.