

Suggested Tackle for Fishing the River Alness

Suggested Tackle River Alness				
Summer Fishing (mid-May to October)				
Water Conditions	Rods	Lines	Leaders	Flies
Low Water				
0in to 6in (15cm) above summer low.	Double-handed 12-13ft, AFTM # 8/10, OR Single-handed, 10-11ft, AFTM # 7/8, OR Switch Rod, 10-12ft, AFTM #8/9.	Matching short-head Spey floating line OR Weight Forward (single-hander).	8-10lb monofil 8-12ft	Ally's Shrimp (orange, yellow & red), Cascade Shrimp, Munro Killer, Willie Gunn, Findhorn Killer, Tummel Shrimp, Collie Dog (& variants) etc, in doubles sizes 10-14's plus ½ to ¾" bottle & brass tubes and templedogs.
Mid Water				
6in (15cm) to 1ft (30cm) above summer low.	Double-handed 12-13ft, AFTM # 8/10 OR Single-handed, 10-11ft, AFTM # 7/9, OR Switch Rod, 10-12ft, AFTM #8/9.	Matching short-head Spey floating line (or WF for single-hander), with optional 5ft slow to fast detachable tip (polyleader), OR integrated sink-tip or full intermediate line.	10-12lb monofil 8-10ft	Ally's Shrimp (orange, yellow & red), Cascade Shrimp, Munro Killer, Willie Gunn, Findhorn Killer, Tummel Shrimp, Collie Dog (& variants) etc, in doubles sizes 8-12's, plus ½" to 1" brass/copper tubes and templedogs.
High Water				
1ft (30cm) to 2ft (60cm) above summer low.	Double-handed, 13-15ft, AFTM # 9 to 11, OR Switch Rod, 10-12ft, AFTM #8/10.	Matching short-head Spey floating line, with 5ft medium to very fast sinking detachable tip (polyleader), OR integrated sink-tip or full slow sinking line.	12-15lb monofil 6-8ft	Doubles as above in sizes 6-10's, plus 1" to 2" brass/copper tubes.
Very High Water				
More than 2ft (60cm) above summer low.	Double-handed, 13-15ft, AFTM #10 to 12.	Matching Spey floating line, with 5-10ft fast to very fast sinking detachable tip (polyleader), OR integrated sink-tip or full medium to fast sinking line.	12-15lb monofil 3-5ft	Doubles as above in sizes 6-8's, plus 1.5" to 2.5" brass/copper tubes.

Notes

1. Summer low is defined as the water level that is exceeded for 95% of the time (95 percentile). The water level will be below this for approximately 18 days in an average year. The base level (summer low) for the River Alness as measured on the SEPA gauge in Alness is 40cm. A measurement of 70cm on the SEPA gauge in Alness is therefore 30cm (1 ft) above summer low.
2. Choice of rod should be based on the water conditions (higher water = larger flies = higher AFTM rating lines and rods), and the size of fish expected. Single-handed AFTM #7/8 weight rods are OK in low to mid water levels and for grilse, but it is not advisable to fish with too light a rod in late summer and autumn when there are many larger salmon in the river or in high water when tube flies are required. The Alness is not a wide river; a 12-13ft AFTM # 8/10 double handed rod will cover most conditions. Longer rods of of higher AFTM rating can be used, particularly in high water, but can hinder short casting, useful in low water conditions. Modern 'Switch' rods are perhaps the most versatile of all, effective in all but the highest water conditions; they allow short overhead or side casts in runs and the heads of pools, and Spey casting with longer lines in the main bodies of the pool.