

CLARK, Mayor.

RULES, ORDERS and ORDINANCES, to commence and take Place from the First Day of November, 1785, made, framed, and set down in Writing, by the Court of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London, the Fourth Day of October, 1785, for the governing and regulating all Persons who shall fish or drudge in the River of Thames, and also in the Waters of Medway, within the Jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor of the said City of London, as Conservator of the said River of Thames and Waters of Medway, as common Fishermen or Drudgermen, or otherwise, and for Declaration in what Manner they shall demean themselves in Fishing, and with what Manner of Nets and Engines, and at what Times and Seasons they shall use Fishing in the said River and Waters of Medway, within the Jurisdiction aforesaid; and for ascertaining the Assize of the several Fish to be there taken, and for the Preservation, from Time to Time, of the Spawn and Fry of Fish, in the said River and Waters, within the Jurisdiction aforesaid; and for obliging every common Fisherman, Drudgerman, or other Person who shall fish with a Boat, Vessel, or Craft, from and after the said First Day of November, 1785, in the said River of Thames, or in the said Waters of Medway, within the Jurisdiction aforesaid, to have in his Boat, Vessel, or Craft, both his Christian and Surname, and also the Name of the Parish or Place in which he dwelleth, painted in legible and large Characters, in some convenient Place, where any one may see and read the same, and for preventing such Name or Mark of Distinction from being changed, altered, or defaced, with reasonable Penalties annexed for Breach of such Rules, Orders, or Ordinances, in pursuance of the Act of Parliament made and passed in the Thirtieth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Second, intituled, "An Act for the more effectual Preservation and Improvement of the Spawn and Fry of Fish in the River of Thames, and Waters of Medway, and for the better regulating the Fishery thereof."

Imprimis, **T**HAT all unlawful Nets and Engines, and other Abuses offered to the Prejudice and Destruction of the Fishery, may be discovered, It is ordained by the said Court, That no Persons shall stall the Tide of Flood, and that no Person shall fish, or endeavour to take Fish, in the said River of Thames, between London Bridge and Richmond Bridge, with any Sort of Net other than and except

For *Salmon*, with a Net of not less than *Six Inches* in the Mesh.

For *Pike, Jack, Pearch, Roach, Chub, and Barbel*, with a Flew or Stream-Net of not less than *Three Inches* in the Mesh throughout, with a Facing of Seven Inches, and not more than Sixteen Fathom long.

For *Shads*, with a Net of not less than *Two Inches and a Half* in the Mesh.

For *Flounders*, with a Net of not less than *Two Inches and a Half* in the Mesh, and not more than Sixteen Fathom long.

For *Dace*, with a single Blay Net of not less than *Two Inches* in the Mesh, and not more than Thirteen Fathom long, to be worked by Fleeting only, with a Boat and a Buoy.

For *Smelts*, with a Net of not less than *One Inch and Quarter* in the Mesh, and not of greater Length than Sixteen Fathom, to be worked by Fleeting only, with a Boat and a Buoy, under the Penalty of forfeiting and paying the Sum of Five Pounds for every such Offence.

2. *Item*, That no Person shall lie or bend over any Net whatsoever during the Time of Flood, whereby any Kind of Fish may be hindered or kept back from swimming upwards, to the Benefit and Profit of such Fishermen as dwell above London Bridge, in the West Part of the said River, under Penalty of forfeiting and paying Five Pounds for every such Offence.

3. *Item*, That no Person shall shoot or place any Draw-Net, Cod-Net, or other Net or Engine, in the said River Thames, to catch Salmon with, or shall use any Net or Device to catch Salmon in the said River of Thames, except only with a Net of full *Six Inches* in the Mesh; and that no Person shall wilfully do or commit, or cause to be done or committed, any Act whatsoever in the said River Thames, whereby any Spawn or small Fry of Salmon shall be taken, killed, or destroyed, or whereby any Salmon shall be hindered from passing or going up the said River Thames to spawn, upon the Penalty of forfeiting Five Pounds for every such Offence.

4. *Item*, That no Person, between the 10th Day of September and the 25th Day of January, in every Year, shall fish in the said River of Thames, or Waters of Medway, for Salmon, with any Net or Nets, Engine or Device, or within that Time, take, kill, or destroy, in the said River or Waters of Medway, Salmon of any Kind or Sort whatsoever; or sell, or offer to or for Sale, Salmon of any Kind or Sort whatsoever, taken in the said River of Thames, or Waters of Medway, under the Penalty of forfeiting and paying Five Pounds for every such Offence.

5. *Item*, That no Person shall fish with any Net, or lay or haul any Wheel, or lay or use any Net, Engine, or Device whatsoever, to take Fish in the said River of Thames, or Waters of Medway, from Sun-setting on Saturday Night, until Sun-rising on Monday Morning, at any Time of the Year, upon the Penalty of forfeiting and paying Forty Shillings for every such Offence.

6. *Item*, That no Person shall, at any Time, ship their Draw-Nets, called shipping a-stern, into their Boats, before such Time as they have laid forth all their whole Net, as they do when they land towards a low Water; nor shall they ship some Part of their said Net, and land the rest, under the Penalty of forfeiting and paying Five Pounds for every such Offence.

7. *Item*, That no Person shall use any Spear, called an Eel-Spear, or use or work on the River Thames, or Waters of Medway, at any Time of the Year, any Blay-Net for catching any Kind of Fish, either Ebb or by Flood, which hath any Mesh of less Size than *Two Inches* at least, and of no greater Length than Thirteen Fathom; and that no Blay-Net shall be worked or used on the said River Thames, or Waters of Medway, at any other Time of the Year than between the First Day of July and the First Day of March in every Year; and that no Person shall fleet with any Blay-Net, not being of the Breadth in the Mesh hereby directed; but that no such Blay-Net shall, at any Time of the Year, be brought or used Westward of Richmond Bridge on the said River, under the Penalty of forfeiting and paying for every such Offence the Sum of Five Pounds.

8. *Item*, That no Person shall, after the First Day of November, 1785, carry or use any Smelt-Net on the said River of Thames, other than and except Westward of Purfleet, with a Fleeting-Net of not less than *One Inch and a Quarter* in the Mesh, and of no greater Length than Sixteen Fathom, between the Twenty-fifth Day of March and the First Day of May, and Eastward of Purfleet, with a Drag-Net of not less than *One Inch and a Quarter* in the Mesh, to be used only between the First Day of November and the Twenty-fifth Day of March, and, after the said Twenty-fifth Day of March, the Drag-Nets to be delivered into the Custody of the Water Bailiff for the Time being, under the Penalty of Five Pounds.

9. *Item*, That no Person shall have or use, within the Jurisdiction aforesaid, any Double-walled Net for catching any Sort of Fish, nor any Flew or Stream Net for catching any Sort of Fish between London and Richmond Bridges, which shall have any Mesh of less Size than *Three Inches* at least (except a Shad-Net of *Two Inches and a Half* in the Mesh; a Flounder-