

Fishing in Saimaa?

Information on the required fishing permits, fishing restrictions for Lake Saimaa and marking fish traps.



METSÄHALLITUS

FISHING PERMIT

Fishing permits consist of two parts, which must be paid for separately: a fisheries management fee and a permit from the owner of the water area. The need for a permit depends on the type of fishing, location and age of the person.

Which permit will I need if I'm going to:

- **go angling with one rod and hook (without a lure) or go ice angling with a hook and line?**

(No reel for spinning on the ice angling rod and rod.)

PERMIT: You may go angling or ice angling free of charge anywhere other than running and rapids sections of waters with migratory fish stocks, areas where fishing is restricted, and other special destinations (visit kalastusrajoitus.fi). Therefore, if you are angling or ice angling with a rod in an ordinary pond or lake, you will not need to purchase any fishing permit.

- **go lure fishing with one rod and lure?**

(Lure fishing is a type of spinning, in which a fly or spinning lure is used along with a spinning rod and reel.)

PERMIT: If you are aged between 18 and 69 and fish with lures, nets or fishing tackle, or if you are crayfishing, you must pay a fishing permit fee. An exception is made for fishermen aged 65 or over by 31 December 2023: they do not have to pay the fee. The permit allows you to fish with one rod in almost all of Finland, with the exception of rapids and streams in migratory fishing grounds, closed areas and special sites (more information on kalastusrajoitus.fi)

- **go fishing with more than one rod or a stationary trap (nets, traps, fyke (hoop) traps, etc.), trolling, crayfishing or fishing in special destinations where fishing is restricted?**

PERMIT: If you are aged between 18 and 69 and fish with lures, nets or fishing tackle, or if you are crayfishing, you must pay a fishing permit fee. An exception is made for fishermen aged 65 or over by 31 December 2023: they do not have to pay the fee. In addition, you will need a permit from the owner of the water area.

PURCHASING A FISHING PERMIT

Fisheries management fee

You may pay the fisheries management fee for a calendar year (47 €), a week (16 €) or a day (6 €) at a time. The fisheries management fee may be paid online on the [Eraluvat.fi](https://www.eraluvat.fi) website and at a Metsähallitus visitor centre. You can also find instructions on payment by calling the toll-free Metsähallitus service number at +358 (0)20 69 2424 (weekdays 9am-4pm).

Permit from the owner of the water area

You may purchase permits for state-owned waters and special destinations on the [Eraluvat.fi](https://www.eraluvat.fi) website, which also shows the locations of state-owned waters. Local fishing areas sell permits from owners of private water areas. You can find information on fishing areas from Lake Saimaa on websites and regional fisheries centres (www.muikkusuomi.fi, www.ekkalatalouskeskus.fi).

Remember to always carry a receipt of your paid permits with you when fishing! Fishers must always present their receipts to fishing supervisors upon request.

Further information:

- [Eräluvat.fi](https://www.eraluvat.fi). Fishing permits online store. Toll-free service number for wilderness permits: +358 (0)20 69 2424. eraluvat@metsa.fi.
- [Kalat.fi](https://www.kalat.fi). Information on fishing and fishing permits.
- [Kalastusrajoitus.fi](https://www.kalastusrajoitus.fi). Fishing restrictions applicable to general fishing rights.
- [Ahven.net](https://www.ahven.net). Information (in different languages) on fishing in Finland.
- [Muikkusuomi.fi](https://www.muikkusuomi.fi), [Ekkalatalouskeskus.fi](https://www.ekkalatalouskeskus.fi). Information on regional fisheries centres, fishing areas and permits from owners of water areas.
- [Kalastusetelasavo.fi](https://www.kalastusetelasavo.fi). Links to the websites of the fishing areas and sub-communities.

FISH SPECIES PROTECTION AREAS IN LAKE SAIMAA

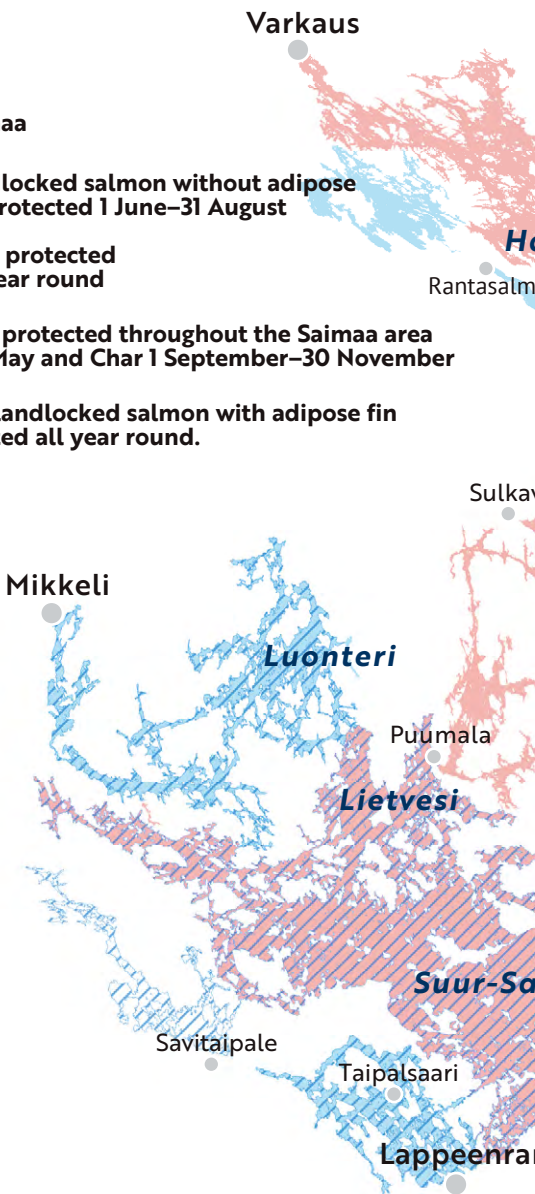
 Saimaa

 Landlocked salmon without adipose fin protected 1 June–31 August

 Char protected all year round

Grayling is protected throughout the Saimaa area 1 April–31 May and Char 1 September–30 November

Trout and landlocked salmon with adipose fin are protected all year round.





Joensuu

Pyhäselkä

Rääkkylä

Orivesi

Enonkoski

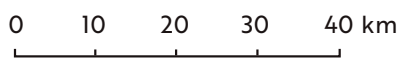
Savonlinna

Puruvesi

Punkaharju

Pihlajavesi

Imatra



© Metsähallitus 2024
© South Savo ELY Centre 2018
© National Land Survey of Finland 2018




TRAP FISHING ON LAKE SAIMAA

In an effort to protect the Saimaa Ringed Seal, not all types of fishing are permitted throughout Lake Saimaa.

The Government sets fishing restrictions for Lake Saimaa for a period of five years at a time. The restrictions below are valid from 8 May 2021 to 14 April 2026.

- **Net fishing is banned from 15 April to 30 June**, vendace nets with a mesh width of less than 22 mm are banned from 15 April to 20 June.
- **At all other times (1 July-14 April)**, net fishing is permitted only with a sufficient thin, monofilament net:
 - Provided that the mesh width is less than 60 mm and the filament thickness is no more than 0.17 mm.
 - If the mesh width is 60 mm or more, the filament thickness must not exceed 0.20 mm.
 - The nets must be anchored during the open water season.
- **Year-round bans on trap fishing:**
 - Longlines or other types of hook rigs, which use fish or pieces of fish as bait.
 - Traps or pots, whose mouth is (or stretches to) more than 15 cm wide.
 - Open-top hoop or similar traps with a mesh width of over 55 mm.
 - Closed-top hoop trap (except for hoop traps with a mesh width of less than 55 mm and a mouth that will not expand to more than 15 cm under any circumstances).
- **Check the current fishing restrictions and restricted areas:** [kalastusrajoiutus.fi](https://www.kalastusrajoiutus.fi)

Protection periods and catch sizes on Lake Saimaa

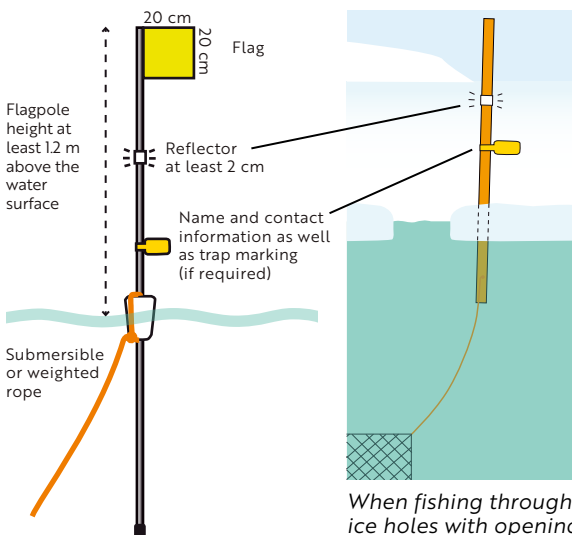
	PROTECTION PERIODS	CATCH SIZES/CATCH QUOTAS <i>Fishes smaller than the minimum catch size must be released</i>
Trout with adipose fin 	Completely protected	Completely protected
Trout without adipose fin	Protected between 1 September and 30 November in rivers and streams	Check the regional minimum catch size from kalastusrajoitus.fi
Landlocked salmon with adipose fin	Completely protected	Completely protected
Landlocked salmon without adipose fin	Protected in the area shown on the map from 1 June to 31 August, and in rivers and streams from 1 August to 30 November	Minimum catch size: 60 cm. Recreational fishing quota: 1 trout/day/person
Char	Completely protected in the area shown on the map between Puumalansalmi and Vuoksenniska as well as in Lake Kuolimo. Protected in other areas of Lake Saimaa from 1 September to 30 November	Check the regional minimum catch size from kalastusrajoitus.fi
Grayling	Protected from 1 April to 31 May	Minimum catch size: 35 cm
Pikeperch		Check the regional minimum catch size from kalastusrajoitus.fi
European crayfish, signal crayfish, narrow-clawed crayfish	Protected from 1 November to 21 July, until noon. Year-round fishing for signal crayfish on Kuolimo is allowed until the end of 2026.	

Current minimum catch sizes: kalastusrajoitus.fi

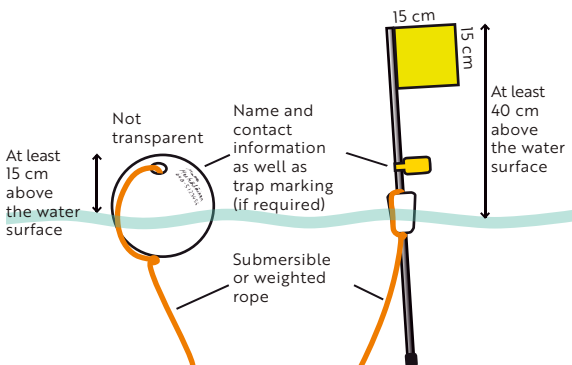
Report dead, injured or trapped seals to Metsähallitus immediately (tel. +358 206 395 000). In accordance with Section 62 of the Fisheries Act, the holder of the fishing gear must immediately notify Metsähallitus of any Saimaa ringed seal caught in a fishing tackle or net.

TRAP MARKING

Stationary and fixed traps (e.g. net, trap, longline or hoop) **must have highly visible markings - this is required in all areas.**



Trap marking in areas with water traffic.



METSÄHALLITUS

COVER PHOTO: ANNA PAKKANEN. ILLUSTRATIONS: KALATALOUDEN KESKUSLIITTO. METSÄHALLITUS, LUONTOPALVELUT, 04/2024.

The project has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union. The material reflects the views by the authors, and the European Commission or the CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.