

TENO INFO
English

Information about Teno for Fishing Enthusiasts
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment/Fisheries Division
LUKE/Natural Resources institute Finland/
River Tenojoki Fisheries Research
2017

I Overview of the area

The Teno (Tenojoki in Finnish) is a 250 kilometres long subarctic river marking the border between Finland and Norway. The break-up of ice in the Teno River occurs at the end of May and is followed by great flooding since the water system lacks large lake basins to level out the peak of the flood. Rapid changes in water level are characteristic of the Teno River; they delay the start of salmon fishing in the spring and inconvenience locals as they fish with weirs during the summer.

The salmon populations of the Teno River reproduce naturally, and fishing restrictions are used as a means of preserving and developing the salmon stocks. The Teno is the biggest and the most productive of northern Europe's salmon rivers, and it still allows important river and coastal fishing. In recent years, the annual catch of salmon from the Teno has made up 15–20 percent of the salmon caught from European rivers. The best catches from the Teno water system (250 tonnes) were caught in 1975 and 2001. There is natural variation in the salmon population of the Teno, similar to the other northern salmon rivers. The variation is regular, giving a good catch every 8–9 years. Since 2003, the amount of salmon caught annually has been lower than the long term average (127 tonnes) and no clear peak year has been identified. A significant share of the salmon of the Teno is caught from the river because of restrictions in fishing on the sea and a decrease in salmon fishing. Teno River salmon migrate over a vast area in the North Atlantic. Most of the salmon, which spend several years in the ocean, grow in the waters of the Norwegian Sea, some in the area of the Faroe Islands and few populations as far away as the eastern coast of Greenland.

Teno River salmon are highly valued fish used for various purposes. They have adapted to these waters over thousands of years. The salmon spend about 4 years in the river environment as juvenile fish and migrate to the ocean as smolts weighing
Front page photo: Minna Saastamoinen/Studio Borga

30 g and measuring 17 cm in length. They grow fast in the ocean, reaching a “tidy” weight of 1–2 kilos in one year, a “luossajuolgi” weight of 3–7 kilos in two years and the “luossa” salmon weight of about ten kilos in three years, when they measure one metre in length. They stay in the ocean for 1–5 years. In the 2000s, the percentage of salmon that have previously spawned has increased considerably, reaching 7 percent in 2011. Despite the heavy fishing, some individuals in the salmon stock are more than 10 years old.

Several salmon that tip the scales at 20 kilos or more are caught in the Teno River every year.

The valley of the Teno River is an ancient stronghold of Sámi culture. Its economy was originally based on fishing and reindeer herding. Over the centuries, the Sámi people of the valley have developed various complementary ways of making a living that fit in with their natural environment and the seasons. Even today, people in the Teno Valley earn their living from several sources. However, service occupations are gaining ground: locals are selling salmon fishing instead of salmon, and grouse hunting as well as grouse breast.

Recreational fishing became more important to the area in the 1950s when road access to the Teno Valley improved considerably. Salmon is still a significant source of income for the local population although no one is able to make a living just by selling salmon meat any longer. All the same, the salmon is a very important staple in many local households and salmon fishing represents intangible values to which no price tag can be attached. For many recreational fishermen, the Teno River has become a tradition, almost an addiction, and they need a “fix” at least once every summer. The recreational fisherman dreams of catching a salmon, but many are happy with just the possibility of landing “the big one”. More and more often, mental relaxation in a different environment and the physical exercise provided by rowing are the reasons that time and again entice people to return to the Teno River to fish.

Teno Info is also available online at www.ely-keskus.fi/lappi

II General fishing management fee

Fishers aged from 18 to 64 are liable to pay the fishing management fee in compliance with the new Fishing Act.

Registration and payment

The fishing management fee is personal. According to the Fishing Act, the payer and the transaction must be registered in the fishing management payment register. When making the payment, the fisher must also indicate their name, contact details and date of birth (no personal identity code).

You can also pay the fishing management fee on behalf of another person. In that case, the payer registers him/herself in the service and gives the requested data of the fisher(s) in question.

Fees:

- €9/calendar year • €12/7 days • €5/day

Register and pay the fishing management fee at the Eraluvat.fi web shop, via the telephone service, or at your nearest sales point or R-Kioski. When paying your fishing management fee at R-Kioski, a service fee of 3 € will be charged.

All the most common payment methods can be used in the web shop.

In addition to the general fishing management fee, all fishers fishing on the Teno River (= the rower and everyone taking part in the fishing) must also purchase a separate Teno River fishing licence.

When fishing along the national border, the obligation to pay the fishing management fee depends on the legislation of the country in which the fishing permit is purchased. This means that the Finnish fishing management fee is required for fishing permits bought in Finland, whereas the Norwegian government's fishing management fee is required for boat or riverbank fishing permits purchased in Norway.

Fishing bailiffs on the Teno River:

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III Regulations of the Teno River Fishing District for Non-resident Persons

The Teno River fishing district is subject to the agreement made in 2017 by Finland and Norway on common fishing regulations for the Teno River fishing district and related fishing regulations. The fishing regulations apply to fishing in the Teno River areas where the river forms a part of the national border.

General regulations

The regulations apply to the Finnish and Norwegian section of the Teno River, Inari River and Skietsham River where they form part of the national border.

Fishing is permitted from 10 June to midnight on 10 August.

The fishing day for fishing from the riverbank starts at 11 p.m. and ends on the following day at 4 p.m. local time in Finland (CET+2).

The fishing day for fishing from the boat starts at 7 p.m. and ends on the following day at 7 p.m. local time in Finland. A local rower must be used when fishing from the boat from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. A local rower must always be used when fishing from a boat in Alaköngäs between Boratbokka and Bildanguoika. **Fishing from the riverbank is not permitted with a boat fishing permit!**

Fishing is not permitted from 7 p.m. on Sunday to 7 p.m. each week on Monday local time in Finland.

Every fisher must report their catch. Catch report must also be made when no fish is caught. Fishing is permitted only with a rod and lure.

Use of shrimp, bait strap or artificial lures resembling them, or use of baitfish or worm bait is prohibited.

The minimum permissible size of salmon, trout, grayling or char is 30 cm. The length of a fish is measured from the tip of the snout to the furthest tip of the tail. Undersized fish must be returned to the water immediately, regardless of whether they are dead or alive.

Kelts are salmon that have spawned the previous autumn and migrate to the sea in the early summer. They are thin and in poor condition. Kelts are protected by law and must be returned to the water immediately. Any non-native species caught, for example pink salmon or rainbow trout, must be killed immediately.

Fishing licences

Every individual fishing or participating in fishing on the Teno River, Inari River and Skietsham River fishing districts (including rowers) must have a fishing licence. Fishing licences can be purchased from the Finnish or Norwegian web shops at www.tenonkalaluvat.fi and <https://tana.lakseelv.no/welcome.php>. Fishing licences are personal and cannot be transferred to another person.

There are quotas for fishing from boats and from the riverbanks for each week and fishing zone, as well as daily fishing days. The fishing districts are in line with the Finnish fishing district. Updated information on the availability of fishing licences for various weeks and zones is available from the web shop. The available fishing licences for fishing from the riverbank and from the boat have been distributed between Finland and Norway. The Finnish web shop has a direct link to the Norwegian web shop and vice versa.

The fishing licences are purchased from the web shop, and the actual licence is printed at sales points along the Teno River. The licence is printed on the basis of a code received when purchasing the licence. Licences purchased from the Finnish web shop are printed out at sales points in Finland and those purchased from the Norwegian web shop in Norway. A fee of €2 will be charged for the printing of the Finnish licences.

For locations selling fishing licences see the last page.

The cleanliness of fishing equipment is checked at the sales point when the licences are being printed. Good hygiene of fishing equipment is extremely important in order to prevent the deadly salmon parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* from spreading to the Teno River.

Prices of licences for fishing from boats in euros

| Period | Nuorgam | Vetsikko | Utsjoki | Outakoski and Inarijoki |
|-------------|---------|----------|---------|-------------------------|
| 10.6.–16.6. | 50 | 50 | 60 | 60 |
| 17.6.–23.6. | 50 | 60 | 60 | 60 |
| 24.6.–30.6. | 50 | 80 | 60 | 60 |
| 1.7.–7.7. | 50 | 80 | 60 | 60 |
| 8.7.–14.7. | 50 | 80 | 50 | 60 |
| 15.7.–21.7. | 50 | 60 | 50 | 60 |
| 22.7.–28.7. | 50 | 60 | 50 | 60 |
| 29.7.–4.8. | 50 | 60 | 50 | 60 |
| 5.8.–10.8. | 50 | 50 | 50 | 60 |

A licence for fishing from a boat is valid in Finland and Norway. Therefore, it can be used for fishing for the entire width of the river in the said fishing zone. Fishing from the riverbank is not allowed with a licence to fish from a boat.

Prices of licences for fishing from the riverbank in euros

| Period | Nuorgam | Vetsikko | Utsjoki | Outakoski main river | Inarijoki |
|-------------|---------|----------|---------|----------------------|-----------|
| 10.6.–16.6. | 45 | 40 | 45 | 60 | 40 |
| 17.6.–23.6. | 45 | 50 | 45 | 60 | 40 |
| 24.6.–30.6. | 45 | 60 | 45 | 60 | 40 |
| 1.7.–7.7. | 45 | 60 | 45 | 60 | 40 |
| 8.7.–14.7. | 45 | 60 | 35 | 60 | 40 |
| 15.7.–21.7. | 45 | 50 | 35 | 60 | 40 |
| 22.7.–28.7. | 45 | 50 | 35 | 60 | 40 |
| 29.7.–4.8. | 45 | 50 | 35 | 60 | 40 |
| 5.8.–10.8. | 45 | 40 | 35 | 60 | 40 |

Prices for fishers under 18 years of age are €40/day from boats and €25/day from the riverbank.

A licence to fish from the riverbank is only valid in the country of purchase. A licence to fish from the riverbank purchased in Finland only entitles the individual to fish on the Finnish side of the river in the fishing zone in question.

Fishing from boats and riverbanks in the estuaries of the salmon-rich tributaries of the Teno and Inari Rivers is restricted by means of special regulation. Fishing is prohibited within 200 metres of the estuary of a salmon-rich tributary. The restricted zone ends 300 metres from the estuary of the following tributaries: Akujoki, Levajoki and Laksjoki.

The restrictions apply to the following tributaries in Finland:

Teno River: Vetsikkojoki, Utsjoki, Kuoppilasjoki, Niljoki, Akujoki
Inari River: Karigasjoki, Vuomajoki

The restrictions apply to the following tributaries in Norway:

Teno River: Laksjoki, Levajoki, Baisjoki, Valjojoki, Karasjoki

Inari River: Iskurasjoki, Gorzejoki

Fly fishing from the riverbank

A licence to fish from the riverbank entitles the holder to fish with one rod and fly without a float and a casting weight; that is, standard fly fishing equipment. Fly fishing from the riverbank is permitted in areas in which the river forms a part of the national border, with the exclusion of the estuaries of the tributaries listed above. A licence to fish from the riverbank is valid for one fishing zone and only in the country of purchase.

Fishers under 16 years of age may also use fly and float; that is, to use rod and reel equipment to cast a fly when fishing from the riverbank.

Rod and reel fishing from the riverbank

Rod and reel fishing from the riverbank is permitted on the Inari River from Matinköngäs upriver and along the entire length of the Skietsham River. In addition, fishing with rod and reel is permitted in the signposted areas at Alaköngäs, Yläköngäs and Matinköngäs. Fishing using a fly with a float and casting weight is also allowed in these areas.

Fishing from a boat

Fishing from a boat is permitted along the entire length of the river, with the exclusion of the estuaries of the aforementioned tributaries. A licence to fish from a boat is only valid in one fishing zone in both countries, so that fishing from the boat is possible for the entire width of the river.

When fishing from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., a local rower must be used. However, at Alaköngäs, in the zone from Bildanguoika to Boratbokca, the rower must always be a local resident.

When fishing from a boat, you may use no more than three rods at any one time. Only one fishing line and one lure per rod is allowed.

Fishing is also prohibited:

1. From a boat with the motor running or anchored in midstream.
2. Inside leader nets and in the area less than 50 metres from the inlet of the dam or closer than 10 metres to its side nets.
3. Less than 10 metres from a standing net.
4. Fishing from the bridge is prohibited.

The Teno River annually receives 8,000 fishing tourists.

During the 2016 fishing season, the Teno-Inari River received about 7,300 fishing tourists and approximately 900 persons under the age of 18 with a youth licence. A total of 31,300 fishing days were purchased, of which slightly over half were for fishing from a boat. The average fishing time for a fishing tourist in the Teno Valley was 4.3 days. In Finland, locals purchased 680 fishing licences for fishing in the Teno River. Local residents have a right to use traditional fishing methods: gill nets, drift nets and weirs.

The average salmon catch in the Teno River is 126 tonnes.

In summer 2016, the salmon catch on the Teno River was 85 tonnes, which was 33% lower than the average salmon catch during the statistical period (1972-2015). In Finland, the salmon catch in the Teno River was 48.5 tonnes in total. It was divided between local residents (24.6 tonnes), fishing tourists (21.7 tonnes), and other non-resident fishermen (2.2 tonnes). According to the statistics, 29% of the salmon catch in the entire water system was caught by traditional net fishing methods in the Finnish side of the river, and 24% was caught with rod fishing methods by local residents. Fish caught using rod fishing methods by non-resident fishers from tributaries was 2% of the reported catch. Fishing tourists caught a total of 45% of the salmon caught on the Finnish side of the river.

The natural salmon populations in the Teno River are preserved through fishing restrictions.

International agreements, the fishing agreements between Finland and Norway and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) are obligated to collect monitoring data. In Finland, the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) is responsible for collecting this data. Fishing statistics are an important part of the research on salmon populations. The research collects valuable information not only about the catch but also about the changes in salmon fishing.

Zones

Catch report to the register (section 30)

Fishers have the obligation to report every salmon, sea trout and charr to the electronic catch register of the Teno River.

Catch data must be reported at tenonkalaluvat.fi by using the same login information you used when purchasing the fishing licence.

After your fishing licence has expired, the status of the licence in the list (under “Your licences” will change into “Waiting for catch data”.

Click the link to open the page to report your catch. Fishing period, zone and licence type (bank/boat) are saved automatically.

You can also give more detailed information on your fishing spot by choosing your location from the list.

Salmon and sea trout caught shall be reported by each fish individually. Each fish caught shall be reported only once, which means that fish caught by a group of fishers will only be reported once!

The following data must be given: fish species, weight, length, gender, lure (reel and rod/fly).

If a salmon or sea trout has been released, choose “released/päästetty vapaaksi”. You can estimate the weight or length of the fish under “further information/lisätietoja”.

Undersized fish or kelts does not need to be reported.

Those with no catch report “no fish caught/ei saalista”.

More detailed information on filling in the report can be found at tenonkalaluvat.fi

V Fishing etiquette

Fishing from boats on the Teno River has become divided over the years into a number of rowing places known as ‘pools’. These are not specially marked out; the locus consists of a given still water area, a deep place, rapids or an area of running water. Traditionally people gather upstream from the ‘pool’ and each boat sets out in turn to fish. Taking turns is the only way to allow everyone to fish, especially at busy times. The first to arrive at the starting place is the first to go on the river. There are other unwritten “gentlemen’s rules” associated with fishing from a boat on the Teno River and it is best to ask about them before fishing is started.

Lures of almost every imaginable design are used to fish from boats. The most common types are flies and wobblers. You should pay attention to the length of line paid out. About 15 metres is sufficient. This makes it possible to float the lure as precisely as possible over likely-looking spots. When fishing from a boat, it is a good practice to take a few moments to see what those with more experience on the river are doing. A novice rower arriving on the Teno River for the first time can also turn to his lodge keeper for advice.

The most popular place for fly-fishing is the sandbanks below Alaköngäs, but Alaköngäs is by no means the only good place for fly-fishing.

The same rules of conduct for fishing from the bank as for fishing from a boat are in force during busy periods. Each takes a turn at a casting place, usually about 15 minutes at a time.

- Respect the rights and traditions of other fishermen and local people. Remember that you alone can have an impact on the pleasant atmosphere for yourself and the others by your own behaviour. Forget haste and stress and enjoy the unique landscape of the Teno River Valley, the ancient Sami culture and salmon fishing.

- One of the many traditions on fishing on the Teno River is that those fishing from the bank give way to those fishing from boats. Unnecessary wading from the bank must be avoided, in particular at favourable rowing routes. Salmon is often caught close to the river bank. Those fishing from the boats must also take the rights of those fishing from the bank into consideration and avoid unnecessary disturbing when rowing upstream.

- The shores of the Teno River are mainly owned by private people and general rules restricting access must be taken into account. Because of this, trespassing in gardens, for example, is forbidden without separate permission.

- A recreational fisherman may land his boat on the Norwegian bank and stretch his legs while awaiting his turn to row. However, he is not permitted to camp there without a permit.

- **The fishermen are requested to fish within moderation and take responsibility in protecting natural salmon stocks. Large female salmon should, in particular, be released.**

VI Stop the spreading of Gyrodactylus salaris salmon parasite

The Gyrodactylus salaris salmon parasite does not bother the Baltic salmon but is a great threat to the salmon stocks of the Atlantic rivers. It is capable of wiping out natural salmon reproduction within a few years. The parasite was first encountered in Norway in 1975 and salmon stocks have been exterminated in about 40 rivers since then. The salmon parasite is an external fish parasite only half a millimetre in length, too small to be seen with the naked eye. The parasite mainly attacks salmon fry in rivers, and young migratory salmon. It damages the skin of the young fish, exposing them to bacterial and fungal infections. The parasite spreads as contact infection directly from fish to fish but also by the medium of water or fishing gear.

It is of the greatest importance that the spreading of the salmon parasite be stopped. For this, the help of every salmon fisher is needed (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry/regulation 1376/2004).

In Finland, it is obligatory to disinfect all the fishing gear and equipment, unless the gear is totally dry.

A. Do not bring dead or live fish from other water systems into this region.

B. Using baitfish in angling, ice fishing and lure fishing is forbidden in the water systems in the northern Lapland area (Ylä-Lappi).

C. Use only clean fishing gear. Make sure your gear is totally dry or disinfected before using them.

Disinfection stations:

- All locations selling Teno River fishing licences (see back cover).
- Inari Fishing Harbour
- Inari Neste petrol station
- Ivalo SEO petrol station (Kerttuoja)
- Sevetti Bar in Sevettijärvi

Gut the fish in the same water system where you caught it. Don't throw gutted fish remains into the river or onto the bank.

VII Teno River fishing licences where licences purchased online can be printed

| Location | Telephone |
|--|---------------------|
| • Kalastajan Majatalo Karigasniemi | +358 (0)40 484 8171 |
| • Juha Lohi Seitala | +358 (0)16 676 405 |
| • Tenon Tunturituvat Ky Tanssijoki | +358 (0)400 894 114 |
| • Tenon Kalastus- ja Eräpalvelu Yläköngäs | +358 (0)40 753 3818 |
| • Lomakylä Valle Utsjoki | +358 (0)400 167 521 |
| • Uulan Säästö Utsjoki | +358 (0)16 677 105 |
| • Tenon Lohituvat Niemelä | +358 (0)16 677 138 |
| • Pub Restaurant Rastigaisa Utsjoki | +358 (0)40 587 9097 |
| • Vetsituvat Vetsikko | +358 (0)40 700 8154 |
| • Vetsikon leirintämökit Vetsikko | +358 (0)440 678 805 |
| • Tenon Lohiranta | +358 (0)400 617 016 |

Niittyrinta

+358 (0)40 671 5800

• Nuorgamin Lomakeskus

Nuorgam

+358 (0)400 294 669

VIII Respect for nature and the environment

Under the right of public access, hiking is permitted but vegetation and the trees regenerate slowly in the northern areas. About 90 percent of the Teno River bank area is privately owned. Landowner's permission is thus needed for camping and making a camp fire.

- *Don't dump trash in nature.*
- *Be polite and take other people into consideration both in waters and on land.*
- *Remember everyman's rights and responsibilities.*

Enjoy your visit to Teno!