

## Sport fishing on Lake Vättern

We hope that your fishing trip to the unique Lake Vättern will be successful. The lake holds four species of salmonid game fish (land-locked Atlantic salmon, Arctic char, Lake-run brown trout and grayling) along with the largest pikes in Sweden. Please, read these fishing rules and recommendations for visiting tourists from abroad thoroughly.

### Sport fishing rules

No fishing license is required! Fishing for personal use with a line attached to a handheld pole (rod) is permitted all over the lake. This includes fly fishing and other lure fishing that do not require the use of a boat. Equipment other than handheld rod or trolling gear is forbidden for visitors, e.g. nets, long-lines and traps.

Trolling or mooching from a boat is allowed with a maximum of ten lures per boat on **public water** on the **"open coast"**.

There is a daily bag limit of 3 fishes of the three salmonid species. All other catch must be released. Treat fish carefully.

It is recommended that you use only one hook (1-3 points) per lure. Live bait is not recommended. It is forbidden to transport live fish between waters.

### Open coast

This old expression denotes the parts of the lake outside the archipelago, i.e. most of the lake except the northern part and all bays and straits with a width narrower than 300 m. The innermost part of "Motala viken"-bay is also excluded, as well as the bays "Hargeviken", "Forsaviken" and "Gopöfjärden".

### Private and public water

In Sweden the fishing right in most lakes is owned by private persons, normally the land-owner. In the five great lakes the fishing right outside the private water is owned by the state and free to the public. The private water is all water within 300 m from the shore, and adjoining parts outside with a depth less than 3 m. This also includes the water surrounding islands larger than 100 m in length. All water in the northern archipelago is private, as well as the bays "Hargeviken" and "Motalaviken".

### Tagged fish

Stocking of salmon is performed annually and a portion of the fish released are tagged with visible plastic tags under the dorsal fin. If you catch a tagged fish please recover the tag, measure and weigh the fish. Send the tag along with records of how, when and where you caught the fish. Send the tag to: National Board of Fisheries, 178 93 Drottningholm, Sweden. A small reward will be offered.

### Minimum size

The smallest size (total length) of fish that may be kept is established for:  
Landlocked salmon 60 cm (23.7")  
Lake-run brown trout 45 cm (15.8")  
Arctic char 45 cm (15.8")  
Pikeperch (sander) 40 cm (15.8")  
European eel 55 cm (21.7")  
Grayling 35 cm (13.8")

All fish below the minimum size, measured from the tip of the nose to the extreme tip of the tail (caudal) fin, must immediately be released unharmed back to the water. Fish allowed to be kept should not be cleaned or filleted in the field. They must be maintained in such a condition that the total length can be determined.

### For Your Safety

Always carry distress rockets and lifejackets of appropriate size for every person on board. As the lake is cold (maximum 17 °C, 63 °F, in mid-summer) it is strongly recommended that You use thermo suits.

Be sure to hold the distance to other boats and be attentive.

In case of emergency call 112 over the telephone and ask for "Sjöräddning", the coastguard.

On VHF-radio: call Sweden rescue on channel 16.

### Marking of fishing gear

On Lake Vättern commercial fishing is carried out. Each gear must have a buoy that is marked according to the following:

Gill-nets are marked by one small flag in the easterly direction and two in the westerly direction. In some cases the marking consists of only buoys (non-commercial fishing). All the gear mentioned can be sailed across. Gill-nets at or near the surface (pelagic nets) are also marked with a ball above the flags. These gears can not be sailed across.

Trap-nets along the shore line are marked with a yellow cross and one or two flags at the extreme extension. All fishing is prohibited within 100 m from trap-nets.

Don't sail close to unattended gear, especially if You're not certain of the marking.

### Closed areas and seasons

On the map closed areas are marked. All fishing is prohibited on private waters and inside the closed areas from the 15<sup>th</sup> of September until 30<sup>th</sup> of November. However, sport fishing (line-and-rod) may be carried out if no boat is required. Trout or Arctic char caught must immediately be released.

In all inlet streams all fishing for salmon and trout is prohibited from the 15<sup>th</sup> of September until 31<sup>st</sup> of December.

### Be considerate

-to the fish. Handle fish with care. When You need to release the fish leave it in the water if possible. Do not net it, use a hook remover to take out hooks embedded in the mouth. If the fish has swallowed the hook, cut the leader. Revive the fish before releasing it.

-to Your fellow fishermen. Be prepared to help anyone in need.

-to the environment. Don't throw away used fishing lines, dispose of motor oil or other toxic substances environment friendly. Bring all the litter back to shore.

-to the bird fauna. Bird sanctuary's are marked with yellow signs on the small islands in question. Normally it is not allowed to travel closer than 100 m from these areas during the 15<sup>th</sup> of April until the 15<sup>th</sup> of July.

-to people living all around the lake. Park Your vehicle on marked parking areas. Don't use private bridges and don't trespass.

GPS-positions (coordinates) for "open coast" and closed areas can be found on the Swedish edition of this pamphlet. There is also found the rules for marking of gear and an example of how the minimum size is measured.

Enjoy Your stay...and remember that even a bad days fishing is better than a good day at the office!