

## **Blelham Tarn**

### **Blelham Tarn is a WADAA members only fishery**

#### **Fishery rules**

**Season** - Blelham Tarn is open throughout 12 months of the year, seven days a week.

**Opening hours** - Fishing on Blelham Tarn is permitted from one hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset. It is the responsibility of anglers to establish the time of sunrise/sunset on the day, should they plan to arrive early or stay late.

No litter at all, this includes cigarette butts, teabags and fishing line.

No night fishing.

No camping or use of tents. Bivvies and shelters are allowed.

No fish to be removed or killed.

No livebaiting.

Deadbaits only.

You must **not** use landing nets with knotted mesh (National byelaw).

A maximum of three rods may be used. Rods must be spaced no more than 3 metres from each other (EA regulation).

The use of 'lip grip' devices (eg. the Boga Grip) for landing, handling, unhooking, weighing or retaining fish is forbidden.

The use of a 'pike gag' when unhooking fish is forbidden.

No more than two trebles are allowed on any deadbait trace.

The use of keepnets by pike anglers is forbidden.

No baited rod(s) to be left unattended at any time when bait(s) are in the water, or out of the water (to protect wildlife).

No use of maggots as bait, or the use of groundbait/loose feed between March 15<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup> (EA regulation).

#### **Pike welfare**

Pike are our apex freshwater predator, which means that there are far fewer of them in any water than other species, and, in spite of their fearsome appearance, they don't

always respond well to capture and handling. So, mindful of our need to look after these valuable fish, we ask our pike anglers to:

- Consider giving the pike a rest from angling pressure whilst they are spawning, from, say mid-March, to the start of May.
- Make sure you carry with you appropriate unhooking tools like forceps, pliers and wire/hook cutters.
- Always use barbless or de-barbed hooks.
- Play fish hard on appropriately strong tackle, 18lb mono or 50lb braid. Land them quickly, avoid unnecessary handling and get them back into the water as soon as you can.
- Use an unhooking mat if you are fishing in a static manner. Do not stand up holding the pike.
- Consider unhooking pike in the water. These natural lakes have gently sloping shallow margins into which fish can be drawn and unhooked without the need for them to be lifted from the water.
- Always use a wire trace, at least 28lbs bs and 24 inches long when dead baiting.