

REGULATION OF SEA TROUT FISHING IN FINLAND



FISHING ACT

- MAIN SECTIONS CONCERNING SEA TROUT FISHING

Section 1

In the pursuance of fishing, efforts shall be made to **maintain the maximum permanent productivity of the waters**. Special consideration should be given to ensuring that **the fish stock is exploited rationally** and with due attention to fishery viewpoints, and ensuring that the fish stock is managed and expanded. Consequently, such measures shall be avoided that might harmfully or adversely affect nature or the balance of nature.

Section 2

- **(1) The holder of fishing rights is primarily responsible for organizing fishing and the management of the fish stock in a way that duly takes into account the goals referred to in section 1.**

Section 5

- **The right to engage in fishing and issue orders related to it belongs to the owner of the waters, unless this right has been assigned to another party and unless otherwise provided in this Act.**

Section 8

- (1) Further to what is provided in section 6(1) and section 7(1) on fishing in public waters, **each inhabitant shall have the right to engage in angling, ice fishing and lure fishing with one rod, reel and lure** in other waters as well; and also trolling with one weighted lure or dividing sinker, **but not in rapids and currents in waters that contain salmon and powan** nor in those waters in which fishing is prohibited on the basis of some other provision.

Section 32

- (1) **Provisions on the minimum mesh size of fishing gear woven from twine for different fish species and fishing gear, as well as on the method of measuring mesh size are given by Government decree.**
- (2) **Deviating from the provisions of the appropriate decree, the fishing region may, for a term, and concerning certain waters, issue orders stipulating the permitted mesh size, if specifically necessitated in order to achieve the objectives referred to in section 1.**

Section 34

- (1) **The close seasons for fish and crayfish are provided by decree.**
- (2) During the close season for any fish species or crayfish, no such fishing gear shall be kept in water which has been made for or is especially suited to catching it.

Section 35

- (1) **The minimum sizes of fish and crayfish that may be caught in natural waters are provided by decree.**
- (2) The fishing region may in certain waters determine the size referred to in subsection 1 of a certain species of fish or crayfish or stipulate that the said size shall be bigger than the size provided by decree, if it is necessary in order to achieve the objectives referred to in section 1.

Section 36

- **(1) Any fish or crayfish in close season which has been caught with other catch, as well as any undersized fish or crayfish, if it is not particularly damaged, shall be immediately let back into the water.**
- **(2) In the Baltic Sea area, any salmon that is caught with a drift line or driftnet and is undersized according to the provisions and stipulations in force there shall be let back into the water.**

Section 37

- **(2) Under special conditions in a certain water area or whenever required by important aspects related to the management of the fish stock, the fishing region may for a fixed term, prohibit the use of a certain kind of fishing gear or fishing method in the said area.**
- **(3) The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry may for a fixed term prohibit the use of a certain kind of fishing gear or fishing method in certain waters if the preservation of an endangered animal population occurring in the area so requires.**

Section 119

- (1) Unless otherwise laid down, also **sea trout, lake trout, brown trout and rainbow trout shall be considered to be salmon.**
- (2) **A river or other water body shall be considered to contain salmon or powan if these fish species migrate up or along it or if it has been stocked with them in significant numbers.**

FISHING DECREE

- MAIN SECTIONS CONCERNING SEA TROUT FISHING



Section 12

- (1) **Fishing with a fish spear**, a harpoon or a comparable implement equipped with a blade, hook or point, and with a landing net using fire or light **is prohibited in rivers, rapids and currents containing salmon or powan** and, unless otherwise stipulated by the fishing region, and in other waters too from the beginning of 15 April to the end of 20 June.
- (2) **Fishing with hooks using a worm bait** or a board with lines and lures for catching grayling **in rapids or currents of a water body that contains salmon is prohibited.**

Section 14

- **The minimum mesh size** allowed for fishing gear woven from twine shall be:

157 millimetres when catching salmon and sea trout in a drift net and in a set net reaching to the surface of the water or near the surface, 127 millimetres in a salmon fyke in the part where the mesh is used for catching fish, and 100 millimetres in the other part as well as in the rest of the fishing gear.

Section 17

- The following fish are protected by law and catching them during the periods mentioned below is prohibited:

salmon, landlocked salmon, **sea trout**, lake trout and brown trout in a river, a brook, rapids and currents **in September, October and November, allowing, however, for their catching by trolling with a rod also in these waters during the first ten days of September and after 15 November;**

Section 19

- (1) Fish caught in natural waters shall fulfil the following **minimum measurements** measured from the tip of the jaw to the tip of the straightened caudal fin pressed together:
- salmon 60 centimetres, except in the inner territorial waters of the provinces of Oulu and Lappi 50 centimetres;
- **sea trout 40 centimetres;**
- landlocked salmon 40 centimetres;
- lake trout 40 centimetres;

Present situation

- Fishing regions and Employment and Economic Development Centres have issued orders concerning minimum mesh size in (bottom) gill nets and minimum size of caught sea trout, although it is still a open question whether EED Centres has the right to give such orders. For common fisherman the present situation is confusing, because it is basically impossible to know all the different orders (and borders) concerning sea trout fishing.