

# Ethical guidelines for fishing in Lake Saimaa

Updated 3.4.2024 by Riitta Viialainen / Nestorinranta

## Fishing permits

- Before heading out to fish, purchase the mandatory national fisheries management fee from the [Eräluvat.fi webshop](https://eräluvat.fi).
- If you are trolling with more than 1 rod, you also need a local trolling permit. Inquire from your cottage host or local tourist information.

## Do not approach within 100 meters of cottages

- When you see a cottage, stay away, as Finns value their privacy. Also, keep away from others' fishing traps.

## The endangered Saimaa ringed seal inhabits the area

- Do not use long lines or hooks with bait – the seal might swallow the bait along with the hook.
- Fish traps must have a throat guard to prevent seals from entering.
- From 15.4. to 30.6., only small fish may be caught with nets, with a maximum net thickness of 0.17 mm.

## Trout

- Trout with an adipose fin are entirely protected.
- You are allowed to fish only for trout with the adipose fin removed.

## Salmon

- Salmon with an adipose fin are entirely protected.
- Salmon with the adipose fin removed are protected from 1.6. to 31.8.
- From 1.9. to 31.5., you may catch one salmon with the adipose fin removed per day, others must be released.

## Saimaa char

- Entirely protected south of Puumalansalmi.

## Grayling

- Protected from 1.4. to 31.5.

## Fish size limits

- Salmon, adipose fin removed, 60 cm
- Trout, adipose fin removed, 50 cm
- Pike-perch, 42 cm
- Grayling, 35 cm

## Only take the fish you intend to eat

- Release other fish back into the water.
- Especially let large pikes continue breeding.
- Immediately slaughter the fish you intend to eat: bleed them to preserve the quality of the fish.

## Do not harm the fish you release

- Do not dangle the fish on the hook.
- Remove the hook in the water, next to the boat, using long-nosed pliers.
- If you want to weigh the fish, put it in a plastic bag and weigh it there.

## Compost fish guts

- Do not throw fish guts into the cottage shore, but take them to the compost bin, mix and add dry material if needed (follow the instructions of the cottage rental).