

Fly Fishing Made Easy

Instruction and guided trips to some of Scotland's finest salmon, trout, sea trout and pike fishing.

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Learn fly fishing

Alastair (Ally) Gowans has over forty years experience of angling for trout and salmon and other species and he holds the highest qualification available for instructors in the UK. His skills cover every aspect of this great sport, including tuition, guided trips, conservation, fly-tying, tackle-making, writing, river management and consultancy work. Whether you are a complete novice or a budding top level instructor, Ally is happy to share his vast knowledge to make your angling ambitions a reality.

Practical skills Learn everything you need to know to become a proficient angler. Casting, fishing methods, knots, selection of tackle and it's care and use, how to make your own equipment and custom lines and indeed any aspect of game fishing for trout and salmon. Fly-tying instruction and demonstrations.

Single-handed Fly-fishing techniques and casting methods taught include single and double haul, roll and Spey casts and many dry fly presentation techniques such as curved casts, reach casts, parachute casts etc. Practical fishing sessions cover fly selection, tactics, boat fishing on lochs and reservoirs, and night fishing methods. Pike fly fishing is an exciting new development for the fly fisherman, instruction available.

Salmon Fly-fishing and casting techniques include Double Spey, Single Spey, Underhand Cast, Snake Roll and other forms of Spey casts. You can also learn overhead casts and long distance methods for fly-casting over 40 yards. Practical floating and sunk line fly-fishing methods and appropriate fly selection.

Fishing Courses Customised fishing courses to cover the topics you want to learn and arranged to suit your timetable. Groups of up to six persons at a time. Accommodation, tackle, fishing and instruction may be included. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Highland Perthshire or by arrangement at a venue to suit you.

www.letsflyfish.com Contains lots of useful information about fly-fishing, fly-tying, conservation, casting and questions & answers. Articles about a whole range of fishing topics and information on fishing in a number of countries including Scotland, Ireland, Norway and Canada. A favourite site with anglers world-wide.

www.flyfish-scotland.com Information about fishing in Scotland for salmon, sea trout and trout. Essential reading for anglers in Scotland. Includes pages on Protection Orders and Scottish fishing laws. What you need to know to fish in Scotland, suggestions for tackle, tactics and flies.

Casting Rules

Start with the line straight. Just as it is impossible to pull a car with a slack tow rope it is impossible to move a fly with a slack line. If the line is not straight movement is wasted to straighten it and your effort is not only wasted, you have now got the rod in a bad place to start. Always start tight and this of course applies whether your line is on the water, in the air or formed into a roll casting D loop.

Every casting stroke is a smooth acceleration followed by a stop. The acceleration bends the rod and loads it like a spring. Whilst it is accelerating the bend increases, when it stops the rod recovers and straightens, it is the stop that transfers the stored energy in the spring (rod) to the line and therefore makes the cast. That is why descriptions like "flicking paint off a brush" are applicable to casting. Most people understand that action and can replicate it. The better the "stop" the better it goes.

The line always follows the rod tip and when the rod stops the line projects in the direction that the rod tip was going in when the stop was made. This is perhaps the least understood rule but it is absolutely fundamental to the construction of every casting technique. Every direction that the line takes was produced by movement of the rod tip. This is so obvious and yet often forgotten! If you want your line to go in a straight line make the rod tip move in a straight line. The direction of the line is the same as the direction of the rod tip and the same goes for circles or parts of circles, ellipses or any other shape that can support continuous motion for the duration of a casting stroke.

Tuition Fees

Fly fishing tuition for individuals or groups is tailored to suit your requirements. Rods, reels and lines are available free of charge during instruction. Children under 14 years of age may be taught free of charge if accompanied by a fee-paying adult. Fees: £25 per hour for one person; two £30 per hour; three, £35; etc. to a maximum charge for six persons. Reduced rates are available for half or one day courses. Guides trips are available on a number of Scottish rivers and lochs and may include fishing permits, instructions, transport, meals and accommodation.



Ally's salmon flies

Many anglers ask to purchase authentic Ally's Shrimps and other patterns that have proved to be successful for salmon and trout all over the World. These flies are available, tied specially to order, on single, double and treble hooks. Best quality materials are used and flies can be specified with or without Crystal Hair. Demand for flies during the fishing season is high, therefore orders for flies during the close season will ensure speedy delivery. Tube fly versions can also be supplied.



Knots

The right choice of knot and its correct tying is very important. When knotting monofilament take care to wet the material to lubricate the knot before pushing it tight with your fingers and pulling the tag ends to ensure that it is tight. If the monofilament has distorted it may be weakened and it is best to re-tie the knot. For extra security a coat of Fishing Glue may be added.



Fishing lets

Available on a number of waters and at a range of prices to suit everyone. Lots of river and loch fishing for brown trout, rainbow trout and char. Sea trout fishing (night fishing) on the River South Esk including limited places on private beats. Salmon fishing on the Rivers Tay, Tummel, Garry, Tilt South Esk, North Esk, Erich, Blackwater and Isla. Superb pike fly-fishing on a variety of waters.

