

SMALLEST PERMITTED CATCH SIZES FOR FISH SPECIES

Smallest permitted catch sizes ensure that fish reach maturity.



Atlantic salmon and landlocked salmon **60 cm**

50 cm in the Bothnian Bay.

Landlocked salmon with adipose fins are fully protected in the Vuoksi and Hiitolanjoki water systems, where fishing for adipose fin-clipped landlocked salmon is permitted with restrictions.



Brown trout and sea trout

60 cm – trout with adipose fins in inland waters between latitudes 64°00' N and 67°00' N and in the Gulf of Bothnia and the Archipelago Sea.

50 cm – adipose fin-clipped trout throughout the country; trout with adipose fins in inland waters north of latitude 67°00' N.

Trout with adipose fins are fully protected in inland waters south of latitude 64°00' N and in the Gulf of Finland (fully protected in all sea areas as of 2019).

Grayling

35 cm south of latitude 67°00' N.
30 cm north of latitude 67°00' N.
Fully protected in sea areas.



Arctic char

60 cm elsewhere in the Vuoksi water system and **45 cm** in Lake Inarinjärvi.

Fully protected in Lake Kuolimo and in Lake Saimaa within the area between Puumalansalmi Sound and the head of River Vuoksi (Vuoksenniska).



Zander

42 cm



Undersized fish must be released back into the water immediately. Live fish must be handled with care. As far as possible, fish should be taken off the hook or released from the trap while in the water. Dead undersized fish must also be released back into the water. This mandatory release is applicable to all undersized fish, including dead fish, and clarifies supervision of fishing; an undersized fish found in the possession of an angler is always considered to be a violation of the Fishing Act. **There may be regional exceptions to the smallest permitted catch sizes.**

DETAILS OF CLOSED SEASONS AND SMALLEST PERMITTED CATCH SIZES, ETC.
(Fishing Act 379/2015, sections 3 and 49;
Government Decree on Fishing 1360/2015, sections 1 and 2)

NORTH OF LATITUDE 67°00' N

- The smallest permitted catch size for grayling is 30 cm.
- The smallest permitted catch size for trout, both with and without adipose fins, is 50 cm.
- River Tenojoki fishing district:
 - See the River Tenojoki Fishing Rule.

- River Tornionjoki:
 - The smallest permitted catch sizes are 35 cm for grayling and 50 cm for salmon.
 - Trout must be released.
 - See the applicable fishing rules for closed seasons and check the changes agreed on an annual basis.

BETWEEN LATITUDES 64°00' N AND 67°00' N

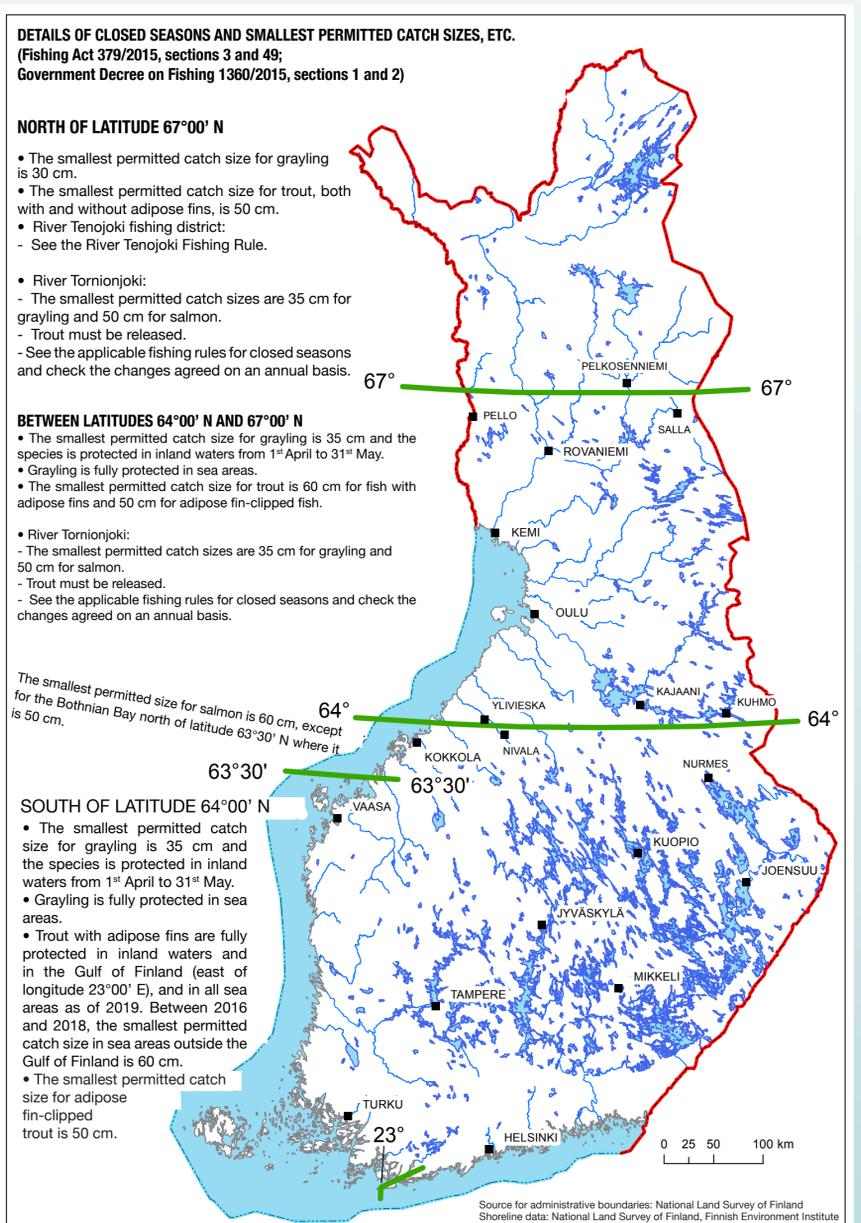
- The smallest permitted catch size for grayling is 35 cm and the species is protected in inland waters from 1st April to 31st May.
- Grayling is fully protected in sea areas.
- The smallest permitted catch size for trout is 60 cm for fish with adipose fins and 50 cm for adipose fin-clipped fish.

- River Tornionjoki:
 - The smallest permitted catch sizes are 35 cm for grayling and 50 cm for salmon.
 - Trout must be released.
 - See the applicable fishing rules for closed seasons and check the changes agreed on an annual basis.

The smallest permitted size for salmon is 60 cm, except in the Bothnian Bay north of latitude 63°30' N where it is 50 cm.

SOUTH OF LATITUDE 64°00' N

- The smallest permitted catch size for grayling is 35 cm and the species is protected in inland waters from 1st April to 31st May.
- Grayling is fully protected in sea areas.
- Trout with adipose fins are fully protected in inland waters and in the Gulf of Finland (east of longitude 23°00' E), and in all sea areas as of 2019. Between 2016 and 2018, the smallest permitted catch size in sea areas outside the Gulf of Finland is 60 cm.
- The smallest permitted catch size for adipose fin-clipped trout is 50 cm.



Further information about closed areas and seasons and other restrictions: kalastusrajoitus.fi and ahven.net/english



COMMERCIAL OR PROFESSIONAL FISHERS



Photo: Pekka Vuorinen

Fishing is one of the oldest sources of livelihood. It was the main way of getting by in pre-historic Finland. After the hunter-gatherer age, fishing became a cornerstone of fixed settlements living on subsistence agriculture. Its pace was intertwined with the annual cycle of agriculture.

Commercial fishing increased during the 19th century, first in rivers and sea areas and, later on towards the end of the century, in lake areas. The proceeds from the sale of fish facilitated the transition into the money economy. The historical roots of modern fishing run deep.



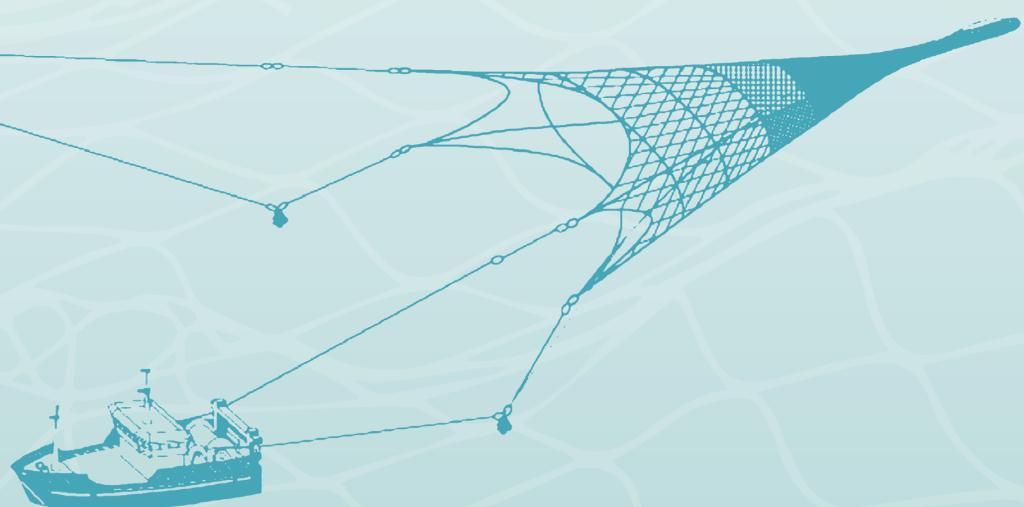
Photo: TH. Jervi 1924
(Finnish Fishing Museum Association/National Board of Antiquities)

As the conditions for profitable commercial fishing have become stricter, the number of commercial fishers has been decreasing continuously ever since the 1950's. Fishers have been forced to specialise and increase efficiency. In 2015, about 2,300 fishers were engaged in commercial fishing in Finland. The total annual catch from sea areas amounts to 150 million kilograms, mostly consisting of whitefish, sprat and cod. Catches from inland waters have been around 6 million kilograms (2014), with vendace as the main catch species. The worst threat to coastal fishing activities comes from the sharp increase in the stocks of seals and cormorants.

Training

**Livia College
College of Fisheries and Environment in Parainen**

The Vocational Qualification in Fishery provides extensive skills and knowledge relevant to working in the fisheries sector. After completion of basic studies, it is possible to specialise in commercial fishing, fish processing, fish trade, aquaculture or fishing tourism.



**Pirkanmaan Kalatalouskeskus ry
Fisheries Centre of the Tampere Region**

Created by: Fisheries Centre of the Tampere Region
Funded by: North Savo Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment with funds from state fisheries management fees



CRAYFISHING

Nowadays, crayfish are usually caught using **crayfish pots**, which are made from plastic. The most popular model is a tubular pot with funnels or 'throats' at both ends. These models include the **Rapurosvo** and **August pots**.



Crayfishing with pots is based on the idea that crayfish find their way into the pot in pursuit of bait, but cannot get out due to the construction of the throats. A pot can also lure crayfish as a hiding place, as crayfish like a dim environment and may crawl into the pot even if it is not baited.

You can also catch crayfish by angling or using various types of dip nets. Crayfishing with this tackle is a fun waiting game, as you should keep a constant eye on the trap and bait.

Your crayfishing skills will be put to the test when a crayfish assails the bait, because you must deftly snatch the crayfish out of the water and into the net. You can also catch crayfish in shore waters by wading and turning rocks or diving and picking crayfish up from rock holes.

Common baits include cyprinids – and roach is in fact the most popular baitfish – but any nicely smelly and durable bait will do the trick. Crayfish pots or other traps are usually laid into shore waters at a couple of metres. The best spots include rocky areas or sheltered, woody shorelines, which offer crayfish plenty of natural hiding places and food sources. Big crayfish usually live in deeper waters than smaller specimens, while signal crayfish thrive deeper than noble crayfish.

However, all crayfishing waters are unique, and only years of experience will teach you how to recognise the best crayfishing spots in each water area.



The **Evomerta pot** was developed by the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute and has also become popular in commercial crayfishing. As the pot is collapsible, it fits into a small space.



Originally from Sweden, the **August pot** served as an inspiration for the Finnish Rapurosvo pot, but it is designed for smaller crayfish than its Finnish counterpart.

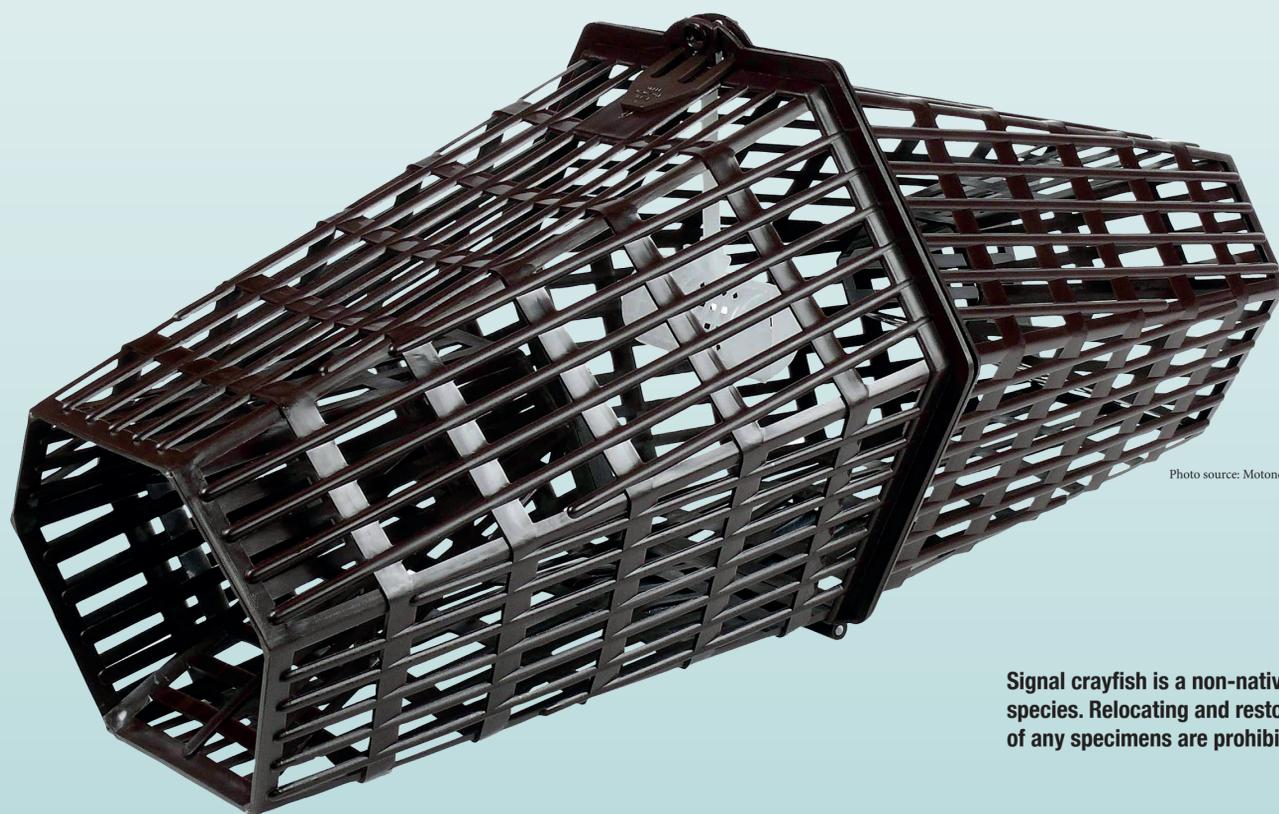


Photo source: Motonet

Signal crayfish is a non-native species. Relocating and restocking of any specimens are prohibited.



FYKE NET FISHING

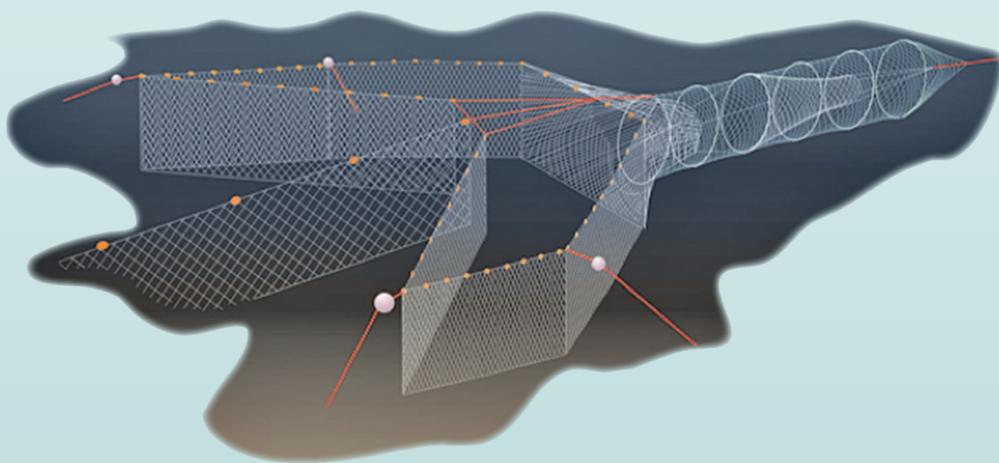
A fyke net is a type of stationary fishing gear related to a *katiska* wire mesh trap. Fyke nets were used in Finland as early as in the 16th century. The basic design has retained its traditional shape throughout the centuries.

Originally, a fyke net had wooden bows or hoops, and a net was stretched around these hoops. Fyke nets have a varying number of funnel throats, while the design has also varied according to fishing conditions. The mouth or the outermost hoop of a large fyke net is over 1.5 metres, whereas smaller fyke nets are usually equipped with metre-range hoops.

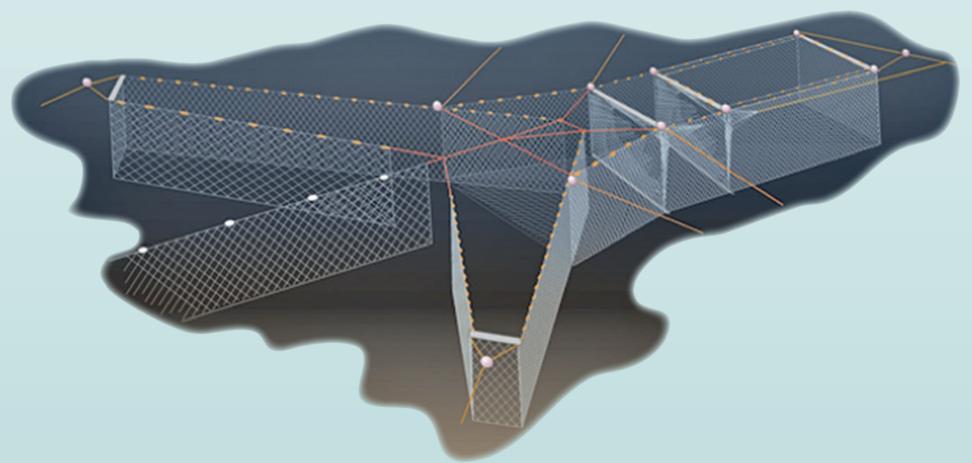
Fyke nets used in inland waters can be divided into two categories: smaller 'bow fykes' equipped with arched mouths and larger 'winged fykes'. The 'wing' of a winged fyke net is a kind of netting fence extending from the entrance, used to direct fish into the trap. Bow fykes are used to catch pike and burbot, as well as migrating fish in rivers.

Winged fykes are used to catch large-scaled fish. Other types of fyke nets include small eel fykes and more specialised vertical fykes for catching burbot. At sea, 'pound nets' are used to catch Baltic herring. This fyke net type has an open-top end section with enough space to keep even a larger catch intact. A 'laxfälla' or 'salmon trap' is a type of pound net used to catch salmon in the Kvarken area in the Gulf of Bothnia.

The best time for fyke net fishing is early summer when the waters are still cool. Later on, as the waters warm up, fyke nets get soiled and catch rates start to decline. Fishing with fyke nets does not harm fish and it is easy to release undersized specimens from the net back into the water.



'Lahtirysä' fyke net – catch height 1.5 m.



'Pound net', or open-top fyke net – catch height 2 m.

Photos: Kivikangas



COMMON FISHING RIGHTS CARRY NO CHARGE

Angling with one rod, hook and line and ice-fishing fall under common fishing rights, which do not require any licences when exercised as specified in the Fishing Act.

Common fishing rights only entitle you to use one rod and hook when angling, ice-fishing and fishing with a Baltic herring rig. Use of lures or baitfish rigs as attractants is not permitted.

The rod used for **ice-fishing** should be relatively short, measuring no more than about one metre. Fishing is considered to be ice-fishing when you use a relatively short rod and a jigging lure moved in a vertical direction. You can also use other types of lures, such as spoons, as long as the fishing method is clearly ice-fishing.

A rig is a type of floatless hook-and-line tackle, which may be equipped with a rod. Rigs are used to catch Baltic herring from bridges, shore banks, sounds and boats. **A Baltic herring rig** has a main leader of up to 0.30 mm, which may measure 180 cm in length. Six to eight hooks are attached at even intervals to the main leader with slightly finer side leaders. A weight is added to the end of the main leader to make it sink. Hooks need to be bright or silvery; the important part is that they are shiny. Hooks may be between size 2 and 6. No bait is needed. To use the rig, first lower it to the bottom. Once it hits the bottom, reel it in a couple of turns and raise the rod in sweeping arcs.



Anglers using rod-and-reel tackle must pay the state fisheries management fee.



Restrictions

Angling and ice-fishing are prohibited in rapids and torrent sites in waters with migratory fish and in any water areas where fishing is prohibited under a statute or regulation. Some water areas are subject to fishing restrictions. You can check which areas fall outside the common fishing rights through the Fishing Restrictions service at www.kalastusrajoitus.fi (in Finnish and Swedish). The online service covers water areas where angling, ice-fishing and lure-fishing are restricted based on the Fishing Act and decisions issued by regional Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres).



Photos: Ismo Kolari



SIMPLE LICENCE SYSTEM

Fishing permits from water area owners and licences from fishing regions:



Fishing method	Under 18, 65 or older	18–64 years old
Angling with a hook and line Ice-fishing Fishing with a Baltic herring rig	Free of charge under common fishing rights	Free of charge under common fishing rights
Lure-fishing with one rod	No state fisheries management fee	State fisheries management fee
Fishing with stationary gear Crayfishing Fishing with more than one rod	No state fisheries management fee, BUT always permit from the owner of the water area	State fisheries management fee AND permit from the owner of the water area
Fishing at special sites	No state fisheries management fee, BUT always permit from the owner of the water area	State fisheries management fee AND permit from the owner of the water area



State fisheries management fee: Once you have paid the fisheries management fee, you are allowed to engage in angling with one rod throughout the country, except for the Åland Islands Region. You can pay the fee online at eraluvat.fi/en, at the Nature Centres of State Forest Enterprise Metsähallitus or at an R-kioski shop, or by calling +358 20 692 424 (weekdays 8 am–4 pm). Fisheries management fees for 2017: €39 per year, €12 per 7 days, € 5 per day (24 hrs). Bring your receipt with you when you go fishing.



Fishing permits from water area owners and licences from fishing regions: In the Tampere Region, you can purchase licences online at www.kalapassi.fi (in Finnish).



You can find those licence sales outlets that have informed the Fisheries Centre of the Tampere Region of their details online at www.zanderland.fi/fishingpass/prices.

Fishing restrictions are available in Finnish and Swedish at www.kalastusrajoitus.fi.

LURE FISHING



Lure

A fishing lure is a kind of artificial bait used in sports fishing to catch fish by moving it on the end of a line, typically with the aid of a rod. The smallest lures may measure less than 0.5 cm (mormyshka), while the maximum size of the largest lures is typically about 40 cm (plug). In Finnish fishing circles, ice-fishing lures are, on average, smaller than those used during the open-water season. Lures mimic natural food sources of predatory fish or aim to trigger their prey drive or territorial behaviour in some other way.

Lures are typically equipped with hooks. If a bait is not used, it is also possible to use non-barbed hooks, especially if the intention is to release most of the catch back into the water.

Lures can be used for fishing regardless of the season or weather. Lure-fishing methods include spinning, trolling, fly-fishing and jigging.

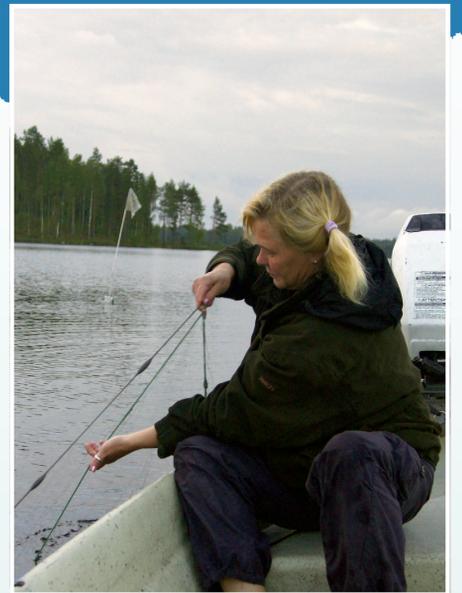
Source: Finnish Wikipedia

Photos: Ismo Kolari



NET FISHING

Fishing nets can be used for fishing almost through the year, depending on the ice conditions. Choose the right kind of net according to the situation. Fishing nets can catch a wide variety of fish.



Photos: Pekka Vuorinen

Net fishing

A net is a type of tackle used for fishing, consisting of twines woven together to form the meshes of the net. Caught unawares, a fish swims into a net mesh and gets trapped.

The size and shape of the mesh allows you to target a certain type and size of fish. When in the water, a fishing net must be equipped with floating marks to allow people moving around on the water to be aware of the net and the user can also then find the net and pull it from the water to examine the catch.

A trammel net is a type of tackle where a regular fine-meshed fishing net is lowered using two large-meshed nets (with a typical half mesh size of 300 mm). Trammel nets are used to catch big bream and big pike, which get trapped in a trammel net more easily than in a regular fine-meshed fishing net.

When a fish swims through one of the large-meshed nets, the net sinks through the other large-meshed net, forming a bag where the fish is trapped. Smaller fish simply swim through the large-meshed net.

The netting is produced mechanically and the net can either be laced by hand or mechanically. Nets are woven, mended and laced using a flat needle known as a *netting shuttle*. Netting shuttles used to be made from wood, but nowadays they are typically made from plastic.

Source: Finnish Wikipedia



Net fishing is subject to some restrictions. In Finland, each fishing party is permitted to have no more than eight nets simultaneously in the water. Any local restrictions are imposed by the fishery partnership managing the water area in question. Information on fishing restrictions is available in Finnish and Swedish online at www.kalastusrajoitus.fi.

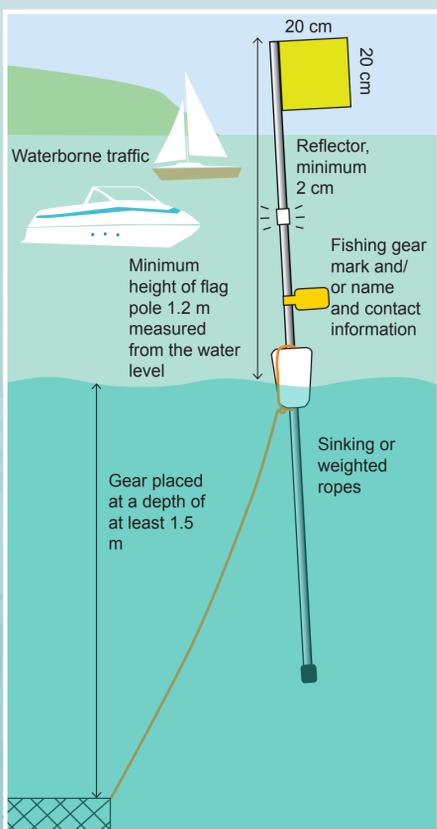


Figure 1. In areas used for waterborne traffic, fishing gear must be marked with a square-shaped flag measuring at least 20 cm in width and height, which is attached to a pole extending 1.2 metres above the water level.
Illustration: Anu Väitalo/Federation of Finnish Fisheries Association.

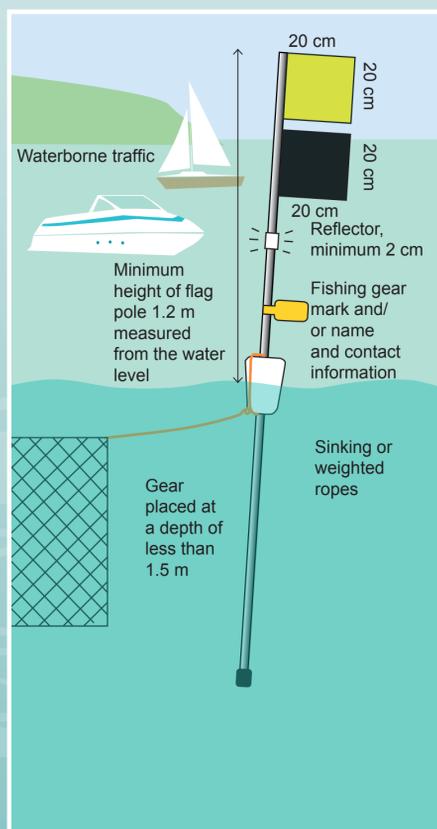


Figure 2. Surface gear, i.e. a type of fishing gear extending closer than 1.5 metres to the water level, must be marked with two flags, with one attached on top of the other, in areas used for waterborne traffic.
Illustration: Anu Väitalo/Federation of Finnish Fisheries Association.

WHERE TO FIND FURTHER INFORMATION

Sources of information

Internet:

Fisheries Centre of the Tampere Region



www.kalatalo.fi

Web store for fishing licences
(in Finnish)

www.kalapassi.fi



National Fishing Tourism Portal

www.fishinginfinland.fi/en

State Forest Enterprise Metsähallitus

www.eraluvat.fi/en

State fisheries management fees payable
through the Web Shop

Service number: +358 20 69 2424

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

www.mmm.fi/en/fisheries

www.kalastusrajoitus.fi

Restrictions to common fishing rights
(in Finnish and Swedish)

Federation of Finnish Fisheries Association

www.ahven.net

Tel. +358 9 684 4590

kalastus@ahven.net

Finnish Federation for Recreational Fishing

www.vapaa-ajankalastaja.fi

Tel. +358 400 946 968



Photos: Pekka Vuorinen

Regional ELY Centres

(Centres for Economic Development,
Transport and the Environment)

www.ely-keskus.fi

Tampere Region > North Savo ELY Centre

Tel. +358 295 026 500

Southwest Finland ELY Centre

Tel. +358 295 022 500

Lapland ELY Centre

Tel. +358 295 037 000

Fishing tackle stores:

Nippon verkko

www.nipponverkko.fi

Kalastus-Suomi

www.kalastussuomi.fi

Kalakaapu

www.kalakaapu.fi

