

The River Fleet

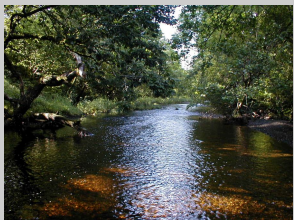
The Water of Fleet is a charming river that flows down a small valley from Loch Fleet between the hills of Craigwhinnie and Craignarget. The river has 2 main tributaries; the Big Water of Fleet and the Little Water of Fleet. These tributaries flow through upland areas with some forestry, before meeting at Aikiehill and merging to become the Water of Fleet. Continuing downstream, the Fleet flows through a picturesque valley with some areas of ancient oak woodland, the most notable being Castramont Wood, before passing through the delightful town of Gatehouse of Fleet. Here, the Mill on the Fleet Visitor Centre and Cardoness Castle are popular visitor attractions.

The Water of Fleet has long been a renowned sea trout river although recent catches have decreased. Today most fishing is available on the lower Main Water of Fleet up to the Big and Little Water confluence. Each beat is well maintained with bank protection and cutting undertaken for the benefit of anglers.



11lb Sea Trout caught during May

Like the other Solway Rivers, the Water of Fleet is a spate river and needs a good fall of rain to offer the best conditions although night sea trout fishing can be undertaken even at low water. Fish may be caught throughout the season but high water levels in late summer and into the autumn provide the best opportunities for grilse, sea trout and salmon.



salmon caught during September.

Surprisingly large sea trout and salmon can be caught in the river, given the Fleet's small size in comparison to neighbouring rivers. The best salmon in recent years was an 18lb

National Scenic Area

There are forty National Scenic Areas in Scotland and The Fleet Valley is one of three here in Dumfries and Galloway. All are focused on river estuaries and the surrounding hills, yet all have their own special character and appeal. The Fleet Valley is particularly beautiful and can be fully appreciated by following the Water of Fleet from the heather hilltops at the granite Clints of Dromore through the steep oak woodland valleys and into rich farmland pastures patterned with dry stone dykes until it reaches the historic gem of Gatehouse of Fleet. Water was once the power behind the historic industrial town which lies at the heart of the National Scenic Area. From here the river reaches the Fleet Bay by canal, spreading out across the vast gleaming intertidal mud's and sands.



Loch Whinyeon

Sulwath Connections Landscape Project

The Fleet Valley is a living, working landscape. To preserve the beauty of the river itself, Galloway Fisheries Trust have joined around thirty partners regionally to form the Sulwath Connections Landscape Project.

This large project covers the Scottish Solway Coast and is mainly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Scottish Natural Heritage. Within the overall project, the Galloway Fisheries Trust runs the 'Galloway Rivers Bankside Habitat Enhancement' project. This project aims to spend nearly £180,000 improving substantial areas of spawning and parr nursery habitat across Galloway rivers including the Fleet. More information on the project can be found at www.sulwathconnections.org



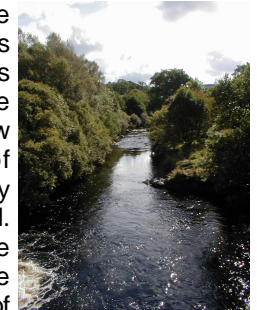
Fleet Fishing Season:

Salmon 1st May until 31st October
Trout 15th March until 6th October

- River Board rules apply
- No Sunday fishing on rivers in Scotland

Pool descriptions and contact details

Cally Estate is run by the Murray Usher Family who have most of the fishing on the Water of Fleet. The main river fishing is separated into two sections. The upper section begins at Aikiehill Bridge and ends at Stroquhains Pool. This section is separated into 4 beats, each priced around £15 per rod per day. The lower section runs from Stroquhains Pool down into the tidal section below Gatehouse of Fleet and is very reasonably priced. Above beat 4 the river splits into the Little Water of Fleet and the Big Water of Fleet where the Pool of Ness can be fished. Permits can be obtained from the **Murray Arms Hotel** in Gatehouse where directions and parking instructions for each of the beats are available. Call 01557 814 207. A limited number of permits are also available online. Please see www.fishgalloway.co.uk for up to date information on recent catches and river conditions.



Downstream of Pool of Ness

Rusko Holidays have fishing at the Banks Pool and Barbara Pool which lie between and below Cally Estates upper river beats 3 and 4. These pools can be fished for around £20 per day for a maximum of 2 rods fishing any one beat. Contact Rusko Holidays for further details on 01557 814 215.



The Bridge Pool

Still waters in the surrounding area

Gatehouse of Fleet and Kirkcudbright Angling Association offer fishing on two still waters.

Lochenbrek is situated in the hills between Laurieston and Gatehouse of Fleet. The loch holds wild brown trout and is also regularly stocked with rainbows. Fish up to 8lbs have been caught. The loch is easily accessible by 1/4 mile path from the signed car park. The season runs from the 15th March to the 31st October inclusive. Sunday fishing is allowed. Method of fishing



is by fly only.

Loch Whinyeon is around 120 acres in size and sits amidst the hills about three and a half miles north east of Gatehouse of Fleet. Some stocking is carried out but this is mainly a wild trout fishery and brownies up to 3lbs are caught. Access is gained by a mile walk from Laghead Farm on the roadway between Gatehouse of Fleet and Laurieston. For easier access via Glengap Forest please request a gate key when booking permit. Season: 15th March to 6th October. Sunday fishing is allowed. Fly fishing only. 4 fish limit on both waters.

Day permits on each water are below £20 with boat (if available). There are two ticket outlets; Thompson Newsagents in Kirkcudbright (01557 330 423) and Bank of Fleet Hotel in Gatehouse of Fleet (01557 814 302).

Loch Ornockenoch is a secluded brown trout fishery owned by Rusko Holidays. It has in recent years been stocked with rainbow trout and fish of up to 3lb are caught.



Loch Ornockenoch

Day tickets are available with boat rental. Contact Rusko Holidays for further details

on 01557 814 215.

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 southwest 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 include most of the rivers 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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THE RIVER FLEET



Fishing in South West Scotland