

# Rules for fishing for anadromous salmon in the Vefsn River Basin for the years 2021 to 2026

**Revised 10.03.2021**

The following fishing rules have been adopted by *Vefsnassdragets Fiskeforvaltning SA* (Vefsn Waterways Fishing Management Company), or VeFi:

## **§1 Fishing times and species:**

Fishing for salmon and sea trout is permitted in the period from June 15 to August 31. All fishing, both salmon and sea trout, will be closed when the total quota for salmon (1,000 pcs) has been reached even if the sea trout quota (800 pcs) has not been met. If the sea trout quota is reached first, fishing for sea trout is stopped but salmon fishing is allowed up until the salmon quota is reached.

## **§2 Equipment use:**

Only rod fishing is allowed. It is only permitted to use fly, lures, spins and wobblers with a maximum of one triple hook as bait. All natural bait is forbidden. Gulp and other bait with the smell, taste and consistency of natural bait is considered to be the equivalent of natural bait.

The distance between the hook stem and hook tip for triple hooks should not be any greater than 13 mms and for single hooks not more than 15 mms. It is forbidden to fish in a way that makes it likely that the fish will be hooked.

All fishermen must fish in a manner so that the fish can be released without being injured. Fishermen must use knot-free nets and pliers/hook detachers so that fish can be released without being injured. All hooks must be barbless or the barbs must be crushed flat or filed away.

## **§3 Quotas for landing, killing and releasing fish:**

**Daily quota** is five (5) landed salmon and three (3) landed sea trout. Fish are considered to be landed if the fisherman, after having tired out the fish, release the hook by hand, a pliers or by slackening the line while the

fish is in the net, is held in a tail grip or could have been handled in this way.

In the daily quota, the fisherman has the right to kill two (2) salmon and one (1) sea trout. The daily quota is absolute and applies independently of whether the fisherman buys several fishing licences which together provide the right to kill several fish. Fish of the wrong type, size or gender must be put back (see Mattilsynets/The Norwegian Food Safety Authority's guidelines for catch and release: [www.mattilsynet.no](http://www.mattilsynet.no)).

The fishing licence can determine a lower quota than the fishing regulations' daily quota for the stretch and the fishing period to which the licence applies (**licence quota**).

Every fisherman can, as a maximum, kill four (4) salmon and four (4) sea trout per season (**annual quota**). All the quotas (daily quota, licence quota and annual quota) apply to the individual fisherman and may not be transferred to others. When a fish is landed, the fisherman will report a catch by midnight on the same day. This also applies if the fish is released.

When the salmon quota has been reached (two killed or five released per day and a maximum of four killed per year) all fishing will cease immediately, regardless of whether the fisherman has some unused quota for sea trout.

#### **§4 Maximum size, minimum size and releasing:**

All female salmon over 65 cm (approx. 3 kg), all sea trout over 65 cm (approx. 3 kg) and all char should be set out alive. If you are unsure if the fish meets this criteria, the fish should be set out alive.

VeFi encourages that you release salmon over 100 cm (approx. 10 kg). The minimum size for salmon, sea trout and sea char in the Vefsna River Basin is 45 cm.

If there is any doubt that a salmon will survive release, the fish must be killed. If it is a fish that the fisherman has the right to kill in relation to the fisherman's quota, the fish is reported on the quota in the usual way. If the fish that must be killed is a type, size or gender which means that the fisherman does not have a quota for it being killed, the incident must be reported immediately with a comment about the fact that the fish could not be released. The fish is accounted for as part of the quota for landed fish but is not accounted for in the quota for killed fish (annual quota)

when it is documented and submitted. The fisherman is not allowed to keep fish that must be killed outside the quota, but is obliged to deliver it to one of the depots:

<b>Place</b>	<b>Depot</b>	<b>Tel.</b>	<b>Time</b>
Mosjøen	Fru Haugans Hotel, reception	75 11 41 00	7 am – 10 pm
Laksfors	Inger Laksfors	41 54 40 93	9 am – 9 pm
Hattfjelldal	The nursing home kitchen	75 18 48 57 75 18 48 61	Working hours Evening hours

It is a serious breach of the fishing rules if the inspectorate finds a fisherman with a dead fish outside of the quota which has not been reported.

Pink salmon, rainbow trout and farmed salmon which are killed are not accounted for in the quota.

### **§5 Special rules for the Svenningdalselva and Austervefsna rivers**

At Trofors, the Vefsna splits into two river courses, the Svenningdalselva and Austervefsna rivers. It is only permitted to kill small salmon under 65 cm and sea trout on these stretches. All anadromous fishing above Storforsen in Svenningdalselva and above Mikkeljordforsen in Austervefsna shall be catch and release.

### **§6 Fishing licences and reporting of catches:**

All fishermen will take out personal fishing licences or reporting licences for the relevant zone and have it with them when fishing. This also applies to the owners of fishing rights' personal fishing and for fishermen who rent out private fishing rights. All fishermen must report their catches, also fish that had been released, through [www.inatur.no](http://www.inatur.no) by midnight (24.00) on the same day. All catch information will be published publicly. Fishing without a catch will also be reported by midnight on the same day on which the fishing finishes, but without a catch declaration. Tests of scales must always be taken and submitted for all salmon killed.

Subletting of fishing rights is permitted as long as this is done within the frameworks of the regulations about the subletting of fishing rights <https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/1993-06-25-570>

### **§7 Regulation of fishing with fishing stairs and bridges:**

All fishing from bridges is forbidden. It is also forbidden to fish within preservation zones marked with red marks at fish stairs in the waterway. Where there are no preservation zones, the Salmon and Inland Fisheries Act's general ban on fishing downstream and upstream of fish stairs applies.

### **§8 Disinfection of fishing equipment:**

All fishermen must have with them a disinfection certification from VeFi when they are fishing. These are available at VeFi's disinfection stations in Mosjøen, at Trofors and in Hattfjelldal, as well as those from rightsowners who have their own disinfection at the location. All fishing equipment, nets, waders, wader trousers, boats and so on which are used in other waterways in the current season, must be disinfected before use in Vefsna.

### **§9 Extraordinary measures:**

Preservation or changing of the fishing regulations may be implemented with immediate effect at any time of the season if conditions dictate it.

### **§10 Rules of order:**

Do not walk over cultivated fields, close all gates, and do not park on private farms or in driveways into farms. If there are several fishermen on the same stretch, movable fishing will be practised where possible: a cast, a step, a new cast out, a new step etc. Newly arrived fishermen go out beyond previously arrived fishermen on the stretch. At places where it is not possible to fish in a movable manner, each fisherman will fish for a maximum of 20 minutes at the spot before new fishermen are allowed to start fishing.

## **§11 Fishing fee:**

All fishermen above 18 years old must pay [the state fishing fee](#) for fishing for salmon, sea trout and sea char. A valid receipt for the paid fee must be brought along when fishing.

## **§12 Penalty regulations:**

Breach of the rules is a criminal offence that can lead to being reported to the police, cf. the Salmon and Inland Fisheries Act. Alternatively, breach of the regulations will be legally enforced privately by *Vefsnavassdragets Fiskeforvaltning SA*, cf. fisherman's acceptance of fishing regulations with the purchase of a fishing licence. In the case of private legal enforcement, breach of fishing regulations may incur a violation fee of up to NOK 6,000, dependent on the seriousness of the violation.

Fishermen reported to the police for breach of fishing regulations, are refused access to fishing in Vefsna for the rest of the season and the following season. Fishermen, who are fined on a private legal basis, do not have the right to resume fishing in Vefsna before the imposed fine has been paid.

Owners/licence sellers and anybody who has taken out a fishing licence, may ask fishermen to document that they have taken out a fishing licence for the stretch and that the catch has been reported, as well as notifying the inspectorate regarding possible breaches of the fishing regulations.