
**STIRLING COUNCIL – FISHERIES ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHARGES AND POLICY
2017/2018**

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 It is proposed for the 2018 fishing season, which runs from 1 February to 31 October, that a new pricing structure is introduced (Appendix 1). The divide between resident and visitor is removed and the fishery becomes competitive again.
- 1.2 Day permits will be reintroduced in September and October.
- 1.3 The reduction of carcass tags has seen fewer salmon killed in 2016 and 2017. Maintaining a lower number of carcass tags issued each season, along with catch and release for day permits, will help Stirling Council's Fisheries to maintain our conservation status and create a sustainable Fishery.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Panel agrees to:-

- 2.1 the new pricing structure (Appendix 1);
- 2.2 reintroduction of day permits in September and October;
- 2.3 renaming the current juvenile permit "Youth" permit and extend the age limit to 21;
- 2.4 reduce carcass tags on adults' permits at 2 (21+);
- 2.5 issuing only one carcass tag on Youth permits (12 - 21);
- 2.6 continuing to prohibit day permit anglers to retain fish;
- 2.7 introducing 3 monthly permits (Appendix 1). These will be introduced on a Catch & Release basis;
- 2.8 continuing to sell corporate permits at the price of £296.00; and
- 2.9 make it full catch and release for sea trout.

3 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 In 2008 the Council agreed a full cost recovery model for Fisheries. Projected income was calculated against previous permit sales. The Council significantly increased permit prices during the period 2008 to 2011 in an effort to achieve full cost recovery. These increases in prices contributed to a decline in permit sales.
- 3.2 In an effort to halt the decline in permit sales, the Council restricted the rise in prices for the 2012 season to 5%. Permit sales continued to decline. The Council agreed a rise in price of 3% for the 2013 season. The Council agreed to continue with this strategy for the 2014 season.
- 3.3 Any increase in prices above the rate of inflation may result in a further decline in sales.
- 3.4 The steady decline in angler numbers goes back several years and it is likely this trend will continue, particularly if there is a significant rise in prices. There are a number of factors for this decline such as the age and health of some anglers, the cost, and the decrease in young people coming into the sport. These factors are not exclusive to Stirling Council's Fishery and are evident across the country.
- 3.5 This reduction in permit prices, the introduction of day permits in September and October and the introduction of 3 monthly permits should see an increase in angler numbers on the rivers. This will bring Stirling Council Fisheries on a competitive level with other rivers of the same nature around Scotland.
- 3.6 To maintain our conservation status we will need to reduce our carcass tags per angler and day permits will need to continue to be catch and release. To encourage anglers to purchase season permits, 3 monthly permits will be on a catch and release basis.
- 3.7 The new pricing structure would come in line with neighbouring fisheries (Appendix 3).
- 3.8 In 2010 the Forth District Salmon Fishery Board negotiated a rise in Fishery levies which led to a rise of £20,000 pa. Currently the Council contributes £43,000 in levies per annum. These are currently being reviewed by a third party.
- 3.9 The increase in levies, staffing costs and general running costs along with pressure on permit income have made it difficult for the Fishery to achieve full cost recovery. Currently, the Fishery is failing to meet full cost recovery targets.
- 3.10 Allowing one permit to cover both rivers and removing the divide between visitor and resident will reduce admin time for both Stirling Council and the agencies selling the permits.

3.11 The permit income has declined from 2010 to 2015 with a small increase in 2016. Income for years 2010 - 2016 is as follows:

2010 £65,484

2011 £61,564

2012 £57,582

2013 £50,128

2014 £48,370

2015 £39,025

2016 £42,904

3.12 For the 2017 season to date we have raised around £23,000 in permit sales.

3.13 Permit sales have been low this season due to a number of factors including predation, lack of catches and anglers moving onto better value fisheries. Agreeing the 2018 pricing proposal will allow us to market Stirling Council Fisheries as the best value salmon fishery in the UK. We are now offering anglers spring fishing, sea trout fishing, summer fishing and back end fishing all on the one permit.

4 POLICY/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

Policy Implications	
Equality Impact Assessment	No
Strategic Environmental Assessment	No
Serving Stirling	Yes
Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Diversity (age, disability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation)	No
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Effect on Council's green house gas emissions	No Effect
Strategic/Service Plan	No
Existing Policy or Strategy	Yes
Risk	No
Resource Implications	
Financial	Yes
People	No
Land and Property or IT Systems	No
Consultations	
Internal or External Consultations	Yes

Equality Impact Assessment

- 4.1 This application was assessed in terms of equality and human rights. Any impact has been identified in the Considerations/Assessment section of this report.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 4.2 This report does not relate to a Plan, Policy, Programme or Strategy therefore Strategic Environmental Assessment does not apply.

Serving Stirling

- 4.3 The proposals set out in this report are consistent with the following key priorities:-

L - Adopt a pragmatic approach to sustainability that protects and enhances the local environment

Single Outcome Agreement

- 4.4 The proposals set out in this report support the following outcomes in the Single Outcome Agreement:

Communities are well served, better connected and safe

Improved opportunities for learning, training and work

Other Policy Implications

- 4.5 None.

Risk

- 4.6 We sell less permits, which creates greater financial strain.

Resource Implications

- 4.7 Potential increase in income but this has to be offset against amount of permits sold.

Consultations

- 4.8 The following have been consulted:

- Forth and Teith Anglers Association
- Forth and Teith Anglers past and present
- Angling Active
- James Bayne Fishing Tackle
- Customer First
- Finance & Information Services

5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 None.

6 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 - Stirling Council Fisheries Proposed Prices 2018.


6.2 Appendix 2 - Stirling Council Fisheries Prices 2017.

6.3 Appendix 3 – Pricing structure from neighbouring organisations.

Author(s)

Name	Designation	Telephone Number/E-mail
Scott Mason	Fisheries Officer	01786 237792 masons@stirling.gov.uk

Approved by

Name	Designation	Signature
Nicole Paterson	Senior Manager – Environment and Place	

Date 24 November 2017

Service
Reference

Stirling Council Fisheries Proposed Prices – 2018

Stirling Council Fisheries Forth & Teith Season		
Adult (22+) 3 tags	(£) 200.00	
Youth (12 – 21) 1 tag	(£) 15.00	
Concession	(£) 150.00	
Day Permits – Catch and Release	Adult (22+)	Youth (12 – 21)
1 st February – 31 st August	(£) 30.00	(£) 5.00
1 st September – 31 st October	(£) 45.00	(£) 5.00
Anglers must carry photographic ID while fishing on these permits. No concessions will be offered on these permits.		

Stirling Council Fisheries Forth OR Teith 3 Monthly C&R	
Feb - April	(£) 100.00
May – July	(£) 100.00
August – Oct	(£) 100.00
Anglers must carry photographic ID while fishing on these permits. No concessions will be offered on these permits.	
Corporate Rods	Is available to organisations/businesses. (£) 296.00 Details from Stirling Council (01786) 237792

2017 Prices

Residents	Season Permits(£)	Roving Permits (£)
Adult 3 tags	200.00	296.00
Juvenile (12 – 16 Years) 1 tag	£10.00	£15.00
Concession	148.00	221.00
Up to 3 Named Children (Up to 16 Years) on adult Ticket	£5.00	£5.00
Visitor	Season Permits (£)	Roving Permits (£)
Adult 3 tags	289.00	429.00
Juvenile (12 – 16 Years) 1 tag	£10.00	£15.00
Concession	226.00	342.00
Up to 3 Named Children (Up to 16 Years) on Adult Ticket	£5.00	£5.00
Day Permits – Catch and Release	Adult	Child
1 st February – 31 st August		
1 Day Ticket	30.00	5.00 (Acc by Adult)
Corporate Ticket	Is available to organisations/businesses. Organisations/businesses in Stirling £296.00 per rod. Organisations/Businesses out with Stirling £429.00 per rod. Details from Stirling Council (01786) 237792	

Permit prices from neighbouring organisations.

River Allan	
Adult	£150.00
Conc.	£90.00
Child	£30.00
Day	Feb – Jun £15.00 July – Oct £35.00
River Clyde - UCAPA	
Adult 16+	£125.00
Conc. 65+	£100.00
Child	£15.00
Day	Feb – July £15.00 Aug – Oct £35.00
River Clyde – Mid Clyde	
Adult	£75.00
Conc.	£40.00
Child	£40.00
Day	£15.00
Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Assoc.	
Adult	£210.00
Conc.	88.00
Child	25.00
Day	25.00

Stirling Council 2018 Pricing Proposal	
Adult	£200.00
Conc.	£150.00
Youth (12 – 21)	£15.00
Day	Feb – Aug £30.00 Sept – Oct £45.00

