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## Fishing regulations

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Reception	Publication	Enforcement
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18.04.2019	RT I, 24.04.2019, 5	27.04.2019, partially 01.01.2020
28.11.2019	RT I, 03.12.2019, 4	06.12.2019
10.12.2020	RT I, 16.12.2020, 1	01.01.2021
17.12.2020	RT I, 22.12.2020, 9	01.01.2021
09.06.2022	RT I, 16.06.2022, 1	19.06.2022

The Regulation is established on the basis of Section 9(1), Section 11(5) and Section 90(2) of the Fishing Act and Section 6(1)(1) of the Economic Zone Act .

## Chapter 1 General settings

### § 1. Scope of regulation

(1) The regulation regulates fishing in inland water bodies, border water bodies, internal and territorial seas and the economic zone, and agaric fishing in the sea.

(2) The Regulation regulates fishing in the sea to the extent that it is not regulated by European Union legislation.

<sup>1</sup>  
(2) ) In the case provided for in the regulation, the regulation regulates fishing in a water area outside the jurisdiction of the Republic of Estonia, if the fishing is carried out by a vessel with an Estonian flag document or if the fish is caught by a company registered in the commercial register of the Republic of Estonia in the case provided for in the Fishing Act, to the extent that the legislation of the country where the fishing ground is located or the international agreement regulating fishing in the fishing ground or the European The Union legislation does not provide otherwise.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(3) In protected areas, fish are caught in accordance with this regulation and the protection rules in force in the specific protected area.

(4) In border water bodies, fish is caught taking into account the restrictions established on the basis of § 8 (3) of the State Border Act.

### § 2. Definitions within the meaning of this regulation

(1) Grunttrops - a weight attached to separate ends to protect the lower back of the trap.

(2) In the territory of Estonia, the border between Lake Peipsi and Lake Lämmijärvi – the connecting line between points 58°21.902'N, 27°26.326'E and 58°21.176'N, 27°31.540'E, which extends to the control line between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation, and Lake Lämmijärvi and the border between Lake Pihkva - the connecting line between the points 58°04.653'N, 27°36.454'E and 58°05.240'N, 27°37.110'E, which extends to the control line between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation.

(3) On the territory of Estonia, the border between the Narva Reservoir and the Narva River - the connecting line between the points 58°16.653'N, 27°59.792'E and 58°16.601'N, 27°59.870'E, which extends to the control line between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation, and The border between the Narva River and Lake Peipsi - the connecting line between the points 58°59.355'N, 27°43.750'E and 58°59.260'N, 27°43.833'E, which extends to the control line between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation.

(4) Flea hook - a single-pronged hook with a weight attached to the shank.

(5) Lure - a lure with up to three three-pronged hooks attached to the fishing line from the first or back third of the lure.

(6) Medium fish - unprocessed fish, the length of which, when measured, matches or exceeds the minimum size of the same species given in Appendix 3.

(7) The place where the Narva River flows into the Gulf of Finland - the connecting line between the points 59°28.206'N, 28°2.512'E and 59°28.223'N, 28°2.611'E, which extends to the control line between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation, on the part remaining in the territory of the Republic of Estonia in the Narva river.

(8) Rocker - a tool made of elastic material placed on the end of a fishing rod to detect the catch of fish.

- (9) Bait – a food item attached to a fishing hook or its imitation, i.e. artificial bait.
- (10) Transverse or horizontal or balancing lure - a lure equipped with up to three three-pronged hooks, which is attached to the fishing line from the center of the longer side of the lure.
- (11) Rakis - a tool for using dead fish as bait instead of lures in spinning fishing.
- (12) Reel or Reel - A device for winding fishing line.
- (13) Standing trap - fishing line specified in § 4 subsection 2 point 10 attached to the bottom of a body of water and hook and trap set specified in § 6 and 7.
- (14) Lure - a lure with a hook point distance of up to 15 mm from the hook leg and a distance between the prongs of no more than 30 mm.
- (15) Dredging - purposeful action to hook a fish in a place other than the mouth.
- (16) On the watercourses of the mouth or lake, on which piers extending the watercourse have been built - a straight line connecting the ends of the pier on the sea side or any water body. The data of the Estonian nature information system must be used when determining the mouths or tributaries of watercourses without piers.
- [ RT I, 16.06.2022, 1 - enters into force. 19.06.2022]

## **Chapter 2**

### **List and description of fishing gear**

#### **§ 3. Permitted fishing gear**

Permitted fishing gear is divided into long lines, underwater fishing gear, gill nets, trap nets, strainer nets and trawl nets.

#### **§ 4. Fishing traps**

- (1) Fishing gear is a fishing tool, the principle of use of which is to lure fish with bait attached to a fishing hook or other bait, which catches the fish when it is caught.
- (2) Permitted fishing traps are:
- 1) a simple hand fishing line, which consists of a rod, a fishing line up to 1.5 rods long and a single-pronged hook, and may be equipped with a weight and a float;
  - 2) a hand fishing rod, which consists of a rod, float or hook, fishing line and up to three single-pronged hooks or flea hooks and may be equipped with rod rings, a weight and a reel or reel;
  - 3) spinning, which consists of a rod with rings, a reel, a fishing line and a lure or a jig and can be equipped with an intermediate rope, an additional weight or an additional hook;
  - 4) the liquid is in the fishing trap specified in point 3, the lure or jig of which is towed behind the boat;
- [ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]
- 5) a jig consisting of a short rod, a reel or reel, a fishing line and a hook and may be equipped with an intermediate rope and up to two fishing hooks;
  - 6) a fly fishing rod, which consists of a rod, a reel, a line and up to three hooks, and with which artificial bait is used in fishing;
  - 7) a herring line, which consists of a fishing rod, a fishing line, a weight and up to ten single-pronged fishing hooks attached to the line, the distance between the point and the shank of which is not greater than 5 mm;
  - 8) a bottom fishing line (tonka, krunda), which consists of a fishing line, a weight and up to three single-pronged hooks attached with ties and may be equipped with a rod and a reel or a reel;
  - 9) a lure consisting of a fishing line, one to three-pronged hook and a float or a frame or fork or other device on which the fishing line is wound and may be equipped with an intermediate line and an additional weight;
  - 10) the fishing line is a fishing trap with up to 100 fishing hooks, which consists of a main fishing line of variable length, to which branch lines (ties) with fishing hooks are attached, the distance between which is determined by target species. The main fishing line is attached horizontally to or near the bottom of the body of water, or vertically or allowed to drift on the surface of the water.
- [ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

#### **§ 5. Underwater fishing gear**

- (1) Underwater fishing gear is a tool used to catch fish while underwater.
- (2) Allowed underwater fishing gear are:
- 1) harpoon gun – a mechanical or pneumatic device for harpooning fish;
  - 2) harpoon – up to five-pronged piercing instrument with or without spears, which is fired from a harpoon gun or inserted into a fish.

#### **§ 6. Snap traps**

- (1) A gillnet is a fishing tool, the principle of use of which consists in entangling a fish in a net sheet or wedge in its eye.
- (2) Allowed gill nets are:
- 1) gill net - a trap consisting of one piece of net with a length of up to 70 m, or a series of shorter nets connected to each other with a total length of up to 70 m, which is held in a vertical position in the water with floats and weights ;
  - 2) frame netting – lashing netting with horizontal and vertical pins.
- (3) The following are allowed to be used in Lake Peipsi, Lämmi and Pihkva:
- 1) shore net - for hook or professional fishing with the mesh size described in subsection 2 and provided for in point 1 of § 38, also a frame net, which is used in a water area 1 km wide from the shore in Lake Peipsi, and in Lämmi and Pihkva lakes In the water area 500 m wide from the shore in Lake Pskov, taking into account the difference provided in clauses 3 and 4 of § 44 subsection 4;
- [ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]
- 2) open water net - with the mesh size described in subsection 2 and provided in clause 2 of § 38, taking into account the distinction provided in clause 4 of § 44, gillnet or frame net, which is used more than 1 km from the shore in Lake Peipsi and from the shore in

Lake Lämmi and Pihkva further than 500 m.

[ RT I, 28.12.2016, 2- by force. 01.01.2017]

## § 7. Traps

(1) A trap is a fishing tool, the principle of use of which is to direct and mislead the fish into the trap or into a part of it, from which it is difficult to get out.

(2) Permitted snares are:

1) snares - snares consisting of a guide fence, if necessary, a wing or wings that form a guard fence, and up to two trap bodies closed at the ends equipped with one or more branches. At sea, there is no limit to the number of stockades, but they must be located in a row at one end of the control fence with trap bodies, which can be open from the top up to the first tree on the side of the trap mouth. There is no limit to the number of trap bodies, cattle fences and control fences at Vörtsjärvi. The subspecies of the trap are set out in paragraph 3 and some of them are shown in the figure in Appendix 1;

[ RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - enters into force. 27.04.2019]

2) box trap - a trap that consists of a guide fence, up to two cariaia, one or more trees and one or two open-top boxes, i.e. after. The permissible length of the box trap control fence is up to 600 m;

3) caddiska - unbaited, up to 1.4 m bottom diameter and up to 0.6 m high trap. The trap can be anchored and equipped with a guide fence up to 1 m long. The types of kadiska are shown in the figure in Appendix 2;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

4) loop cone - a conical trap with a mouth diameter of up to 30 cm without a guide fence and wings;

5) loop trap - a trap without a guide fence and wings, the mouth of which is up to 0.5 m high and up to 1 m wide, and the diameter of the wood is up to 5 cm;

6) crayfish trap - a trap without guide fence and wings, the maximum permissible length of which is 1 m, the maximum permissible width is 50 cm and the maximum permissible height is 50 cm;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

7) a trap without a guide fence - a trap with one or more spikes in the body of the trap and with or without wings, which does not have a guide fence. The wings of the snare, measured from the point of connection with the body, may not be longer than the body of the snare.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(3) The permitted subtypes of trap are:

1) open water trap – trap whose height of the fence and mouth is over 3 m;

2) edge trap - trap, the height of the fence and mouth of which is up to 3 m;

3) row trap - a trap without wings, with up to two bodies, up to 0.5 m high in all parts, the bodies of which are placed at either end of one control fence;

4) [invalid - RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entry into force. 01.01.2021] 5) river weir - weir, the length of which can be up to 50 m; [ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021] 6)

trap in a chain of traps - a trap which, when fishing, is placed in a chain connected to the same direction guide fences. When placed in series, the traps can be located on one or both sides of the guide fence, and additional guide fences can be used to connect them to the guide fence;

7) ink crack - a crack with a mesh size of up to 10 mm.

[ RT I, 08.05.2018, 1 - enters into force. 11.05.2018]

## § 8. Strain traps

(1) A strainer is a fishing tool, the principle of use of which is to surround a part of the water body and catch fish from it by retracting the trap or moving the fishing tool vertically.

(2) Allowed strainer traps are:

1) bottom seine or mutnik - consists of tow ropes of equal length, wings and after, and its tow ropes act as a fish trap or scarecrow;

2) towing dinghy - consists of towing ropes, wings, body and after, and which, when towed together, drains through the entire water layer in a limited area, and the subspecies of which are provided in paragraph 3;

3) sand - consists of a rigid frame without joints and a mesh bag attached to it;

4) shed - consists of a rigid hinged frame and a net sheet attached to it;

5) lifting net - a lifting trap placed horizontally in the water, which consists of a frame and a mesh bag attached to it, and is without a stem or rod. The diameter of the frame or the length of each side must be at least 1 meter;

6) fishing net - a net with a mesh size of over 80 mm and a length of up to 120 m, anchored at one end and towed at the other end;

7) crayfish net - baitable, lifting trap placed at the bottom of a body of water with a diameter of up to 50 cm, can be equipped with a rod.

(3) Permitted subspecies of towing seine:

1) shore seine – towing seine, with a total wing length of up to 50 m, with which the animal is transported to the shore;

2) turning note or turning note - towing note with which the creature is transported to a floating device or ice.

## § 9. Trawl traps

(1) A trawl is a fishing tool, the principle of use of which is to catch fish in a net bag towed behind one or two vessels.

(2) Permitted trawl traps are:

1) trawl described in Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019, which deals with the protection of fish resources and marine ecosystems by means of technical measures and which amends Council Regulations (EC) No. 2019/2006, (EC) No. 1224/2009 and European Parliament and Council Regulations (EU) No. 1380/2013, (EU) 2016/1139, (EU) 2018/973, (EU) 2019/472 and (EU) 2019 /1022 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No. 894/97, (EC) No. 850/98, (EC) No.

2549/2000, (EC) No. 254/2002, (EC) No. 812/2004 and (EC) No. 2187/2005 (OJ L 198, 25.7.2019, p. 105-201), in point 11 of Article 6 and the subspecies of which are provided in paragraph 3;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

2) agaric dredge - a trawl net applied to a rigid frame for agaric fishing.

(3) Subspecies of trawl are:

1) bottom trawl - trawl described in point 13 of Article 6 of Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council and which is equipped with a ground trap;

2) pelagic trawl - a trawl described in point 15 of Article 6 of Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council and which does not have a bottom trap.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

## **Chapter 3**

### **Requirements for marking and marking of fishing gear**

#### **§ 10. Requirements for marking fishing gear in the inland sea, up to four nautical miles from the baseline of the territorial sea, in internal and border waters**

(1) In the inland sea and at a distance of up to four nautical miles from the baseline of the territorial sea and in internal and border waters, stationary traps, parts of traps during placement or removal for fishing, their strings and strings of artificial fish nets must be marked with two flags attached to one pole vertically at the open water end, and one pole at the other end with the flag. In ice-free water, peaks projecting from the axis line between the flags, which extend to the surface layer of the water and may obstruct water traffic, must be marked with white, yellow, red or orange buoys or floats with a diameter of at least 15 cm. On stationary traps and their lines, which are located parallel to the beach or shore, the right end of the line (viewed from the water body towards the shore) is marked with one flag, and the left end of the line with two flags. The signs must be attached to the fishing gear,

(2) The flags marking the ends of the fishing gear, measuring at least 20 × 30 cm, must be red or orange, except for the lower flag of the sign with two flags. The height of the lower edge of the flag above the surface of the water or ice must be at least one meter. As an exception, when fishing in ice-free water up to one meter deep, the height of the lower edge of the flag above the water surface may be at least 0.5 m. According to the number of flags on the pole, in ice-free water, reflective strips of at least two centimeters wide must be attached to the upper end of the pole, above the flags, at a distance of three centimeters. If intermediate flags are used for safety, their color must be different from the color of the end flags.

(3) Loop cones and their strings must be marked at the shore end and loop traps at the mouth or stern of the trap with a red or orange flag that corresponds to what is described in paragraph 2, or a red or orange buoy with a diameter of at least 15 cm.

(4) Crayfish traps and nets must be marked with a buoy with a diameter of at least 10 cm.

#### **§ 11. Requirements for means for keeping fish in the water body after fishing**

(1) It is prohibited to:

1) store equipment intended for post-fishing storage in a body of water in an area where fishing is prohibited;

2) to keep undersized fish or fish species, the fishing of which is prohibited, in a means for post-harvest storage during a fishing ban in the water body.

(2) Equipment intended for post-catch storage must be marked with one red or orange buoy with a diameter of at least 15 cm, or with a flag in accordance with § 10 subsection 2. The equipment must be marked in accordance with § 13 subsections 2–4. Signs may be kept in the water body only together with the means in the water body.

#### **§ 12. Requirements regarding marking and marking of fishing gear more than four nautical miles from the starting line of the territorial sea**

(1) Fixed traps must be marked with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 404/2011 establishing the detailed implementing rules of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1224/2009 (establishing a Community control system to ensure compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy) (OJ L 112, 30.04.2011, pages 1-153) in accordance with Article 13(1), Articles 14-16 and Article 17(2).

(2) The producer must be labeled in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 404/2011.

#### **§ 13. Requirements regarding markings of fishing gear, their storage in the body of water and marking of fishing gear**

(1) Fishing gear tags may be kept in the water body together with the fishing gear or their parts in the water body, when the fishing gear is put in or taken out for fishing, together with the devices used to secure the fishing gear.

(2) Fishing gear must be marked identically to the marking number on the fishing permit. The marking must enable the owner of the fishing permit to be identified on the body of water or at the person issuing the permit. For recreational fishing with gill nets, gillnets, crayfish traps and fishing lines, the fishing card holder's personal code is used as marking.

(3) The marking of the fishing gear must be written on the flag marking both ends of the fishing gear or the line of fishing gear or attached to the pole at the lower edge of the flag as a separate mark.

(4) The number of the marking on the fishing permit must be written on the buoy mark described in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Section 10, and the number of cones in a row when marking loop cones.

## **Chapter 4**

### **Undersizes, bycatch conditions and methodology for determining share**

#### **§ 14. Minimum sizes of fish**

The minimum sizes for fish and the requirements for measurement are presented in Appendix 3. If the area of validity of the minimum size is not specified, the minimum size applies to all water bodies.

#### **§ 15. Determining the share of fish species in the trawl catch**

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entered into force. 01.01.2021]

(1) To take a sample of the trawl catch and determine the proportion of fish species in it, the method of random sampling and determination of the proportion of fish species is used, and the requirements according to Appendix 4 are followed.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(2) [Repealed - RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - entry into force. 27/04/2019]

(3) [Repealed - RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - entry into force. 27/04/2019]

#### **§ 16. Conditions and requirements regarding by-catch**

(1) Co-fishing is prohibited, except under the conditions stipulated in this regulation or in the legislation established on the basis of § 11 (2) of the Fishing Act, or under the conditions of special fishing.

(2) A viable specimen of a prohibited fish species and undersized fish must be released immediately after the fishing gear is requested, except in the case provided for in Clause 1 of Section 10 (4) of the Fishing Act.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(3) By-catch records are kept for fish caught on board the ship, in other means used for transporting fish, or brought ashore. When determining the amount of by-catch, fish species that are not allowed to be caught are not included in the total catch.

[ RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - enters into force. 27/04/2019]

(4) In angling and recreational fishing with fishing nets, with the exception of fishing lines, bycatch of prohibited fish species and undersized fish is prohibited, and these fish must be returned to the water immediately after the catch is released from the fishing hook.

(5) If the catch of a fish species is quantitatively limited, its co-catch is included in the fishing opportunities of that species.

(6) When fishing with strainer or trawl traps, if by-catch exceeds the limit allowed in §§ 23 and 34, fishing must be stopped at that place or with that trap.

(7) Fishing with trawl nets and strain nets is considered to be interrupted if:

1) during fishing at sea, the fishing location has been changed at least 5 nautical miles before the net is set for fishing again;

2) when fishing on Lake Peipsi, the fishing spot has been changed at least 3 kilometers before the trap is set for fishing again.

(8) The amount of non-viable fish that exceeds the permitted by-catch rate must be reported to the Environmental Board on the hotline immediately after the traps are requested, providing the following information: fisherman's name, permit number, body of water, place of landing, type of fish, quantity.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

## **Chapter 5**

### **General requirements and restrictions and general prohibition times and areas**

#### **Section 1**

#### **General requirements for the use of fishing gear and fishing methods**

#### **§ 17. Requirements for placing fishing gear for fishing**

(1) Two or more open water and marginal traps placed for fishing in the same direction may be connected by means of guide fences or additional guide fences and placed in a row of traps, taking into account the conditions set forth in § 28 clause 3, § 42 subsection 2 or § 46 subsection 2.

(2) Two or more gill nets and frame nets may be placed in a fishing line connected to each other in a net sequence.

(3) The gillnet and frame net placed in a row must not form branches, except in the sea with a net whose mesh size must be at least 130 mm.

#### **§ 18. Measuring the mesh size of fishing gear**

(1) The mesh size of the fishing gear is measured with a 2 mm thick measuring wedge made of wear-resistant material, which has a slope of 1 cm per 8 cm length on each edge and a measuring scale is applied to it.

(2) When measuring, according to Appendix 5, the measuring wedge is placed diagonally in the mesh of the material of the wet fishing gear, making sure that all the knots forming the mesh touch the measuring wedge and the net threads are pulled straight.

(3) When measuring, one must refrain from stretching the fishing gear or the mesh to be measured.

(4) 20 stitches are measured in one row along the sheet, if possible no closer than 10 stitches or 50 cm to the side seam (front, back).

(5) If there are broken or repaired eyes in the measured row, they are left unmeasured and the measurement is continued from the next healthy eye.

(6) If the sheet has eyes of different sizes, measure from the part of the sheet with the smallest eyes.

(7) If different mesh sizes have been used in the construction of the fishing gear, the smallest mesh size is measured in the part with the smaller mesh size, and the largest mesh size is measured in the part with the largest mesh size to identify the largest mesh size.

(8) The mesh size is the arithmetic mean of the measurement results.

(9) At sea, the mesh size of fishing gear, with the exception of gill nets and frame nets, is measured in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No. 517/2008, which establishes detailed implementing rules of Council Regulation (EC) No. 850/98 for determining

the mesh size and thickness of the net thread of fishing nets (OJ L 151, 11.06.2008, p. 5–25).

[ RT I, 08.05.2018, 1 - enters into force. 11.05.2018]

### **§ 19. Frequency of inspection of fishing gear**

(1) In fishing, the frequency of checking traps must prevent the death of the catch in the trap, except for the use of fishing lines and hook traps described in § 6, where the frequency of checking must prevent spoilage of the catch.

(2) At sea, gillnets must be checked at least every 48 hours, except when fishing under the ice.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

## **Section 2**

### **General restrictions on the use of fishing gear and fishing methods and general fishing prohibition times and areas**

### **§ 20. Restrictions on the use of fishing gear and fishing methods**

(1) In all water bodies, it is prohibited to:

1) close with traps, except for fishing with loop cones and fishing lines, more than 1/3 of the water volume or the width of the part of the flow between the islands (shallows) in the water body, inland water body, excluding Lake Võrtsjärv, the width of the strait or bay at sea, leaving free the deepest part of the cross-section, and on Lämmijärvi from the width of Estonian territorial waters, leaving the shipping lane free;

2) use unmarked and unmarked standing traps;

3) place standing traps, with the exception of loop cone, loop snare, crayfish pin, crayfish snare and line, closer to fishing than 50 m to standing traps that are already fishing, unless otherwise provided in this regulation;

4) attach devices to the traps that can reduce the mesh size of the collecting part of the trap to a size smaller than allowed;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

5) use a self-contained breathing apparatus and artificial lighting during underwater fishing;

6) use a harpoon without a harpoon gun during underwater fishing;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

7) use a fishing trap for dredging;

8) to place different types of fishing gear specified in the document certifying the fishing right or fishing gear specified in several documents certifying the fishing right in one row, with the exception of placing two gillnets in recreational fishing;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9- by force. 01.01.2021]

9) catch fish with professional fishing gear in water bodies where the Government of the Republic or the minister responsible for the field has not established fishing opportunities or the limit of the corresponding fishing gear;

10) [invalid - RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entry into force. 01.01.2021] 11) place standing traps closer than 150 m to piers built in the estuary, unless otherwise provided in this regulation; 12) [invalid - RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entry into force. 01.01.2021] 13) leave snares and snares in the water body during the ban on river angling; 14)

move fishing gear into the water body or relocate it before the beginning of the fishing season or the end of the ban imposed on the fishing gear;

15) leave fishing gear in the water body for the duration of the fishing ban established for the fishing gear or after the fishing opportunity or annual catch of the target species caught with the fishing gear has been exhausted, except under the circumstances and conditions stipulated in paragraphs 2-4.

[ RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - enters into force. 27/04/2019]

(2) If the ban on fishing with a trap or box trap lasts less than 40 days, fishing with said fishing gear must be interrupted in accordance with the procedure provided for in subsections 5 and 6, and the fishing gear does not have to be removed from the water.

(3) If the duration of the fishing ban is 40 days or more, fishing with traps or box traps must be interrupted in accordance with the procedure provided for in subsections 5 and 6 before the start of the fishing ban, and traps in the trap lines and box traps must be removed from the water body within ten days and other traps within seven days after the beginning of the fishing ban.

(4) In the event of suspension of fishing in the first half of the year due to the exhaustion of the part of the annual allowable catch established for the half year, the fishing must be interrupted in accordance with the procedure provided in subsections 5 and 6 without removing the gill and box gill from the water body.

(5) Fishing with a trap is considered interrupted if the body of the trap is in a horizontal position and the entire length of the last trap hook, ring or frame of the fish bag is open so that the fish can get out of the trap, or the entrance to the stockyard is closed to fish.

(6) Fishing with a box trap is considered interrupted if at least one box trap is lowered from the back walls so that the fish escapes from the trap.

(7) In recreational fishing and angling, it is prohibited for one person to catch more than 15 kg of the following fish species in one day with the fishing traps specified in clauses 1-9 of § 4 (2) and with the underwater fishing gear specified in § 5: 1) 15 kg of perch ;

2) 5 pikes;

3) 5 places;

4) 15 bream;

5) 2 salmon or 2 trout or 1 salmon and 1 trout.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(8) In recreational fishing with crayfish gear, one person is allowed to catch 75 crayfish in one day.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(9) In Pärnu Bay, north of the connecting line between Kotinina, marked by the coordinates 58°17.888'N and 24°16.719'E, and Tahkunina, marked by the coordinates 58°15.515'N and 24°29.364'E, and in inland water bodies, it is prohibited to use more than three fluids.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

## **§ 21. Fishing bans for species in all water bodies**

Fishing for sturgeon, grayling, bream and catfish is prohibited in all water bodies.

# **Chapter 6 Restrictions and requirements and prohibition times and areas in the Baltic Sea**

## **Section 1 General prohibitions and by-catch rates**

## **§ 22. Fishing bans**

(1) The provisions of point 2 of Part C of Annex VIII of Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council apply to salmon and sea trout fishing in the sea.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(2) Fishing is prohibited throughout the year:

1) in Pärnu Bay, which is limited by coordinates 58°22.829'N, 24°27.664'E; 58°21.959'N, 24°26.302'E; 58°21.282'N, 24°27.961'E and 58°22.446'N, 24°29.637'E, excluding squid fishing with traps from 1 March to 30 April and ice fishing with scotch;

2) Closer than 500 m to the mouth of the Nasva River located at coordinates 58°12.918'N, 22°23.769'E, except for fishing with simple hand line, hand line, bottom line, fly line and spinning;

3) In Vaemla Bay to the connecting line of points 58°49.241'N, 22°54.417'E and 58°49.200'N, 22°53.317'E and in Sigala Bay to points 59°01.407'N, 22°30.808'E and 59°01.515'N, 22°31.320'E to the connecting line;

4) closer than 1000 m to the mouth of the rivers and streams listed in Appendix 12, taking into account the difference provided in point 10 of paragraph 3;

5) In the small strait, to the mouths of the Tillunire stream located at the coordinates 58°34.133'N, 23°10.043'E and 58°34.205'N, 23°09.880'E, closer than 300 m with commercial fishing gear.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(3) It is prohibited to fish for a limited period:

1) It is prohibited to fish in the Pärnu Bay at coordinates 58°22.446'N, 24°29.637'E; 58°22.300'N, 24°30.300'E; 58°21.600'N, 24°29.700'E and 58°21.802'N, 24°28.710'E in the designated area from 1 January to 15 July, except for squid fishing with traps from 1 March to 30 April and ice fishing with scotch;

2) In the area of the Kihelkonna, Kuusnõmme and Atla bays bounded by the shoreline, from Elda bank 58°18.466'N, 21°49.820'E, an imaginary line passing through Vilsandi lighthouse 58°22.972'N, 21°48.764'E and Jaagarahu harbor pier 58°23.735'N, 21°58.240'E - October 10 to November 30;

3) In the area in the eastern part of Sviby Bay, which is located at Cape Upholm 58°58.401'N, 23°22.295'E, the northern tip of Hobulaiu 58°57.339'N, 23°23.055'E, the southern tip of Hobulaiu 58°55.912'N, 23°23.126'E and Sviby between the lines connecting the port (Sviby quay to the fire tank) 58°58.204'N, 23°18.751'E - from October 10 to November 30;

4) In Tagalahe east of the line Uuemõisa 58°56.965'N, 23°33.745'E–Tahuküla 58°58.047'N, 23°33.745'E - from March 15 to May 15;

5) In the inner bay of Matsalu, from the south end of Haeska harbor pier at 58°46.659'N, 23°39.601'E, from the line connecting Lambarahu 58°45.483'N, 23°39.340'E and the north end of Keemu harbor pier at 58°44.830'N, 23°40.277'E east - from March 15 to May 15;

6) In the Koolimäe bay, which is closer than 500 m to the mouth of the Koolimäe stream at 59°37.022'N, 26°0.761'E - from March 15 to May 15, except for simple hand line and hand line;

7) In the area of Ounaku Bay, which is limited to geographical points 58°49.191'N, 22°55.197'E; 58°49.191'N, 22°56.070'E; with the rectangle formed by imaginary straight lines connecting 58°48.161'N, 22°56.070'E and 58°48.161'N, 22°55.197'E; In Soonlepa Bay, areas limited to geographical points 58°50.214'N, 22°59.188'E; 58°50.214'N, 22°59.426'E; With the rectangle formed by imaginary straight lines connecting 58°50.065'N, 22°59.426'E and 58°50.065'N, 22°59.188'E and bounded by geographical points 58°49.471'N, 23°1.955'E; 58°49.471'N, 23°2.249'E; With the rectangle formed by imaginary straight lines connecting 58°49.249'N, 23°2.249'E and 58°49.249'N, 23°1.955'E - from October 10 to 30. until November;

8) closer than 500 m to the mouth of rivers and streams listed in Appendix 7 - from August 15 to November 30;

9) closer than 500 m to the mouth of watercourses listed in Appendix 8, except with simple hand line and hand line - from March 1 to May 31;

10) closer than 1500 m to the mouth of rivers and streams listed in Appendix 12 - from September 1 to October 31;

11) closer than 500 m to the straits or outflows listed in Appendix 14 - from March 1 to May 31, except with simple hand line and hand line;

12) In Hara Bay, south of the connecting line between points 59°5.593'N, 23°31.291'E and 59°5.680'N, 23°32.526'E - from March 1 to May 31, except for simple hand line and hand line;

13) In the Gulf of Livonia to Laidevahe Bay (VEE3415000) to the strait connecting to the Gulf of Livonia, which is determined by coordinates 58°18.105'N, 22°52.083'E, closer than 500 m - from March 1 to May 31, except for simple hand line and hand line;

14) in sub-division 32 (Gulf of Finland) shown on the ICES map presented in Appendix 6 in water less than 3 meters deep with a gillnet or a frame net with a mesh size smaller than 110 mm - from December 1 to March 31.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(4) It is prohibited to catch the following fish species during the specified period:

1) pike - from March 1 to April 30;

2) whitefish around the island of Ruhnu 20 m below the same depth line - from October 25 to December 1;

3) flounder shown on the ICES map presented in Appendix 6 in subdivision 32 - from February 15 to May 31 and in subdivisions 28 and 29 - from February 15 to May 15;

- 4) place - from May 15 to July 15;  
[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]  
5) eel - from November 1 to January 31.  
[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(5) The minister responsible for the field may, on the basis of subsections 2 and 3 of § 11 of the Fishing Act, temporarily determine a different time period than that stipulated in subsection 4, leaving the duration of the fishing ban the same.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

### **§ 23. Co-fishing conditions**

(1) Fish whose fishing at this time, in this place or with this trap is prohibited, or whose fishing is not prescribed by the fishing permit, by-catch is allowed according to weight as follows: 1) perch, bream, pike, pike, pike, pike, pike, pike and of the total catch of tench when fishing with whitefish or pike gillnets - up to 5%, when fishing with other fishing gear - up to 2%;

2) when fishing for herring with a box trap, other species, except in the case mentioned in paragraph 3, unlimited;

3) herring - up to 2% of the total catch of all species;

4) sea squid, sprat and herring in trawl fishing - unlimited;

5) flounder - in the amount specified in point 5.2 of Part C of Annex VIII of Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - by force. 01.01.2021]

6) place - up to 5% of the species listed in point 1 when fishing with gillnets and longlines.

(2) By-catch of undersized fish from the catch of full-sized specimens of the same fish species is allowed according to weight as follows:

1) perch, whitefish, pike, pike, tench, tench - up to 5% when fishing with traps and strainer traps or up to 8% with hook traps;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

2) place - up to 8% when fishing with gillnets, up to 2% with traps and lines;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

3) salmon and cod - unlimited when fishing with gillnets.

(3) By-catch of undersized perch or bream when fishing with a box trap is allowed up to 1% of the total catch by weight.

## **Section 2 Fishing with trawl nets**

### **§ 24. Requirements for fishing gear**

(1) When trawling in the Gulf of Livonia, the vertical opening of the trawl must not exceed 12 m, measured from the junction of the wing and the body of the trawl.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(2) [Repealed - RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entry into force. 01.01.2021]

### **§ 25. Fishing bans**

(1) Fishing is prohibited all year round:

1) with trawl traps below the 20 m depth line;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

2) with trawl traps in the Irbe Strait in the area between the Sõrve Peninsula and the border of the maritime area of the Republic of Estonia and the Republic of Latvia and is delimited by an imaginary line passing through the points with coordinates 57°58.837' N, 22°11.893' E; 57°52.072' N, 22°24.377' E; 57°46.450' N, 22°08.360' E; 57°44.580' N, 21°54.580' E; 57°45.783' N, 21°50.567' E and 57°57.947' N, 21°58.812' E;

3) bottom trawl in the Gulf of Livonia;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

4) In the Gulf of Livonia with a vessel whose engine power does not correspond to that specified in point 3.3, point b and point 3.4, point b and point 3.5, point a of Annex VIII, part C of Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

5) with an agarik dredge in years ending with an odd number outside the area delimited by the coordinates 58°42.120'N, 22°51.780'E; 58°39.480'N, 22°52.020'E; 58°39.360'N, 22°55.560'E; 58°40.320'N, 22°57.180'E; 58°42.240'N, 22°54.000'E, and in even-numbered years outside the area bounded by the coordinates 58°43.020'N, 22°57.540'E; 58°42.840'N, 23°0.360'E; 58°44.580'N, 22°59.940'E; 58°41.040'N, 22°58.440'E.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - force. 01.01.2021]

(2) Fishing is temporarily prohibited:

1) with bottom trawl in the Gulf of Finland west of 26°00' N east longitude - from February 1 to June 30;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

2) with a trawl in the Gulf of Livonia from April 20 to May 22, in the Latvian economic zone, the fishing ban established by the Republic of Latvia must be followed;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

3) with a trawl in small fishing squares 243, 258, 291, 292, 302, 303, 313, 325, 329, 330 and 342 of the territorial waters of the Republic of Estonia shown on the ICES map presented in Appendix 6 - from April 1 to May 20.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(3) The minister responsible for the area may, on the basis of § 11 (2) of the Fishing Act, temporarily designate a fishing area for agaric that is different from the provisions in clause 1 (5).

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]



(4) The minister responsible for the area may, on the basis of subsections 2 and 3 of § 11 of the Fishing Act, temporarily determine a different time period than that stipulated in subsection 2, clause 2, leaving the duration of the fishing restriction the same.  
[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

#### **§ 26. Permitted structures**

[Repealed - RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entry into force. 01.01.2021]

### **Section 3 Fishing with traps**

#### **§ 27. Mesh size requirements and fishing bans**

(1) The mesh size of the trap must be at least 24 mm.

(2) In herring and seal fishing, the mesh size of the trap and box trap must be at least 20 mm, except for the stern.

[ RT I, 28.12.2016, 2 - enters into force. 01.01.2017]

(3) In Pärnu Bay, north of the connecting line between Kotinina, marked by coordinates 58°17.888'N and 24°16.719'E, and Tahkunina, marked by coordinates 58°15.515'N and 24°29.364'E: 1

) must and the mesh size of the net of the open water trap must be at least 24 mm at the end of the trap and at least 56 mm in other parts of the trap, except for sea squid fishing from January 1 to May 5;

2) from May 15 to July 15, it is forbidden to use a sieve with a mesh size larger than 80 mm.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(4) In Pärnu Bay, in the north, the connecting line between the mouth of the Lind stream (Lindi river), whose coordinates are 58°20.220'N and 24°17.355'E, and Põdralaiu, whose coordinates are 58°16.265'N and 24°30.980'E it is forbidden to use a box trap year round.

#### **§ 28. Requirements for fishing**

When fishing, the following requirements must be met:

1) the distance between open water traps must be at least 300 m in the lateral direction and 50 m in the other direction;

2) the distance between edge traps and open water traps must be at least 100 m in the lateral direction and 50 m in the other direction. When placing an edge trap with a guide fence over 100 m long for fishing, the requirements stated in point 3 apply;

3) the total length of open water or edge traps placed in a sequence cannot exceed 400 m, and the distance between the sequences must be at least 300 m in the lateral direction and 50 m in the other direction;

4) the distance between box traps must be at least 400 m in the lateral direction and at least 200 m in the other direction, and from other traps at least 300 m in the lateral direction and at least 100 m in the other direction.

### **Section 4 Fishing with strainers**

#### **§ 29. Requirements for mesh size**

It is forbidden to use seines with a mesh size smaller than:

1) 24 mm in sea squid fishing;

2) 48 mm when fishing for fish species not mentioned in point 1 and point 1 of Annex VIII, Part B of Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

#### **§ 30. Permitted structures**

[Repealed - RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entry into force. 01.01.2021]

### **Section 5 Fishing with gillnets and longlines**

#### **§ 31. Mesh size requirements and fishing bans**

(1) The mesh size of the gill net must be between 24 and 40 mm for sea squid and herring fishing.

(2) In the cases not mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 5, and in the fishing of fish species not mentioned in point 2 of Part B of Annex VIII of Regulation (EU) No. 2019/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council, it is prohibited to use a gill net with a mesh size smaller than 70 mm.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(3) It is forbidden to use the connecting line between Kotinina, marked by the coordinates 58°17.888'N and 24°16.719'E, and Tahkunina, marked by the coordinates 58°15.515'N and 24°29.364'E, in the north of Pärnu Bay: 1

) attachment and frame netting with a height of more than 2 meters - around the year;

2) gill nets and frame nets with a mesh size smaller than 100 mm, except for seal fishing from March 1 to May 5;

3) lashing and frame netting - from May 1 to July 15;

4) fishing line - around the year.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(4) In the Baltic Sea, it is prohibited to use a gill net with a mesh size smaller than 70 mm:

1) from June 16 to July 30, except in the case specified in subsection 5;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

2) in water shallower than 5 meters - year round, except in the case specified in paragraph 5.

(5) In the Baltic Sea, it is prohibited to use gill nets with a mesh size of 34-60 mm raised to the surface of the water with the upper back up to 1.8 m:

[ RT I, 08.05.2018, 1 - in force. 11.05.2018]

- 1) from July 1 to April 30;
- 2) in shallower water than 3 meters.

### **§ 32. Requirements for fishing**

- (1) The distance between gill nets and frame nets and net strings must be at least 100 m from each other and from traps.
- (2) The length of the network chain may not exceed 700 m.

## **Chapter 7 Restrictions and requirements and prohibition times and areas in inland water bodies**

### **Section 1 Peipsi, Lake Lämmi and Pskov**

#### **Section 1 General prohibitions and by-catch regulations**

### **§ 33. Fishing prohibition times and areas**

In Lake Peipsi, Lake Lämmi and Lake Pihkva it is forbidden to catch:

- 1) roach - from August 21 to June 20;
- 2) Peipus whitefish - from November 1 to November 30;
- 3) pike - from April 1 to May 5;

[ RT I, 08.05.2018, 1 - enters into force. 01.01.2019]

- 4) bream, except fishing with simple hand line and hand line - from May 5 to June 10;
- 5) tench, except fishing with simple hand line and hand line - from June 20 to July 20;
- 6) place - from May 5 to June 10;
- 7) lutsu - from January 10 to February 10;
- 8) with professional fishing and underwater fishing equipment in Lake Pskov - from May 5 to June 10;
- 9) fishing, except fishing with simple hand line and hand line, in Lake Peipsi south of the northern end of the Ojapera channel (58°24.162'N, 27°19.175'E) and the line connecting the point 58°24.290'N, 27°31.100'E, which extends to the Republic of Estonia to the control line between the Russian Federation and the Russian Federation - from May 5 to June 10;
- 10) West of the straight line connecting the mouth of the Koosa River (58°27.165'N, 27°14.673'E) and the northern end of the Ojapera channel (58°24.162'N, 27°19.175'E) in Lake Peipsi - from May 1 to June 15;
- 11) Fishing is prohibited on Lake Peipsi closer than 500 m to the mouth of the Naelavere main ditch (Lahe river) - from May 1 to May 25.

[ RT I, 28.12.2016, 2 - enters into force. 01.01.2017]

### **§ 34. Co-fishing conditions**

(1) Fish whose fishing at this time, in this place or with this trap is prohibited, by-catch is allowed according to weight as follows:

- 1) in shore net fishing - pike up to 10%, other species up to 1% of the total catch of all species;
- 2) in fishing with open water nets - pike, bream and bream up to 10%, perch, whitefish and pike up to 1% of the total catch of pike, pike, bream, pike and pike. Co-fishing of the place is allowed when open water nets with a mesh size of at least 160 mm are used;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

- 3) in fishing with strainer traps - up to 10% of pike, bream and perch, up to 5% of pike, up to 1% of the total catch of pike, perch, pike, bream, pike, pike and pike. By-catch of perch is allowed if a seine tail with a mesh size of at least 110 mm is used;

[ RT I, 03.12.2019, 4 - enters into force. 06.12.2019]

- 4) in fishing with traps - perch, pike, whiting, tench, bream, white bream, bream and pike up to 1% of the total catch of bream, perch, pike, bream, white bream, bream and bream;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

- 5) when fishing with fishing lines - perch, pike, spot and bream up to 5% of the total catch.

(2) By-catch of undersized fish from the catch of full-sized specimens of the same fish species is allowed by weight as follows:

- 1) of gills - up to 1%;
- 2) eel with lines - up to 5%;
- 3) Peipus whitefish, bream, pike, pike, tench, tench - up to 1% with traps and strainers, up to 5% in open water nets and commercial fishing with lines;
- 4) place - up to 1% with trap traps, up to 5% with open water nets and lines and up to 10% with strainer traps in commercial fishing.

(3) By-catch of undersized fish is allowed up to 5% of the total catch by weight when fishing with shore nets and up to 1% with squid traps.

### **Section 2 Fishing with strainers**

### **§ 35. Requirements for mesh size**

The mesh size must be:

- 1) the seine, excluding the bottom seine, at least 40 mm in the stern and at least 48 mm in the wings;
- 2) aft of the bottom line, at least 5 m from the aft end part, at least 48 mm and at the wings at least 40 mm.

[ RT I, 28.12.2016, 2 - enters into force. 01.01.2017]

### **§ 36. Permitted facilities**

(1) As an exception to the provisions of clause 20 (1) point 4, it is allowed to use:

- 1) a thicker thread (rope) cover, which is made of the same fiber as the bottom seine and whose length does not exceed 3/4 of the length of the cylindrical part of the seine, to protect the wear of the lower part of the stern seine. The cover bag may be attached to the stern only along the body and stern joining seam and along the side seam or fold line;
- 2) to strengthen the stern of the bottom seine, a cylindrical reinforcement bag attached to the outer side of the cylindrical part of the stern, the mesh size of which must be at least twice as large as the stern, but not smaller than 80 mm;
- 3) a non-rotating beam fixed aft of the bottom line or an inclined horizontal plane, a sheet panel rising towards the end of the line (hereinafter *the riser*), whose mesh size is smaller than the stern. The boom or riser may be attached to the stern, and the distance of its attachment from the end of the stern must be at least three times the length of the boom or riser.

(2) The reinforcement bag referred to in point 2 of paragraph 1 may be attached:

- 1) circularly to the end of the net and to the net extension to one line of mesh;
- 2) on the tail lengthwise to one row of eyes.

### **§ 37. Fishing prohibitions**

It is prohibited:

- 1) fishing with a northern seine south of the connecting line between the point 58°26.285'N, 27°14.705'E and the point 58°25.131'N, 27°31.415'E located in the village of Praaga, which extends to the control line between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation - All year round;
- 2) fishing with bottom seine in Lake Peipsi - from January 1 to August 31, excluding fishing under the ice;
- 3) fishing with a long line in Lake Peipsi - from May 5 to June 10, in Lake Lämmi and Pihkva - from May 5 to August 31;
- 4) with a fishing net in Lake Lämmi and Lake Pihkva - from May 5 to June 10;
- 5) with a fishing net in Lake Peipsi - around the year.

## **Section 3 Fishing with gillnets**

### **§ 38. Requirements for mesh size**

The mesh size must be:

- 1) 60-80 mm on the shore net used in a 1 km wide water area from the shore in Lake Peipsi and a 500 m wide water area in Lake Lämmi and Pihkva;
- [ RT I, 08.05.2018, 1 - enters into force. 01.01.2019]
- 2) No smaller than 130 mm on the open water net used in Lake Peipsi more than 1 km from the shore and in Lake Lämmi and Pihkva more than 500 m from the shore.

### **§ 39. Requirements for placing fishing gear for fishing**

In Lake Peipsi, Lämmi and Pihkva, the following requirements must be met:

- 1) In Lake Peipsi, the length of the net string must not exceed 700 m, the distance between shore nets and their strings must be at least 100 m from each other and other stationary traps, and open water nets and their strings must be at least 500 m from each other and other stationary traps. In ice fishing, more than 1 km from the shore, the distance between all standing traps is at least 500 m;
- 2) In Lake Lämmi and Pihkva, the length of the net string must not exceed 500 m, the distance between shore nets and their strings from each other and from other standing traps must be at least 100 m, and on open water nets and their strings from each other and from other standing traps at least 500 m.

[ RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - enters into force. 01.01.2020]

### **§ 40. Fishing prohibitions**

Fishing is prohibited:

- 1) with an open water net - from May 5 to August 31;
- 2) with shore net - from May 5 to February 29.

## **Section 4 Fishing with traps**

### **§ 41. Requirements for mesh size**

The mesh size must be:

- 1) at least 20 mm in the edge of the trap, at least 24 mm in the cattle fence and control fence, except for the ink trap.
- 2) [invalidated - RT I, 08.05.2018, 1 - entered into force. 11.05.2018]

### **§ 42. Requirements for placing fishing gear for fishing**

- (1) The distance between traps must be at least 300 m, except when placed in a row.
- (2) The total length of the trap line, including the trap line, must not exceed 700 m, and the distance of the trap lines from each other and from other traps must be at least 500 m.
- (3) The distance between the cracks in the crack chain must not be greater than 100 m on one side of the control fence of the crack chain, and the length of the additional control fence must not exceed 50 m.

### **§ 43. Fishing prohibitions**

Fishing with traps is prohibited in Lämmi and Pihkva lakes - from May 5 to June 10.

## **Section 5 Changing restrictions**

#### **§ 44. Changing the prohibition period, fishing area, by-catch rate, minimum size and mesh size of fishing gear**

[ RT I, 28.12.2016, 2 - entered into force. 01.01.2017]

(1) The minister responsible for the field may, on the basis of subsections 2 and 3 of § 11 of the Fishing Act, temporarily determine a different time period than that stipulated in clauses 1–3, 5 and 7 of § 33, leaving the duration of the fishing restriction the same.

(2) *The minister responsible for the field may, on the basis of the decision of the intergovernmental Lake Peipsi, Lämmi and Pihkva Fishing Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Fisheries Commission ) established on the basis of the cooperation agreement between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Russian Federation on the conservation and use of fish resources of Lake Peipsi, Lämmi and Pihkva, amend § 33 points 4, 6, 8 and 9, § 37 points 3 and 4 and § 43, taking into account that the start of the fishing ban is between April 25 and May 5, and leaving the duration of the fishing restriction the same.*

(3) The Minister responsible for the field may, based on the recommendations of the Fisheries Commission, temporarily change the fishing ban times specified in § 40 by regulation.

(4) The minister responsible for the field may, based on the recommendations of the fisheries commission, temporarily increase or decrease the following on Lake Peipsi, Lämmi or Pihkva:

1) the minimum size of fish species specified in Appendix 3 ; 2) by-catch rate provided in section 34 ; 3) the mesh size of the fishing gear provided for in sections 35, 38 and 41 ; 4) the area of use of fishing gear provided for in point 1 of section 6, paragraph 3 . [ RT I, 28.12.2016, 2 - enters into force. 01.01.2017]

### **Section 2 Lake Võrtsjärv**

#### **§ 45. Requirements for mesh size**

In Võrtsjärvi, the mesh size must be:

1) at least 32 mm at the end of the trap, at least 44 mm in the guard fence and control fence of the trap;

[ RT I, 08.05.2018, 1 - enters into force. 11.05.2018]

2) at least 40 mm at the tail end;

3) at least 130 mm on the lashing net.

#### **§ 46. Requirements for placing fishing gear for fishing**

(1) In Võrtsjärvi, the length of the trap may not exceed 175 m.

(2) In Võrtsjärvi, the total length of the cracks placed in a sequence may not exceed 1050 m and the longitudinal distance between the sequences may not be less than 50 m.

#### **§ 47. Fishing prohibitions**

(1) It is forbidden to fish:

1) with professional fishing gear in Võrtsjärvi closer than 100 m to the embankments of Emajõe and south of the straight connecting the mouth of Pühaste stream and the northern tip of Ainsaare;

2) with gillnet - from March 15 to August 31;

3) pike - from March 15 to April 30;

4) perch - from May 5 to June 10;

5) tench - from June 20 to July 20, excluding fishing with simple hand line, hand line and bottom line.

(2) The minister responsible for the area may, on the basis of subsections 2 and 3 of § 11 of the Fishing Act, temporarily determine a different time period than that specified in subsection 1, points 2-5, leaving the duration of the fishing restriction the same.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

#### **§ 48. Co-fishing conditions**

(1) Co-catch of pike, pike or tench whose fishing is prohibited at that time or with this trap is permitted when fishing with trap traps up to 3% of the total catch of perch, pike, tench, bream, tench, pike and zander.

(2) By-catch of undersized pike, pike, pike and tench is allowed up to 5% by weight of the catch of the same size specimens of the same fish species when fishing with hook traps or up to 3% when fishing with trap traps.

(3) By-catch of undersized eels is permitted in fishing with trap nets of up to 2% of the catch of full-sized eels by weight.

### **Section 3 Other inland water bodies, with the exception of Peipsi, Lämmi and Pihkva lakes and Võrtsjärvi**

#### **Section 1 Limitations and Requirements**

#### **§ 49. Requirements for mesh size**

(1) In inland water bodies, with the exception of Peipsi, Lake Lämmi and Pihkva, and Lake Võrtsjärvi, the mesh size must be:

1) a trap of at least 24 mm, except for loop fishing with a loop trap;

2) at least 40 mm at the stern;

3) at least 60 mm on the netting, except in the case provided for in paragraph 2.

(2) When gillnet fishing in Saadjärvi deeper than 7 m, the mesh size of the gillnet must be 40–44 mm from July 1 to July 31.

[ RT I, 08.05.2018, 1 - enters into force. 11.05.2018]

## **§ 50. Requirements for placing fishing gear in fishing**

- (1) The distance between river traps must be at least 100 m. The distance between traps is determined from the tip of the trap placed for fishing to the tip of the wing of the next trap.
- (2) The distance between eyelets must be at least 2 m. A noose trap can only be set for fishing in places where there are no structures, such as piles or rows of stones, which direct the fish towards the trap and are clearly distinguishable from the body of water, within a distance of at least 2 m from the mouth of the trap.
- (3) In Ahja, Kalli, Koosa and Emajõe, the distance between the cracks must be at least 250 m.

## **Section 2 Prohibition times and areas**

### **§ 51. Year-round fishing prohibition times and areas**

- (1) Fishing is prohibited:
  - 1) in the water bodies specified in Appendix 15, with the exception of fishing with the means specified in § 7 (2) points 4–6 and § 8 (2) point 7;  
[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]
  - 2) [repealed - RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - entry into force. 27.04.2019] 3) In the Kunda River - from the dam of the first hydroelectric power station to the mouth, except for fishing with a loop cone and trap from July 1 to October 5 from the Lontova bridge to the road bridge leading to the port and from July 1 to February 28 from the road bridge leading to the port to the mouth; [ RT I, 28.12.2016, 2 - enters into force. 01.01.2017] 4)  
  
In the Vasalemma river - from the Vanameski dam to the mouth, except for loop fishing with a loop cone and crayfish fishing with a crayfish trap and a crayfish net;
  - 5) in the Keila river - from the Keila waterfall to the mouth;
  - 6) In the river Pada - from the bridge of Pärna village to the mouth;
  - 7) In the Toolse river - from the water inlet point of the Aru quarry to the mouth;
  - 8) In the river Selja - from the Arkna bridge to the mouth;
  - 9) Mustoja - from the dam to the mouth of Vihula II (Mõisa);
  - 10) In the river Altja - from the Oandu weir to the mouth;
  - 11) In the Võsu river - from Lavik dam to the mouth;
  - 12) Loobu river - from Joaveski dam to the mouth;
  - 13) Valgejões – from the Tallinn–Narva road bridge to the mouth;  
[ RT I, 28.12.2016, 2 - enters into force. 01.01.2017]
  - 14) Pärlijões / Pudisoo river - from the Tallinn–Narva road bridge to the mouth;
  - 15) Loo in the river - from the dam to the mouth of the Loo;
  - 16) In the Vääna river - from the escarpments of Vahiküla to the mouth;
  - 17) In the Purtse river - from the dam to the mouth of the Püssi lake;  
[ RT I, 28.12.2016, 2 - enters into force. 01.01.2017]
  - 18) In the Nõva river - from the bridge to the mouth of the Tusari–Targama road;
  - 19) In Veskijões – from the bridge to the mouth of the Harju–Risti–Riguldi–Võntküla road;
  - 20) in the Piusa river - from the confluence of Kiviojoja to the bridge of the Karisilla–Petseri road;
  - 21) In the Vaidva river - from the Vastse–Roosa dam to the mouth;
  - 22) in Peter's River - throughout;
  - 23) Pühajões - from the Tallinn–Narva highway bridge (near the Voka road crossing) to the mouth;  
[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]
  - 24) Kirkulahe;
  - 25) with simple hand line, hand line, bottom line, underwater fishing gear and lure in the rivers specified in Appendix 10 or in their parts;
  - 26) [invalid - RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entry into force. 01.01.2021] 27) From the source of the Emajõe River to the Jõesuu road bridge (new bridge - Tartu–Viljandi–Kilingi-Nõmme road bridge), excluding fishing with simple hand line, hand line, bottom line, spinning and fly line; [ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021] 28)

with professional fishing equipment in the old rivers of the Emajõgi and to close the inlets and outlets of the old rivers of the Emajõgi within a radius of 50 m from the Emajõgi with hook traps;

- [ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]
- 29) with gill nets, seines and harpoon guns in the water bodies or their sections included in the list of spawning and habitats for salmon, river trout, sea trout and grayling, established by the regulation of the minister responsible for the field on the basis of § 51 (2) of the Nature Conservation Act, except in dams;  
[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

30) with traps in rivers and streams flowing into the sea, with the exception of fishing on the Nasva River and Narva River from the source to the Kulgu dam and fishing with loop traps and cones.

- 31) [invalid - RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(2) It is prohibited to fish in fish passages and closer than 50 m upstream and downstream from them.

(3) Fishing up to 100 m downstream from all dams and waterfalls or cascades specified in Appendix 13 is prohibited, except in the cases specified in paragraph 1.

[ RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - enters into force. 27/04/2019]

(4) As an exception, in the areas specified in points 5-19 and 23 of subsection 1, but no closer than 100 m to the waterfalls or waterfalls and all dams specified in Appendix 13, fishing may be done with a loop cone, loop trap, crayfish trap and crayfish line.  
[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(5) As an exception, in the areas specified in points 3-23 of subsection 1, but no closer than 100 m to the waterfalls or waterfalls specified in Appendix 13 and to all dams, fishing may be done with a spinning rod equipped with a lure or a jig, and with a fly rod if the minister responsible for the area is the Minister of the Fisheries Act 7 established by the regulation issued on the basis of the corresponding possibilities.  
[ RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - enters into force. 27/04/2019]

(6) The same restrictions apply to fishing on dams built on stream water bodies as on the body of water on which the dam is located, unless otherwise stipulated in this regulation.

(7) It is forbidden to catch fish with liiv and kuritsa in lakes of less than 10 hectares, watercourses, Lake Võrtsjärv, Lake Peipsi, Narva reservoir and water bodies located in the target protection zone of protected areas.  
[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

## **§ 52. Temporary fishing bans**

(1) Fishing is prohibited:

1) with spinning and fly fishing in the Jägala River from the Linnamäe dam to the mouth, in the Narva River from the Narva hydroelectric plant to the road bridge, and in the Pirita River from the Vaskjala dam to the end of the pier at the mouth - from September 1 to November 30;  
2) [invalidated - RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - entered into force. 27.04.2019] 3) with gillnet in the Sutlepa Sea, except for fishing under the ice until the end of February; [ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021] 4) with professional fishing equipment in Väikes Emajões upstream from the mouth to the Jõeveste bridge - from April 1 to June 15; 5) with a loop trap and a loop cone - from March 1 to June 30; 6)

From the mouth of Emajões to the beginning of the Koosa river - from May 1 to June 15;

7) in the Nasva River - from April 1 to May 31, except for fishing with fishing traps specified in clauses 1-9 of § 4 subsection 2;

8) In the old rivers and marshes of the Emajõgi from the mouth of the Pedja river to the Kärevere road bridge - from April 1 to June 30;

9) In the Narva River upstream of the Narva Reservoir and in the water bodies flowing into the Narva River upstream of the Narva Reservoir, old rivers and swamps, except for simple hand lines, hand lines and bottom lines, - from March 15 to May 15;  
[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

10) In the section of the Naelavere main ditch connecting Lake Lahepera with Lake Peipsi (in the Lahe River), in the Koosa, Kargaja and Kalli Rivers, in the canal connecting Leegu Lake and Kalli River, and in the Ahja River from the mouth to Ahijärvi (Läniste Ahijärvi), Ahijärvi (Läniste Ahijärvi), Võngjärvi, Koosa Lake in Tartu County, in Lahepera, Kalli, Keeri and Leegu lakes - from May 1 to May 25;

11) Mullutu and Suurlahe, except for simple hand line, hand line and bottom line - from April 1 to May 20;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

12) [invalid - RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entry into force. 01.01.2021] 13) [invalid - RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entry into force. 01.01.2021] 14) [invalid - RT I, 22.12.2020, 9

- by force. 01.01.2021]

15) with cling and frame netting - from March 15 to May 31;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

16) In the Vasalemma river from the mouth of the Munalaskme stream to the Vanaveski dam from September 1 to January 31.

[ RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - enters into force. 27/04/2019]

(2) As an exception, in the areas and time period specified in paragraph 1, point 1, fishing may be done with a spinning rod equipped with a lure or a jig, and with a fly rod if the minister responsible for the field has established the corresponding possibilities by a regulation issued on the basis of § 29 (7) of the Fishing Act.

## **§ 53. Fishing bans by fish species**

(1) It is forbidden to catch:

1) river pike in rivers - from March 1 to June 30;

2) salmon and sea trout in inland water bodies - from September 1 to November 30;

[ RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - enters into force. 27.04.2019]

3) brown trout - from September 15 to January 31, except in the Narva River;

4) whitefish in the Pärnu river - from October 15 to November 15;

5) Peipus whitefish - from November 1 to November 30;

6) slag - from August 1 to June 30;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

7) pike - from March 15 to April 30;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

8) bream - from May 1 to June 10, except with simple hand line, hand line and bottom line;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

9) linask - from June 20 to July 20, except for simple hand line, hand line and bottom line. In Endla Lake and Sinijärvi (Endla Sinijärves), tench fishing is prohibited from April 1 to July 20 with all fishing gear;

10) flood in Kunda, Selja, Loobu, Valgejõe, Jägala, Pirita, Väna, Keila, Vasalemma, Vihterpalu, Kasari (with tributaries), Paadremaa, Audru, Pärnu, Sauga and Reiu rivers - from May 10 to June 20;

11) place - from May 5 to June 10;

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

12) crayfish - from September 1 to July 31.

1

(1 ) As an exception, the species of fish specified in clause 1, clause 2 may be caught in inland water bodies or sections thereof during the period specified with a spinning rod equipped with a lure or a jig, and with a fly rod if the minister responsible for the field has established the corresponding possibilities on the basis of § 29 (7) of the Fishing Act.

[ RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - enters into force. 27/04/2019]

2

(1 ) The minister responsible for the field may, on the basis of subsections 2 and 3 of § 11 of the Fishing Act, temporarily determine a different time period than that stipulated in clauses 7 and 11 of subsection 1, leaving the duration of the fishing restriction the same.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

(2) On the basis of § 51 (2) of the Nature Conservation Act, fishing is prohibited during the ban on fishing for salmonids specified in points 2 and 3 of paragraph 1 in the water bodies that are part of the list of spawning and habitats for salmon, brown trout, sea trout and grayling established by the regulation of the minister responsible for the field, except in the Narva river and when fishing with loop cones and loop traps.

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

### **Section 3 Bycatch**

#### **§ 54. Co-fishing conditions**

(1) Fishing for pike, pike, bream, tench, pike, bream, bream or bream, the fishing of which is temporarily prohibited, co-fishing is allowed on the basis of weight up to 5% when fishing with gillnets and up to 2% when fishing with other professional fishing gear, perch, pike, pike, from the total catch of bream, tench, pike, bream, peipsi siia, tench and vimma.

(2) By-catch of undersized fish, of the catch of the same size specimens of the same fish species is allowed by weight as follows:

1) roach from Saadjärvi - up to 5%;

2) when fishing for eel with a fishing line - up to 10%;

3) whitefish, bream, bream, pike, whiting, tench, tench - up to 2% with trap and strainer traps or up to 5% with gillnets or fishing lines.

(3) Catching salmon, sea trout and brown trout in rivers is prohibited.

## **Chapter 8 Application settings**

#### **§ 55. Amendment of the regulation**

[Omitted from this text.]

#### **§ 56. Revocation**

[Omitted from this text.]

#### **§ 57. Entry into force of the regulation**

(1) The Regulation enters into force on January 1, 2017.

(2) Section 55 enters into force in a general manner.

Appendix 1 Trap parts

Appendix 2 Types of Kadiska

Appendix 3 Minimum fish sizes and measurement requirements

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entered into force. 01.01.2021]

Appendix 4 Methodology and requirements for sampling the catch and determining the weight share of fish species

[ RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - entered into force. 27/04/2019]

Appendix 5 Mesh measurement with a wedge

Appendix 6 Baltic Sea, ICES subdivisions and small fishing squares in the territorial waters of the Republic of Estonia

Appendix 7 River water bodies, the fishing of which is closer to the mouth than 500 m in the sea is prohibited from August 15 to November 30

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - into force. 01.01.2021]

Appendix 8 Flowing water bodies, the fishing of which is prohibited closer to the mouth than 500 m in the sea from March 1 to May 31

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entry into force. 01.01.2021]

Appendix 9 Water bodies, the fishing of which is prohibited closer to the mouth than 500 m in the sea from September 1 to November 30

[Repealed - RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - effective. 01.01.2021]

Appendix 10 Water bodies or their parts, where fishing with simple hand line, hand line and bottom line is prohibited all year round, with the exception of impoundment lakes

[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entry into force. 01.01.2021]

Appendix 11 Types of Kadiska

[Repealed - RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - entry into force. 27/04/2019]

Appendix 12 Flowing water bodies, the fishing of which in the sea is prohibited year-round, closer to the mouth than 1000 m, including the water bodies of which the fishing ban is also valid from September 1 to October 31 within a radius of 1500 m [ RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - in force. 27.04.2019, partially 01.01.2020]

Appendix 13 Waterfalls or waterfalls, downstream of which fishing is prohibited up to 100 m  
[ RT I, 24.04.2019, 5 - in force. 27/04/2019]

Appendix 14 Straits or outflows closer than 500 m to which fishing in the sea is prohibited from March 1 to May 31  
[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - enters into force. 01.01.2021]

Appendix 15 Water bodies where fishing is prohibited year round  
[ RT I, 22.12.2020, 9 - entry into force. 01.01.2021]