

REMEMBER

- Use flotation aids and tell others where you are going. Have a waterproof mobile phone or other communication device with you.
- Respect the zone of privacy around a residence. Do not fish less than 100 metres from someone else's jetty or boathouse or near a bathing area.
- Do not fish from islands or skerries where birds breed during the period from April to June.
- Do not make a fire in sensitive locations such as outcrops or during very dry periods.
- A license from the County Administrative Board is required in order to move, relocate or cultivate fish or crayfish.
- Never leave unwanted fishing lines or hooks in natural settings. These can become fatal traps for birds and other animals.
- Trolling is not permitted in privately owned waters without the permission of the owner of the fishing rights.
- Avoid fishing for spawning pike and zander.
- Do not catch more fish than you need, for own consumption.
- Fishing may not be conducted closer than 100 metres from stationary fishing equipment without permission.

The right to freely fish with handheld equipment also carries with it the obligation to take into consideration the sensitive nature of the archipelago, as well as the rights and comfort of residents.

Bird and seal sanctuary areas

Bird and seal sanctuary areas are identified on boating maps. Information signs are easily visible on bird sanctuary islands. The bird sanctuary areas are monitored by County Administrative Board inspectors, as well as by the Coast Guard and the Marine Police.

Bird and seal sanctuary areas may occasionally be amended. Respect current signs and current information on the County Administrative Board website at www.lansstyrelsen.se/ostergotland.



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www.lansstyrelsen.se/ostergotland

Coast Guard
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tel: +46 (0)8-57 89 76 00 (non office hours)
www.kustbevakningen.se

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
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www.havochvatten.se
www.svenskafiskeregler.se



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Coastal fishing rules ÖSTERGÖTLAND COUNTY

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The right to fish with handheld and portable equipment

Fishing with handheld equipment is permitted throughout the coastal and archipelago area for Swedish and foreign citizens. Handheld equipment includes various items of handheld fishing equipment such as a casting rod, fly rod, fishing rod, ice rod, etc. Trolling is not deemed to be fishing with handheld equipment. Fishing using equipment being drawn by a boat powered by an engine, oars or a sail is only permitted for property owners with fishing rights.

Members of the public may fish to a limited extent using portable equipment such as nets, lines and, in some cases, hoop nets in public waters. A person may use nets of no more than 180 metres, no more than six long fishing lines with no more than 100 hooks per line. When fishing using cages or hoop nets, no more than six nets may be used per person provided they have two circular escape openings of at least 60 millimetres in diameter. Public waters generally start beyond the outer islands and skerries. The same right applies to foreign citizens who are permanently resident in Sweden. Other foreign citizens may only fish with handheld equipment. In addition, foreign citizens must have a license from the County Administration Board.

The right to fish in privately-owned waters is always associated with the respective property. However, in certain limited areas and on special conditions, a right exists to fish using herring drift-nets and long fishing lines within privately owned waters. The specific details are set out in an appendix to the Swedish Fisheries Act.

The Coast Guard, Police and Fishing Inspectors monitor compliance with the applicable regulations. Breach of such regulations is subject to public prosecution.

Relations among persons fishing

The person who arrives first at a fishing site has a preferential right. After completing one's fishing it is prohibited to unnecessarily occupy a fishing site or to leave equipment or other evidence or markings which can prevent others from fishing. As long as a fisherman is using the equipment set out, no one may prevent him/her from fishing. Recreational fishermen should always show significant consideration for those fishing commercially.

Definitions

Fishing

Activity aimed at catching or killing free-living fish and shellfish.

Commercial fishing

Fishing carried out on a commercial license.

Recreational fishing

All other fishing (sport fishing, subsistence fishing).

Boundary between fresh water and coastal waters

A straight line drawn between the two headlands at the mouth of each watercourse. Motala River, however, has a definite boundary; a straight line from the southern tip of Högholmen to the northernmost point of Lindö (peninsula).

Stationary fishing equipment

Fishing structures or fishing equipment with a hinge arm, if the equipment is anchored to the riverbed/seabed or the shore and intended to remain there for more than 48 hours consecutively.

Portable fishing equipment

All types of equipment other than those mentioned above.

Handheld equipment

Rod, handline or similar portable equipment fitted with a line and no more than 10 hooks.

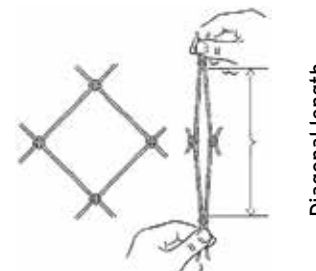
Minimum size of fish

The distance from the tip of the snout to the furthest tip of the tail fin.



Size of mesh

The sizes of mesh for nets etc. stated in the regulations refer to taut mesh (diagonal length).



Closed areas

Areas where fishing is prohibited are located at the mouths of the watercourses listed below. All fishing is prohibited within a radius of 500 metres of river mouths between 15 Sept. and 31 Dec.

Prohibition against fishing applies to the rivers:

Valdemarsvik

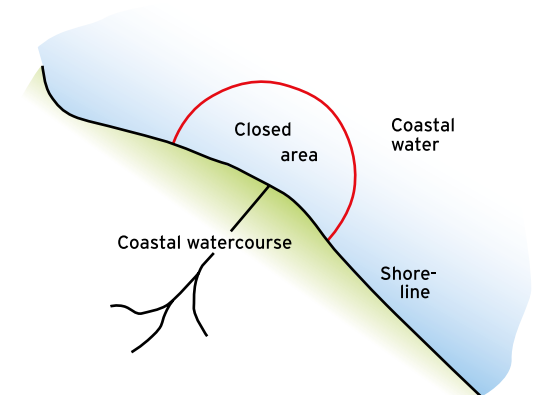
Vindån
Vammarsmålaån
Fredriksnäsbacken

Norrköping

Pjältån
Torshagsån
Getåbacken
Svintunaån (Krokeksån)
Kolmårdsbacken
Kvarsebobacken
Djupviksbäcken

Söderköping

Söderköpingsån
Passdalsån
Börrumsån



In Bråviken Bay west of 16° 26' 31" E longitude, fishing with nets and herring drift-nets with a mesh size of less than 70 mm is prohibited between 1 May to 15 June in order to protect young zander.

There is a prohibition against fishing for salmon and salmon trout in the bay of Gropviken in Söderköping Municipality between 15 Sept. and 31 Dec. to the west of a straight line between the southwestern point of Kilisets in position 58° 20' 16" N & 16° 40' 89" E, and a point on the southern shore of Gropviken in position 58° 19' 95" N & 16° 40' 60" E.

It is prohibited to fish in Stjärnö Nature Reserve, and it is prohibited to fish in Licknevarpefjärden in Kvädöfjärden Nature Reserve. Both of these areas are in Valdemarsvik Municipality next to Valdemarsvikens Bay.



Fishing equipment restrictions for recreational fishing in public waters

The following items of portable equipment are permitted for recreational fishing in public waters. The number of items of equipment applies per person actively engaging in fishing.

- Handheld equipment
- Bag nets
- A maximum of six nets with a combined length of no more than 180 metres
- A maximum of six long fishing lines with a maximum of 100 hooks per line
- A maximum of six hoop nets, traps or similar equipment with escape openings



Minimum size, catch limitations and protected species

Pike. In the case of fishing with handheld equipment, no more than three pike per fisherman and per 24-hour period may be kept, and these must measure 40-75 cm.

Fishing for eel is prohibited. Some Commercial fishermen may have an exception.

	Minimum size (maximum size)	
Pike	40 cm (75 cm)	Cod 38 cm
Salmon trout	50 cm	European flounder 21 cm
Salmon	60 cm	Plaice 25 cm
Zander	40 cm	Turbot 30 cm

Fish subject to minimum size requirements may not be brought on land cut. In the case of fishing with handheld equipment, the minimum size requirements apply only to pike, zander, salmon trout, salmon and cod.

Fish below the minimum size must immediately be thrown back, regardless of whether they are alive or dead.

Legislation specifies a number of species that are protected throughout the year and for which fishing is prohibited. Some protected species may occur in Östergötland, such as wels catfish and lamprey.

When fishing for the species indicated below, the size of the mesh (diagonal length) for the equipment indicated must be at least the following sizes:

	Equipment	Net size
Salmon/Salmon trout	Anchored floating nets	157 mm
Cod	Net	110 mm
European flounder	Net	110 mm
Plaice	Net	110 mm
Herring/Sprat	Net	32 mm



Privately owned and public waters

The Swedish Public Water Areas (Boundaries) Act states the rules on what is deemed privately owned and public waters.

Put simply, the legislation means that in general all waters in the Östergötland archipelago are privately owned

and belong to the property owners (see map). Public waters generally start 300 metres outside the outer islands and skerries.

Note that the boundary marked on the map is not legally binding.



Prohibited fishing equipment and methods

Fishing is prohibited using gaffs on long shafts, explosives, sedatives or poisons, electric current or firearms (including harpoon guns and spiked equipment such as eel- and fish-spears). However, it is permitted to use a gaff to land a fish already on a hook.

Sale of fish

Selling one's catch is only permitted for those with a commercial fishing license. When fishing for recreational purposes we only take home fish for own consumption.



Identification and marking of fishing equipment

All fishing equipment left outside unattended must be marked and identified according to the regulations issued by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SWAM). The marking should state name and telephone number or the name and address of the person using the equipment. A recreational fisherman must also mark the equipment with the capital letter F. If fishing is carried out on the basis of a private right, the marking should be the capital letters ER. Depending on the length of the equipment and whether it is in the water, everything should be marked and identified, from small net floats to buoys, which sometimes have radar reflectors. A commercial fisherman must mark the equipment with license number or district designation.



Fish passage

In watercourses and sounds where fish migrate, the deepest waters contain what is known as a fish passage. The fish passage accounts for one-sixth of the width of the water at the most frequent water level. In cases where watercourses with a fish passage flow into the sea or to or from a lake or large watercourse, the fish passage shall be deemed to continue for 300 metres out to the deepest water. Fish passages must be free of fishing equipment that can prevent the movement of the fish. This is an old rule which came about in part to ensure that fish were able to reach their spawning ground.

Illustrations: Tommy Gustavsson

