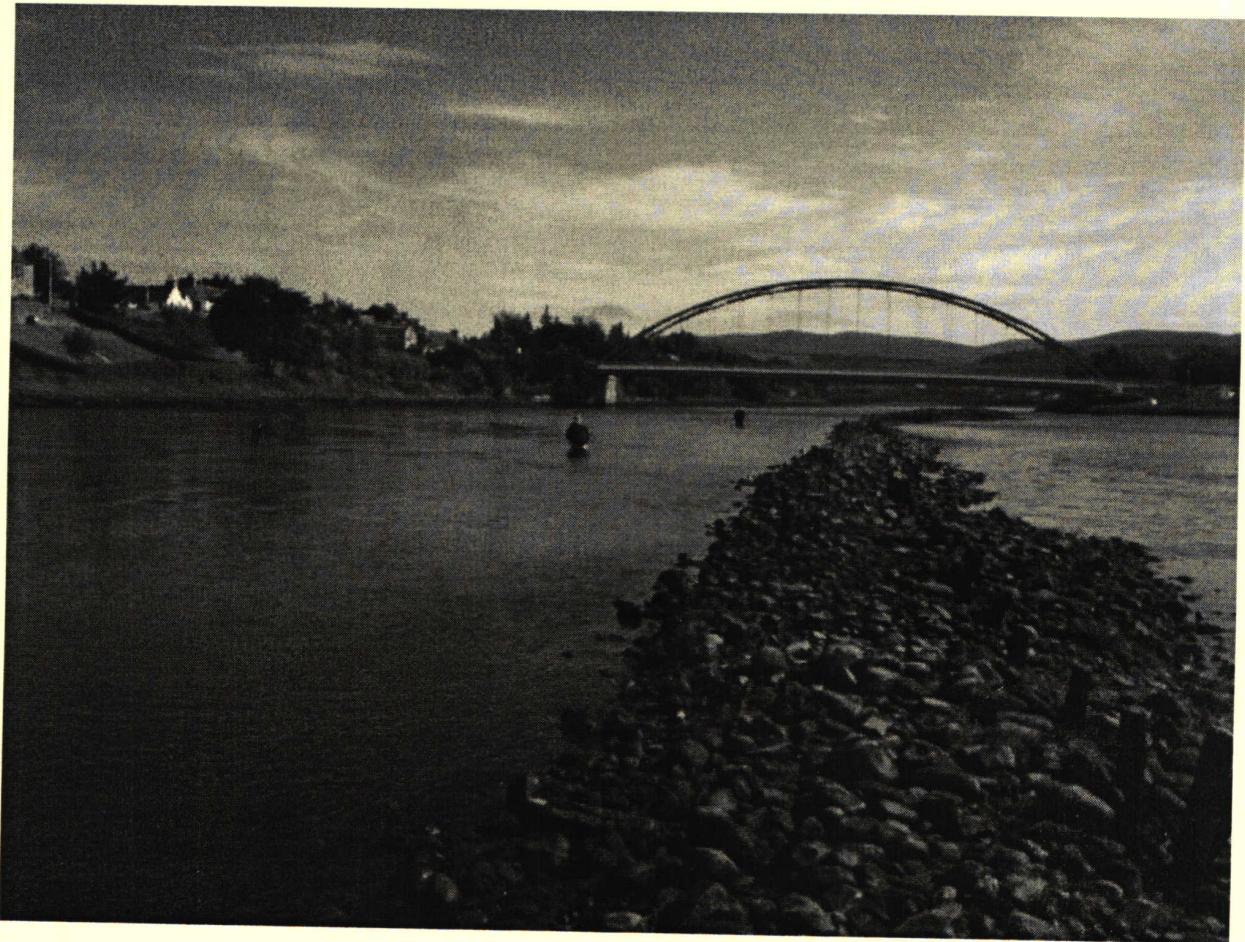


# KYLE OF SUTHERLAND ANGLING ASSOCIATION. VIRTUAL GHILLIE



## SALMON

The Kyle of Sutherland offers some of the finest Salmon estuary fishing in the country.

When the weather is dry, and the rivers are low, Salmon congregate in the Kyle, where they can be taken on the fly. The Kyle fishes best from the top of the tide to the end of the ebb. Knowing exactly when these times are is a bit of an art – but the tides are usually about 2 hours later at the top of the Kyle. There is a lot of water to cover – over 14 miles – but most anglers concentrate on a few areas – sometimes neglecting other stretches which can be productive!



## The Estuary

Below Bonar Bridge, the Kyle divides. The left (North) stream is the main one and carries most fish. Spinning and fly fishing are allowed and the water can be fished from both banks. The Left bank can be approached from below the bridge, or from the walk, a hundred yards downstream. Be particularly careful wading here; the bottom is round, slippery stones and the current can be very fast.

From the Right bank you also have access to the mud flats. These can also be productive, although you should watch out for soft mud, particularly below the road between Ardgay and Bonar Bridge. Be careful too, when wading here – the water can drop away suddenly close to the shore.

## The Walkway – Beat A

Directly above the Bridge, on the South Bank, is the old netsmen's walkway. It fishes from the top to the slipway below the bothy. You can park in the car park on the other side of the road, or beside the netsmen's bothy. Cross the stile and walk upstream before making your way carefully across the slack water to the walkway, making sure to avoid the soft mud. Off the walkway, the wading is easy, but do not attempt to wade too deeply.

## SEATROUT

Our special low cost day, or weekly, permits are available for Sea Trout fishing on both banks below Bonar Bridge. This can provide excellent sport when using 10 ft fly rod and small flies. The choice of fly is, as always a matter of debate with each fisher having their own favourite. However there are proven successful flies for sea Trout on the Kyle amongst them are, Silver Stroat, Teal Blue and Silver, Dunkeld, Hairy Mary, Munro Killer and a Gold Munro, these are a few to get you started.



Now, where are the fish? Well they are there; the trick of course, is to find them, good places to look? On the North bank, the left bank from the bridge to a red shed, which is clearly visible, it is all deep and ideal for both fly and spinning. There is a Kyle side walk which will allow access to this area. After the Red Shed it is possible to wade downstream onto the causeway. The causeway is a mudflat which is clearly visible at low tide. Sound complicated? Look at the photograph, hopefully it will help.

The other bank, the right bank, below the car park, is also suitable for wading in front of the Island downstream. There is also a separate path to the back estuary, the bay channel facing Ardgay which is a little further walk along the grass bank. It all sounds complicated but, it is more or less self explanatory when looking at the real thing.

The area below the bridge, this applies to the whole of the Kyle, is fished on a falling tide. The best time to start fishing is approximately one hour after high tide, but if in doubt just ask the local bailiff or any local who is fishing and they will help you out.

The wading is good but use a wading staff for comfort on new water, and a buoyancy aid is recommended. Check the map and rules you will receive with your permit. Both banks are either fly or spinning but, no bait fishing is allowed. Over the last few years Sea Trout have been taken in the 1lb to 3lb pound range on a regular basis, with larger fish making frequent appearances. There is also a good head of Brown Trout present. The daily bag limit is 4 Sea Trout with all Finnock (fish under 1lb in weight) being returned.



## TROUT FISHING

### LOCH LAGGAN

A typical Highland hill loch, accessible by car, but drive carefully. A 4X4, or a vehicle with good ground clearance is really needed. The Loch is about 1 mile long and 350 yards at its widest point, with parking a few yards from the waters edge. You reach the loch by approaching Bonar Bridge from Ardgay. On crossing the bridge, carry straight on over the junction and up the steep hill directly in front of you, passing the Corner Shop on your left and the Spar grocers on your right. At the top of the hill you will see the local golf course on your right, and behind it a stretch of water, this is Loch Migdale. Keep straight on for about 3 miles until you come to the next stretch of water on your right. This is Loch Laggan, turn right through the gate, opposite the letter box, and follow the track a mile or so; you will pass through two more gates on your way in down to the loch. Remember the Country Code, and close the gates behind you. You come to what looks like natural parking space, a small hand dug quarry, on your right. Park here and walk down the bank to the left of the quarry to a small bay where the association's boat, a 13 foot Orkney Spinner, is moored. The loch is fairly shallow at this point, so use the oars as you may damage an outboard, take the exercise until you reach deeper water. Head off straight up the loch and you will see a sandy bay on the opposite shore, this has always proved a hotspot in the past.

The track does continue along side of the Loch to its Eastern end, here it is flat and provides good parking, just exercise caution, you are a long way from a garage!

As for flies, any of what may be considered standard flies for hill loch's will work, something small and black will usually get results, however don't forget to take a well stocked fly box with you, because on the day you never know! Laggan is suitable for all the family with bank fishing easily accessible.



## LOCH BUIDHE

Follow the Loch Laggan road out from Bonar Bridge for about 6 miles from Bonar Bridge until you come to the Loch by the roadside on your left. You cannot miss the Loch, its waters are yards from the main road, with ample parking on the grass next to the Loch. The association's boats are moored next to the parking, they are 13 foot Orkney Spinners.

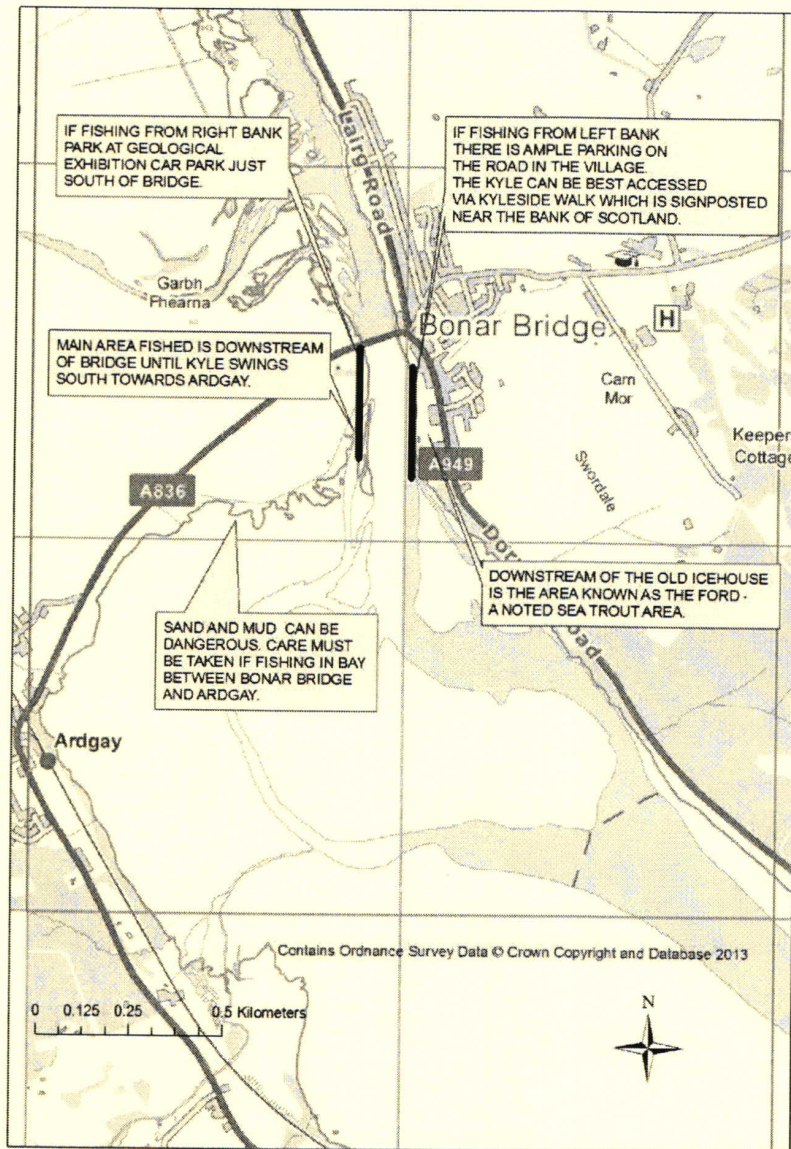
Fishing is from either bank or boat. The Loch is 1 mile long by 350 yards wide and, toward its North East corner; it reaches a depth of over 30 feet.

The Loch population of well-marked, hard-fighting wild brown trout and a small number of salmon and sea trout enter the Loch each autumn. Good results are had over most parts of the Loch. Try all the usual hill Loch flies and, in a good wave, a large wake inducing fly fished on the bob can bring fish to the surface.

Loch Buidhe lies 530 feet above sea-level and sudden squalls can develop from nowhere. Great care is needed when fishing from a boat. A drogue is recommended. Although the road runs along the entire length of the South side of the Loch traffic is extremely light and you are likely to fish undisturbed. Ospreys are occasionally seen.

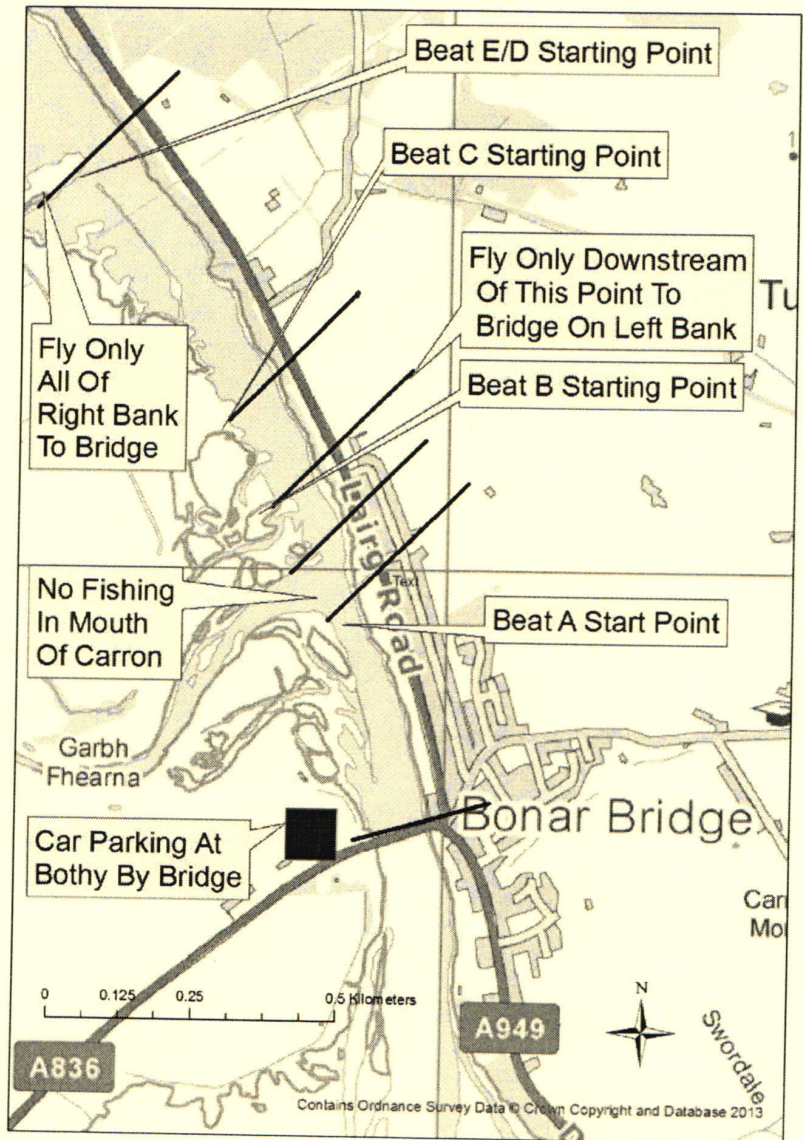
# MAPS

## Fishing BELOW BONAR BRIDGE.

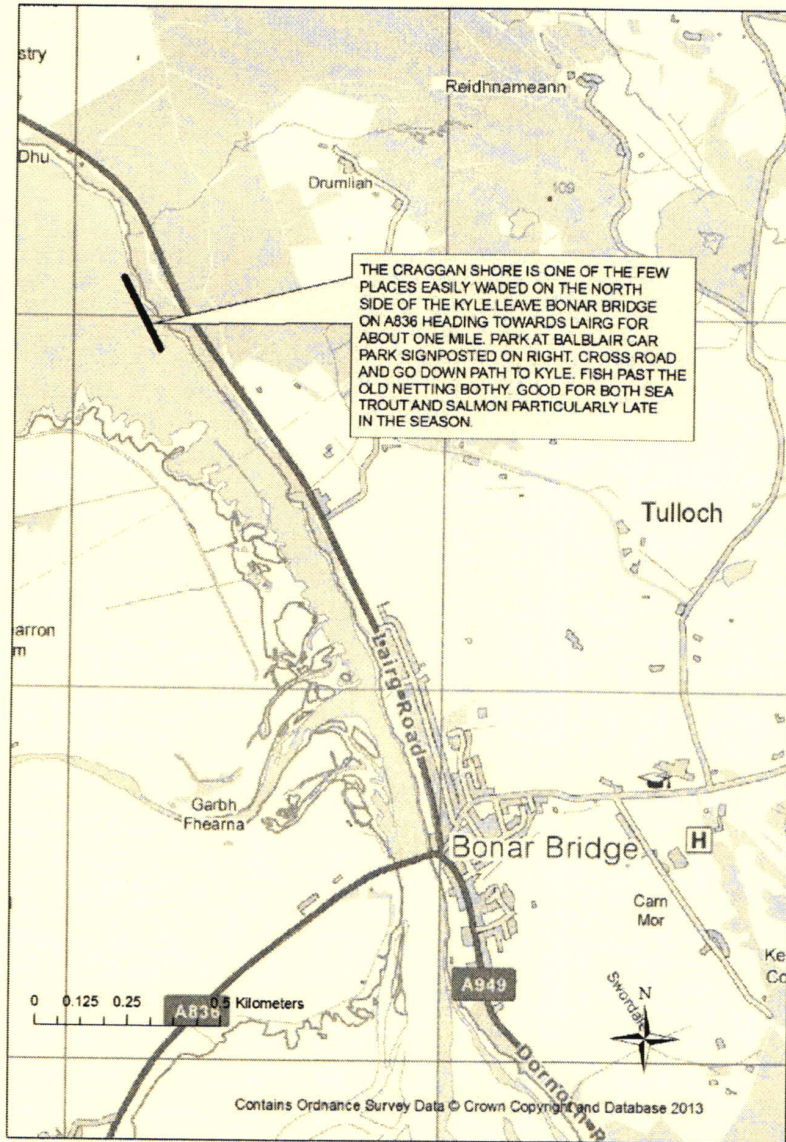




# Fishing above Bonar Bridge.

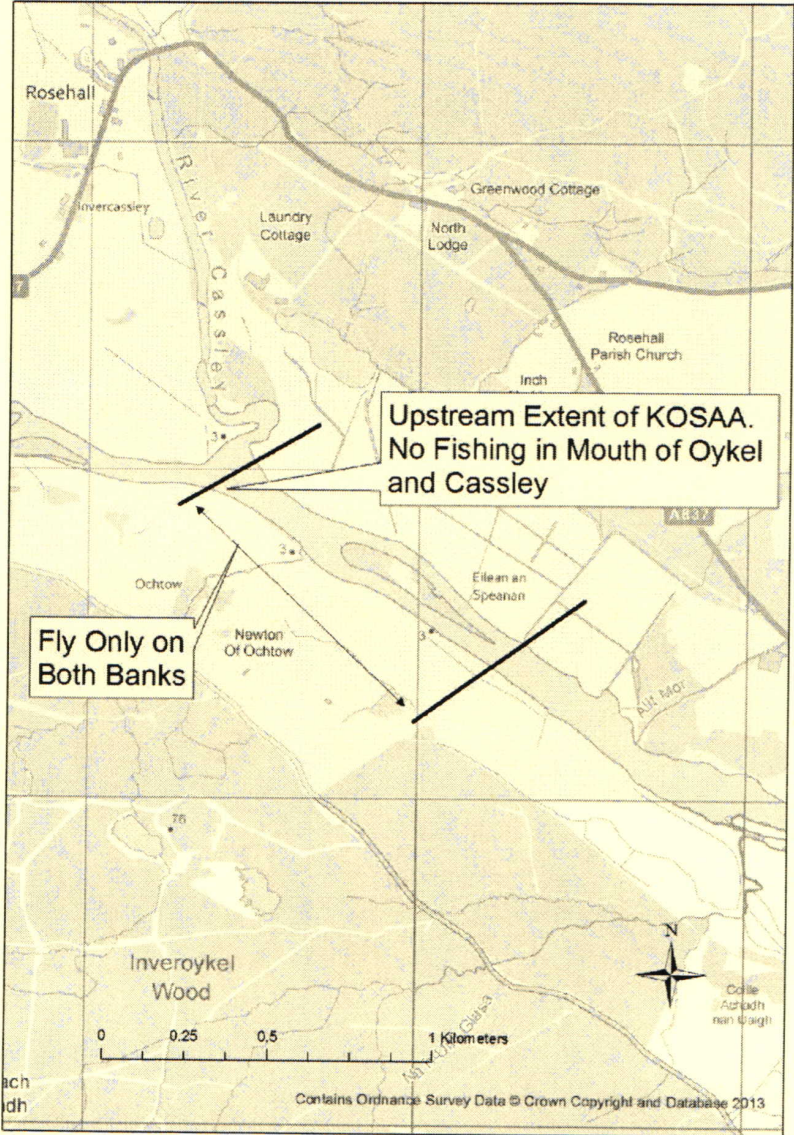


# Craggan





Kyle Upper fishing.



## VISITOR RULES

### VISITORS RULES – SALMON FISHING

All visiting anglers must acquaint themselves with these rules

The Association controls all salmon and sea trout fishing on the whole of the Kyle of Sutherland, from the mouth of the river Casey to mid Fearn Point. This permit is not valid for any of the Kyle Rivers, or their mouths.

#### Permits

Fishing is by permit only. Permits must be carried at all times when fishing and shown on demand to any Association member or bailiff.

#### Fishing Season

The fishing season is from June 1st to September 30th inclusive.

#### Methods

Fishing on the Kyle is by rod and line only, using fly or spinning methods. The use of bait, including worm, prawn or any fish based products is strictly prohibited with the exception that worm may be used below Bonar Bridge. The use of treble hooks is prohibited, even when spinning.

#### Fly Fishing Areas

The fly fishing only areas must be strictly observed. They are marked on the accompanying map and/or by signposts at their upper and lower limits.



## Catch Returns

It is a strict condition that you submit an accurate catch return. Returns should be made to the outlet where you purchased your

permit, or to the Secretary. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the refusal of future permits.

## Catch Restrictions and Limits

You must ensure that you understand and follow the Associations' rules regarding catch and release and release. If you kill one salmon, you must immediately stop fishing for that day.

All coloured fish must be returned.

All fish over 65 cms (6.5 lb) must be returned.

No more than 4 sea trout may be retained in any one day.

All Finnock (under 1lb) must be returned.

No fish to be killed before June 15th.

## Etiquette and Behaviour

You must behave with courtesy and consideration to all other anglers.

You must not enter a pool less than 30 yards above another angler.

You must move at least two paces downstream between each cast.

You must leave the water upon landing a fish, and go to the back of the queue.

You must take your turn to enter a pool.

## The Country Code

Parts of the Kyle are accessed through farmland. Do not do damage Livestock, crops or fences. Keep to recognised access routes.

Keep dogs on a leash at all times and leave gates as you find them.

## Rules Regulations and Bye-Laws

All anglers are bound by the Rules Regulations and Bye-Laws of the Association.

### Safety Warning

The Kyle is tidal. Currents can be strong and the bottom slippery. Wade with great care. The use of a wading stick and buoyancy aid are strongly recommended.