

“Subject: Marazion Angling Club

Catch, Care, Release: A MAC Code for Responsible Angling

As part of our shared commitment to the health and welfare of the coarse fish in St Erth Pool, we would like to remind all members and visitors of the essential guidelines for handling these aquatic residents responsibly and respectfully.

Our code of conduct is designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of fish populations, promote ethical fishing practices. We kindly ask for your cooperation in adhering to the following measures:

1. **Playing the Fish Properly:** When reeling in a fish, avoid exerting excessive force that could cause harm or exhaustion. Let the fish take line when needed, and bring it in steadily to minimize stress.
2. **Setting the Reel Drag:** Ensure your reel drag is set correctly to allow controlled resistance during the fight. A drag that's too tight could cause equipment failure or injure the fish, while a drag that's too loose prolongs the fight unnecessarily, increasing stress for the fish.
3. **Use balanced tackle:** Comply with MAC angling rules on line strength and match your line strength to your quarry and your swim.
4. **Pole fishing** – match your end tackle to your target quarry be sensible about the likelihood of catching carp on light tackle, minimum line strength rules apply to pole anglers.
5. **Handling with Care:** When catching coarse fish, use wet hands or a suitably dampened cloth to minimize damage to their protective slime coat.
6. **Equipment Use:** Always use barbless hooks, appropriate landing nets, unhooking mats (especially with specimens over 2lb), and antiseptic spray to treat any wounds or injuries the fish may have sustained. Small fish should be treated with care and respect and whilst not requiring an unhooking mat, small fish must be removed from the hook carefully. Shaking smaller fish off a hook is strictly forbidden. This step helps prevent infections and promotes quicker recovery.
7. **Timely Returns:** Limit the time the fish spends out of water. After gently removing hooks, apply antiseptic spray if necessary, and release the fish back into the water promptly and safely.
8. **Waste Management:** Dispose of all litter and fishing lines responsibly to avoid harming the aquatic environment and its inhabitants.
9. **Biosecurity Measures:** Familiarize yourself with and follow all biosecurity protocols, such as Check, Clean and Dry and disinfecting gear between trips to different water bodies, to safeguard the ecosystem against invasive species and diseases.

We deeply appreciate your efforts to maintain high standards in our shared angling activities. These practices not only protect the welfare of the fish but also enhance the fishing experience for everyone at St Erth Pool.

Marazion Angling Club”