

Rules
of Fishery and Conservation of Fish Resources within the
Economic Zone of the Republic of Lithuanian in the Baltic Sea

I. General

1. The Rules of Fishery and Conservation of Fish Resources Within the Economic Zone of the Republic of Lithuanian, hereinafter referred to as the Rules, shall apply to the waters of the economic zone of the Republic of Lithuanian, hereinafter referred to as the Economic Zone. The boundaries of the Economic Zone are determined by agreements with neighbouring states.
The Economic Zone is located in Sub-division 26 (according to the division accepted by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea - ICES) and is divided into fishery zones and rectangles.
2. The present Rules regulate the utilization of fish resources and resources of other fauna species, hereinafter referred to as the fishery, by legal entities and natural persons, hereinafter referred to as the utilizers of fish resources.
3. The Environmental Protection Department of the Republic of Lithuanian shall annually determine the catch quotas and regulate fishery.
After a determined quota for a certain fish species has been used up, specialized fishery for the said species shall cease and the by-catch of the said species in specialized fishery for other species shall not exceed 5% by weight of the total catch.
4. The Fishery Management and Pisciculture Agency of the Environmental Protection Department of the Republic of Lithuanian shall preserve the fish resources and shall issue fishing licences.
5. Fishery shall be considered specialized when landed fish of a certain species make up over 50% by weight of the total catch.
6. The utilizers of fish resources shall:
 - 6.1. Not exceed the quotas, determined to the utilizer for individual fish species and fishing areas;
 - 6.2. Mark the fishing gear so that it can be identified;
 - 6.3. Conduct accounting on fish landing and reception according to species and shall indicate the proportions of species by weight within catches and the fishing area (zone and rectangle) and shall also provide required data to the Fishery Management and Pisciculture Agency (see Appendix 1) as follows:

-Lithuanian utilizers not later than the 10th day of every month for the period from the beginning of the year to the last day of the previous month;

-foreign utilizers not later than 15 days after the month expires or upon cessation of fishing that year for the period from the beginning of the year;

- 6.4. At the request of environment inspectors, provide all kinds of data related with fishing in the Economic Zone;
 - 6.5. At the request of the Environmental Protection Department, at their own expense, estimate the possible impact of their economic activity on environment and shall provide appropriate documentation;
 - 6.6. Implement measures so as to avoid or reduce negative impact on environment;
 - 6.7. Should danger to environment become imminent, take measures so as to avoid the danger or, should negative consequences arise, immediately take measures to eliminate them and inform competent environment officials and institutions;
 - 6.8. Fulfill legitimate demands of authorized environment institutions and officials.
7. The masters and mates on duty of vessels conducting fishing, catch processing or transportation shall:
- 7.1. At the request of environment inspectors accept them aboard, shift them to other vessels within the same area, permit to inspect all the rooms of the vessel, present for checking the catch and fishing gear, the documentation of the vessel and assist in the course of inspection;
 - 7.2. Provide an opportunity to environment inspectors to make extracts from fishing logs, log-books and other documents related with fishing or, at the inspector's demand, present such extracts prepared in advance;
 - 7.3. Transmit, free of charge, through the vessel's radio station official radiograms and communications of environment inspectors;
 - 7.4. Ensure the presence of distinct registration numbers (or names) on the sides of fishing vessels;
 - 7.5. The masters of vessels belonging to foreign companies shall send to the Klaipeda Marine Inspection of the Fishery Management and Pisciculture Agency Reports on Entering and Leaving the Economic Zone in due form (see Appendix 2).
8. The masters and, in their absence, the mates shall have aboard and, at the request of environment inspectors, present, both in the fishing grounds and in the harbour, the followings:
- 8.1. A fishing licence; masters of Lithuania's vessels also an appropriate valid fishing ticket;
 - 8.2. A fishing and technological log, filled according to the rules regulating filling of the said logs.

The fishing logs of foreign vessels fishing in the Economic Zone, shall be filled in and data in them shall be presented according to the recommendations of the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC). (See Appendix 3).

- 8.3. The receipts of fish deliveries or confirmed copies of the receipts.

The copies of reception-delivery receipts confirmed by the master shall be kept aboard for a month and fishing logs for twelve months from the date of the last entry.

9. The Fishery Management and Pisciculture Agency of the Environmental Protection Department shall be entitled to:

- 9.1. Temporarily prohibit or restrict fishing in certain areas of the Economic Zone;

- 9.2. Due to hydrometeorological conditions to announce the closed season up to 15 days earlier or later (except the closed seasons determined by the IBSFC); the overall duration of the closed season, however, shall remain unchanged.

Fishing is prohibited on both the first and the last day of the closed season;

- 9.3. For fish breeding and scientific purposes allow fishing using gear and methods not specified in the present Rules and, upon approval of the Environmental Protection Department, determine the amount and types of fishing vessels and gear to be allowed in the Economic Zone.

- 9.4. Upon approval of the Department of Environment determine the procedure for estimating fish resources and the terms for utilizing the fish resources (allotment of financial resources for fish-breeding and other measures directed at preservation of the resources and reproduction).

II. Prohibitions

General Prohibitions

10. Within the Economic Zone it is prohibited:

- 10.1. When receiving (or delivering) the catch to change the names of fish or not to indicate their species;

- 10.2. When estimating the catches and presenting reports about them to wrongly indicate the amounts landed, the fishing area and the method of fishing;

- 10.3. To use for fishing purposes vessels larger than 32 m in length or having engines more powerful than 600h.p.

- 10.4. To have aboard gear ready for fishing the usage of which in that area or at that time is prohibited.

Trawls shall be considered not ready for use if:

the trawl boards are made fast to the outer or inner side of the bulwark or the gallows;

sweep lines or wraps are unshackled from the trawl boards or weights.

Purse-seine shall be considered not ready for use if the bottom wire is unshackled from the seine.

Gear for Salmon fishing shall be considered not ready for use if:

the nets are stowed under a lashed cover;
the lines and hooks are kept in closed boxes.

The allowed reserve gear shall be kept separated from the gear in use;

- 10.5. To use fishing gear without marking it with marks of a standard type.
- 10.6. To conduct fishery for industrial purposes and animal fodder. In certain cases (when part of the catch is of inferior quality not suitable for human consumption, for feeding animals of the Sea-Museum, the Zoo, etc.) not more than 10% from the total catch of Herring and Sprat can be used for the said purposes.
In order to avoid deterioration of the catch, floating gear should be checked at least once in 48 hours.
- 10.7. Without approval of the Fishery Management and Pisciculture Agency to use fishing gear of essentially new design and essentially new fishing methods;
- 10.8. To use explosive, toxic or narcotic substances for catching fish;
- 10.9. To discard the catch, its part or offal by throwing overboard.

Prohibition periods and areas.

11. It is prohibited to fish for and to retain on board:

11.1. Flatfish - from 1 to 30 April.

The allowed by-catch of Flatfish in fishing for Cod, taken during the period when fishing for Flatfish is prohibited, shall be determined by the Fishery Regulation and Fish-Breeding Agency.

11.2. Turbot and Brill - from 1 June to 31 July.

12. Fishing for Salmon and Sea Trout in the Sea with drifting nets is prohibited from 15 June to 15 September, and with drifting lines and anchored lines from 1 April to 15 November.

Prohibited fishing gear.

13. It is prohibited to use:

13.1. When conducting specialized fishery trawls having a mesh opening less than that specified for the fisheries listed below:

Cod -105mm

This minimum mesh-size also refers to gill nets used in the Baltic Cod fishery,

-Flatfish -110mm

13.2. Drifting nets in Salmon fishery having a mesh opening less than indicated below:

- when the net is made of natural fibres - 165mm
- when the net is made of synthetic fibres -157mm

To determine the mesh size durable, a flat wedge-shaped gauge 2mm thick is used, made of any durable material with a taper of 2cm in 8cm and with width inscribed on its face. The gauge shall be inserted into the mesh opening of a wet net in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the net and pushed with manual force until it is stopped by the resistance of the mesh. The mesh size shall be determined by gauging the average of 20 consecutive meshes in the direction of the long axis of the net at least 10 meshes away (but not less than 50cm away) from lacings and the rear edge of the codend.

13.3. Trawls having the mesh spacing less than that specified below, in conducting specialized fishery for:

- Herring -18mm
- Sparling -16mm
- Sprat -10mm

13.4. Floating nets having the mesh spacing less than that specified below, in conducting specialized fishery for:

- Herring and Sparling -16mm
- Sprat -11mm

The mesh spacing in the gear specified under Items 13.3 and 13.4 of the present Rules shall be determined by measuring 11 knots of the net while wet gripped together and dividing the obtained value by 10.

14. It is prohibited to attach to fishing gear devices which may reduce the size of meshes.

In order to prevent wear of trawl fabric it shall be allowed:

-to attach to the lower part of the codend canvas, netting, leather or other material;

-to use strengthening bags of the same or thicker material than the conical and cylindrical parts of the codend, having meshes at least twice as large as those of the codend but not less than 80mm if the meshes of the codend are under 40mm. The strengthening bag may be attached along the forward and rear edges of the codend, laced circumferentially to the codend or laced longitudinally along the codend.

It is also allowed to use in trawls and Danish seines a flapper with meshes less than those of the codend, attached either inside the codend or in front of the codend. The distance from the point of forward attachment of the flapper to the rear end of the codend shall be at least three times the length of the flapper.

15. In specialized fishing for Salmon and Sea Trout it is prohibited:

- 15.1. To cast more than 600 drifting nets from a single vessel at a time and to use nets over 35m in length, measured in the headrope;
- 15.2. To use at a time per vessel drifting lines and anchored lines the total number of hooks on which exceeds 2,000;
- 15.3. To keep aboard any individual fishing vessel over 100 reserve nets or over 200 reserve hooks for lines;
- 15.4. To use hooks having a gap (the minimum distance between the shaft and the point) less than 19mm.

The Size of Fish to Be Taken

16. It is prohibited to fish for, collect, process or store fish having, when fresh, a total length less than specified below (in cm):

Cod	30	33
-Flounder and Plaice	18	21
-Turbot and Brill	25	30
-Salmon and Sea Trout	50	60
-Herring	14	-
-Sparling	10	-
-Sprat	8	-
-Eel	-	35
	(a)	(b)

The total length of fish is determined by (a) measuring the fish from the tip of the snout (with mouth closed) to the base of the central rays of the tail fin, and (b) measuring the fish from the tip of the snout (with mouth closed) to the extreme end of the tail fin.

III. The By-Catch of the Undersized Fish

17. When fishing in the Economic Zone the following by-catches of undersized fish are allowed:
 - 17.1. Cod - not more than 5% of the weight of the total catch, subsequent to each individual inspection of fishing gear;
 - 17.2. Herring and Sprat - not more than 15% from the total amount of fish of each species;

If more than 15% of undersized fish of the said species are landed in a certain area, the officials of the Fishery Management and Pisciculture Agency must prohibit fishery in this area;
18. Should more undersized fish than allowed by the present Rules be accidentally caught, the Master shall immediately inform the Klaipeda Marine Inspection of the Fishery Management and Pisciculture Agency about it. The accidental catch shall be delivered according to the standard procedure. Responsibility for the Infringement of the Rules
19. The persons who infringed the present Rules shall answer as specified by the laws of the Republic of Lithuania.

20. In case of repeated or flagrant infringement of the Rules, the officials of the Environmental Protection Department may seize the fishing ticket or the fishing licence. Infringement shall be considered repeated if committed a second time within a year from the first infringement. Fishery using prohibited gear and methods, fishery in the prohibition areas and during the prohibition periods, fishery for fish species fishing for which is prohibited, fishery without a licence and quota, as well as other infringement of fishery rules that has brought about great damage to fish resources shall be considered flagrant infringement.
21. Officials who gave instructions or performed actions which resulted in the infringement of the present Rules and in due time did not take measures to prevent such infringements shall be made answerable as specified by competent authorities.
22. At the request of an official of the Environmental Protection Department the infringer shall remove from water the fishing gear used in violation of the present Rules at his own expense, convey such gear and illegitimately caught fish or invertebrates, or obtained produce to a place indicated by the official, or else it shall be done at the infringer's expense.
23. The infringers shall reimburse the damage done when illegitimately fishing, exterminating or obtaining fish in the Economic Zone as specified by the Rates (see Appendix 4). The damages shall be paid in favour of the Environment Fund.
24. The fish caught in violation of the present Rules, regardless of where they were discovered, shall be seized and delivered to fish reception stations or shops at wholesale prices. The money for the sold fish shall be transferred into the Environment Fund.
25. The infringers, their vessels, fishing gear and documents can be arrested and taken to the harbour. To ensure that the vessel is taken to the harbour, environment inspectors may stay on its board. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania shall be informed about arrested foreign natural persons or foreign vessels. The officials taking the infringer vessel to the harbour shall inform about it the harbour master; the latter shall receive it for custody. The harbour master shall immediately inform the officials of the Environmental Protection Department who arrested the vessel about any attempts on the vessel's part to leave the harbour. Vessels and fishing gear can be confiscated as specified by the laws of the Republic of Lithuania. Unconfiscated fishing means shall be returned to the owner upon his payment of administrative penalty and reimbursement of the damages or upon submitting a guarantee of payment in writing.

Reports

on foreign fishing vessel's having a licence to fish in the Economic Zone entering and leaving the Economic Zone

Report on the vessel's entering the Economic Zone

1. Flag-state of the vessel, registration No. of the vessel, the name of the vessel and call sign.
2. The coordinates of the point in which the vessel entered the Economic Zone.
3. The year, month, day and time (GMT).
4. The amount of fish on board according to species in kg prior to entering the Economic Zone.

Report on the vessel's leaving the Economic Zone

1. Flag-state of the vessel, registration No. of the vessel, the name of the vessel and the call sign.
2. The coordinates of the point in which the vessel left the Economic Zone.
3. The year, month, day and time (GMT).
4. The amount of fish landed in the Economic Zone and inevitable accidental by-catch according to species in kg.

**Information
which must be presented in the fishing logs of foreign
fishing vessels**

1. The type, name and registration No. of the vessel.
2. Flag-state and home port.
3. The year, month and day.
4. The coordinates of the point in which the vessel entered the Economic Zone of Lithuanian.
5. The coordinates of the place where fishing gear was cast.
6. The time when the fishing gear was cast.
7. The description of fishing gear:
 - a) type;
 - b) the material of which the gear is made;
 - c) the size of mesh.
8. The composition of the catch according to species and the percentage of each species within the catch.
9. The catch according to species in 24 hours.
10. The weight of fish according to species meant for:
 - a) food;
 - b) industrial purposes.
11. Data on the fish shifted to another vessel or taken from another vessel for processing.
12. The amount of fish landed in the Economic Zone during each entrance into the Economic Zone from the beginning of fishery.

Rates

for estimating the reimbursement for the damage done when illegitimately fishing, exterminating or obtaining fish in the Economic Zone

Fish species	The size of damages per landed or exterminated fish, irrespective of its weight and size (in roubles)
Salmon, Sea Trout	500
Cod, Flatfish,	40
Turbot and Eel	20
Herring	4
Sprat and Sparling	

Note:

1. Foreign legal entities and natural persons shall pay the damages in hard currency according to the official exchange rate.
2. An index can be applied to the above rates, depending on the level of prices as determined by the Environmental Protection Department.