



## Slipper Mill Pond Preservation Association

Registered Charity No. 277744  
www.smppa.org.uk

### SMPPA Fishing Policy

27<sup>th</sup> July 2018

The definition of the SMPPA Fishing Policy is complicated by bye-laws over and above national policies. The rules affecting the Pond fall between the fresh water and sea fishing rules. The Pond is technically a saline lagoon and not a fresh water pond or 'enclosed still waters' as defined by the Environment Agency.

Whilst it is possible to impose a "No Fishing" policy as the Pond is in private ownership (as required by our lease), achieving this would be unrealistic. There are complications as, for instance, Bass and Mullet are classified as 'sea' fish, others are freshwater fish and subject to different levels of protection.

Confrontational individuals will probably be fully aware of the intricacy of the legal frame work and able to provoke very abusive situations.

Accepting responsible fishing that respects the public, wildlife and the environment has been successful in the past and a demeanour of negotiation rather than confrontation has given better long term results. On the few occasions when young people become over-excited and party on the south bank, fishermen and their hooks tend to dampen their spirits.

The fishing policy we currently have in place is "tolerance" and "sensible" behaviour is the obvious criterion.

*All incidents should be reported on the EA Incident hotline Telephone: 0800 80 70 60 (24-hour service) so they can be officially recorded and help build up an evidence base.*

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#### Notes from the Internet:

##### **Private Ponds**

- Fishing on private land, such as a fishing club or private estate, requires permission from the land owner to fish there and abide by any rules they may have. (As Slipper Mill Pond is in private ownership it is possible to refuse permission).

##### **Fresh Water Fishing**

- Anyone over the age of 12 fishing in fresh water must have a valid EA rod licence. Arguably this does not apply to Slipper Pond as they could declare they were fishing for marine species.

##### **UK Sea Fishing**

- Generally there are no closed seasons apart from those dictated by the fish themselves as they migrate. For recreational fishers, any Bass or Eels caught from a boat or from the shore during 2018 must be returned immediately. (Chichester Harbour and thus the Pond are designated as a bass nursery).
- Size limits are set by the Local IFCA (Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority) and the Marine Maritime Organisation. It is an offence to retain any fish below set sizes. Minimum Mullet size is 33cm when caught in the sea and Salmon and Sea Trout require an Environment Agency Migratory rod licence even if caught in the sea.

##### **Netting**

- Bye-laws and Fisheries Acts do not allow fixed netting north of the Chichester Bar.

##### **Bait**

- Collection from Slipper Pond is in conflict with its designated protected species.

##### **Links**

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/environment-countryside/fishing-hunting>

<https://www.intotheblue.co.uk/blog/2017/07/28/do-you-need-a-licence-to-fish-in-the-uk/>

<http://www.ukseafisherman.com/fishsizelimits.html>