



***Pocket guide
for recreational
fishing in Estonia 2019***

Dear Nature Friend and Fisherman!

Recreational fishing is becoming increasingly more popular in Estonia. In recent years, 93 thousand payments in total have been made for recreational fishing right. 21,734 fishing cards were purchased in 2018, which is 15% more than in 2016 and 19% more than in 2015. Approximately 10% of the people fishing in Estonia are foreign tourists, and the same percentage applies to women. Development of such nature-related and healthy leisure form is welcome, considering our way of life focused rather on virtual environment. However, on the other hand it brings more pressure upon our natural environment – forest tracks, river banks as well as limited and valuable fish resources. ‘Catch and release’ method is an option for preserving these resources for the future. Sustainability is important in all aspects related to recreational fishing. In order to ensure the joy from fishing also in the future, it is important to follow the established regulations. Here, this publication aims to provide help and guidance.

This pocket guide will introduce you the main legal acts regulating fishing in the Republic of Estonia and explain our system of recreational fishing. Notice that some of the mentioned acts will take force from 2020. Estonian Fishing Act, fishing rules and regulations of the Minister of the Environment for temporary regulation of

fishing have such a large total volume that this flyer can cover only the most essential information concerning the broadest public, while some acts are also amended from time to time. Therefore before going fishing it is always useful to find out, if there is currently any valid restriction to the fishing method you intend to use in relevant area or waterbody and fishing of your target species is allowed. Additional detailed information can be obtained from following sources:

- ▶ Ministry of the Environment (www.envir.ee) – recreational fishing possibilities and fishing right fee;
- ▶ Environmental Board (www.keskkonnaamet.ee) – application for a fishing card;
- ▶ Riigi Teataja (www.riigiteataja.ee) – Fishing Act, Nature Conservation Act, Water Act, fishing rules, temporary restrictions and other legal acts;
- ▶ Estonian Recreational Fishing Association (www.kalastajateselts.ee);
- ▶ South Estonian Fishing Club (www.kalastusinfo.ee).

In the pocket guide, **green** pages indicate the part of rules valid equally for everybody on the basis of the right of line fishing, recreational fishing and professional fishing. **Blue** pages cover the rules for fishing for fee with recreational fishing right, and **orange** pages fishing regulated strictly on the basis of fishing card.

I Line fishing

In Estonia everyone has free line fishing right enabling to fish with one **simple hand line**. No separate permit or document is required for that purpose. However, the permitted fishing seasons, sites and restrictions set to fish species shall be naturally taken into account.

Simple hand line includes rod, line with the length of up to 1,5 rod lengths and single-pronged hook. The line may be equipped with weight and float.

Fishing is allowed on most waterbodies of Estonia. There are some exceptions – e.g. on private waterbody without public use permission for fishing shall be asked from the owner. Precise information about waterbodies can be obtained from local environmental service or Regulation No. 116 of the Government of the Republic from 8.03.2012 “Certification of the List of Public Waterbodies”. Some more important extracts from legal acts regulating movement in nature in Estonia:

Within the limited management zones of shores and banks (200 meters on the shores of the Baltic Sea, Lake Peipsi, Lake Lämmijärv, Lake Pihkva and Lake

Vörtsjärv, 100 meters on the banks of lakes and reservoirs with an area of more than ten hectares and rivers with a catchment area of more than 25 square kilometres, 50 m on other waterbodies) it is prohibited to drive motor vehicles outside of roads and paths prescribed for such purposes, and to drive all terrain vehicles, except for transportation of water craft needed for fishing activities by persons holding the right to fish (Nature Conservation Act § 37).

The possessor of an immovable located on a shore or bank of waterbody designated for public use (see General Part of the Environmental Code Act § 37) must allow everyone to use the shore or bank path of the water body (General Part of the Environmental Code Act § 38). Footbridge, bridge or any other construction is not part of the shore or bank path, but stay on it is allowed, if the owner has not restricted access or installed relevant signs. The width of a shore or bank path on a flat shore shall be determined from the average water level line and a steep shore from the upper edge of the slope, in the latter case also including the area between the water level and the upper edge of the slope.

Width of shore path is:

- ▶ 10 m for navigable waterbodies;
- ▶ 4 m for other waterbodies;

- ▶ at times of high water when the shore or bank path is flooded, a strip of two metres from the waterline is considered as the shore or bank path (General Part of the Environmental Code Act § 38 (2) and (3)).

Watercraft with internal combustion engines can be used on lakes with area over 100 hectares and rivers with width over 10 metres. The allowed speed limit of watercraft is generally 30 km/h. (Regulation of the Minister of the Environment “Requirements to Storage and Use of Watercraft”, § 2 and 3).

Where and when fishing is not allowed?

In order to retain recovering ability of fish resources, there are several restrictions set on fishing, which precise and updated overview can be obtained in valid legal acts. We provide here the points, which are essential to most fishermen.

In the sea fishing is prohibited in mouth area of most rivers. Fishing is prohibited all the year round closer than 1000 m to the mouth of the rivers Kunda, Selja, Loobu, Valgejõgi, Jägala, Pirita, Keila, Vääna, Vasalemma, Pudisoo, Punabe, Purtse and Veskiõgi (Pidula Brook). 01.09–31.10 the restricted area on the rivers Purtse, Kunda, Selja, Loobu, Valgejõgi, Pirita, Keila, Vääna and Vasalemma is extended

to 1500 m. Autumn fishing is prohibited around mouths of all other spawning waterbodies of Salmonidae closer than 500 m (in some waterbodies 15.08-31.12 and in other waterbodies 1.09-30.11). Closer than 500 m to the mouth of many watercourses fishing is allowed from March 1 to May 31 only with simple hand line and hand line (Annexes 7, 8 and 9 to the fishing rules). Mouth of watercourse, where mole extending the watercourse has been constructed, is the area between



sea ends of the mole.

In Pärnu Bay, fishing is prohibited in the area bordering with coastline and onwards from the point with coordinates $58^{\circ}22.829'N$, $24^{\circ}27.664'E$ with imaginary line passing the points with coordinates $58^{\circ}21.959'N$, $24^{\circ}26.302'E$; $58^{\circ}21.282'N$, $24^{\circ}27.961'E$ to the point $58^{\circ}22.446'N$, $24^{\circ}29.637'E$ *

* The restriction will take force from 2020.

Spring and autumn restriction areas are also located in various places of Väinameri.

In Lake Peipsi, Lake Lämmijärv and Lake Pihkva fishing is prohibited:

- ▶ all the year round closer than 200 m to the Estonian-Russian border on Lake Peipsi and closer than 50 m on Lake Lämmijärv and Lake Pihkva;
- ▶ southwards from the straight line connecting northern end of Ojapera canal (58°24,162'N, 27°19,175'E) and the point 58°24,290'N, 27°31,100'E, reaching the Estonian-Russian border – from May 5 to June 10, except fishing with simple hand line and hand line;
- ▶ with underwater fishing gear in Lake Pihkva from May 5 to June 10;
- ▶ westwards from the straight line connecting the mouth of Koosa River (58°27,165' N, 27°14,673' E) and northern end of Ojapera canal (58°24,162' N, 27°19,175' E) – from May 1 to June 15.

*Please call **round-the-clock operative phone of the Environmental Inspectorate 1313** to notify of any detected violations – traps without signage or used during restriction period or located in prohibited areas, unauthorised fishing, contamination etc. This way you will protect good condition of fish resources and create better fishing opportunities for yourself. Rescue Board: 112*

Other inland waterbodies

Fishing is prohibited all the year round in Vainupea, Riguldi, Punabe, Tirtsu, Vanajõgi, Lemmejõgi, Rannametsa (incl. Timmkanal), Kloostri, Leisi, Poama, Õngu, Veskiõie (Pidula Brook), Risti, Soonda, Möldri, Pihlajõgi, Priivitsa, Kolga, Häädemeeste rivers and Mägara, Kongla, Küda, Karepa, Koolimäe, Kurdla (Punnaluse River), Kuusalu, Kaberla, Kadaka, Treppoja, Männiku, Loode (Loode River), Udria and Jämaja (Siplase River) brooks as well as Katesoo ditch, except crayfishing and lamprey fishing.

Fishing is prohibited all the year round up to 100 m downstream from waterfalls and dams, in fish ladders and closer than 50 m upstream from them, as well as in following river sections:

- ▶ in Kunda River – from the barrage of power plant to the mouth;
- ▶ in Vasalemma River – from Vanaveski dam to the mouth, except crayfishing with traps and dip-nets;
- ▶ in Keila River – from Keila waterfall to the mouth;
- ▶ in Pada River – from the bridge of Pärna Village to the mouth;
- ▶ in Toolse River – from the inlet of water of Aru mine to the mouth;
- ▶ in Selja River – from Arkna bridge to the mouth;
- ▶ in Mustoja River – from the dam of Vihula II (Mõisa) artificial lake to the mouth;

- ▶ in Altja River – from Oandu dam to the mouth;
- ▶ in Võsu River – from Laviku dam to the mouth;
- ▶ in Loobu River – from Joaveski dam to the mouth;
- ▶ in Valgejõgi River – from the bridge of Tallinn–Narva Road to the mouth;
- ▶ in Pudisoo (Pärli) River – from the bridge of Tallinn–Narva Road to the mouth;
- ▶ in Loo River – from Loo dam to the mouth;
- ▶ in Vääna River – from Vahiküla terraces to the mouth;
- ▶ in Purtse River – from the dam of Püssi artificial lake to the mouth;
- ▶ in Nõva River – from Tusari–Targama road bridge to the mouth;
- ▶ in Veskiõgi River – from Harju-Risti–Riguldi-Võntküla road bridge to the mouth;
- ▶ in Piusa River – from Kivioja mouth to the bridge of Karisilla–Petseri Road;
- ▶ in Vaidva River – from Vastse-Roosa dam to the mouth;
- ▶ in Peetri River – in full extent;
- ▶ In Pühajõgi River – from the mouth of Mägara brook to the river mouth.

Exceptionally the Minister of the Environment may allow limited fishing with spinning reel or fly hook equipped with lure or jig on the basis of fishing card in these river sections.

In the following rivers and brooks, fishing is allowed **only with spinning reel and fly hook**, using artificial lure: Avijõgi – from the mouth to Vadi bridge, Umbusi – from the mouth to the bridge of Umbusi settlement, Loobu – from the mouth to Joaveski dam (except Kadrina and Loobu artificial lakes), Valgejõgi – from the mouth to the bridge of Tallinn–Narva Road (except Vahakulmu artificial lake), Pada – from the mouth to the bridge of Pärna village, **Esna**, **Navesti** – in Järva County, **Oostriku**, **Prandi** – from the mouth to Tori bridge, **Preedi** (Vardja), **Pärnu** – from the mouth of Vodja River to the mouth of Reopalu River, **Vodja**, **Onga** and **Vahujõgi**, **Norra** and **Võlingi** (Völlinge) brook, and **Neeva** canal and **Palu** main ditch. Fishing on the waterbodies marked with orange is allowed only with fishing card (see chapter Fishing Card).

Fishing is prohibited everywhere without using fishing gear, with electricity, toxic or narcotic substances, stabbing tools (except underwater fishing), hooking tools, firearms, explosives. Use as well as possession, production, storage, expropriation and transport of electrical fishing equipment is punishable.

Temporary fishing prohibition areas

- ▶ From the mouth of Emajõgi to the beginning of Koosa River – from May 1 to June 15;
- ▶ In cutoffs and oxbows of Emajõgi from the mouth of Pedja River to Kärevere road bridge – from April 1 to June 30;
- ▶ In Narva River upstream from Narva Reservoir (except with simple hand line and hand line) and in waterbodies falling to Narva River, cutoffs and oxbows upstream from Narva Reservoir – from ice-free water from March 15 to May 15;
- ▶ In the section of Naelavere main ditch joining Lake Lahepera and Lake Peipsi (Lahe River); in Koosa, Kargaja, Kalli and Kaevandu rivers; in the canal joining Lake Leegu and Kalli River, in Ahja River from the mouth to Lake Ahijärv, as well as lakes Ahijärv, Võngjärv, Koosa (in Tartu County), Lahepera, Kalli, Keeri and Leegu – from May 1 to May 25;
- ▶ In Mullutu Bay – from April 1 to May 20;
- ▶ In following rivers from September 15 to December 31:
 - ▶ Pärlijõgi River in Võru County – in full extent;
 - ▶ Võhandu River – from Lake Jõksi to Lake Vagula;
 - ▶ Peeli River – from the mouth of Pähni Brook to the river mouth.
- ▶ In Nasva River from April 1 to May 31 fishing is allowed only with recreational line gear, except longline;

- ▶ In Vasalemma River from the mouth of Munalaskme Brook to Vanaveski dam – from September 1 to January 31.

Which fish and when may be caught?

In Estonia almost all of 75 fish and Cyclostomata species living here can be caught. Only fishing of **sturgeon**, **asp**, **sheatfish** and **grayling** is completely prohibited, as these are endangered species. Fish of the mentioned species or undersized fish of other species as well as fish caught during prohibition period shall be carefully removed from fishing equipment and released back into the water. This should be preferably done with wet hands, in order to avoid damages to the mucosa of fish, protecting them from microbes.

It is prohibited to catch:

salmon and sea trout in inland waterbodies from September 1 to November 30, except in rivers and sections, where the Minister of the Environment has granted fishing permission.

brown trout - from September 15 to January 31;

European whitefish - in Pärnu River from October 15 to November 15;

vendace in ice-free water – from May 1 to July 1 and from November 10 to December 30;

pike in ice-free water – from March 15 to May 10, except in Lake Võrtsjärv and the sea;
pike in Lake Võrtsjärv in ice-free water – from March 15 to April 15 (period may change annually);
pike in the sea – from March 1 to April 30;
bream - from May 1 to June 20, except with simple hand line, hand line and bottom line;
tench - from June 20 to July 20, except with simple hand line, hand line and bottom line. In Lake Endla and Lake Sinijärv tench fishing is prohibited from April 1 to July 20 with any fishing equipment;
vimba in Kunda, Selja, Loobu, Jägala, Pirita, Vääna, Keila, Vasalemma, Vihterpalu, Kasari (together with tributaries), Paadremaa, Audru, Pärnu, Sauga, Reiu and Valgejõgi rivers – from May 10 to June 20;
pike perch in ice-free water – from April 15 (in Lake Võrtsjärv from May 15) to June 15;
pike perch in the sea from May 15 to July 15 (period may change annually);
crayfish – from September 1 to July 31. Crayfishing is allowed only on the basis of fishing card (see Fishing card).

In all river sections specified in the regulation of the Minister of the Environment “List of spawning sites and habitats of salmon, brown trout, sea trout and grayling”,

fishing by wading in water is prohibited during the salmon fishing prohibition period, except in Narva river and for lamprey fishing.

Differently from above it is also prohibited to catch in **Lake Peipsi, Lämmijärv and Lake Pihkva:**

vendace – from August 21 to June 20;

Lake Peipsi whitefish – from November 1 to November 30;

pike – from April 1 to May 5;

bream, except with (simple) hand line – from May 5 to June 10 (period may change annually);

tench, except with (simple) hand line – from June 20 to July 20;

pike perch – from May 5 to June 10 (period may change annually);

burbot – from January 10 to February 10.

Staying on a waterbody or in a limited management zone on the shore thereof with fishing gear is deemed to be equal to fishing. On artificial lakes fishing is generally regulated by similar restrictions as on the watercourse, where the artificial lake is located.

Minimum sizes of fish

Minimum allowed length of main fish species of recreational fishing is provided in the following table. There are two measuring options, either from the top of snout (mouth closed) to the beginning of central beams of caudal fin (l) or the end of caudal fin (L). The fish shall be considered in size, if one of these lengths reaches at least to the minimum size. The length of a crayfish is measured from the tip of its rostrum up to the end of the telson (excluding the hairs).

Fish species	Waters subject to the minimum sizes	l cm	L cm
Perch	Sea	16	19
Eel	Sea		35
	Lake Võrtsjärv, Lake Peipsi and Lake Pihkva		55
	Other inland waterbodies		50
Pike		40	45
Brown trout		32	36
Pike perch	Lake Võrtsjärv	45	51
	Other inland waterbodies	40	46
Bream	Lakes Peipsi, Pihkva, Lämmijärv and rivers Emajõgi and Väike-Emajõgi	30	35

Fish species	Waters subject to the minimum sizes	I cm	L cm
Flounder	In subarea 28		21
	In subareas 29 and 32		18
Tench		25	30
Burbot			40
Salmon		55	60
Sea trout			50
Vendace		10	12
Whitefish	Lakes Peipsi, Pihkva, Lämmijärv and other inland waterbodies	35	40
	Sea and rivers falling to the sea	30	35
Ide	Sea and rivers falling to the sea	32	38
Cod			35
Vimba		26	30
Crayfish		11	

Depending on the situation of fish resources the Minister of the Environment may temporarily increase or decrease minimum sizes of fish.



II Recreational fishing right or fishing fee

Fishing with following sport fishing equipment is allowed on the basis of recreational fishing right: more than one simple hand line; **hand line**; **spinning reel**; **troll**; **pulling device**; **fly hook**; **bottom line** (tonka, krunda); **unanchored trimmer**; **hook line for Baltic herring fishing** and **harpoon gun** and up to five-prong **harpoon** for underwater fishing. The requirements set to fishing gear generally allow to use up to three hooks on one rig (up to ten only on the hook line for Baltic herring), while troll may have up to three three-pronged hooks. Specific descriptions of fishing equipment are provided in fishing rules (§ 4 and 5).

It is prohibited:

- ▶ To use autonomous breathing equipment and artificial lighting for underwater fishing;
- ▶ To use harpoon without harpoon for underwater fishing, except for fishing of flounder or turbot;
- ▶ To use line trap for dragging. Dragging is purposeful operation for hooking of fish outside the mouth.

In addition to the data specified in the section of line fishing, following restrictions have been set to recreational fishing equipment. Fishing is prohibited with spinning and fly-hook in Narva River from Narva Hydroelectric Power Station to the road bridge, in Jägala River from Linnamäe dam to the mouth and in Pirita river from Vaskjala dam to the end of mole located in the mouth from September 1 to November 30, except on the basis of fishing card; in Avijõgi River from the source to Vadi bridge, in Loobu River from the source to Joaveski dam (except Kadrina and Loobu artificial lakes), in Valgejõgi River from the source to the bridge of Tallinna–Narva Road, and in Pada River fishing is allowed only with spinning reel or fly hook with artificial bait.

Up to three similar or different fishing devices can be used simultaneously for recreational fishing, except in case of the gear requiring fishing card (see Fishing card). Baltic herring line may be used only for sea fishing.

It is prohibited to sell or buy fish caught during recreational fishing or line fishing!

Only active fishing is allowed with recreational fishing gear. This means that the catcher must stay near the gear (except gillnet, longline, crayfish trap and trap net used on the basis of a fishing card) and ensure that the inspectors can contact him on the spot, otherwise the inspector is entitled to remove the fishing gear. It is prohibited to use recreational fishing gear closer than 25 m to pound nets and gillnets.

Recreational fishing right requires payment of fee. There are three possibilities to pay the fishing fee: mobile payment, internet payment and direct purchase. To prove the right to fish it is sufficient to show identity document to the inspector.

Fishing fee depends on the period of validity:

24 h – **1 €**; 7 days – **3 €**; 6 months – **13 €**; 12 months – **20 €**

NB! The above fishing fees provided Euros as in 2019 and may change in the course of time.

Mobile payment

Enter **1322*code*ID code** and press **C**. Listen to instructions. To confirm the payment, press *****. If you have no Estonian ID code, enter the number including your date of birth in following format: **Oyymmdd0000**, where yy is year of birth, mm – month and dd – day.

Mobile payment codes are following:

1 day **400** 1 week **401** 6 months **402** 12 months **403**

Use only ID code of the person, for whose right to fish you pay. Upon mobile payment you will get SMS message confirming start and expiration of the recreational fishing right (except single-day permit). Right to fish will take force **one hour after** making of payment. Upon mobile payment, service and notification charge up to 0.51 € will be added. Read more about possibilities of mobile payment at the address ***envir.ee***

Internet payment

... can be made at the web page *pilet.ee*. To purchase the right to fish move in the menu to “**Tickets**” > “**Other**” > “**Recreational fishing license**”, select the required type of fishing license and make the payment.

Direct purchase

... can be made in the service points of Omniva.

Recreational fishing right is **free** for pre-school children, children under 16 years of age, pensioners, disabled persons, unlawfully repressed persons and persons with partial or no work ability. All these (except pre-school children) shall submit relevant document to the inspector upon request – student card, pension certificate, certificate of unlawfully repressed person, document verifying the level of disability. **NB! These concessions do not apply to fishing card!**



III Fishing card

In Estonia there are fishing sites, periods and methods, the use of which is allowed only with fishing card. On the basis of fishing card it is possible to use **gillnet, longline** consisting of up to 100 hooks, **hoopnet, dragnet, crayfish dipnet and trap, and trap net** (fishing rules, §§ 4, 6-8). It also allows to fish Salmonidae on some rivers and fish on some waterbodies within nature conservation areas. Rights provided with fishing card are regulated in detail and waterbodies, where fishing is permitted based on fishing card, are specified by annual regulation of the Minister of the Environment „Temporary fishing restrictions, fee for recreational fishing right and limit number of fishing devices for recreational fishing“.

It is important to know that in many cases (for fishing with net and longline, cray-fishing, fishing on nature conservation areas) the number of fishing cards is limited. They are issued on the basis of temporal sequence of the submission of applications. Application will start on the first business day of December of the year preceding to the applied year, except for crayfishing, which applications may be submitted from the first business day of July of the applied year. **One fishing card generally allows**

to use one fishing device (depending on the area), in case of crayfishing up to five dipnets or traps. Fees differ by areas (see the table below).

Upon fishing the frequency of checking of traps must prevent spoiling of catch in the trap.

Fishing with **gillnet** has various areas and periods of restriction. For example, fishing cards are not issued for inland waterbodies, except lakes Peipsi, Pihkva and Lämmijärv, from February 25 to June 30, in Lake Võrtsjärv from April 1 until August 31. The allowed mesh size depends on the fishing area, fishing period and species. On Võrtsjärv it is minimum 130 mm, on other inland waterbodies generally 60 mm, but various exceptions apply annually to this rule. Length of an gillnet is generally 70 m, but on inland waterbodies of Jõgeva and Tartu counties it is up to 35 m.

For fishing with **longline**, fishing cards are issued for 7-day periods from March 1 to October 31, but not for any waterbody.

For harpoon gun and harpoon fishing, fishing card is necessary on Lake

Kuremaa and Lake Saadjärv, whereby the card is valid for both waterbodies.

For fishing of **salmon and sea trout** with spinning reel and fly hook, fishing cards are issued for the rivers listed below as follows:

- ▶ Piritä, from Vaskjala dam to the mouth, from September 1 to October 19;
- ▶ Jägala, from Linnamäe dam to the mouth, from September 1 to November 30;
- ▶ Valgejõgi, from the bridge of Tallinn-Narva Road to the mouth, from December 1 to October 19;
- ▶ Selja, from Arkna bridge to Rutja-Karepa bridge, from December 1 to October 19;
- ▶ Narva, from the hydroelectric power station to the mouth, from September 1 to November 30;
- ▶ Vääna, from Vahiküla terraces to the mouth, from December 1 to October 19;
- ▶ Purtse, from the dam of Püssi artificial lake to the mouth, from December 1 to October 19;
- ▶ Loobu, from derivation channel of Joaveski hydroelectric power station to the mouth, from December 1 to October 19;
- ▶ Pühajõgi, from the mouth of Mägara brook to the river mouth, from December 1 to October 19.

In these periods and places the gap between the point and shank of the bait hook must not be wider than 12 mm. Up to 2 fish may be caught daily, except on Narva and

Jägala rivers. NB! Before going fishing, always check if the listed river or river section has been declared open for fishing by the Minister of the Environment.

On the following **trout rivers and brooks** of Central Estonia, where fishing is otherwise prohibited, fishing with spinning reel and fly-hook is also allowed by common fishing card in Jõgeva, Lääne-Viru and Järva counties or in indicated area: Onga, Preedi, Vahujõgi, Norra, Oostriku, Völingi (Völlinge), Esna, Palu main ditch, Vodja, Pärnu (from the mouth of Vodja River to the mouth of Reopalu River), Prandi (from the source to Tori bridge), Neeva canal, Navesti.

Crayfishing shall take place anywhere on the basis of fishing card and it is permitted only in August.

For fishing with **hoopnet** and **dragnet**, permits are issued for the period from June 1 to August 31, except for lakes with area under 10 hectares, watercourses, Lake Võrtsjärv, Lake Peipsi, Narva Reservoir, waterbodies located in the special management zones of protected areas and the sea.

For fishing with **trap net**, permits are issued for some twenty or thirty small lakes for 48 hours from July 21 to November 30.

In nature conservation areas fishing is allowed only on the basis of a fishing card in Silma NCA and Matsalu National Park, as well as on lakes Endla and Sinijärv in Endla NCA. In all these areas various restrictions apply to the issuing of fishing cards.

Following is prohibited in all waterbodies:

- ▶ To close with net more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the width of waterbody, bay or strait, flow section between islands (shallows) in a watercourse, or Estonian territorial waters on Lake Lämmijärv, except on Lake Võrtsjärv. The deepest part of cross-section (or fairway on Lake Lämmijärv) must remain free;
- ▶ To use standing traps without required signs and markings;
- ▶ To fix structures to net traps, which may reduce mesh size of the collecting part of the trap below permitted size.

Underwater fishing with harpoon gun and harpoon, as well as fishing with gillnet, hoopnet and dragnet is prohibited in all waterbodies specified in the regulation of the Minister of the Environment “List of spawning sites and habitats of salmon, brown trout, sea trout and grayling” or their sections. Underwater fishing is prohibited also in Paide artificial lake.

Application for a fishing card and submission of fishing data

Fishing cards are issued by the Environmental Board. The easiest method is to apply for a card in the internet: **pilet.ee**. For the places, where the number of cards is not restricted, it can be purchased via mobile phone in similar way to the payment for recreational fishing right (except for fishing with trap net, crayfishing with dipnet

Fishing card fees and mobile payment codes

Area	Allowed equipment
The Baltic Sea	gillnet
The Baltic Sea	longline
Lakes Peipsi, Pihkva, Lämmijärv and other inland waterbodies	gillnet
Lakes Peipsi, Pihkva, Lämmijärv and other inland waterbodies	longline
Vörtsjärv	gillnet
Lakes Vörtsjärv, Kuremaa, Kaiavere, Vagula and Saadjärv	longline

and trap, and longline fishing). Upon fishing with fishing card it is **obligatory** to submit fishing data in five days after the expiration of the card, or **in five days** after expiration of a month in case of cards valid for more than one month. Fishing data can be submitted in the internet: ***pilet.ee*** and ***kala.envir.ee***, or to the Environmental Board with signature. It is allowed to refuse to issue fishing card to the person, if the applicant has not submitted fishing data or has violated requirements of legal acts concerning fishing.


Code	1 day	2 days	3 days	1 week	1 month	Season
					6,5-13	
				2		
					4-7	
				2		
					7-13	
				8		

Area	Allowed equipment
Small lakes	trap net
Inland waterbodies	hoopnet, dragnet
Lakes Kuremaa and Saadjärv	harpoon gun and harpoon
Salmon and sea trout fishing in rivers	
Trout rivers of Central Estonia	spinning reel, fly hook
Silma NCA: Saunja Bay, Sutlepa Sea	(simple) hand line, spinning reel, fly hook, playing hook
Matsalu National Park	(simple) hand line, spinning reel, fly hook, playing hook
Endla NCA: Lake Endla and Lake Sinijärv	(simple) hand line, spinning reel, fly hook, playing hook
Crayfishing	Crayfish dipnet or trap


NB! Fishing card fees are given in the table in Euros as in 2019 and may change in the course of time. More detailed information about fee sums can be obtained at the

Code	1 day	2 days	3 days	1 week	1 month	Season
		2				
551	2					
552	2					
	7		14			
557	3					
558						36
572	6					
					3-5	7
561	3				7	
	3					

homepage of the Ministry of the Environment: ***envir.ee***.



It is possible that you may catch fish with a small plastic tag. Fish are tagged to study migration and ecology, and it is very important for researchers to get information about species, weight, length, gender of such fish, as well as time, place and equipment of fishing. Please send this information to Pölula Fish Rearing Centre via e-mail margis@rmk.ee or enter the data here: www.rmk.ee/polula. **For a returned tag you will get the reward 5.11 EUR, together with a high-quality fishing lure and reply letter with restocking information of juvenile fish.**



We hope that this pocket guide fulfils its task to be the source of primary information for you during your fishing trips, but also for checking your own knowledge and instructing of other fishermen. Following of the rules is necessary for ensuring sustainability of fish resources, to provide us also in the future with pleasant moments on Estonian fishing waters.

Happy fishing!

Ministry of the Environment, SA Eesti Forell
Supporter: Environmental Investment Centre



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