

# 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 fishing with one hook and line?** (*No reel for spinning on the ice fishing rod and rod*)

**PERMIT:** You may go angling or ice fishing 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](http://kalastusrajoitus.fi)). Therefore, if you are angling or ice fishing with one rod in an ordinary pond or lake, you will not need to purchase any fishing permit.

- **go lure fishing with one rod and hook?** (*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 18–64 years of age, you will need to pay the fisheries management fee. This allows you to fish with one rod without a permit from the owner of the water area throughout Finland, except for running and rapids sections of waters with migratory fish stocks, areas where fishing is restricted, and other special destinations (visit [kalastusrajoitus.fi](http://kalastusrajoitus.fi)).

If you are under 18 years of age or over 65 years of age, you do not need to pay the fisheries management fee.

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

**PERMIT:** If you are 18–64 years of age, you will need to pay the fisheries management fee. You will also need a permit from the owner of the water area. If you are under 18 years of age or over 65 years of age, you do not need to pay the fisheries management fee, but 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 (45 €), a week (15 €) or a day (6 €) at a time.

The fisheries management fee may be paid online on the [Eraluvat.fi](http://Eraluvat.fi) website, at a Metsähallitus visitor centre or an *R-kioski* convenience store. 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](http://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](http://www.muikkusuomi.fi), [www.ekkalatalouskeskus.fi](http://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:

**[Eraluvat.fi](http://Eraluvat.fi)** – Fishing permits online store.

Toll-free service number for wilderness permits:  
+358 (0)20 69 2424. [eraluvat@metsa.fi](mailto:eraluvat@metsa.fi).

**[Kalat.fi](http://Kalat.fi)** – Information on fishing and fishing permits.

**[Kalastusrajoitus.fi](http://Kalastusrajoitus.fi)** – Fishing restrictions applicable to general fishing rights.

**[Ahven.net](http://Ahven.net)** – Information (in different languages) on fishing in Finland.

**[www.muikkusuomi.fi](http://www.muikkusuomi.fi), [www.ekkalatalouskeskus.fi](http://www.ekkalatalouskeskus.fi)**  
– Information on regional fisheries centres, fishing areas and permits from owners of water areas.



METSÄHALLITUS / SAARA LAVI

## Trap fishing on Lake Saimaa

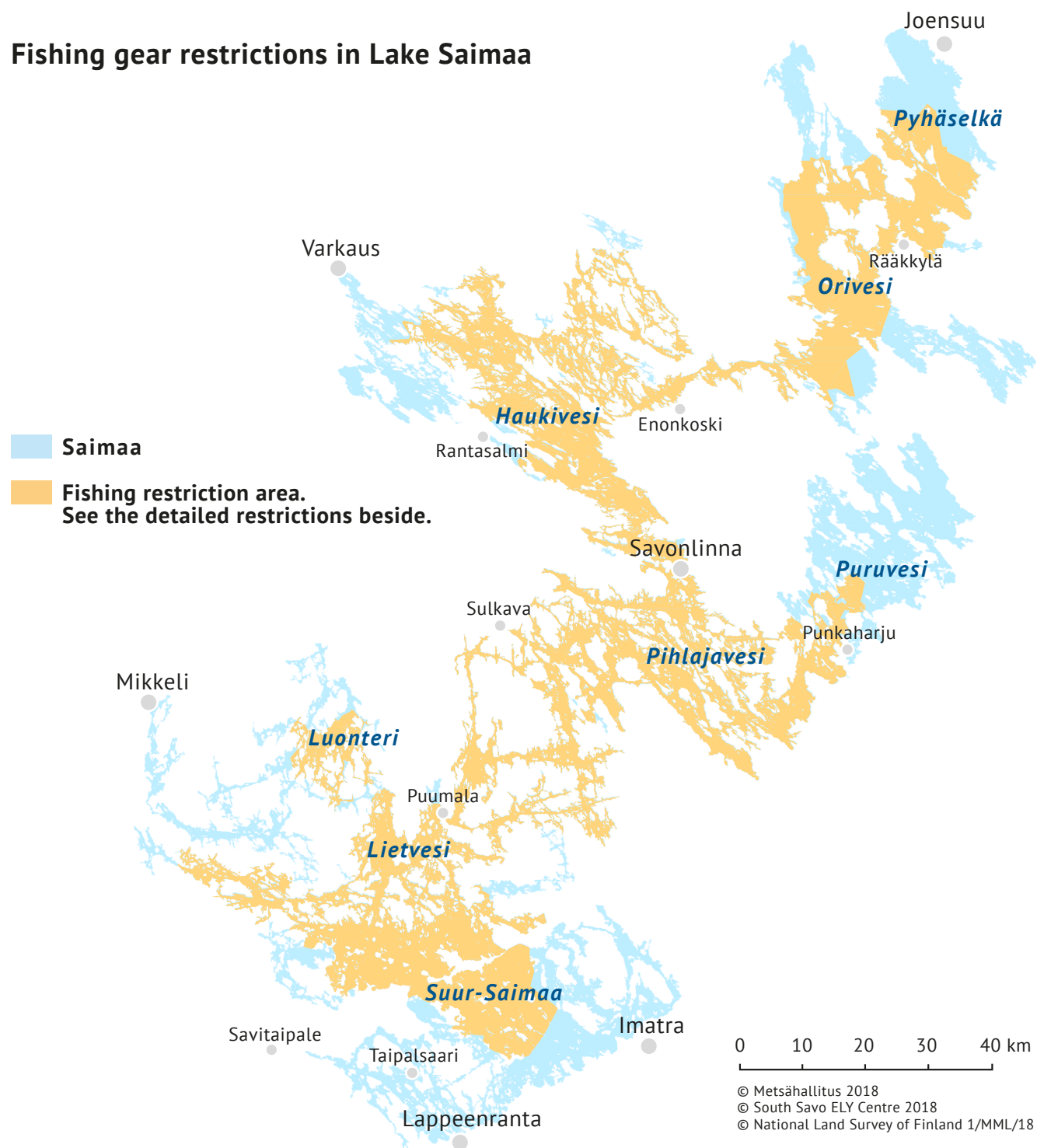
In an effort to protect the Saimaa ringed seal, not all types of fishing are permitted throughout Lake Saimaa.

### Restricted areas shown on the map:

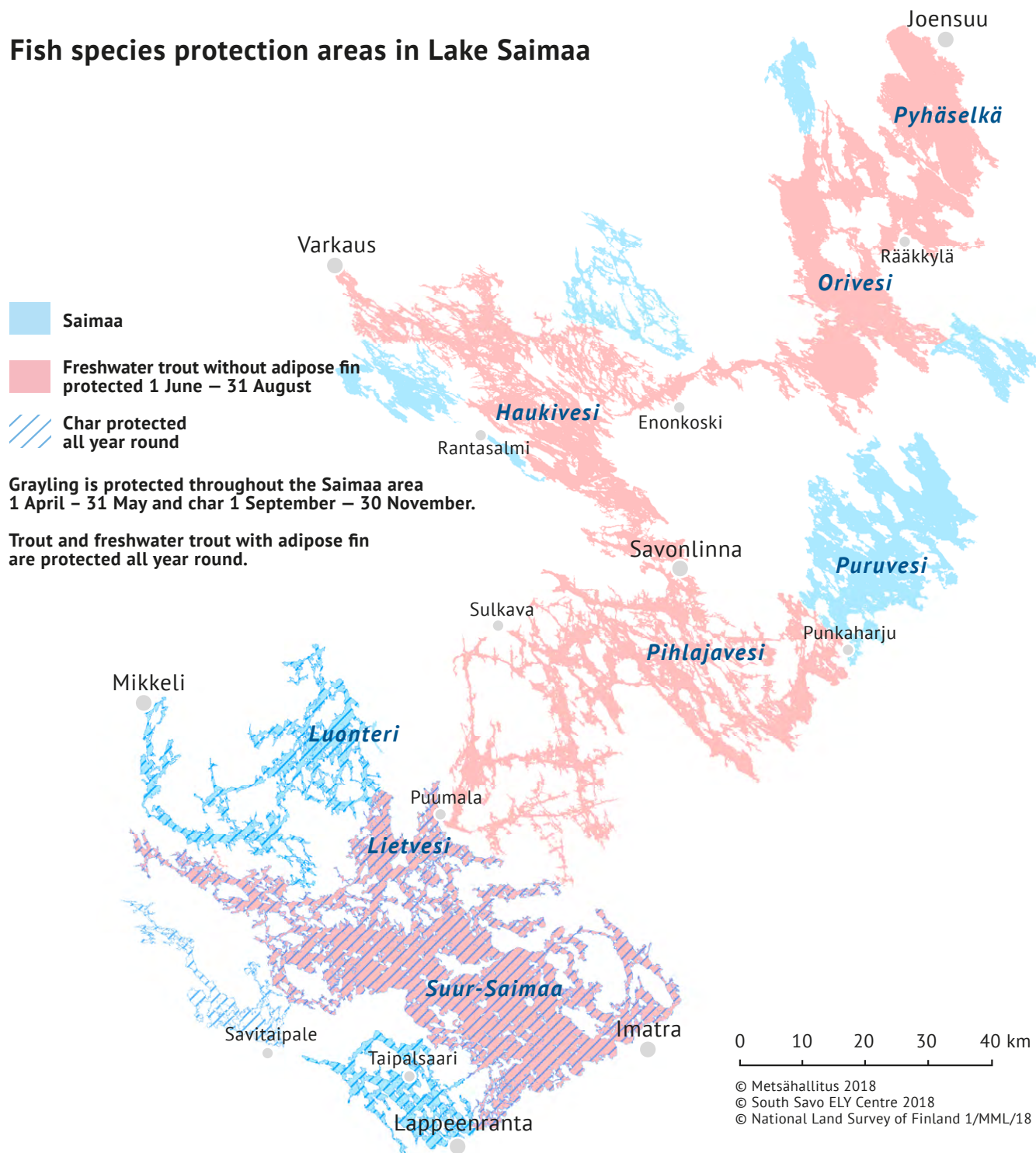
- **Net fishing is banned from 15 April to 30 June**, except for vendace nets with a mesh width of less than 22 mm.
- **At all other times (1 July–14 April)**, net fishing is permitted only with a sufficient thin, monofilament net:
  - Provided that the mesh width is less than 60 mm and the filament 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.
- **Year-round bans on trap fishing:**
  - Longlines or other types of hook rigs, which use fish or pieces of fish as bait.
  - Traps, whose mouth is (or stretches to) more than 15 cm wide
  - Open-top fyke or similar traps with a mesh width of over 55 mm
  - Closed-top fyke net (except for fyke 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 to see whether you are in a restricted area at: [norppakartta.wwf.fi](http://norppakartta.wwf.fi)


## Fishing gear restrictions in Lake Saimaa



# Fish species protection areas in Lake Saimaa



## PROTECTION PERIODS AND CATCH SIZES ON LAKE SAIMAA

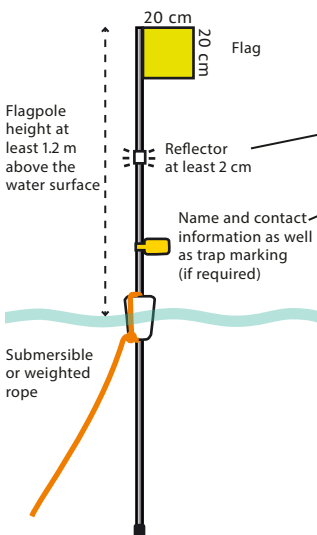
	PROTECTION PERIODS	CATCH SIZES/ CATCH QUOTAS Fishes smaller than the minimum catch size must be released
Trout with adipose fin 	Completely protected	Completely protected
Trout without adipose fin	Protected 1 Sept – 30 Nov in rivers and streams	Minimum catch size: 50 cm
Freshwater trout with adipose fin	Completely protected	Completely protected
Freshwater trout without adipose fin	Protected in the area shown on the map 1 June – 31 Aug, and in rivers and streams 1 Aug – 30 Nov	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 1 Sept – 30 Nov	Minimum catch size: 60 cm
Grayling	Protected 1 Apr – 31 May	Minimum catch size: 35 cm
Whitefish		Minimum catch size: 42 cm (45 cm in the Kolovesi and Orivesi fishing areas)
European crayfish, signal crayfish, narrow-clawed crayfish	Protected 1 Nov – 21 July, until noon	

Current minimum catch sizes: [www.kalat.fi](http://www.kalat.fi)

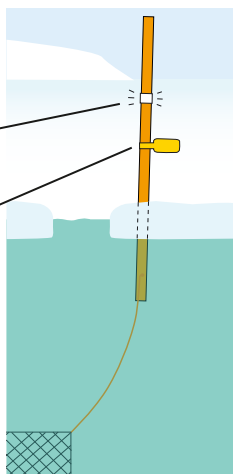
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# Trap marking

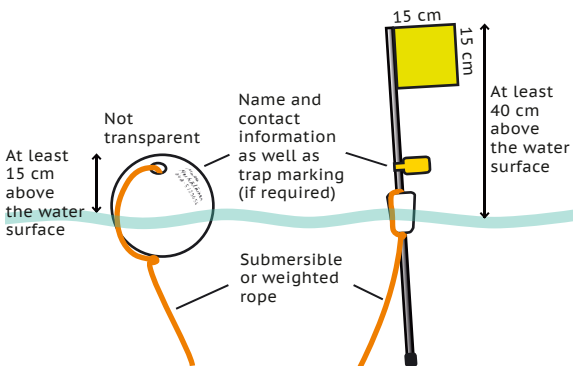
Stationary and fixed traps (e.g. net, trap, longline or fyke net) **must have highly visible markings – this is required in all areas.**



*Trap marking in areas with water traffic.*



*When fishing through ice holes with an opening of more than 40 cm, a marker flag must be used.*



*In areas where traps will not interfere with water traffic or other use of the water area, marking traps with a bob, small flag or flagpole is sufficient.*



COVER PHOTO:  
MERI-HILKKA MÄKELÄ.  
ILLUSTRATIONS: KALATALOUDEN  
KESKUSLIITTO.  
TRANSLATION: LINGSOFT  
METSÄHALLITUS, 06/2018.  
GRANO OY, 6 000 COPIES.

