

SOUTH UIST ANGLING CLUB (SUAC)

INFORMATION SHEET FOR SEASON 2024

Welcome to our Club fishings. Members of SUAC, and Visitors who have purchased valid SUAC permits, are entitled to fish all the South Uist Angling Club waters, **including on a Sunday**, as described in this sheet. Bank fishing on any of the Club's waters does not need to be booked, but Club boats must be booked in advance as detailed below. 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. Bank fishing and use of SUAC boats is included in the membership fee but members must still book a boat before use.

PURCHASE OF BANK FISHING AND BOAT PERMITS FOR VISITORS

Some hotels and other accommodation providers have a special arrangement with SUAC to sell permits to their customers. Visitors can also purchase **bank permits** from any of the following agencies:

Stòras Uibhist,
(South Uist Estates)
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)

PLEASE NOTE VISITOR BOAT PERMITS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE FROM STORAS UIBHIST.

BOOKING OF SUAC BOATS

If you wish to book a SUAC boat, please use the South Uist Estates website: www.southuistestates.com or alternatively, visit or contact Stòras Uibhist, Oifis Stòras, Daliburgh, South Uist. HS8 5SS (☎ 01878 700 101) or email: 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 Sundays, 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.

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.

FISHING PERMIT CHARGES FOR ADULT VISITORS

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

JUNIORS

There is no charge for anyone, resident or visitor, under 18 years of age but they still need junior membership or a permit before commencing fishing.

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.

SUAC WATERS AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS AND PERMIT HOLDERS

In Benbecula	All lochs EXCEPT Loch Dun Mhurchaidh ("Caravan") which is for use by SUAC Members only.
North Ford	South Bank only.
South Ford	North and South Banks.
In South Uist	All lochs, EXCEPT the following Storas Uibhist waters in the table below:

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	Snigisleit	297250

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

METHODS

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

SEASONS

Brown Trout	15 March to 30 September
Sea Trout/Salmon	25 February to 31 October

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 BOAT LOCATIONS

for what3words locations see 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.** NB Stòras Uibhist boats are **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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. **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.
7. Stòras Uibhist does not allow float tubes on any of its waters including those of the club.
8. **No salmon may be kept.** This is the law for our Fisheries Board area. Please carefully return any salmon. There is no fishing for salmon or seatrout on Sundays in Scotland.
9. Fishing on SUAC waters is fly only apart from on the seapools where spinning and bait fishing is also allowed.
10. **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 or by post to: Fishing Returns, Stòras 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.

1. 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.
2. Take suitable clothing for expected and unexpected weather conditions.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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

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