

# THE RIVER THAMES.

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## BOATING.

THE tidal waters of the Thames extend to Teddington Lock, nineteen miles above London Bridge. The *average* length of time the tide flows at the intervening places is stated upon the accompanying map. Above Teddington the river is rendered navigable by a series of locks and weirs to Cricklade, a further distance of 135 miles. In this part of the river the stream is, of course, always running down. When going against the stream progress may be considerably facilitated, especially if the current happen to be strong, by towing the boat from the bank by means of a light line rove through the head of a short mast. A towing line is also requisite for hauling the boat through the weirs above Oxford.

A very agreeable way of seeing the beautiful scenery of the Thames, and at the same time avoiding the labour which a long journey against the stream entails, is to hire a boat at Oxford, whence the voyage may easily be made *with the stream*, to, say Kingston or Richmond. Messrs. Salter & Co., and Messrs. Timms boat builders, both of Oxford, let boats on favourable terms for the voyage, and themselves arrange for the return of the boat without trouble to the hirer. The Great Western Railway Company offer facilities for sending private boats to stations up the river.

## REGISTRATION OF PLEASURE VESSELS.

Under the Thames Bye-laws, 1887, relating to the river between Cricklade and Teddington Lock, all House Boats, Private Pleasure Boats, and Boats for hire are required to be registered at the Office of the Conservators. Forms of application for registration and full information may be obtained from the Secretary, Thames Conservancy, 41 Tower Hill, London, E.C.



ROWING BOATS, CANOES, &c.

EVERY THREE YEARS ... .. { Fee 2/6 } 3/1.  
 { Plate 7d. }

LOCK TOLLS.

CLASS 1.

CLASS 1.	
Sculling boats, pair-oared row-boats, skiffs, randans, canoes, punts, and dingies	... ..
Centre-board gigs from 14 to 22 feet, not exceeding 5 feet beam	... ..
Mersey and Nautilus canoes 15 to 20 feet, not exceeding 5 feet beam	... ..

CLASS 2.

Four-oared row-boats (other than boats enumerated in Class 1) .....	[poses
Cutters, sloops, and Una boats fitted for sailing pur- chase-board boats and canoes of greater dimensions than those mentioned in Class 1 .....	

CLASS 3.

Row-boat shallops over four oars (other than those enumerated in Classes 1 and 2) .. .. .

REGISTRATION FEE.

Yearly.—Expiring 31st December ...	..	..	..	..	..	£1	—
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Once through and returning the same day	...	per Lock	—	1/6
Season Pass.— <i>Yearly, expiring 31st December :—</i>				
For Vessels not exceeding 35 feet	...	...	£5	—
"    exceeding 35 feet and not exceeding 45 feet	...	...	£7	10/-
"    "    45 feet	...	...	£10	—

REGISTRATION FEE.

<b>Yearly.</b>					
For Vessels not exceeding 30 feet	...	...	...	...	£5 —
"        "        exceeding 30 feet	...	£5,	and 2/-	for each complete 6 inches additional	
For Vessels kept stationary throughout the year, and used only for purposes in connexion with boating, such as for dressing places or store rooms for boat's gear	...	...	...	...	£1 1/-

Once through and returning on the same day—									
For Vessels not exceeding 50 feet...	...	...	...	...	per Lock	—	1/6		
„ exceeding „	...	...	...	...	„	—	2/6		
Season Pass.—Yearly, expiring 31st December—									
For Vessels not exceeding 30 feet	...	...	...	...	...	£3	—		
„ exceeding 30 feet and not exceeding 50 feet	...	...	...	...	...	£5	—		
„ „ 50 feet	...	...	...	...	...	£7	10/-		



By a sub-section of Bye-law No. 13, House Boats and Steam Launches are prohibited from lying or loitering in any part of the river from time to time marked off by the Conservators.

Bye-law No. 14 is directed against disorderly conduct or language; bathing in places or during hours prohibited by the Conservators; trespassing upon any riverside dwelling-house or garden; navigating any vessel whilst in a state of intoxication; casting any rubbish, sewage, or other offensive matter into the river, or upon the banks or towpath; destroying or injuring plants, trees, &c.; lighting or leaving any fire where damage, danger, or annoyance may be caused; killing or injuring any bird or animal, or disturbing the nest of any bird; or doing "any act injuriously affecting the safety or amenity of the river."

Penalty for infraction of any of the Bye-laws, 40s.; or, after due notice, if the offence be repeated, £5.

**Steam Launches.**—THE THAMES ACT, 1883.—Important regulations affecting the owners of Steam Launches are made by this Act.

Section 4 provides that the Conservators shall grant certificates of registration to owners of Steam Launches, used above Kew Bridge, for a period not exceeding twelve months, and renew such certificates from January 1st in each year on payment to them of 20s. Application to be accompanied by a certificate of dimensions of the vessel.

Section 5 provides that the Conservators shall keep at their Office a register of Steam Launch certificates, giving the name of the vessel and the full name and address of the owner; such register (under Sec. 8) to be open for the inspection of any person on payment of 1s.

Section 6 provides that no two Steam Launches shall be registered in the same name.

Section 7 provides that the owner or person in charge of a Steam Launch holding a certificate of registration under this Act, shall produce the same on demand to any officer of the Conservators when such Steam Launch is in course of navigation, under a penalty not exceeding 40s.

Section 9 provides that upon every change of ownership the new owner shall be certificated and registered.

Section 10 provides that after the 1st of January 1884, no person shall use above Kew Bridge a Steam Launch the owner of which has not a certificate for the time being in force, under a penalty of £5 and not exceeding £10 for every day upon which the vessel has been so used.

Section 11 provides that upon the bows and stern of every Steam Launch shall be painted conspicuously, and to the satisfaction of the Conservators or their officers, in white or gilt letters of a block character upon a black ground, the registered name of such Launch, under a penalty not exceeding £5.

Section 12 provides that Steam Launches navigating between sunset and sunrise shall exhibit the following lights:—

1st. A *White Light* on the foremast, funnel, or staff at the bows, at a height of not less than 4 feet above the hull.

Upon the glass shade of this light is to be legibly and conspicuously painted the registered number of the vessel.

2nd. A *Green Light* on the starboard side.

3rd. A *Red Light* on the port side.

And every such light is to be of such a character as to be visible on a dark night, with a clear atmosphere, at a distance of at least one mile.

Navigating between sunset and sunrise without exhibiting such lights renders the person in charge liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

Section 15 provides that every vessel shall be navigated with care and caution, and at such a speed and in such a manner as not to endanger the lives of persons or the safety of other vessels, or cause damage to any vessel or moorings, or to the banks of the Thames. Special care and caution in navigating is to be used when passing vessels of all kinds, especially those of the smaller classes, and such as are employed in dredging. If the safety of persons or vessels is endangered, or damage caused thereto, or to the banks of the Thames, by a passing vessel, the onus lies upon the person in charge of such passing vessel to show that she was navigated with care and caution. The person in charge of any vessel who, in navigating such vessel, contravenes or fails to observe the provisions of this section, is liable to a penalty not exceeding £20.

#### BYE-LAWS RELATING TO NAVIGATION.

Section 14. Every steam vessel, when approaching another vessel so as to involve risk of collision, shall slacken her speed, and shall stop and reverse if necessary.

Section 21. If a sailing vessel and a steam vessel are proceeding in such a direction as to involve risk of collision, the steam vessel shall keep out of the way of the sailing vessel.

If, owing to causes beyond the control of those navigating the steam vessel, it is unsafe or impracticable to keep out of the way of the sailing vessel, she shall signify the same to the sailing vessel by four or more blasts of the steam whistle in rapid succession; the sailing vessel shall then keep out of the way.



Section 22. When two steam vessels proceeding in opposite directions, the one up and the other down the river, are approaching one another so as to involve risk of collision, they shall pass one another port side to port side.

Section 27. Steam vessels navigating against the stream shall ease, and, if necessary, stop, to allow vessels coming down with the stream to pass clear.

#### ANGLING.

Below is given the substance of the most important of the Bye-laws for the preservation and regulation of the Fisheries in the Thames, allowed July 1883, and now in force.

**Fence Seasons.**—From 11th September to 31st March following, Salmon, Trout, and Char are not allowed to be taken. For all other kinds known as freshwater fish, the fence season extends from 15th March to 15th June, both days inclusive.

**Undersized Fish.**—No fish of the species named below may be taken of less extreme length than as follows: Pike or Jack, 18 inches; Trout, 16 inches; Barbel, 13 inches; Bream, Carp, or Chub, 10 inches; Greyling, 9 inches; Perch or Tench, 8 inches; Flounders or Roach, 7 inches; Dace or Rudd, 6 inches; Gudgeon, 4 inches.

If accidentally taken of smaller size, the fish should be immediately returned to the water, with the least possible injury.

**Netting.**—Above Richmond Bridge netting is prohibited, except that Assistant River Keepers and Registered Fishermen may use a bait net for the purpose of taking bait, to be employed in angling.

A small landing net may be used for securing fish taken in angling.

**Night Fishing.**—No person is allowed above Richmond Bridge to fish from any vessel, boat, or punt, except in the daytime, which is reckoned from the commencement of the first hour before sunrise to end of first hour after sunset.

**Night Lines.**—No night hooks or lines of any description, or any fixed hooks or lines, may be laid by night or day above Kew Bridge.

**Angling Rods.**—No person is allowed to use for angling at one and the same time more than two rods.

**Fishing Punts.**—All boats and punts let for hire, or which belong to persons following the business of fishermen, must be registered at the Office of the Thames Conservators, London; and upon all such boats and punts it is required that the registered number, together with the owner's name and place of abode, shall be kept legibly and conspicuously painted.

LONDON: JAMES REYNOLDS & SONS, 174 STRAND.