



Thanks to the generosity of riparian owners who donate their beats free of charge, visitors and locals can obtain the highest quality game fishing on some of the best beats the River Exe has to offer, at a very affordable price.

To fish for salmon, beats are only £30 per rod per day.



For information on all the beats available, how to book a day, where to get tuition or guiding, news, rules and regulations, seasons and a whole lot more please look at the RETA website www.riverexefisheries.org.uk.




The scheme also provides a socio/economic benefit as visiting anglers spend money in local pubs and hotels, rent cottages and buy groceries and tackle. All this benefits the river

corridor community from moor to sea and ultimately provides jobs.

 **Get Involved:** Fish The Exe -
Visit www.riverexefisheries.org.uk/fish-exe.php

Voluntary Bailiff scheme

The 'VBS' is an increasingly important partnership between the Angling Trust and Environment Agency, empowering anglers to support the police and Agency in fighting back against fisheries crime and protecting fish and fisheries.

 **Get Involved:** If you would like to know more about becoming a volunteer bailiff visit www.anglingtrust.net

Catch and Release

In January 2019, after extensive consultations with the public and representations by RETA and other bodies such as the Angling Trust, the Government passed byelaws aimed to slow the downturn in salmon populations throughout the country. The byelaws include the end of all salmon netting on the Exe. There is a quid pro quo that the Exe, being classed as 'probably at risk' of not sustaining its regeneration levels, achieves a voluntary 90% catch and release rate. If we do not achieve this every season then we risk the requirement becoming mandatory 100% catch and release.

To achieve this RETA has adopted a voluntary code - all anglers must:-

- Release ALL salmon before the 16th June (mandatory).
- Release all MSW fish throughout the season (fish 7lbs or over).
- Not use treble hooks in any form of fishing.
- Ensure barbs are fully closed on double and single hooks.
- Only use single hooks when spinning.
- Play the fish as quickly as possible.
- Always carry an appropriate knotless net, never beach a fish.
- Always carry a Ketchum or forceps or similar appropriate hook remover.
- Before starting to fish look to ensure a suitable place to net it.
- Keep the fish in the net in the water whilst unhooking and photographing.
- Never pick the fish up by the wrist (tail).
- When releasing gently hold the fish with its head upstream and be patient, it will swim off when it is ready.
- Not fish during extended hot weather and low flows as salmon will be stressed anyway and we recommend not fishing in these conditions.

To guarantee 90% catch and release the best course of action is to release all salmon. We must treat every salmon as part of the future.

CONTACT US

RETA Secretary:
Mark Thomasin-Foster
01643 831030
thomfost@globalnet.co.uk

Membership Secretary:
Iain Stewart-Hunter
01643 851328
ipshunter@aol.com

Fish the Exe:
To book a beat or get advice visit:
Lance Nicholson Fishing Tackle
9 High Street, Dulverton
TA22 9HB
01398 323409
lancenich@lancenich.f9.co.uk

Much more information is available on the RETA website www.riverexefisheries.org.uk

RETA is a member of the Southwest Rivers Association



Visit our website
www.riverexefisheries.org.uk
for our member benefits

Find out what's been happening on, and in, the River Exe, its tributaries and its unique and wonderful environment.



RETA Application Form Your Support is Vital – Join us now

Visit our website www.riverexefisheries.org.uk for membership benefits.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

Email: _____

I enclose a cheque for the full amount of £30.00 payable to RETA

Please complete, cut off and send your application to:
Iain Stewart-Hunter, Stone Lodge, Wheddon Cross,
Somerset TA24 7BU or email ipshunter@aol.com



'RETA is dedicated to maintaining, improving and developing the indigenous fishery, ecology and wildlife habitat of the River Exe and its tributaries'

Join us now and help us deliver by making a financial or volunteer effort donation.

THE RIVER EXE PROJECT founded 2004

An initiative of RETA, the Project mission is to protect the river's population of that most iconic of creatures, the salmon, through a range of strategic actions. By improving the river and water quality not only do we benefit the wild salmon, brown trout and grayling but also otters, kingfishers, dippers, invertebrates and even jelly lichen.



Until at least 2021 a major focus will be on weirs. Some date back to medieval times but most were built in the Victorian era to provide a water take-off for industrial use and for power generation. Nearly all are now a barrier to fish passage both upstream for adults returning to the spawning redds and downstream for descending smolts.

RETA is funding a long-term programme of habitat improvement including rehabilitation of spawning gravels and coppicing to reduce over-shading which limits fish and invertebrate life. The Project also addresses issues identified through RETA funded juvenile fish surveys and the Riverfly initiative.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

The money needed for all this work comes from donations from the public and from individual members of RETA in particular.

Canoeing

RETA was instrumental in the Voluntary Access Agreement which permits canoe access on the Barle below Tarr Steps between 15th October and 31st March when the river conditions are suitable. This is particularly important for the environment as growing numbers of river users means increased disturbance to spawning areas and wildlife habitat.



In line with Government Policy we have brought about the right balance between environmental protection, angling, property rights and canoeing.

Canoeing days can be booked - See Exmoor National Park's booking system at <http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/enjoying/canoeing/canoeing-on-the-barle>

4 x 4 access

Great care must be taken if you are thinking of entering the river as fragile eco-systems, particularly spawning redds, can be irreversibly damaged by thoughtless driving. New measures are coming into place to restrict access of vehicles where there is a danger to wildlife habitat.

Political Representation

RETA is a key member and supporter of the South West Rivers Association which represents all the rivers in the area. This ensures that our river and the interests of riparian owners and anglers are represented at the highest political levels at Whitehall and Westminster.

Netting has ceased

In 2011, in an initiative led by RETA, eight of the eleven nets still licensed were bought out and terminated.

Since then the January 2019 byelaw decrees that all remaining net licences will be rescinded and no netting will take place. Again RETA were fundamentally involved to help bring about this welcome improvement to salmonid migration and reduction in exploitation.

Signal Crayfish

The imported, and aggressively invasive, red signal crayfish has ousted the native white crayfish in the Barle and Exe and is a significant predator of salmon and trout ova. A ground-breaking practical initiative, partly funded by RETA, has been taking place over the last few years to try to reduce this threat by performing neutering surgery on large male crayfish so they are free to dominate their area but they do not reproduce.



Get Involved: Volunteers needed: crayfish@nickygreen.plus.com

The struggle with piscivores

The number of goosanders and cormorants now found inland compared with just ten years ago is alarming. Goosanders in particular can routinely be seen working pools as a family group and they are now **the major predator** of the juvenile salmonid population. RETA is endeavouring to reach a compromise with Natural England to allow us to provide reasonable control and protection. We urge members, and other interested parties, to log cormorant sightings on the Angling Trust's 'Cormorant Watch scheme' website.

Get Involved: Volunteers are needed to carry out survey work and should contact RETA through the website to participate in a healthy outdoors pursuit.

Robin Bailey Tuition Day

RETA provides support through the Robin Bailey Memorial Fund for The Devon Salmon and Trout Association's "learn to fly fish days" for 8 to 17 year olds. The events, three per year, are held at Exe Valley Fishery at Exebridge and other local venues and are always a huge success.



Get Involved: Contact Fred Leach through RETA for details of the next 'learn to fly-fish' days...

The Riverfly Partnership

We are in the **Riverfly Partnership** which monitors water quality up and down the catchment. Invertebrates thrive in the river's clean waters and the Partnership provides an essential service in identifying trends and warnings of any pollution incidents.



Get Involved: Volunteers are needed to carry out this vital work and should contact www.riverflies.org to participate in a healthy outdoors pursuit.

HYDRO electrical turbines

Ironically, because there are so many weirs on the Exe there is a rush to secure permission for hydro schemes. Well-designed hydro schemes can be a win-win situation in that fish passage can be improved as part of the scheme but, of course, hydro developers rarely have that uppermost in their minds. RETA has been instrumental in providing a Code of Best Practice in the design of fish passage at hydro schemes nationwide and continues to expend many hundreds of man-hours in monitoring applications, advising on them and fighting any potentially damaging ones.

