

**NOTIFICATION DATED 1ST JANUARY 1974  
BHUTAN FISHING RULES**

These rules shall be called the Bhutan Fishing Rules and it shall come into force with effect from 1st January 1974. It shall extend to the whole of Bhutan.

2. Catching of fish in any stream, river, Pond or lakes in Bhutan is strictly prohibited without possession of a valid Fishing Licence.

3. Fishing Licence shall be issued by the Forest Department, Director of Forests, Divisional Forest Officers of the area or any other authority duly empowered for this purpose by the Royal Government of Bhutan. The Fishing Licence shall be issued on a prescribed form on payment of the prescribed fees.

4. Fishing shall be prohibited during the following periods and Licence holders shall not engage themselves in the catching of fish during the prohibitory periods.

- 1) During the months of October, November and December every year for fishing trout.
- 2) Fishing on 8th, 15th and 30th of each Bhutanese month is prohibited.

**5. Fishing by the following means is strictly prohibited—**

- 1) Fishing by poisoning or dynamiting rivers, streams, ponds or lakes.**
- 2) Erection of weirs, dams for diverting rivers/ streams to trap the fish.**
- 3) Fishing by fire-arms, closed nets, large nets, puglep, Phen-Phen or splashing or laving of waters**
- 3. The Licence holder shall not catch fish which are less than eight inch in length.**
- 7. Fishing within one mile of a Gompa, Temple, Dzong or Lama School and within twenty yards of the main road is strictly prohibited.**
- 8. The Licence holder shall carry his Fishing Licence with him at the time of fishing. Persons not holding a valid Fishing Licence shall not assist the Licence holder in fishing. The Licence holder shall produce his Fishing Licence on demand by any Police Officer or an Officer of the Forest Department of the Royal Government of Bhutan**
- 9. Refusal to show his Fishing Licence on demand by a Police Officer or a Forest Officer, the individual engaged in fishing shall be punishable with a fine, which may extend up to Nu. 50.**

**The person so fined shall give his name, address and also the address of the Issuing authority of his Fishing Licence, to enable the Government Officers to check whether the person so fined possesses a valid Fishing Licence. In case it is found on checking that the person so fined did not possess a Fishing Licence, he shall be liable to a fine which may extend up to Nu 500 or with imprisonment which may extend up to one month or with both.**

**10. Persons engaged in fishing without obtaining a valid Fishing Licence shall be liable to a fine which may extend up to Nu. 500 or with imprisonment which may extend up to one month or with both.**

**11 The Licence holder shall not transfer or endorse his Fishing Licence in favour of any other person for fishing.**

**12. The Licence holder shall not sell, barter or loan his catch of fish in any place in Bhutan or outside.**

13. The offences under this Act shall be cognizable and bailable and Police officers/Forest officers are authorised to arrest any person who is found committing a breach of any of the provisions of these Rules

14. Whoever commits an offence under any of the above provisions shall be liable to a fine, which may extend up to Nu.500 or with imprisonment which may extend up to one month or with both.

15. In case of fishing by poisoning or dynamiting, the fine shall extend up to Nu. 1000 or imprisonment for two months or both.

16. Breach of any of the provisions of this Act shall render the Licence holder liable to cancellation of his Fishing Licence in addition to the penalties provided under this Act.

This has the approval of His Majesty the King.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS  
BHUTAN

**LICENCE FOR FISHING WITH ROD AND LINE**

Licence No. .... Date .....

1. Name of the licence holder .....
2. Address .....
3. Status .....
4. Name of river or portion thereof  
for which permit is granted .....
5. Valid from .....
6. Fee .....
7. Rates of licence fees :-
  - a) for one day—Nu. 15/-
  - b) for one month—Nu. 50/-
  - c) for 6 months—Nu. 100/-
  - d) for one year—Nu. 150/-

Range Officer

..... Division

..... Range