

Rules for fishing anadromous salmon in the Vefsna watershed 2018

The following fishing rules were adopted by the Vefsna Watershed's Fisheries Management Co-operative (VeFi SA):

§1 Fishing season and species:

Fishing for salmon and sea trout is permitted from July 01 up to and including Aug. 31. All fishing, both for salmon and sea trout, will be closed when the total salmon quota (600 fish) has been reached, even if the sea trout quota (400 fish) has not been filled. If the sea trout quota is filled first, fishing for sea trout is stopped, while salmon fishing is permitted until the salmon quota is filled.

Fishing for salmon and sea trout is permitted from the upper side of Laksforsen up to Fellingforsen from Aug. 01 up to and including Aug. 31. See otherwise the special rules for fishing on this stretch in §5.

All fishing for salmon and sea trout above Fellingforsen is prohibited.

§2 Use of tackle:

Only fishing with a rod and hand line is permitted, with one rod and one bait per person. The tackle must not be abandoned during fishing.

The only types of bait allowed are flies, lures, spinners and wobblers, with maximum one treble hook. All fishing with natural bait (e.g. shrimp, worms, bait fish etc.) is prohibited. Gulp and other baits with scent, flavour and consistency like natural bait (plastic worms, plastic shrimp etc.) are considered equivalent to natural bait. The maximum gape size is 13 mm for treble hooks and 15 mm for single hooks. It is prohibited to fish in a manner that is likely to result in snagging.

All fishers must adapt their fishing so that release can occur without harming the fish. Fishers must carry a knotless net and pliers/hook remover. All hooks must be barbless, or the barb must be pinched or filed away.

§3 Quotas on landing, slaughter and release:

The daily quota is maximum 2 landed salmon and 2 landed sea trout. Landed means fish which the fisher, upon having tired the fish, releases

the hook by hand, pliers or relaxing of the line while the fish is in the net, is handled by the tail, or could be handled in this manner.

The fisher is permitted to slaughter 1 salmon and 1 sea trout from the daily quota. Fishing must immediately stop once 1 salmon has been slaughtered. If the first salmon is slaughtered, fishing must be concluded, even if the fisher has yet to fill their quota on sea trout. If the first salmon is released, one salmon may be landed during the same 24-hour period. Even if also this salmon is released, the daily quota has been reached and fishing must be concluded. The daily quota is absolute and applies irrespective of whether the fisher purchases additional fishing licenses, which combined would permit slaughtering additional fish.

The fishing license specifies the amount and size of male salmon and sea trout which the fisher is permitted to slaughter within the licence's fishing period (license quota). The licence quota may be lower than the daily quota in the fishing rules. Fish belonging the wrong species, size or sex must be released.

Each fisher may land a maximum of 8 salmon per season, of which a maximum of 2 male salmon may be slaughtered (annual quota). Each fisher may slaughter a maximum of 2 sea trout per season. All the quotas (daily quota, licence quota and annual quota) apply to the individual fisher and cannot be transferred to others. When a fish has been landed, the fisher must report the catch by 24:00 the same day. This applies even if the fish is released, since there are also restrictions on the amount of fish that may be landed per 24-hour period and annually.

§4 Maximum and minimum size restrictions and release:

All female salmon, all Arctic char and all sea trout over 65 cm (approx. 3 kg) must be released alive. If in doubt about the sex of the fish, the fish must be released alive.

VeFi encourages the release of fish over 100 cm (approx. 10 kg). The minimum size for salmon, sea trout and Arctic char in the Vefsna watershed is 45 cm.

If in doubt about whether a fish will survive release, the fish must be slaughtered. If it is a type of fish which the fisher is permitted to slaughter in accordance with the fisher's quota, the fish shall be reported on the quota in the regular manner. If the fish which must be slaughtered is of a species, size or sex which entails that the fisher does not have a quota for

slaughter, the incident must immediately be reported with a comment that the fish could not be released. The fisher is not permitted to keep fish that had to be slaughtered outside of the quota. Fish that must be slaughtered shall be delivered to Fru Haugans Hotell (contact the reception). The fish is counted in the quota of landed fish, but is not counted in the quota of slaughtered fish (annual quota) when it is documented as handed in. If the management encounters a fisher with a slaughtered fish outside the quota which has not been reported, this constitutes a serious breach of the fishing rules.

Pink salmon, rainbow trout and farmed salmon shall be slaughtered and are not counted on the quota.

§5 Special rules concerning Laksforsen up to Fellingforsen:

It is only permitted to slaughter small male salmon under 65 cm on this stretch. Fishing on this stretch commences on August 1, to ensure that juvenile salmon have wandered upstream by the time fishing commences.

§6 Fishing licence and reporting of catches:

All fishers must obtain personal fishing licences or report cards for the applicable zone and carry this while fishing. This also applies to rights holders' own fishing and to fishers who lease private fishing rights. All fishers must report their catch, including released fish, via www.inatur.no by 24:00 the same day. All catch information will be publicly announced. Fishing without catches must also be reported by 24:00 on the same day as the fishing was concluded, albeit without catch remarks. Scale samples of slaughtered salmon must be taken and submitted.

Subleasing fishing rights is permitted, to the extent this is done within the framework of the Regulations regarding subleasing of fishing rights <https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/1993-06-25-570>

§7 Regulation of fishing near cascades, rapids and bridges:

All fishing from bridges is prohibited. It is also prohibited to fish within protected zones marked with red labels near the salmon ladder in the watershed.

§8 Disinfection of fishing tackle:

All fishers must during their fishing carry a disinfection certificate from VeFi. This is obtained at VeFi's disinfection stations in Mosjøen and at Trofors, as well as from those rights holders who have their own disinfection on the beat. All fishing tackle, nets, waders, wading pants, boats and the like that are used in other watersheds in the current season, must be disinfected prior to use in Vefsna.

§9 Extraordinary measures:

Protection or amendments to the fishing rules may be implemented with immediate effect at any time during the season if the circumstances require.

§10 Rules of conduct:

Do not tread on farmland, always close gates and do not park on private farmyards or in the roadway. If there are several fishers on the same stretch, fishing shall to the extent possible be mobile, i.e. one cast, one step, cast again, another step etc. Newly arrived fishers shall fish higher up on the stretch than fishers who arrived earlier. In places where it is not possible to be mobile while fishing, each fisher may fish in the spot for a maximum of twenty minutes before yielding to a new fisher.

§11 Fishing fee:

All fishers must have paid the national fishing fee for fishing of salmon, sea trout and Arctic char. A valid receipt for the paid fee must be carried while fishing.

§12 Penalties:

Breaching the rules is punishable and may be reported to the police, cf. the Act regarding salmon fishing and freshwater fishing. Alternatively, breaches of the rules will be privately enforced by the Vefsna Watershed's Fisheries Management SA, cf. the fishers' acceptance of the fishing rules upon purchase of a fishing licence. In the event of private enforcement, breaches of the fishing rules will result in a violation charge of up to NOK 6000, irrespective of the severity of the breach.

Fishers who are reported to the police for breaches of the fishing rules will be refused access to fishing in Vefsna for the remainder of the current

season and the following season. Fishers who are fined based on private enforcement, are not permitted to resume fishing in the Vefsna watershed before the imposed fine has been paid.

Rights holders/licence sellers and all those who have obtained a fishing licence may ask fishers to document that they have obtained a fishing licence for the stretch and that the catch is being reported, as well as notify the management of potential breaches of the fishing rules.