

The Kirkcudbrightshire Dee

The Kirkcudbrightshire Dee is fed by three main sources - the Ken and the Deugh which feed the headwaters and the Black Water of Dee that joins Loch Ken. The river enters the Solway at Kirkcudbright. The Dee has a very large catchment supplying an impressive variety of fishing venues and fish species. The flow in the Dee is regulated by the extensive hydro scheme and thus fishing conditions can vary depending upon where electricity is being generated in the catchment.



Although the Dee has a long history of salmon angling, in recent years the run has declined due to acidification and restrictions in access and therefore only a low level of fishing effort is made for game fish. The majority of salmon fishing is on the lower beats between the Glenlochar barrage and Tongland dam, with most fish being caught later in the season. The brown trout population is very healthy and the fishing for trout on the main river is excellent.

The majority of angling for coarse species is found on Loch Ken. This fishery is thriving, with exceptional bags of roach and bream being caught in the weekly competitions. Historically famous as a pike fishery, both Loch Ken and the River Dee regularly produce very large pike and good numbers of medium sized fish. The river sections below Loch Ken hold an interesting mix of coarse species that are seldom fished for.



Things to do in the local area:

Sailing, canoeing and water skiing

Loch Ken is a spectacular setting for a variety of water sports with three separate marinas and sailing centres. Crossmichael Marina provides access to the lower section of Loch Ken marshes and is ideal for sailing. Loch Ken Marina & Water Ski School provides access to the central section of Loch Ken and has a designated water ski and powerboat area. Galloway Sailing Centre has access to the head of Loch Ken and provides sailing instruction and hire.

Walking and Hiking

From loch-side rambles through ancient forests to climbs over moor and peak, the Dee catchment offers some breathtaking scenery - unspoilt and unpopulated. With numerous forestry trails and walks suitable for access on foot or by mountain bike, you can experience the great outdoors with ease. Details on walks in the local area can be obtained from the local Tourist Information Centre.



Bird watching and wildlife

An amazing selection of wildlife is to be found as you travel inland from the coast to the headwaters of the Dee. Otters and roe deer can be seen alongside kingfishers and nuthatches - not to mention the reintroduction of the magnificent Red Kites with feeding/viewing areas and trails to walk. The Ken Dee Marshes Reserve (run by the RSPB) is a must for ornithologists.

South West Scotland boasts the highest density of open gardens and specialist nurseries in Scotland. A must for any keen gardener.

Dee Fishing Season:

Salmon 25th Feb until 31st October
Trout 15th March until 6th October

- River Board rules apply including no prawn
- Catch and release is being strongly promoted

River fishing — contact details

Game fishing:

The number of salmon currently running the Dee has led to very reasonable prices for game angling on the Dee as a whole. Numbers of salmon ascending the river are monitored closely by a VAKI counter located at Tongland Fish Pass. Over 1000 salmon entered the Dee in 2007.



The beats listed below sell day tickets to visiting anglers:

- **Park of Tongland.** Contact Mr I Smith on 01557 330616
- **Dildawn.** Fishing is available but only with accommodation - 01556 680377
- **National Trust at Threave** (Bridge of Dee). 01556 502575
- **Risk Farm** (Bridge of Dee). Contact Mr Wright - 01556 680 218
- **River Ken.** Fly and spin for good brown trout (6lb +) and the occasional salmon. Contact New Galloway Angling Association (NGAA) for permits on 01644 420229. McCowans Sports in Castle Douglas also sell permits for fishing on the Ken and can supply bait and tackle (01556 502009).

CATCH AND RELEASE

The River Dee (Kirkcudbright) DSFB is actively encouraging anglers to return salmon to the water unharmed as part of a programme of enhancement works aimed at increasing the population. Ask for a copy of the RD(K)DSFB **Code of Conduct** for details.





There are numerous still water venues to choose from in the Dee catchment. Brown and rainbow trout anglers are well

catered for with small private waters like Jordieland Loch (01577 330118) and Mossdale Loch (Tickets from Mossdale Post Office). At the other end of the scale large open waters like Loch Dee, Clatteringshaws Reservoir, Earlston, Carsfad, Kendoon and Loch Ken itself present excellent angling opportunities for coarse and trout anglers.

Tickets for fishing in Loch Dee are available from Galloway Guns and Tackle (01671 403404) whilst permits for Clatteringshaws can be purchased from New Galloway Angling Association on 01644 420 229.

The coarse angler has the best choice of species and venues in the region. Loch Ken and its flood plain are nationally renowned for big pike and both provide great bags of mixed coarse species including roach, rudd, bream, carp, perch, dace and ruffe. Bank fishing is available on Loch Ken and permit prices and conditions vary. It is best to ask at the nearest marina for permits. For easy access fishing try Loch Ken (A713) between the Parton caravan park and the Glenlaggan sailing centre and the A762 roadside below New Galloway. Boat fishing is popular with anglers. Boat access to Loch Ken is reasonably priced and includes free fishing when a slip key is purchased. Details on boat registration from marinas or the Council on 01556 505200. For guided trips on Loch Ken contact Tim Ewing on 01556 680357.



Away from Loch Ken, Woodhall Loch offers pike, roach and perch (contact Mossdale Post Office for permits). Loch Stroan is known for its hard fighting pike and large perch. Tickets for Loch Stroan are available from McCowans in Castle Douglas on 01556 502009. Carlingwark Loch at Castle Douglas has fishing for both pike and perch which is free and accessible for less able anglers.

Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT), formerly West Galloway Fisheries Trust, was the first fisheries trust to be established within Scotland. The Charitable Trust was launched in 1989 by four District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs) in south-west Scotland, with a remit to administer the Rivers Luce, Bladnoch, Cree and Fleet.



Rivers which today fall within the area administered by the Trust now also includes most of those situated on the Scottish side of the Solway Firth (Border Esk, Annan, Kirkcudbrightshire Dee and Urr) and the GFT works closely with

these DSFBs and their environmental managers. The Trust is also actively involved in the management of many of the region's still waters.

As the Trust's responsibilities have changed, it has expanded from serving only the interests of salmon and now actively works to conserve all of the fish populations in Galloway, including coarse fish populations.



The aim of the GFT is to restore and maintain aquatic biodiversity in Galloway by means of practical, responsible and sustainable approaches to land, water and fishery management, based on sound science, for the benefit of the community as a whole.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Trust using the details below.

Fishing in South West Scotland



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