

## CATCH AND RELEASE GUIDELINES

Catching a big taimen is every angler's dream. Handling a fish of this size is difficult. Please take some time to learn the proper way to handle and release a taimen.

### How to release a taimen

- ✓ Keep the taimen in the river, never drag it onto the bank.
- ✓ Either use a landing net or sling / or grab the taimen around the wrist of the tail (a soft glove will help you grip).
- ✓ Immediately unhook the fish, keeping the taimen in the water (always carry suitable pliers).
- ✓ Gently lift the fish out of the water, take some quick photos. Never hold the fish out of the water for more than a few seconds.
- ✓ Hold the fish facing upstream in the current and allow it some time to revive itself.
- ✓ When the fish is strong enough to swim out of your hands, release it back into the water.

### Catch and release tip

Always fish with a partner, two people working together will make unhooking and releasing these fish much easier. If two people are there, the taimen will never have to be removed from the water, a picture can be taken and the fish then released.



Jangar Bataahuy with a beautiful fly caught taimen. Two people make landing one of these giants easier and safer for the fish.

The 'Spirit of the River' taimen conservation campaign is co-ordinated by Saruul Tal Initiatives, a Mongolian NGO, and has been endorsed and supported by the following companies and organizations. For more information please visit [www.taimen.mn](http://www.taimen.mn).



## Spirit of the River

Protecting the Taimen and Rivers of Hovsgol



TAIMEN CATCH AND RELEASE ADVICE

Please respect the spirit of the river - handle taimen with care and return them to the river. Enjoy your fishing trip!



## DID YOU KNOW...

Mongolians believe that rivers are part of the god, or spirit, of land and water. Taimen are considered as the 'animals of the spirit' or 'children of the river god', so traditionally Mongolians did not eat fish, and give great respect to rivers and taimen.

Mongolians recognize that Taimen are a symbol of their country's unique and healthy natural environment. Mongolians are very proud that their country provides one the world's last safe havens for taimen. The Government of Mongolia is working to protect taimen while maintaining opportunities for sustainable sport fishing.

Taimen are a slow growing fish that can live up to 30 years or more and only reach sexual maturity between 5 and 7 years of age. These attributes make taimen populations incredibly sensitive to poaching and fishing related mortality.

Mongolia has several healthy taimen fisheries that benefit from the joint conservation efforts of government, local communities, NGO's, and responsible outfitters. However, many taimen populations remain threatened by both direct harvest and habitat degradation.

Scientific studies of taimen sport fisheries in Mongolia have shown that proper catch and release will not harm the fish population. However, taimen can be harmed if they are put on dry land or if anglers place their fingers into the animal's gills.



## Mongolian Law and Regulations

Taimen fishing is catch and release only. All taimen caught must be returned immediately to the river or lake unharmed.

Taimen anglers may only fish using a single, barbless hook and artificial bait. Taimen anglers may not use fish, mice, birds, worms, or any other "natural" bait.

The use of treble hooks and/or double hooks is illegal because they cause unnecessary damage and stress to the fish, sometimes resulting in death.

All international taimen anglers must hold a special fishing permit issued by the Ministry of Nature Environment and Tourism. To get these permits your fishing tour operator must have government approved contracts for the specific rivers you will fish.

The nation's best taimen fisheries, including Hovsgol Aimag, have taimen conservation plans and very active enforcement. Penalties for fishing without a permit or using illegal methods include confiscation of fishing equipment and fines.

### What you can do

1. Use only single hook lures; if you have lures with treble hooks please remove the treble hooks, replace them with single hooks and pinch down the barbs.



2. Ask to see your license to make sure that you are in possession of a taimen fishing permit.



3. Never use treble hooks while fishing for taimen.



4. Never drag taimen out of the water onto the bank.
5. Never hold taimen by placing fingers into the gills.
6. Never intentionally kill a taimen; it is illegal.
7. Please follow these catch and release guidelines.