

English

# TENO **i** nfo



## *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  
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## 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 occasionally inconvenience salmon fishing in the summer.

The Teno River accommodates some 30 genetically diverse salmon stocks that have adapted to their native river over thousands of years. The salmon populations of the Teno River reproduce naturally, and fishing restrictions are used as a means of preserving and developing the salmon stocks, as there is no restocking. 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 peak 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 year after year. Peak years take place every 8–9 years, after which stocks plummet. Since 2003, the amount of salmon caught annually has been lower than the long term average (118 tonnes from 1975 to 2019) 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.

The salmon spend about 4 years in the river environment as juvenile fish and migrate to the ocean as smolts weighing 30 g and measuring 17 cm in length. Smolts typically migrate in June and July. Teno River salmon migrate over a vast area in the North Atlantic, all the way to the eastern coast of Greenland. They stay in the ocean for 1–5 years. 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 reach the weight of about ten kilos in three years, when they measure one metre in length. They return to the Teno River to spawn mainly

from June to August. There has been an increase in the percentage of salmon that have previously spawned, that is, they are returning to spawn for at least their second time. 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 at**  
[www.ely-keskus.fi/lappi](http://www.ely-keskus.fi/lappi)

*Front page photo: Kare Koivisto*

## 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*

• €45/calendar year • €15/ 7 days • €6/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 (including 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 licence is purchased**. This means that the Finnish fishing management fee is required for fishing licences bought in Finland, whereas the Norwegian government's fishing management fee is required for boat or riverbank fishing licences purchased in Norway

*Fishing bailiffs on the Teno River*

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## III Regulations of the Teno River Fishing District for Visitors

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*

1. 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.
2. Fishing is permitted from 10 June to midnight on 10 August.
3. The licence to fish from the riverbank entitles fishing from 7 p.m. to 7 p.m. of the following day. Fishing between midnight and 7 a.m. is prohibited (local time in Finland, CET +2).
4. 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 Boratbokca and Bildanguoika. **Fishing from the riverbank is not permitted with a boat fishing licence!**
5. Fishing is not permitted from 7 p.m. on Sunday to 7 p.m. each week on Monday local time in Finland.
6. Every fisher must report their catch. Catch report must also be made when no fish is caught.
7. Fishing is permitted only with a rod and lure. Use of shrimp, baitfish or worm bait is prohibited.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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](http://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. The fishing zones 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. The licence can be printed for any weekday within the week for which the licence has been purchased. Licences purchased from the Norwegian web shop are printed out in Norway or at certain sales points in Finland. A fee of €3 will be charged for the printing of the Finnish licences per each day.

A maximum of four fishing licences per fishing week and 20 fishing licences per fishing season can be purchased from the Finnish web shop. The fisher-specific weekly quotas are removed on 1 June, after which more licences can be purchased if available.

The cleanliness of fishing equipment in compliance with the requirements set for Teno River 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 in 2020***

Period	Nuorgam	Vetsikko	Utsjoki	Outakoski and Inarijoki
10.6.–16.6.	80	60	70	60
17.6.–23.6.	80	60	70	60
24.6.–30.6.	80	85	90	80
1.7.–7.7.	80	85	90	80
8.7.–14.7.	80	85	90	80
15.7.–21.7.	80	60	70	60
22.7.–28.7.	80	60	70	60
29.7.–4.8.	60	60	70	60
5.8.–10.8.	60	60	70	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 in 2020***

Period	Nuorgam	Vetsikko	Utsjoki	Outakoski main river	Inarijoki
10.6.–16.6.	50	55	60	50	40
17.6.–23.6.	50	55	60	50	40
24.6.–30.6.	50	55	60	50	40
1.7.–7.7.	50	55	60	50	40
8.7.–14.7.	50	55	60	50	40
15.7.–21.7.	50	55	60	40	40
22.7.–28.7.	50	55	60	40	40
29.7.–4.8.	50	55	60	40	40
5.8.–10.8.	50	55	60	40	40

Fishing weeks are defined in fishing regulations and are different from calendar weeks.

Prices for fishers from 16 to 18 years of age are €40/day from boats and €25/day from the riverbank.

***Fishing licences for under 16-year-olds***

One or more junior fishing licences can be linked to a standard licence entitling the holder to fish from the riverbank or from a boat. A junior licence entitles the licence-holder to fish with a single rod or handheld line. Junior licences are not counted in the licence quotas. A junior licence box is ticked on the licence at the time of purchase, and personal identification information will be completed later. The holder of the standard licence to fish from the riverbank or a boat, to which one or more junior licences are linked, is obliged to report the catch caught by



the said junior fishers.

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 licences purchased for friends will also be printed out at the sales point on the basis of the code of your licence. If licences are not printed out in time, they revert to the web shop and are sold.

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 restrictions on tributaries***

Fishing with a rod from boats and riverbanks in the estuaries of the salmon-rich tributaries of the Teno River is forbidden in defined zones for each tributary as follows:

**Nilijoki (FIN);** 50 metres upstream and 200 metres downstream from the mouth of the tributary, and from its nearest banks across the main river until the deep water channel.

**Akujoki (FIN);** 50 metres upstream and 200 metres downstream from the mouth of the tributary, and from its nearest banks across the main river until the deep water channel.

**Kaarasjoki/Kárášjohka (NOR)** (confluence of Inarijoki and Kárášjohka): 50 metres upstream from the mouths of both tributaries and 200 metres downstream of the Teno River, across the river channel.

**Karigasjoki (FIN);** 50 metres upstream and 100 metres downstream from the mouth of the tributary, and from its nearest banks across the main river channel.

**Iskurasjoki/Iškorasjohka (NOR);** 50 metres upstream and 100 metres downstream from the mouth of the tributary, and from its nearest banks across the main river channel.

**Goššjohka (NOR);** 50 metres upstream and 100 metres downstream from the mouth of the tributary, and from its nearest banks across the main river channel.

**Inarijoki/Anárjohka (NOR)** (confluence of Inarijoki/Anárjohka and Kietsimäjoki/Skiehččanjohka):

50 metres upstream and 100 metres downstream from the mouth of the tributary, and from its nearest banks across the main river channel.

Fishing is prohibited in all other tributaries 50 upstream and 100 metres downstream from the mouth of the tributary to the deep water channel.

### *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.

When fishing from a boat, everyone participating in fishing must hold a valid fishing licence, including the rower.

### *Other restrictions to fishing from bank or boat*

1. Fishing and laying fishing equipment into water from a

boat with the motor running or anchored in midstream are prohibited.

2. Fishing inside leader nets and in an area less than 50 metres from the inlet of the dam or closer than 10 metres to its side nets is prohibited.

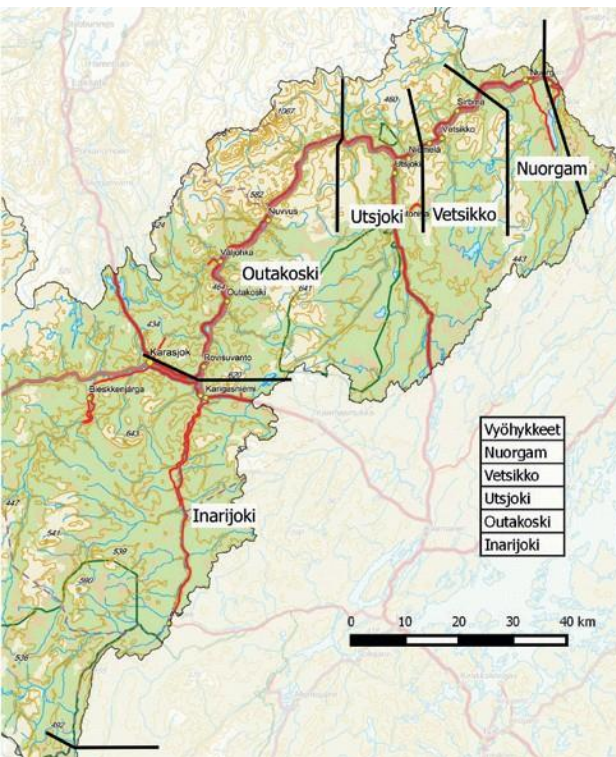
3. Fishing less than 10 metres from a standing net is prohibited.

4. Fishing from the bridge is prohibited.

## IV Catch INFO

The Finnish side of the Teno River used to attract some 8,000 fishing tourists, purchasing some 30,000 fishing days per year. The new Fishing Agreement entering into force for the fishing season of 2017 significantly reduced fishing opportunities, decreasing the number of fishing tourists on the Finnish side of the Teno River to 2,500, purchasing some 11,000 fishing days. Some tourists who used to fish on the Finnish side of the river purchased Norwegian licences due to the better availability with respect to demand. Local residents purchased approximately 500 seasonal licences in Finland. Some local residents have a right to use traditional fishing methods: gill nets, drift nets and weirs.

In summer 2019, the salmon catch on the Teno River was estimated at 40 tonnes, which was clearly the lowest during the statistical period (1975-2019) due to the new catch restrictions, which entered



into force in 2017, and the low number of large salmon. Slightly more salmon was caught on Norwegian side of the border (21 tonnes) than in Finland (19 tonnes). In Finland, local residents caught about 10.1 tonnes (53%) and fishing tourists nearly 9.0 tonnes (47%). In Norway, local residents caught some 15.6 tonnes and tourists 5.4 tonnes in 2019. It is estimated that approximately half of the fish caught by local residents, both in Finland and Norway, was caught using various net fishing methods, and the rest by using rod fishing methods.

The natural salmon stocks of the Teno River are managed by means of information-based fishing restrictions. A diverse range of follow-up data is collected of salmon in the Teno River for planning and setting appropriate fish stock management measures and fishing restrictions. In Finland, the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) is responsible for collecting this data. International agreements, the fishing agreements between Finland and Norway amongst others, require collecting monitoring data.

Annual fishing and catch statistics, together with various salmon censuses, are important parts of the monitoring programme on salmon populations in the Teno River. According to the new fishing agreement, which entered into force in 2017, every fisher in the Teno River area has the obligation to report their catch.

Further information on Teno River salmon and salmon research at: [www.luke.fi/tenojoki](http://www.luke.fi/tenojoki) and [www.luke.fi/tenojoen\\_tutkimusryhma](http://www.luke.fi/tenojoen_tutkimusryhma)

### ***Catch report to the register (section 30)***

Every fisher must report their catch. Catch report must also be made when no fish is caught. Fishers have the obligation to report every salmon, sea trout and pink salmon to the electronic catch register of the Teno River. The data are submitted by means of an individual catch report link sent to the fisher's email after the expiry of their licence or by logging in at [tenonkalaluvat.fi](http://tenonkalaluvat.fi)

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.

Those with a licence to fish from a boat are requested to report the number of fishers on the boat at the time of catching the fish and whether the rower was a local person.

Everyone with a fishing licence on the boat at the time of catching the fish shall report every fish caught in their catch report.

The following data must be given: fish species, weight, length, gender. If a salmon or sea trout has been released, choose “released/päästetty vapaaksi”. Undersized fish or kelts does not need to be reported. Those with no catch report “no fish caught/ei saalista”.

**Further information on reporting your catch at [tenonkalaluvat.fi](https://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, in particular, should be released.**

## VI Stop the spreading of Gyrodactylus salaris salmon parasite

The Gyrodactylus salaris salmon parasite is not harmful to other 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 (Kerttuojä)*
  - *Sevetti Bar in Sevettijärvi*
  - *Reindeer farm Sanila (Kirakkajärvi)*
  - *Näätämö Gateway (Näätämö)*
- D. *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 licence points where licences purchased online can be printed

Location	Telephone
• Kylätalo Saivu Karigasniemi	+358 40 7286822
• Tenon Tunturituvat Ky Tanssijoki	+358 40 753 3818 +358 400 167 521
• Tenon Kalastus- ja Eräpalvelu Yläköngäs	+358 400 188 467
• Lomakylä Valle Utsjoki	+358 400 948 210
• Uulan Säästö Utsjoki	+358 16 677 105
• Tenon Lohituvat Niemelä	+358 40 587 9097
• Pub Restaurant Rastigaisa Utsjoki	+358 40 700 8154
• Vetsituvat Vetsikko	+358 440 678 805
• Vetsikon leirintämökit Vetsikko	+358 400 617 016
• Tenon Lohiranta Niittyrinta	+358 40 671 5800
• Nuorgamin Lomakeskus Nuorgam	+358 400 294 669

## 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!***