

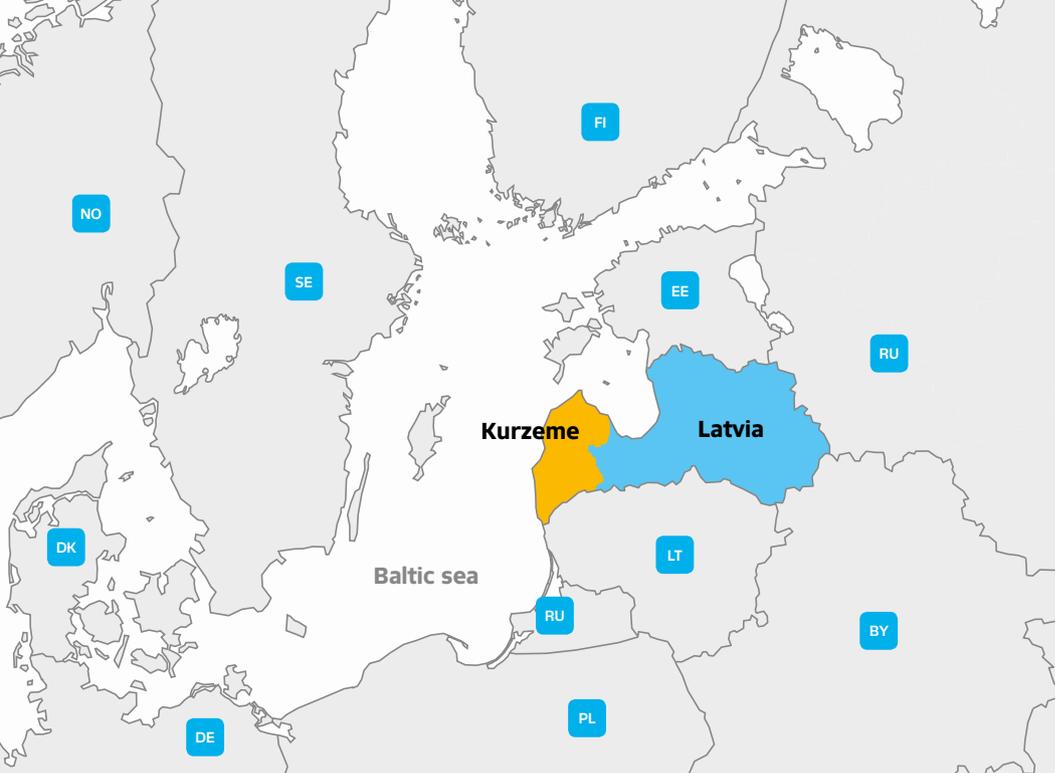
EN

Go fishing in **Kurzeme!**

Latvia



www.balticseafishing.com



Go fishing in Kurzeme!

Kurzeme has a 370 km long coastline and boasts more than 200 rivers and lakes – the only thing left is to decide where you want to cast your fishing rod. Our diverse nature means that you can enjoy unhurried leisure time with your family on a river or lake or engage in more adventurous endeavors and fulfill your dream of making the big catch! But if you're not a frequent visitor of Kurzeme and don't know where to look for the best fishing spots, feel free to use the services of a fishing guide. Their knowledge, experience and eagerness to share the joy of fishing will make your holidays in Kurzeme nothing short of unforgettable! **May you keep a tight line!**



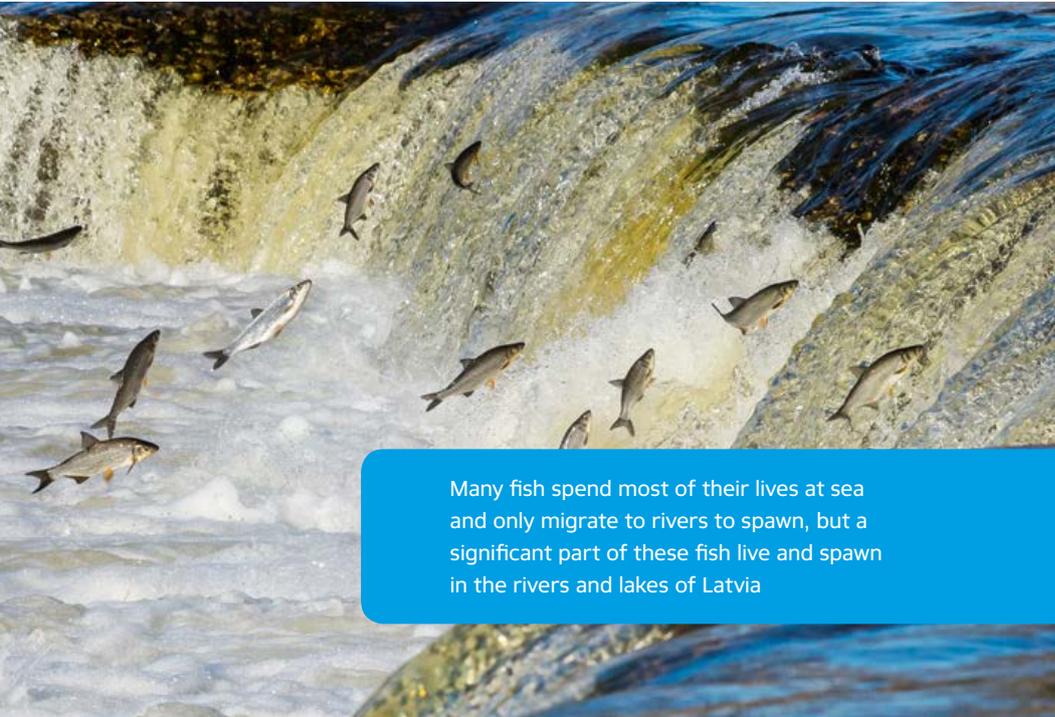
Fishing in Kurzeme is a true adventure!



www.makskeresanaskarte.lv | www.manacope.lv

TOP 10 Fish

There are numerous species of fish in Latvian waters, and none of them are poisonous or dangerous. The most popular ones include – pikes, zanders, trouts, carps, tenches, perch, vimbas, roaches, breams, flounders and smelts. However, it is every fisherman's pride to catch a salmon or a sea trout.



Many fish spend most of their lives at sea and only migrate to rivers to spawn, but a significant part of these fish live and spawn in the rivers and lakes of Latvia

Migrating fish. The Baltic salmon population is considered a geographically isolated one, as their migration outside the Baltic Sea has not been observed. The fish arrive in lakes to spawn in the autumn months of October and November when water temperature drops to nearly 0 °C. You will find most of the salmon spawning in the Venta and its river basins.

Migrating fish. Just like the salmon, sea trout migrate to rivers in October and November to spawn. Sea trouts spend the first one-and-a-half years of their life in the river and then head for the sea where they rapidly gain strength and weight by consuming smaller fish and crustaceans.

In Latvia, salmon and brown trout are bred artificially by releasing the juvenile fish from hatcheries into rivers. You can distinguish these fish by their cut-off adipose fins.

Salmon

Salmo salar



Latvia record: 16.00 kg
2005, Venta River

Sea trout

Salmo trutta



Latvia record: 6.00 kg
1995, Salaca River

River trout

Salmo trutta

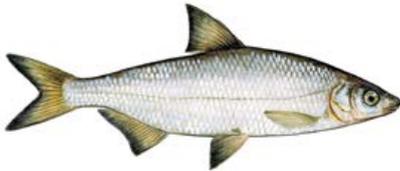


Latvia record: 3.875 kg
2000, Pededze River

A freshwater form of the sea trout. An adult river trout is 30–50 cm long and weighs up to 3 kg. The river trout is much more colorful than the sea trout: it has a dark olive-brown back and light yellowish sides and belly. River trout has black and red spots on both sides of the lateral line, as well as the dorsal fin. River trout spawn in October–November in oxygen-rich overfalls. River trout feed on insects and larvae, frogs and tadpoles, as well as small fish.

Vimba

Vimba vimba



Latvia record: 1.45 kg
1989, Venta River

Migrating fish. They live at sea but migrate to rivers to spawn. Vimbas spawn in the spring months of April and May in overfalls. They spend the first year of their lives in the river and then head for the sea, where they will grow in size for seven years until they are ready to spawn. Vimbas feed mainly on insects and their larvae, as well as mollusks.

Pikes are carnivorous freshwater fish and one of the most widespread species of fish in Latvia. Pikes usually tend to remain in one area and live alone, but in early spring, when it is their time to spawn, they form small groups. They are able to find suitable living conditions – water with a sufficient level of oxygen, good spawning areas and plenty of food for the young – in nearly any river, lake or pond. Pikes feed mainly on fish, frogs and crustaceans. Pikes are an important game fish.

Pike

Esox lucius

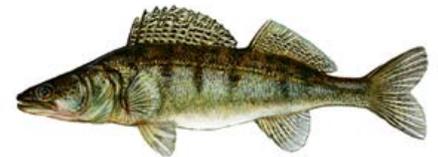


Latvia record: 19.56 kg
1989, Lake Ungurs

Freshwater or anadromous species. Zanders can be found both in the sea near the seacoast and lakes where their young have been released from hatcheries for several decades. Zanders head from the sea to spawn (in May) in freshwater. After the spawn, the female leaves the nest, while the male is left to guard the nest and the eggs. Juvenile zanders live in groups, while adult fish live mostly alone. Zanders mainly feed on fish by attacking groups of other fish.

Zander

Lucioperca sandra



Latvia record: 11.800 kg
2011, Daugava River

Perch

Perca fluviatilis



Latvia record: 2.15 kg
2003, Cepša Lake

Carnivorous freshwater species. Prefers to live in slow rivers and lakes, where they live in groups which get bigger during their spawning period (from April to June). The size of perches depends on their feed: they can reach up to 40 cm in length and weigh up to 2 kg. They feed mainly on small fish.

Smelt

Osmerus eperlanus



A freshly caught smelt smells like cucumber. Smelts are popular among ice fishers.

Freshwater or anadromous species. The smelt is the smallest species of fish closely related to salmon in Latvia. They usually live in groups and feed on small fish, crustaceans and invertebrates. Anadromous specimens live near the seacoast and head to spawning locations in freshwater during the winter (late January and February). Young fish spend the summer in rivers and migrate to the sea in autumn. Smelts mainly feed on plankton, benthos and juvenile fish. Other Latvian names for smelt (*salaka*) include *stinte*, *sniedze* and *snitka*.

Benthic species with a high tolerance for salinity. Flounders live both at the bottom of the sea and along the seacoast. The spawn takes place from March to June, further into the sea. During their developmental stage from egg to juvenile fish, flounders swim just like other fish, but upon reaching a certain size (7–10 mm) they go through metamorphosis and one of their eyes moves to the other side of the body, so now both eyes are on the same side. Flounders are active at night and feed on mussels, worms and crustaceans.

Flounder

Platichthys flesus



Latvia record: 1.690 kg
2006, Baltic Sea

Garfish

Belone belone



Marine fish that live close to the water surface. Garfish spawn in May and June near the seacoast at the depth of 10–20 m. Carnivorous species that feeds mainly on small fish, especially young Baltic pilchards, sticklebacks and European sprats, as well as crustaceans and insects.

Where to fish?

There are plenty of fishing locations in Kurzeme to choose from: the seacoast, wide slow-running rivers or fast-flowing trout rivers, scenic lakes or simple fishponds with a guaranteed catch. It should be noted that there are bodies of water in Latvia where one is allowed to fish if a special license is purchased along with a fishing card. Most often these are lakes or specific sections of rivers.



Fishermen's Farm "Dienīņas"

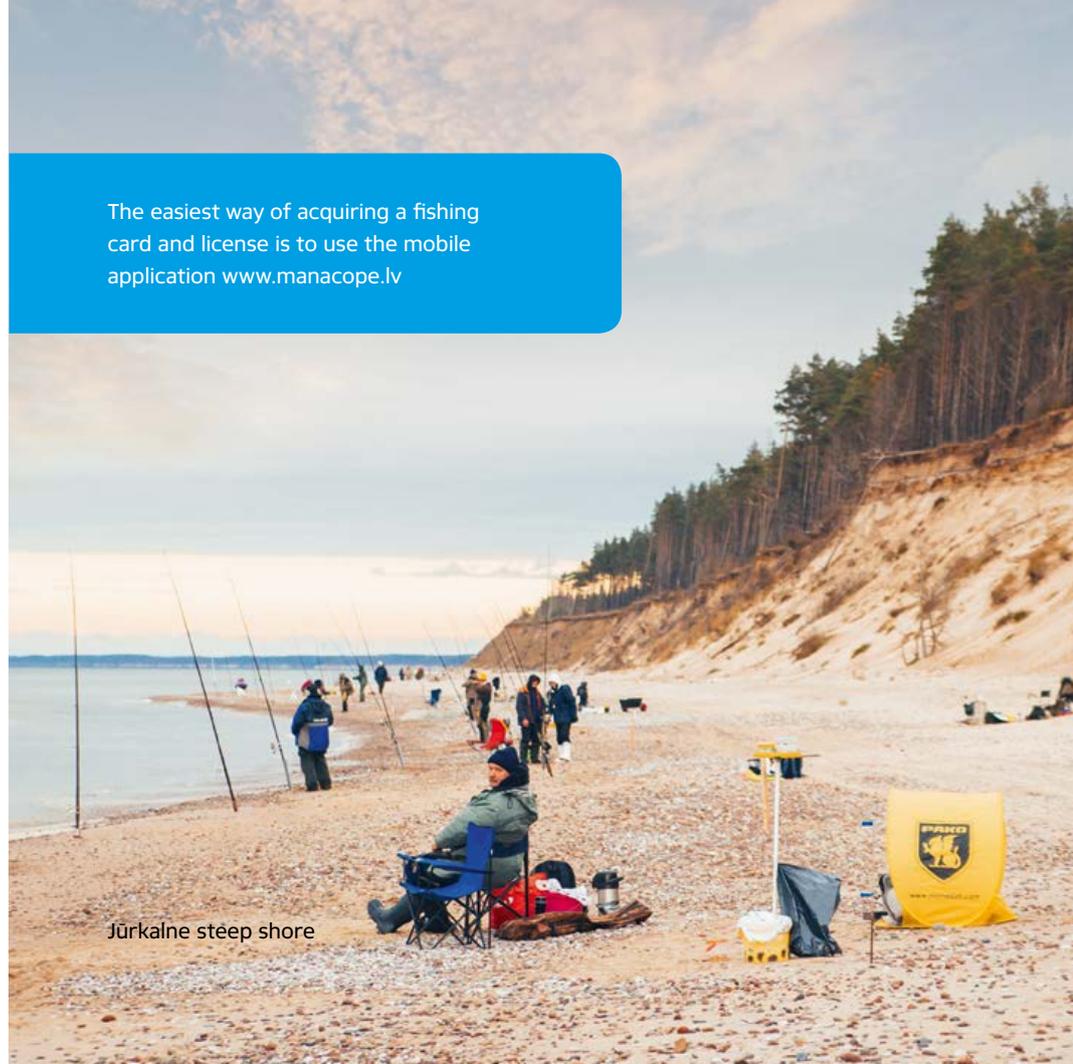
Seacoast

The coastline in Kurzeme is 370 km long. Fishing conditions on the open seacoast are harsher – higher waves, stronger wind and it is usually colder than in the Gulf of Rīga. **The most popular fishing locations are Pape, Liepāja, Pāvilosta, Jūrkalne, Mazirbe, Roja, Mērsrags.**

Populated areas near the seacoast often have good tourism infrastructure (guest houses, cafes, information centers, leisure and entertainment offers, shops, public transport); however, there are places with kilometers of untouched seacoast. In autumn and spring, you can fish in the sea for flounder and turbot, as well as fish from the boat for salmon and brown trout. In the second half of May, it is possible to catch garfish for a couple of weeks, while early summer is a great time to catch Baltic pilchard.

You are allowed to fish in the sea without a special license. All you need is a fishing card.

The easiest way of acquiring a fishing card and license is to use the mobile application www.manacope.lv



Jūrkalne steep shore



Some of the lakes in Kurzeme are licensed lakes where you are required to purchase a special license in addition to a fishing card

Lakes in Kurzeme

Kurzeme has different lakes – the **lakes Pape, Liepāja and Engure** are lagoons that in ancient past were part of the Baltic Sea but became separated by dunes and now serve as habitats for different species of fish. These lakes are wide, but also shallow and tend

to become overgrown. Perhaps that is exactly why these lakes are great for fishing. You will mainly find pikes, breams, perch and tenches here.

Usma Lake is popular among fishermen. The most adventurous anglers head for this lake as soon as the sun begins to rise. The pride of Usma Lake are eels, which can be freely caught and kept here. Since Usma Lake doesn't have the necessary connection to the sea for fish to migrate, the eel population here is not being artificially increased. You can also catch zanders, breams, perch and pikes in Usma Lake.

Tourism infrastructure near lakes is well developed – there are guest houses and boat rentals. The largest boat rental establishments also have suitable infrastructure for launching your boat.

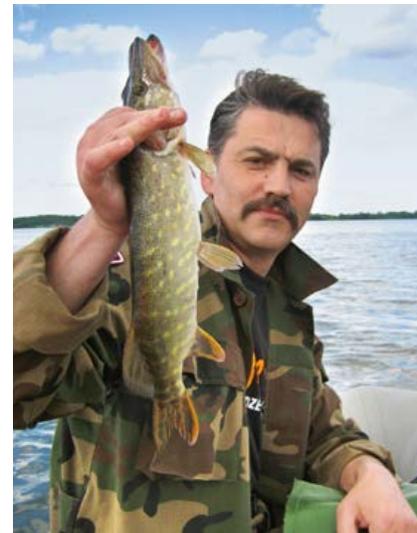


Photo on the left: Lake Kanjieris

Salmon and trout rivers

Adventurous fishermen love rivers – both wide and slow-running ones with scenic inlets and distributaries perfect for fishing, as well as those that are difficult to access, for instance, the small and fast-running trout rivers. Trout rivers in Kurzeme are **Letīza, Ciecere, Šķēde, Škervelis, Eda, Koja, Rīva, Rinda, Irbe, upstream of Užava River** and others.

However, it is up to each fisherman to find the best spot in a river to cast the line. If you wish to experience the charm of trout fishing, we advise to use the services of a fishing guide. This way, you will make the big catch in no time, and the guide will give you numerous tips to use in your future adventures.

Venta is a great destination for those wishing to catch salmon or river trout. It is also an excellent river for younger anglers to make their first steps in learning about the way of life of fish.

You can experience an unforgettable sight in Kuldīga near the Venta Rapid when vimbas (in spring – late April), and salmon and sea trouts (in October) head upstream to their spawning locations.



A fishing guide – your key to success!

In order to outsmart a fish, you must know a couple of things. Unless you were born a fisherman, the presence of a knowing fishing guide will make your first steps in fishing a thrilling and fruitful adventure. There are several fishing guides in Kurzeme and each of them boasts knowledge of different species of fish – their habits, location, favorite food and daily routine. The fishing guide can introduce you to the charm of fly fishing, take you pike fishing in the early morning hours or head to the sea to catch flounder.

You can get acquainted with the best fishing guides on the website www.balticseafishing.com



Local fish for gourmets



Kurzeme is rich with bodies of water – it is surrounded by the sea on two sides and has lakes and rivers within that are rich with fish, meaning that fish have always been a crucial part of the diets of its inhabitants. Already since ancient times, local fishermen and anglers have known how to prepare delicious fish – both for instant consumption, as well as preserving them for a time when the sea is not as giving.

Both large cities and small villages in Kurzeme take pride in their cafes and restaurants, and part of them use only fresh local produce – vegetables, fruit, dairy, meat and fish come from local farms, hatcheries or the sea. This is what makes their food so special!

Recommended cafes and restaurants

Fishermen's House

Vecā ostmala 11,
Liepāja

+371 29455881

 MakskerniekuNamins

Spiķeris

Vecā ostmala 53,
Liepāja

+371 27824464

www.spiikeris53.lv

Boroffish

Roņu iela 8, Liepāja

+371 26686854

www.boroffish.eu

Fish Tavern

"Imantas", Labrags

+371 29479335

www.imantas.lv

Tavern "Courlander"

Tirgus iela 9, Ventspils
+371 25644899

 VentspilsAlusDaritava

Cafe "Pilsbergu krogs"

Jūrkalne, Jūrkalne parish

+371 27436888

www.pilsbergi.lv

Mazsālijas

Snēpele parish

+371 22003744

www.mazsaliijas.com

Restaurant "Otra puse"

Jūras iela 6, Roja

+371 29477602

Restaurant

"Akmens stāsti"

"Akmeņi", Kaltene

+371 20347286

www.akmensstasti.lv

Cafe "Vizbuli"

Bērziems

+371 29424934

 Vizbuli

Cafe "Cope"

Ridelji Mill,

Engure parish

+371 22440094

www.rideludzirnavas.lv

Cafe "Būda"

Jūras iela 95, Engure

+371 29179184

www.kafejnicabuda.lv

Fish restaurant

"Bermudas"

"Jūrnieki", Ragaciems

+371 29999559

www.bermudas.lv

Recipes from Kurzeme

Charcoal-grilled herring

Ingredients

1 herring, 3 potatoes. Serve with: sour cream, cottage cheese, kefir.

Once a very popular dish. Easy on the budget and very nutritious! The herring can be cooked on open fire, grill or in the oven. Wrap the herring in several layers of wet newspaper and place it on the coal. Cook and turn several times until the layers of the newspaper are slightly burnt. If you don't want to use newspaper, you can substitute it with parchment paper. Additional tip – you can also make skin-on baked potatoes in the charcoal.

Pan-fried perch

This dish boasts an irresistible flavor and aroma.

Clean the perch, cut the fish along the back and deskin with all the scales. Pan-fry the perch in butter, adding salt and pepper. That's all it takes!

Eel soup à la Usma

Ingredients

Different fish you were able to catch in the morning, eels, carrots, potatoes, dill, onions, black peppercorns.

Clean the fish, put the eels aside. Place the fish in a pot along with dill, salt and pepper and onion to make stock. Peel the carrots and potatoes and cut them into cubes or any shape to your liking. Strain the stock and pour it back into the pot. Add the vegetables, pieces of eel and boil until everything is softened. Serve with your favorite herbs and sour cream.



Liepāja's little cods

Ingredients

5 boiled potatoes, 2 medium-large onions, 1 wind-dried cod, 220 ml cream, ground black pepper, dill.

Some time ago, it was a common sight in coastal villages to see cod drying in

the sun and wind, and the inhabitants of Liepāja have crowned dishes featuring dried cod as their invention.

Place layers of potato, dried cod and butter-fried onions in a clay pot and sprinkle with pepper. Add cream and bake at 180 °C for 10 minutes.



Sightseeing

Kurzeme is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Latvia, meaning it has a well-developed tourism infrastructure: there are tourist information centers in all small towns; guest houses can be found in cities and rural areas and offer excellent lodging; cafes and restaurants serve local Kurzeme dishes, as well as European cuisine.

You will come across well-kept nature hiking routes and bicycle routes. Kurzeme has an excellent music scene with concerts for all tastes of music. You will also be able to visit museums and architectural landmarks in the largest cities of Kurzeme.

Tourism information:
www.kurzeme.lv
www.latvia.travel



Useful information

Airports

Rīga: www.riga-airport.com

Liepāja: www.liepaja-airport.lv

Ferries

Travemünde (Lübeck, Germany) – Liepāja

Nynäshamn (Sweden) – Ventspils

www.stenaline.com

Stockholm – Rīga

Helsinki – Rīga

www.tallinksilja.com

International passenger buses

Lux Express: www.luxexpress.eu

Ecolines: www.ecolines.eu

Local buses and trains

Buses: www.autoosta.lv

Trains: www.pv.lv

For information, including on public transportation, use www.1188.lv

Car rental

Avis, Budget, Sixt, Hertz and other local and international car rental companies.



Weather forecast: www.meteo.lv

All three Baltic countries – Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania – are members of the EU, NATO and Schengen Zone, and use the Euro. ATMs are widely available.

Emergency: 112

Information: 1188

Important!

- Any person aged 16–65 is required to purchase a fishing card. Disabled persons are allowed to fish without a fishing card. When fishing, always carry a personal ID document.
- In licensed fishing locations pensioners may be required to purchase a license.
- The easiest way of acquiring a fishing card and license is the app ManaCope.

You are allowed to fish:

- In all public bodies of water.
- In accordance with the tow zone of 4 m (private waters), 10 m (public waters) or 20 m (seacoast).
- In licensed fishing, crayfishing and underwater hunting areas (with a card and license).

You are forbidden from fishing:

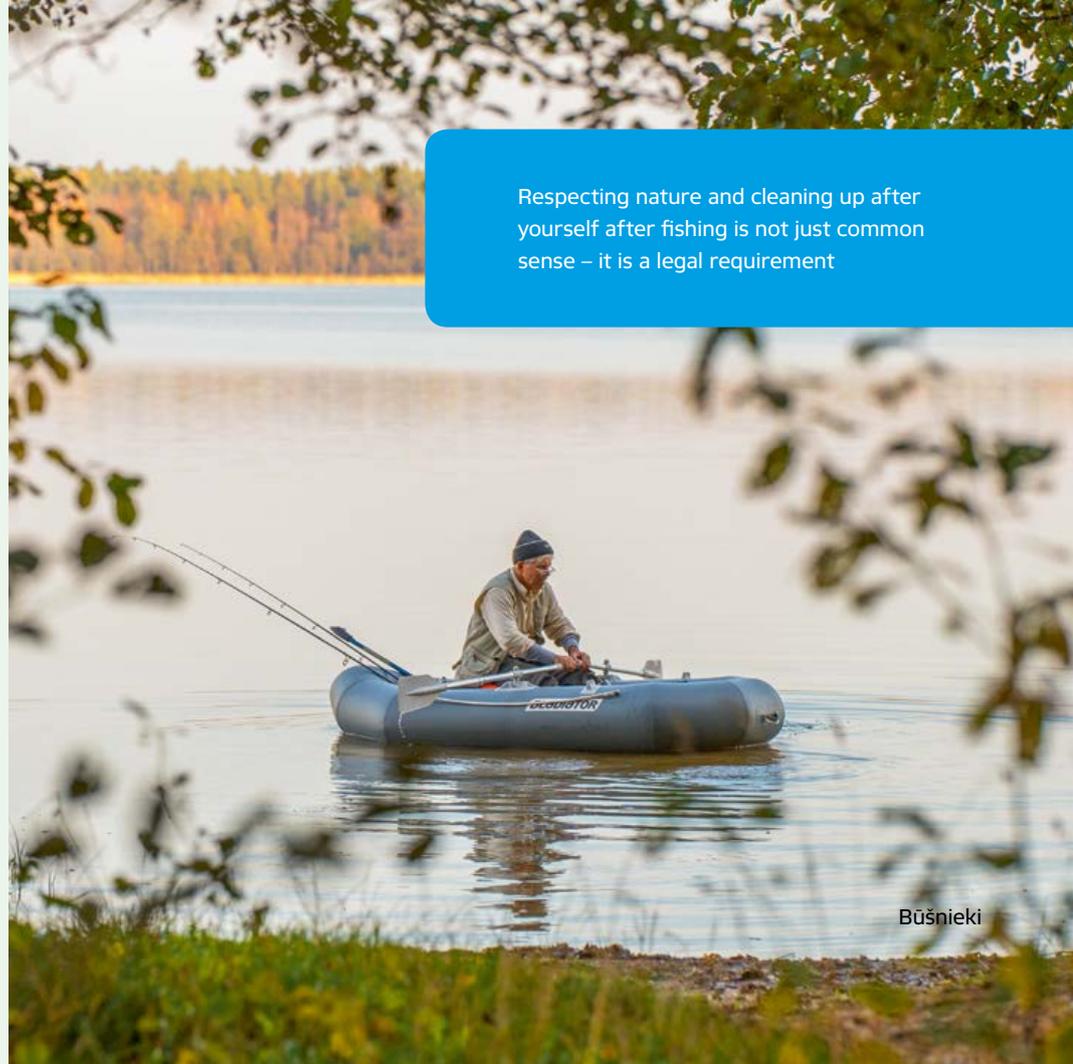
- Under and from bridges.
- Closer than 50 meters from marked commercial fishing equipment.
- From a boat on marked shipping routes.

- Closer than 100 meters downwards from weirs, sluices and waterfalls.
- Closer than 200 meters from river and channel estuaries.
- From piers – in port waters.
- At sea near the estuaries of large rivers (2,000 meters from the estuary of the Venta).

- **It is forbidden to fish from a boat from March 1 to April 30.**

Minimum required boat equipment: lifebelt, lifejacket, bucket, scoop or hand water pump, anchor with chain or line, first aid kit, waterproof flashlight, knife, oars.

- A pleasure craft license is required for motor and oar boats equipped with an engine with power exceeding 5 horsepower.
- The maximum allowed number of fishing equipment pieces and hooks for a single person: no more than two pieces of equipment in inland waters and three pieces of equipment at sea, and no more than three hooks for each piece of equipment.



Respecting nature and cleaning up after yourself after fishing is not just common sense – it is a legal requirement

Bušnieki

Fisherman's code of ethics

1. We act as the “ambassadors of fishing”, i.e., we inform and share knowledge about fishing and its importance. When fishing, we use the appropriate equipment for each species of fish.
2. We follow unified fishing rules, because we understand that it helps maintaining order and improves fishing conditions.
3. We care for our fish; therefore, we follow the principle of “catch and release”. We do not recommend keeping more fish than you are able to eat. We respect the caught fish, regardless of our intention of releasing it or not.
4. We respect nature, preserve the surrounding environment and keep the water clean. We do not leave traces of our presence and urge others to do so as well. We always clean up litter, even if it isn't ours.
5. We avoid fishing in the same location for several days; we change our fishing location in order to minimize our impact on fish populations.
6. We respect other people in nature; therefore, we try not to disturb others with our presence.
7. We respect one another – we don't bother other fishermen. We don't fish too close to each other and we don't occupy each other's favorite fishing locations.
8. By maintaining our means of transportation in good shape, we take responsibility for our impact on the environment. We try to use newer low-emission means of transportation to reduce our impact on the environment.
9. We respect private property. We urge you not to enter private territories and disturb the peace of the owners. We stay on established roads and paths and respect the fragility of nature.
10. We care about safety. Fishing is enjoyable, but it can also be dangerous, therefore we act with caution and responsibility to protect ourselves and others. We respect our hobby and do not advocate the use of alcohol during fishing.
11. We are not indifferent towards those who violate the law or litter. We always reproach such persons and inform the appropriate authorities in case of severe violations.
12. We use radio communications responsibly and only when necessary.
13. We observe the law and report our catch.
14. We help with providing knowledge about fish populations by informing about extraordinary catches.
15. We observe this declaration and try to inform and urge other fishermen to do so as well.



Fishing restrictions and the best times for fishing

| | I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII | IX | X | XI | XII | Min. size | Bag limit |
|--------------|---|----|-----|----|---|----|-----|------|----|---|----|-----|-----------|-----------|
| Salmon | | | | | | | | | | | | | 60 cm | 1 pc |
| Sea trout | | | | | | | | | | | | | 50 cm | 1 pc |
| River trout | | | | | | | | | | | | | 35 cm | 1 pc |
| Vimba | | | | | | | | | | | | | 30 cm | 5 pcs |
| Pike | | | | | | | | | | | | | 50 cm | 5 pcs |
| Perch | | | | | | | | | | | | | 19 cm | 5 kg |
| Zander | | | | | | | | | | | | | 45 cm | 5 pcs |
| Smelt | | | | | | | | | | | | | - | 10 kg |
| Flounder | | | | | | | | | | | | | - | 10 kg |
| Turbot | | | | | | | | | | | | | 30 cm | 5 pcs |
| Carp | | | | | | | | | | | | | 25 cm | 5 pcs |
| Tench | | | | | | | | | | | | | 25 cm | 5 pcs |
| Chub | | | | | | | | | | | | | 30 cm | 5 pcs |
| Roach | | | | | | | | | | | | | - | - |
| Eel | | | | | | | | | | | | | 50 cm | 3 pcs |
| Garfish | | | | | | | | | | | | | 35 cm | 10 pcs |
| Burbot | | | | | | | | | | | | | 35 cm | 5 pcs |
| Wels Catfish | | | | | | | | | | | | | 60 cm | 3 pcs |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|
|  | Best season for fishing |  | Restricted |
|  | Appropriate season for fishing |  | Off-season for fishing |
|  | Can be caught if released | | |



Watch the video

1. Your best fishing holidays – explore Kurzeme!
2. Explore sports fishing in Kurzeme.
3. Go fishing in Kurzeme!



Kurzemes plānošanas reģions
2021

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