

River Dee Paddler and Angler Guidance

Version 3, February 2015

The aim of this guidance is to provide helpful information for paddlers and anglers so you can both enjoy your sport while sharing the river. The shared use of the river is in acknowledgement of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, in that each party has the right to pursue their activity as long as they act responsibly and respect the rights of others.

Voluntary Notification System

The Dee District Salmon Fishery Board (Dee DSFB) has created a voluntary notification system and are asking groups of paddlers to inform them of when they intend to use the River Dee so they can advise anglers in advance. This will allow both paddlers and anglers to share the river with mutual respect. The system is operational Monday to Saturday during the months of February to October.

Groups of paddlers are encouraged to send their plans to the Dee DSFB so they can inform Ghillies who will inform anglers. It also allows anglers to take a break, if they wish and let paddlers pass without delay. Email or phone with the date, time, location of put in and take out points and the number of paddlers.

It would be helpful for anglers to;

1. If you wish, ask the landowner or Ghillie whether the Dee DSFB has informed them of any paddlers who plan to use the river that day.
2. Be aware that there is a likelihood that paddlers may come down the river whilst you are fishing and the clothing worn by anglers may make you less visible.
3. Keep an eye upstream and be aware that if paddlers are upstream you may be hailed or whistled.
4. Acknowledge that you have seen the paddlers and beckon them on allowing them to pass at the earliest opportunity. If you are playing a fish, paddlers should wait upstream if safe to do so, until the fish is landed or until you indicate that it is safe to pass.
5. If wading, clearly indicate which side of you (in front or behind) you would prefer paddlers to pass. This will depend upon the depth of the water behind you. It will normally need to be at least 30cm or 1ft deep.
6. Be aware that if a paddler is leading a novice group, the leader may decide not to follow your requested route because of novice steering skills that could endanger themselves and you. Stay where you are while the paddlers pass with your line resting downstream.
7. Be aware that paddlers will most likely wish to make steady progress downstream but on occasion will practice their skills. This should be done responsibly and with due regard for other water users.
8. Please acknowledge considerate behaviour by paddlers and be polite.



Hand signals: Point to where you would like the paddler to pass - in front or behind

It would be helpful for paddlers to;

1. Inform the Dee DSFB of your plan (if you are in a large or commercial group) using the contact details below.
2. Be aware that there is a high likelihood of meeting anglers between February and October. Keep an eye downstream, anticipating that there could be anglers just around the next bend.
3. If possible and only if it is safe, stop upstream of anglers and attract their attention with a hail or whistle. Be aware the noise of the river may cover hails or whistles. A wave with a hand or paddle will make you more visible.
4. If the angler is wading ask which side they would prefer to be passed. This is best done by pointing to the two sides of the river in turn. The angler should point to the side they wish you to pass and beckon you through. If an angler is playing a fish, wait upstream if safe to do so, until the fish is landed or until there is an indication from the angler or Ghillie that it is safe to pass in the anglers preferred direction.
5. Pass the angler as quietly and with the least disturbance to the water as possible.
6. If leading a novice group, decide which is the safest line for the novices and angler before passing and act upon your instincts and training. Indicate your intended line to the angler before passing.
7. On occasion, practice skills in pools and rapids where there are no anglers present.
8. Please acknowledge considerate behaviour by anglers and be polite.



Hand signals: Point to each bank in turn and wait for a response

The points listed above are in accordance with agreed behaviours for paddlers and anglers published in the 'Using Inland Water Responsibly: Guidance for All Water Users' document and the SCA Paddlers Code.

Stop the Spread of Non-Native Species and Disease

Check your equipment and clothing for plants and animals, particularly in damp and hard to reach areas.

Clean all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly, if you find any plants or animals, leave them at the water body where you found them.

Dry all equipment and clothing as some species can live for many days in moist conditions.

All anglers must disinfect their waders and landing nets prior to commencing fishing on the Dee. All ghillied beats can provide disinfection for you on arrival at no cost and there are disinfection facilities in Aberdeen (Somers Fishing Tackle) and Banchory (Orvis). Paddlers can phone the Dee DSFB and they will happily spray your equipment at no cost.

