

## South Uist Angling Club (SUAC)

### INFORMATION SHEET FOR SEASON 2024

**Welcome** to our Club fishings. Members of SUAC, and Visitors who have purchased valid permits, are entitled to fish all the South Uist Angling Club waters described in this sheet. Visitors, who buy boat permits, may also book and use Club boats. The Club also has a website (<https://www.southuistanglingclub.co.uk>) with additional advice on tackle and accommodation, SUAC outings, a downloadable Catch Return form and details of how Uist residents can become members.

#### PURCHASE OF FISHING AND BOAT PERMIT

Although some hotels and other accommodation providers have a special arrangement with SUAC to sell Permits to their customers, **members of the public** can purchase and obtain bank permits from any of the following agencies:

Stòras Uibhist,  
Daliburgh,  
HS8 5SS (☎01878  
700101)

MacGillivray's, Balivanich,  
HS7 5LA (☎01870 602525)

Anglers Retreat, Ardmore,  
HS8 5QY (☎01870 610325)

Post Office, Daliburgh,  
HS8 5SS (☎01878 700300)

Kilbride Campsite  
HS8 5TT (☎ 07751 251522)

#### FISHING PERMIT CHARGES FOR VISITORS

|                                 |                                                                                                                   |          |               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| Fishing Permit                  | Bank only                                                                                                         | per day  | <b>£10.00</b> |
| Fishing Permit                  | Bank only                                                                                                         | per week | <b>£50.00</b> |
| Boat Permit for Standard Boats. | <b>In addition</b> to Fishing Permit for our smaller boats limited to a maximum of 2 persons                      | per day  | <b>£10.00</b> |
| Lomond and Sheelin Boats.       | Boat <b>including</b> Fishing Permit for up to 2 rods fishing at any one time and a maximum of 3 persons in total | per day  | <b>£40.00</b> |

There is no charge for anyone under 18 years of age, but no boat bookings can be taken unless over 18.

#### JUNIORS

Junior members/visitors (under 18 years of age) may not book boats and must be accompanied (in the boat) by an adult member or permit holder, who will be responsible for their safety and behaviour.

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Visitors who present evidence to the Registration Officer that they will be resident in the Uists for 4 weeks or more in a 12-month period from the start of the year, may be granted Associate Membership at an annual cost of £100.

#### METHODS

Fly-fishing ONLY, except on the Fords (Sea Pools) where spinning and bait fishing are allowed.

#### SEASONS

|                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Brown Trout      | <b>15 March to 30 September</b>  |
| Sea Trout/Salmon | <b>25 February to 31 October</b> |

#### SIZE LIMITS

|                                    |                                                                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Brown Trout                        | 10 ozs                                                          |
| Sea Trout (SUAC and Estate waters) | 1lb 8 ozs or 18 inches                                          |
| Salmon                             | No salmon can be kept and any caught must be returned carefully |

Your fishing return should be based on these size limits. As a general rule, fish under those limits and salmon smolts, should be carefully returned, but brown trout of a lesser size, taken from a loch with a surfeit of smaller fish, may be kept. Please include undersized fish in your returns.

#### SUAC WATERS AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS AND PERMIT HOLDERS

|               |                                                                   |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In Benbecula  | All lochs <b>EXCEPT</b> Caravan which is for use by Members only. |
| North Ford    | South Bank only.                                                  |
| South Ford    | North and South Banks.                                            |
| In South Uist | All lochs, <b>EXCEPT</b> the following Stòras Uibhist waters:     |

**Stòras Uibhist Waters available to Members & Visitors ONLY by Arrangement.**

| Name of Water  | Grid Ref | Name of Water  | Grid Ref |
|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Grogarry       | 763395   | Castle         | 765372   |
| Stilligarry    | 758384   | School House   | 764366   |
| Ali's Loch     | 768352   | Howmore River  | 755363   |
| Altabrug       | 751354   | Roag           | 756357   |
| West Ollay     | 745324   | Upper Roag     | 792353   |
| Mid Ollay      | 760313   | Lower Kildonan | 735276   |
| Bornish        | 731296   | Fada           | 754348   |
| Upper Bornish  | 745295   | Bharp          | 780210   |
| Upper Kildonan | 735277   | Crocabhat      | 759227   |
| Mill           | 744272   | Coragrimsaig   | 796224   |
| Sgairbh        | 731267   | Stulabhal      | 795224   |
| Hallan         | 740219   | Snigiscleit    | 297250   |

For information about the locations above, please visit [www.southuistestates.com](http://www.southuistestates.com) or contact **Stòras Uibhist** by phone (☎ 01878 700 101) or by email: ([info@southuistestates.com](mailto:info@southuistestates.com)).

### BOOKING OF SUAC BOATS

If you wish to book a SUAC boat, please use the South Uist Estate website:, or alternatively, visit or contact Stòras Uibhist, Oifis Stòras, Daliburgh, South Uist. HS8 5SS (☎ 01878 700 101) or email: [info@southuistestates.com](mailto:info@southuistestates.com) quoting your membership or visitor's boat permit number.

Bookings can be made in advance from 9-5 Monday to Friday. When the Stòras Uibhist office is closed, as on Saturdays and Sunday, boat bookings can be made in advance on Friday.

To ensure fairness, anglers cannot book the same boat/loch more than once in a 7 day period. This will not apply to any bookings made within 48 hours of the proposed boat use.

When booking a boat, please be aware of the maximum number of anglers permitted ie. 2 persons in a Standard boat and 3 in a Lomond or Sheelin boat.

### SUAC BOAT LOCATIONS

for what3words locations see [www.southuistanglingclub.co.uk/where-to-fish/](http://www.southuistanglingclub.co.uk/where-to-fish/)

| Boat Location                | Grid Ref | Area          | Boat Type        |
|------------------------------|----------|---------------|------------------|
| North Olabhat (2 boats)      | 806546   | Uachdar       | 2 x Lomonds      |
| Caravan                      | 804547   | Uachdar       | Lomond           |
| East Olabhat                 | 802508   | Torlum        | Lomond           |
| West Olabhat                 | 802508   | Torlum        | Lomond           |
| Langabhat                    | 845482   | Kilerivagh    | Lomond           |
| Caslub                       | 833418   | Lochcarnan    | Lomond           |
| East Bi                      | 783432   | West Gerinish | Lomond           |
| An Duin Mhoir                | 778417   | W Gerinish    | Lomond           |
| Druidibeg *                  | 795385   | Drimsdale     | Lomond           |
| L A'Phuirt-ruaidh (Fraser's) | 770355   | Howmore       | Lomond           |
| Toronish                     | 736307   | Bornish       | Lomond           |
| Eilean an Staoir             | 734263   | Milton        | Standard         |
| Bayhead                      | 764304   | Bornish       | Sheelin          |
| A Chlachain                  | 756296   | Bornish       | Lomond           |
| L Dun na Cille (2 boats)     | 742192   | Kilpheder     | Lomond & Sheelin |
| Shnathaid                    | 830425   | LochCarnan    | Lomond           |
| Na Duchasaidh                | 745313   | Ormicate      | Standard         |
| A Choire                     | 765145   | East Kilbride | Standard         |

\* Loch Druidibeg: **DO NOT DISTURB NESTING BIRDS, PARTICULARLY BLACK THROATED DIVERS AND SEA EAGLES. DO NOT LAND ON ANY ISLANDS.** Please note **Stòras Uibhist** boats are always **Grey** and SUAC boats are **Green**.

## FISHING IN NORTH UIST

Permits for trout fishing in North Uist may be obtained from the North Uist Estate and on club waters from the Westford Inn. (☎ 01876 580 653).

### A FEW THINGS THE CLUB INSISTS ON:

- 1. LIFE JACKETS MUST BE WORN IN BOATS.**
- No standing up while fishing from boats. Most of the lochs have many hidden rocks and skerries, sometimes far out from the shore, and water levels can vary greatly over a few days bringing new hazards where previously there were none. Hitting a rock while standing up in a boat will probably mean you fall over, but it could result in you falling overboard with potentially much more serious results. Standing up also means the fish can see you from much further away which will greatly reduce your chances of catching them.
- Check the boat before use. Make sure there is a bailer. The club is entirely voluntary and cannot physically inspect each boat every day. Any damage to boats or broken oars should be reported immediately to the Booking Agent, Stòras Uibhist tel. 01878 700101 or a Club boat officer. If in the North, Gary Bateman, on 07525 050 891 or in the South, Charlie Nicholas, on 07960 522896.
- After use, please return the boat to the correct location, irrespective of where it may have been found. If you are unable to return the boat to its correct position, please inform Stòras Uibhist or one of the Boat Officers. Also, please pull the boat well up the bank and secure it to the mooring post. (Some lochs may rise or fall significantly as a result of tides or rainfall). Please leave the boat in a clean and tidy condition and store the oars and bailer safely and securely under a boat seat.
- Any damage arising from misuse of the boat, or failure to secure it properly after use, may result in a claim being lodged by the Club against the persons responsible. Each season, a number of our boats are damaged, often extensively, as a result of not being properly secured or pulled high enough out of the water.
- Do not take a boat if you do not have a confirmed booking.** Bookings are for 24 hours. Seeing a boat tied up at 11am or 7pm does not mean that it is available – not everyone is free to fish from 10 till 6.
- Storas Uibhist does not allow float tubes on any of its waters including those of the club.
- No salmon may be kept.** This is the law for our Fisheries Board area. Please carefully return any salmon.
- Fishing on SUAC waters is fly only apart from on the seapools where spinning is also allowed.
- Please complete a catch return.** All members and visitors are required to complete a catch return which is available here: (<https://www.southuistanglingclub.co.uk>) Please send it to Sheena MacMillan as soon as possible, especially if you have caught any salmon or seatrout or had a notable day or week, but in any case no later than 14 November. [Sheena.MacMillan@StorasUibhist.com](mailto:Sheena.MacMillan@StorasUibhist.com) or by post to: Fishing Returns, Storas Uibhist, Daliburgh. HS8 5SS. These returns are needed to comply with legal requirements.

### ADVICE TO ANGLERS:

Angling is generally a very safe sport but it does have the potential for a bad accident if hazards are ignored. The lists below are the result of risk assessments carried out by the club but there is no guarantee that we have thought of everything. To experienced locals much in the following lists will seem obvious, but fishing in Uist is very different to what many visiting anglers are used to.

- Check the weather forecast before fishing but be aware that conditions can change rapidly. Don't fish in or near thunderstorms. If the weather is poor and you are in any doubt about conditions, don't go out in a boat. We do not recommend going out in winds in excess of 25mph unless in the company of an experienced local ghillie. Do not use a drogue to try and slow the speed of a drift. It will almost certainly catch on a rock and possibly capsize the boat.
- Take suitable clothing for expected and unexpected weather conditions.
- Take suitable equipment for the day you have planned, eg sun and windburn protection, sunglasses and a peaked cap (which will also protect you against miscast flies), mobile phone (which can also be a torch if needed) with What3Words or OS app for navigation – note that mobile phone coverage is poor/non-existent in some parts of the islands, but these navigation apps will still work.
- Make sure your own equipment is fit for purpose. Eg lifejacket is tested and in date and if using an outboard, that it is running properly.
- If bank fishing away from public roads be aware that there are few paths so progress may be slower than you expect. Visibility can reduce to a few yards if a mist descends – take a map and compass and know how to use them.
- If fishing alone, from the bank or a boat, leave details and expected time of return with someone or visible in your car before you set off.
- In a boat always proceed with caution particularly if the loch is unfamiliar. Consider hiring a local ghillie to show you where the unseen hazards are and where the fish tend to lie.
- Further advice on fishing in Uist can be found on the club's website. (<https://www.southuistanglingclub.co.uk>)

## OTHER HAZARDS:

1. Terrain. Be aware that rocks and grassy banks may be slippery, and lochs may have steep drop-offs into deep water. Some lochs have very soft bottoms, others deep sink holes – use a wading staff to check. Peat bogs and peat cuttings can have deep unseen holes, and heather often conceals holes – again use a wading staff or walking pole to check. Some boats are moored a few hundred yards from the nearest parking location. Given the list of hazards above, don't try to carry too much gear to the boat in one go.
2. Animals. Uist has a high incidence of Lyme Disease, carried by ticks. It is advisable to wear insect repellent, and when resting to sit on rocks, not in heather where the ticks live. Check for ticks regularly and carry a tick removal tool.

Weils disease is water-borne and carried in rat and cow urine. Both animals are common on the islands.

Practising good hand hygiene should reduce the risk of infection.

Cows and swans are both generally non-aggressive to humans, but this can change if they have young or feel threatened. Give both a wide berth.

3. Powerlines. There are many overhead powerlines on the Estate. Carbon fibre rods are excellent conductors of electricity, so keep your rod low when walking near such cables and do not cast anywhere near them.
4. Seapools. There are seapool maps on the club website which contain important information. However some locations are indicative and not necessarily accurate. The position of sandbanks, quicksands and tidal channels alter over time.

Check the tide times and be aware the tide may come in behind you. If you do get cut off, do not panic – any island with grass on it should be above high tide. Make sure you take a mobile phone with you.

There are quicksands in the vicinity of the seapools. Use a wading staff or walking pole to test your route. If you do sink up to your hips or higher, bend backwards to get on your back and "swim." The more you spread out your weight, the harder it will be to sink. Float on your back while you slowly and carefully extricate your legs.

## CLUB OFFICIALS

### CHAIRMAN

Spider Clowes

SUACchair@gmail.com

### SECRETARY

Briony Oates

SUACsecretary@gmail.com

### REGISTRATION OFFICER

Col. Hamon Massey

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### BOAT OFFICER NORTH

Gary Bateman

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### BOAT OFFICER SOUTH

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### COMPETITIONS OFFICER

Stevie Rodger

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(☎ 07961 584923)

### TREASURER

Col. Hamon Massey

### EVENTS OFFICER

Lillian MacLennan

### YOUNG ADULT OFFICER

TBC