

## SALMON FISHING ETIQUETTE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Rotation - Begin at the head of the pool & progressively fish to the tail at a reasonable pace. Two casts / Two steps.

Relinquish a pool to angler with a hooked salmon.

Carefully release all salmon smolt (small salmon - forked tail; brook trout - square tail).

Please report violators of the law to the Federal Fisheries Officers (248-2322).

If you suspect an offence is being committed - DO NOT interfere in any way. Call local Fisheries Officers or ZENITH 40,000.

Angler access is a precious asset. Respect the landowner. Always ask permission, close all gates, do not drive through fields and respect the land as if it were your own.

No angling in the Big Intervale Fish Sanctuary. (see map)

Please do not litter! Keep the Margaree beautiful!

Do not camp in private or unauthorized areas without permission - camping facilities are available in the Margarees.

Canoeists please respect the angler. Go behind or portage around fishermen. We can all use the river in harmony: the Southwest Margaree is an excellent canoeing river.

General Rules: Fly fishing in scheduled sections of the River only. No spinfishing - No weighted flies - Hours 6 - 10 DST - No fishing from bridges - No gaffs. The Southwest Branch of the Margaree is NOT scheduled from the Creamery Bridge to Scotsville Bridge, if angling for salmon, fly fishing only permissible, including other restrictions noted above.

### READ YOUR FISHING REGULATIONS!

PLEASE participate in biological studies, done by the Department of Fisheries & Oceans; by dropping head or 1/2 of the nose of adipose clipped, legal sized salmon killed at The Hatchery.

The Margaree Salmon Association has designed a cloisonné lapel pin for members ONLY. Order yours by mail or pick one up at the Atlantic Fisheries Visitor Interpretation Centre (at the Hatchery). We also have:

Hats - \$7.00      Crests - \$3.00  
Cook Books - \$3.00      Lapel Pins - \$5.00  
Decals - \$2.00

We highly recommend that you hire a licenced guide if this is your first trip to Margaree. They can put you over fish, help you avoid crowding on popular pools, show proper access points, help on approved hook & release procedures and instruct you on Rotation Etiquette for which this river is famous!

## HOW TO SAFELY RELEASE LARGE SALMON

### 1. Gearing Up

Pinch the hook barb flat with pliers. If you must use a landing net, use one with cotton as it is less harmful to the fish's scales, eyes and gills. Use a light leader tip - light enough to break off large salmon.

### 2. Playing the Fish

Move to a quiet water location. Bring the fish quickly into reach. Rule of thumb: Play fish - 1 minute per pound. If your fish does not respond to this rule of thumb - consider snapping your leader.

### 3. Removing the Hook

Keep the salmon in water. Be gentle - don't squeeze the fish! Remove the fly gently with pliers or with your thumb and forefinger. If necessary to leave the fly - cut the leader as close to the fly as possible. Do not use a tailer. Be careful not to touch the eyes or gills and try not to damage the scales.

### 4. Reviving the Fish

Support the fish underwater in an up-right position facing into current. Gently move the fish back and forth so the water goes through the gills. Be patient! Allow the fish time to recover and swim away on its own.

### 5. Satisfaction

If you must lift the fish out of the water for a picture, have your camera set and focused. Make sure the fish is well supported under the belly and tail. Return it as quickly as possible to the water. DO NOT lift the fish by either gills or tail.

If you have never deliberately released a large salmon, you have a wonderful experience in store. The first one released is done with mixed emotions, certainly, but afterwards with a little reflection upon the event, it becomes one of the most satisfying and memorable of your angling experiences.

REMEMBER . . . "THE ATLANTIC SALMON'S FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS"



## THE MARGAREE RIVER

The Northeast branch of the Margaree River is born in the Cape Breton Highlands just south of the Cheticamp watershed. For twenty miles from this point to the Big Intervale, the Margaree is a wilderness river and sanctuary for spawning salmon, confined by steep gorges and narrow intervale.

In Big Intervale, the river spreads out and meanders, at the same time creating a host of large and small pools. Below the Intervale is a long stretch of river, again constricted by gorges, inaccessible by road. To fish it provides a wilderness experience of great beauty - at the same time dictating minimal competition from other anglers. Many small lies and a few large pools provide excellent fishing.

From Portree, the River emerges into a broad flood plain where it meanders again until it is joined by the Southwest branch at Margaree Forks. Here perhaps the most famous pool on the river is located. The Forks Pool introduces the angler to the larger pools that the combined river now produces.

From the "last" pool - the Lower Tompkins - the River flows for about five miles through tidal estuary discharging into the Gulf of St. Lawrence at Margaree Harbour.

The Southwest Branch is a beautiful stretch of water which flows gently from Lake Ainslie through a steep valley, then meanders through fields and meadows where it eventually joins the Northeast Branch at the famous Forks Pool. It is best known for its fall run of fish.

You will quickly discover that for the most part the river is easily accessible and, once on a pool, you will not have to make competition length casts to reach fish. In fact, overreaching with your cast is one of the most tempting, but unrewarding angling practices on the River.

We wish you all possible luck with Salmo salar and urge you to read the information on release techniques presented in this Brochure.

"In memory of John MacLearn"



Tied by

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### MARGAREE SALMON MUSEUM

A must when visiting or fishing the Margaree.  
Open 7 days a week from 9 to 5.  
Any items lost or found may be taken to or picked-up from the Museum also.

## Margaree Salmon Association



## MARGAREE SALMON POOLS

### MEMBERSHIP:

Regular - \$15; Junior - \$10; Life - \$200

Membership available by writing to:

Margaree Forks,  
Cape Breton Island  
Nova Scotia, Canada  
BOE 2A0

or at:

Atlantic Fisheries Visitor Interpretation Centre (at the Hatchery)