

What water can I fish with the permit?

Our permit covers the West bank of Castle Semple Loch only, from beyond the pontoons to the weir at the bottom of the loch towards the Black Cart.

If you wish to fish other waters, you should contact Castle Angling club or St Winnoch Angling Club.

Can I purchase a permit at any time of year and how much is it?

Yes. Although our permit is for coarse fishing only - like perch, pike and roach – no migratory species like salmon or sea trout.

Children and seniors is £4 per day. Adults £5 per day.

What methods and bait can I use?

All legal methods apply with the exception of live bait. You should use barbless hooks and non-toxic weights. You should use an unhooking mat and have 12 inch forceps. All lines should have a visible indicator.

Can I fish from a boat or kayak?

Not on a permit from us. You have to be a full yearly member of one of the local fishing clubs to fish from a boat or other craft.

No powered craft allowed on the loch apart from rescue boats.

Can I keep my catch?

No. This is a “Catch and release” water. All catches must be returned unharmed.

Can I camp and have a fire or BBQ?

We ask that you follow the Scottish Outdoor access code. The area is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) . It is a very ecologically sensitive area and care should be taken not to disturb the wildlife or nesting and roosting birds nor damage surrounding shrubs, trees or vegetation.

Can I purchase a day permit online?

We hope to be able to provide this soon. In the meantime, our permits are available from Castle Semple Visitor centre during their opening hours.

Do you sell tackle or bait?

No. But we can recommend RT Cycles and Fishing in Glengarnock – they also provide bike hire as well as a large selection of dead bait, lures and tackle.

Can I buy my permit the day before?

Unfortunately not. You must have a date marked receipt for the actual day and be able to show this should you be asked by a Park Ranger, Water Bailiff, Fishing club committee member or the Police.

Can I drive along the lochside with all my kit?

No. This is a footpath for pedestrians and cyclists only. The path is level, if a little rough, and access to the water is next to the path.

Is there anything else I should be aware of?

This is a popular tourist attraction and can be busy with people, dogs and bicycles.

Please take care with your casting and ensure that no bait, hooks or line is left for dogs or children to find. Loch levels can be very high after rain, making access along the lochshore difficult. You can view our live webcams on our website.

Further details of the local Angling clubs can be found at

St Winnoch Angling Club website

Or by their secretary 01505 842 186 or email Stwinnochac@gmail.com

Or

Castle Angling Club website

Or Rods and Reels 17 High Street Johnstone 01505 337601

