

Take A Friend Fishing – a fantastic opportunity to experience angling .

Take A Friend Fishing Summer Campaign Dates:

Take a Friend Fishing runs from Saturday 29th of July to Sunday 3rd of September 2023 (inclusive).

About Take A Friend Fishing

Take A Friend Fishing (TAFF) is an [Angling Trades Association](#) initiative designed to encourage engagement with the sport of angling. TAFF provides the opportunity for existing anglers to take a friend fishing on their licence during certain designated times of the year. A simple registration process is all that is required, to help someone experience the wellbeing and outdoor benefits of fishing as a pastime. www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk

TAFF is run in association with the [Environment Agency](#) and supported by [Angling Trust](#), [Canal & River Trust](#) and many other angling organisations. TAFF opens up the world of angling to people from all age groups and communities, giving the opportunity for anglers and non-anglers alike, at all levels of ability, the chance to get into fishing or back into fishing after time away.

Take a Friend Fishing Key Messages:

Take a Friend Fishing offers more opportunity than ever to get out fishing with a friend or family member during our extended summer campaign in 2023 and give someone a new experience for your summer holidays.

Take a Friend Fishing continues to grow in 2023 with its biggest campaign window yet, giving you more weekends, and more opportunity to create long-lasting friendships and memories by going fishing with a friend.

Take A Friend Fishing registration will go live from 1st July, so you have plenty of time to plan that fishing trip with a friend.

Registering for a free one-day fishing licence couldn't be easier.

To access the **Take a Friend Fishing** initiative this Summer between Saturday 29th July and Sunday 3rd of September (inclusive), existing fishing licence holders can register for a **FREE one-day fishing licence** from the Environment Agency at www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk and take someone they know fishing.

Simply visit www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/register-free-friend-fishing-licence/ select the date of your fishing trip, enter some basic information about you and your friend, and away you go! The free fishing licence will be sent with a confirmation email, so please remember to have your fishing licence and both people's email addresses plus a few other details handy when you pre-register to Take a Friend Fishing.

The TAFF extended summer programme gives the biggest window of opportunity yet to anglers, non-anglers and those thinking about reconnecting with the pastime they once enjoyed.

A new experience for your summer holidays.

This year, we want even more people to get their backside bankside and Take a Friend Fishing to show them just how easy it is to get into angling and experience the benefits of time out in nature. To relax and engage with nature and the outdoors is a rewarding experience especially with a friend. With a free one-day fishing licence from the Environment Agency worth £6.50 (coarse and non-migratory trout) or £12.60 (salmon and sea trout).

Getting outside in the countryside is a great way to be together with family and friends and angling is the perfect fit for staying active outdoors, especially if you are staying in England or Wales this summer. There are many fisheries near to where you live that are perfect to visit for a catch-up with a friend during a quick Take a Friend Fishing trip together. Find out about where you can fish safely at www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk/#faqs

Half terms, National and family holidays all provide opportunities for us to unwind, be with friends and interact with the environment around us. Taking a friend or family member on a fishing trip is a great way to spend time outdoors. Escaping modern life to build friendships, create lasting memories and just enjoy some time next to the water, is the ultimate in relaxation. Find out which fisheries, retailers, trade brands and other organisations are running [special offers for Take A Friend licence applicants](#) during TAFF.

About Close Seasons:

Understanding about close seasons, is like having the right fishing licence, it's an important and essential part of becoming an angler and just like learning the rules of any sport. 'Close seasons' are times of the year when you can't fish for some types of fish on certain types of water. For example, you cannot fish for coarse fish on any river in England and Wales on 15th March right up until 15th June. That means that the **Easter Take a Friend Fishing dates coincide with the annual close season for coarse fish on rivers**, so you need to consider a canal or stillwater for your fishing adventure in that period.

You might be able to fish for salmon, brown trout and rainbow trout on some rivers during the coarse fish close season on rivers using certain types of lures and baits – [local fishing byelaws](#) to check what you can do in your area and remember too that some privately owned bodies of water can have their own close seasons. If you are new to fishing and want to try it during Take a Friend Fishing, but are confused by this, the best thing to do is ask the angler you are going with, and make sure you both understand what the close season on rivers mean – it's all explained [here on the Environment Agency web site](#).

About Fishing Licences:

You will normally need a valid [Environment Agency](#) fishing licence if you are aged 13 or over and fish for salmon, trout, freshwater fish, smelt or eel in England (except the River Tweed), Wales, and the Border Esk and its tributaries in Scotland. An annual fishing licence only costs £33.00 for up to 2 rods to fish for coarse fish & trout. For a salmon and sea trout licence it's £86.10.

Licences are free for juniors aged 13 to 16 years of age. Concessionary, short term and three rod coarse fishing licences are also available. Visit www.gov.uk/fishing-licences/buy-a-fishing-licence to buy one online. www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency-enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Hashtags:

#takeafriendfishing

#anglingtradesassociation
#getintofishing

Social Media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TakeAFriendFishingTAFF

Instagram: www.instagram.com/takeafriendfishing

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Suggested captions:

An angler can take a friend fishing at any time during the summer TAFF campaigns between 29th July and 3rd September (inclusive) – enjoy a break from everything and experience the health and wellbeing benefits of fishing – register FREE at www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk

Notes for editors:

Take a Friend Fishing (TAFF) is an [Angling Trades Association](#) initiative run in association with the [Environment Agency](#) and supported by the [Angling Trust](#), [Canal & River Trust](#) and many other angling organisations. TAFF makes it easy for an existing angler to take someone they know fishing. This work is supported by the Angling Trades Association and Environment Agency rod fishing licence income and helps to introduce thousands of people to fishing each year. Find out more at www.takeafriendfishing.co.uk

A Collaboration for Angling

Andrew Race, Chairman of the Angling Trades Association (ATA), added "After the success of Take a Friend Fishing in 2022, I am looking forward to building momentum again in 2023 with an extended programme. Take a Friend Fishing is capable of making such a difference, not only to the long-term development of angling recruitment, but also to people's lives. Angling is a proven therapy both mentally and physically and it knows no boundaries in terms of ability, age, sex, or background.

Heidi Stone, Environment Agency Fisheries Partnerships Manager, "Fishing with family members or friends is a fantastic way to spend quality time together whilst also enjoying all that nature has to offer. Take a Friend Fishing is a brilliant campaign that allows anglers of all levels of ability to improve their skills, or simply give fishing a try – and I'm proud to again be supporting this initiative that makes this great hobby more accessible for all."

John W Ellis BSc (Hons) FIFM National Fisheries and Angling Manager Canal & River Trust, said "Canal & River Trust is delighted to be working alongside the Angling Trade Association to support the Take a Friend fishing initiative in 2023. Our Trust is responsible for looking after over 2000 miles of canal fishery and over 70 reservoirs. Over 8 million people live within 1000 metres of one of our fisheries and nearly 50% of the population within 5 miles of one. We will be encouraging members of the 250 angling clubs who rent water from us to help their club grow membership by taking a friend fishing with them for a day.'

Clive Copeland, Head of Participation at the Angling Trust, said "With hundreds of Get Fishing events this June to September and Take a Friend Fishing too, there's an opportunity for children, families and existing anglers alike to get into the swing of fishing, spend time together by the water and make this a special summer to remember."