



## ACT Fishing Good Practice Guidance

The **ACT Fishing Good Practice Guidance** is to inform anglers about how they can help ensure a sustainable future for our fishing. Following this guidance will mean **we can all contribute to protecting fish stocks**, improving biodiversity and ensuring the unique. Wild nature of this fishery is sustained.

### Fishing

- Fishing is **fly only** but please use barbless hooks if possible as this causes less harm to released fish. Given the large number of small trout in many of the lochs, this is particularly important.
- Please **handle fish carefully** – use wet hands, only remove from the water for as short a period as possible and release fish as quickly as possible, holding them in the water.
- Use **knotless** landing nets.
- If you **keep fish**, only keep what you need – there is no set bag limit and some lochs are abundant with fish, but others are not and we ask that you act responsibly.
- Please **do not keep larger fish** (eg over 12-15 inches). These are older fish from good brood stock and are vital to maintain a healthy fish populations. Again, although we have not set a rule for this to date, we do ask anglers to act responsibly.

### Catches

- All anglers are asked to **complete a catch return** for each day they have fished, denoting location(s), numbers of fish caught (kept and released), and rough sizes. A paper and online form will be provided to easily facilitate this. This will provide vital information to ACT to help manage stocks.
- All catches of **sea trout and salmon** from the Manse system (Manse burn, Manse Loch and Loch an Tuirc) must be recorded and returned.

### Protecting Nature

- Always **keep dogs on leads** and strictly under control. Worrying sheep by dogs is a serious offence with severe penalties.
- **Do not leave any litter**. Take it all home with you. This includes any fishing material and especially nylon line which is hugely damaging to wildlife.
- Please follow the **Countryside Code**.
- **Do not set fires** or use disposable barbeques. There have been a number of damaging wildfires in the north west Highlands in recent years.
- Please **keep off islands** and clear of artificial rafts.
- Please **follow the guidance** if you come across nesting divers on a loch you are fishing.