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GALLOWAY FISHERIES TRUST

FishGalloway.co.uk

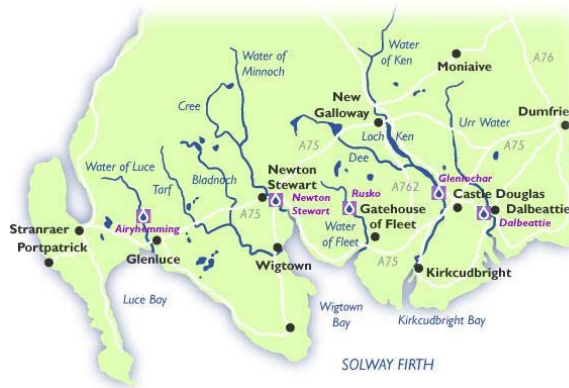
# Fishing In Galloway

**Galloway** can be found in the rural setting of South West Scotland, just an hours drive from the Gretna junction on the A74(M). Situated on the Solway, we have six main rivers which lace our picturesque shores. Working from west to east we have the Luce, Bladnoch, Cree, Water of Fleet, Kirkcudbrightshire Dee and Urr.

Galloway caters for every type of fishing you may desire; from the acclaimed salmon fishing on the rivers, trout fishing on the lochs and numerous coarse fishing venues.



Due to the numerous rivers and still waters, the Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) was set up in 1989 to help enhance and protect 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. The Trust undertakes much work annually across all the freshwaters of Galloway. Salmon stocking of 500 000 fry annually is undertaken and programmes of habitat enhancement and barrier removal completed.



## FishGalloway.co.uk

**FishGalloway.co.uk** was started in 2006 and its main objective is to promote fishings within Dumfries and Galloway. It aims to assist fishery owners to offer on-line booking facilities on all types of freshwater fisheries. The creation of the website makes the world of fishing accessible to a much wider range of people and has encouraged new beats to offer day tickets to anglers.

FishGalloway.co.uk provides a website site full of information to interest anyone wishing to visit this part of Scotland to fish. Detailed descriptions of the individual rivers around Galloway, advice on how to fish certain beats and which flies to use are provided. You can also check up on the river levels that are updated daily. Recent catches from each beat are also provided. On the website you can also book on-line your fishing for the beat of your choice easily. Some details of local accommodation providers are also given.



A special feature of the FishGalloway website is that it promotes all types of sustainable fishing within Galloway, whether it be river angling, sea fishing or still waters. This is also useful for the angler as if the river is too low for salmon fishing alternative nearby trout fishing can be arranged.

This website is still expanding, as more waters utilise the website. If you want to fish in Galloway then remember it can all be arranged through FishGalloway.co.uk !!

## Fishing on the River Luce

**The River Luce** is the region's most westerly river system. With its sweeping, clearly defined pools lined with broadleaved trees, it is one of the most picturesque of the Solway rivers and is regarded as being pristine in terms of its salmon and sea trout fishing (largest sea trout in recent years was 18lb 4oz). Like the other Galloway rivers, the Luce is a spate river that fishes best after a good fall of rain.

The river is well managed, with carefully maintained banks and bridges providing easy access. Car parking facilities are provided, with stiles over fences for easy access. This river has only been opened up to visiting anglers in 2007 and previously was entirely syndicated.

Also of note within the same geographical area is the Piltanton Burn, which enters the sea at Luce Bay, only a short distance from the Luce. For a small watercourse, the burn supports a surprising number of sea trout every year, some of very good size.

Hatchery programmes are completed on both these waters.



### Beats offering fishing online:

#### Stair Estates

Fishings: 3.5 miles of double bank fishing (divided into 3 beats) - this beautiful water offers excellent fishing for salmon / sea trout over 3 beats and can accommodate 4 anglers comfortably. River is exclusively fly only. Book on-line and then contact Stair Estates who will arrange for you to be met on arrival.

Stranraer & District Angling Association Fishings: this angling association offers an excellent range of trout fishing locally which can be booked on-line. Buy a ticket and fish any or all of the clubs 4 trout waters. These waters (Soulseat Loch, Dindinnie, Knockquassen, Penwhirn) offer a range of rainbow trout, stocked and wild brown trout fishing with some waters fly only and others all methods.

## Fishing in the River Bladnoch area

**The Bladnoch** is a pleasant river set in rural surroundings in the Machars of Galloway. The river rises out of Loch Maberry and gently weaves its way over moors, forestry and farmland before entering the Solway at Wigtown Bay. With a catchment area of 132 square miles, the river is a true spate river whose character changes dependent upon its water level, offering affordable salmon fishing after a good fall of rain.

The landscape around the Bladnoch is visually very attractive with little development having taken place. There are only three settlements along the length of the Bladnoch - Bladnoch village, Wigtown and Kirkcowan.

The Bladnoch holds both game and coarse fish but the river is best known for its spring salmon. It is one of only a few West Coast rivers that retains its spring run. Spring salmon can be caught from the start of the season but

catches tend to pick up from March onwards. Summer salmon of up to 10lb are taken each year but the main fishing takes place during the grilse run which begins around June and continues to the end of the season.



The river is renowned for its brown trout throughout the south west and impressive wild brownies of up to 8lb are taken in the mid river beats.

Coarse fish are also present within the river with double figure pike regularly caught especially around Dalreagle and Torhousekie.



### Beats offering fishing online:

Kirwaugh Fishings: the lowest beat on the river and offers good fishing even during low water.

Dalreagle Fishings: a mid river beat offering lovely water for all methods. Very good also for big wild brown-trout.

Clugston Estate: over 6.5 miles of fishings covering many of the best pools on the river. Ghillie available.

Airyigg: located on the Water of Tarf. Delightful beat but does need good water to fish.

Mochrum Park Fishings is located in the Bladnoch. This enterprise runs holiday cottages near the river and manages a number of excellent fisheries on both the Cree and Bladnoch (Mochrum Park & High / Low Barnes). Fishing is only available with cottages. There is limited availability to book holidays on-line.

## Fishing in the River Cree area

The Cree rises high in the South Ayrshire hills at Loch Moan and meanders down through moorlands and forests before entering the sea near Newton Stewart. The river's appearance changes dramatically over its length, from the stately splendour of the Water of Minnoch to the tidal pools of the lower Cree. The river is a spate river with a reputation for rising rapidly and a good fall of rain in the evening can mean that the water is in perfect condition by the next morning. The Cree fishes best on a falling water.

The Cree is best known for its grilse run although springers and summer salmon are also taken in lesser numbers. The grilse run is heavily dependent upon water levels but can be extremely productive when the conditions are right.

The Water of Minnoch in the upper part of the catchment holds a good head of fresh fish throughout the season.



Sea trout fishing is generally confined to the lower river, with larger fish entering the system around May/June.

The Penkiln Burn offers exciting fishing for skilled sea trout and salmon anglers.

The Palnure Burn also holds good numbers of sea trout and some salmon. Brown trout fishing tends to be confined to areas of the High Cree. Pike are present in the Loch of Cree area but have not been traditionally fished for.

### Beats offering fishing online:

Newton Stewart Angling Association Fishings: located through Newton Stewart— lovely easily accessible water

Linloskin Fishings: contains the best pool on the river.

Galloway Estate Fishings: 5 miles of fishing with many good pools.

Creebridge House Hotel Fishings: This welcoming hotel has some excellent water at prime times of the season.

Glentool Estate Fishing: excellent and impressive beats on the lower / mid Water of Minnoch.

Forestry Commission Fishings: this beat at the top of the Minnoch can be very productive with suitable water.

Machermore Fishings is part of Mochrum Park Holidays (see under Bladnoch)



## Fishing on the Water of Fleet

The Water of Fleet is one of the smaller Solway rivers, which runs through the town of Gatehouse of Fleet nestling between the Galloway Hills. The river quietly flows through a charming pastoral landscape and is lined with oakwoods, which cast a dappled light on the water on sunlit days. The Water of Fleet has two tributaries - the Big Water of Fleet and the Little (or Wee) Water of Fleet. The Fleet Valley has National Scenic Area status in recognition of its natural beauty and it is surely one of the most pleasant systems in which to fish in Dumfries and Galloway.

The river is well known for its sea trout although salmon can also be caught when water conditions are right. The sea trout can be large in size, with fish over 11lb (see photo). As the river is a spate river, it fishes best for salmon after a good fall of rain although sea trout fishing can be productive even on a smallish rise and at night.



Salmon tend to enter the river quite late in comparison to the other Galloway rivers and may be large in size, with individuals of 18lb having been taken in recent years.



Caught by Andrew Wolffe

### Beats offering fishing online:

Cally Estate Fishings: This fishery is located on the lower and mid river. Fishing available on 4 beats over 4 miles of river. Good sea trout water. Salmon later in the season. The fishings is run through the Murray Arms Hotel in Gatehouse of Fleet which offers excellent food and accommodation for all. All methods are allowed when the river is high enough apart from in October when it is fly only.

Further beats on the Water of Fleet are to be added but were not on-line at the time of going to print.

## Fishing on the River Urr

The Urr is a delightful river lined with mature broad-leaved trees that is situated between the Kirkcudbrightshire Dee and the River Nith and enters the Solway near Kippford. The river rises at Loch Urr and like the other Galloway rivers is dependent upon a good fall of rain to provide the best fishing conditions.

Although smaller than its neighbours, the Urr is still 35 miles long and offers pleasant fishing in truly pastoral surroundings. The river is one of only three Scottish rivers that is open until the end of November and is renowned for its large 'greyback' salmon, which are caught in the back end. Fresh run fish can be caught right to the end of the season.

The river's sea trout population provides good sport from April onwards and they can be found even in the uppermost reaches.



Most sea trout are 1-3lb but each year larger fish (up to 8lb) are caught. Wild brown trout fishing is also good.

There are numerous beats on this river but only a few offer day permits for the visiting angler. There are 2 angling associations who offer opportunities for visitors on very productive waters.



### Beats offering fishing online:

Dalbeattie Angling Association Fishings: this water covers fishing over 3.5 miles of river and contains many productive pools. Very suited to the fly fisherman and spinning / worming permitted at higher water conditions. This beat catches a lot of fish especially towards the end of the season (fishes until the end of November). Salmon over 30lb have been caught.

Castle Douglas Angling Association Fishings: this water is located on the middle of the River Urr. A very productive beat.

Buittle Reservoir Fishings: 12 acre loch containing good head of stocked rainbow trout and native brown trout in lovely surroundings. Fishing available from both bank and boat.

## Fishing on the Kirkcudbrightshire Dee

The Kirkcudbrightshire Dee is a large river that drains a catchment of over 360 miles from where it rises in the hills that range between Ayrshire and Galloway. It is often called the Dee-Ken system, in recognition of the influence of its major branch, the Ken. Although there is salmon and sea trout fishing available, the river is now best known for its brown trout and coarse fish; possessing Loch Ken within its catchment. The river enters the Solway through the pleasant harbour town of Kirkcudbright.

The river is part of the Galloway Hydro scheme, which was put in to service between 1935-36. The hydro



scheme has considerably changed the character of some parts of the catchment and there are a number of man made lochs within the system.

Loch Ken is a visually stunning still water which also makes for some of the best quality coarse fishing in Scotland, in the most scenic of surroundings. The loch has pike, perch, roach, rudd, bream, carp and ruffe to offer anglers.



There have been some spectacular pike catches, both historically and in more recent times - the largest is still the infamous Kenmure Pike, which is reputed to have weighed a staggering 72lb! The loch can be fished from the bank, with easy access in most places, but boat fishing is also popular with boats for hire at the marinas.

### Beats offering fishing on-line:

Loch Dee Fishings: this gorgeous fishery offers some of the best wild brown trout (up to 5lb) fishing anywhere.

To find out about GFT visit!  
[www.gallowayfisheriestrust.org](http://www.gallowayfisheriestrust.org)



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