

FISHING REGULATIONS IN GAULA 2025

- All anglers must register each year before fishing begins (Gaulakortet).
- The angler is obliged to familiarize themselves with all applicable fishing regulations.
- The angler should pay extra attention to the recommended method for proper catch and release, §13, paragraph 2.
- The fishery management in Gaula recommends the use of barbless hooks for all gear, as well as the use of circle hooks when fishing with worms.

§ 1. JOINT MANAGEMENT IN GAULA

The Gaula Elveierlag (river owner's association) constitutes the joint management of the Gaula river system according to the Salmon and Inland Fisheries Act § 25. The river owner's association establishes binding fishing rules on behalf of all rights holders in the river system.

§ 2. SCOPE

The fishing regulations apply to Gaula and its tributaries. All individuals wishing to fish in the river system must agree to abide by the fishing regulations before commencing fishing.

§ 3. COMMENCEMENT

The fishing regulations were adopted on May 3, 2025, and take effect from the 2025 fishing season, for the fishing period specified in § 4.

§ 4. FISHING SEASON

The fishing season for salmon in Gaula follows the regulations in the regulations on fishing for anadromous salmonid fish in rivers, from June 1 to August 31.

§ 5. FISHING PERMIT BEFORE FISHING STARTS

All individuals over 18 years old who wish to fish in the Gaula river system must have paid the national fishing fee for the current calendar year before fishing begins.

Everyone wishing to fish in the Gaula river system must register and purchase the Gaulakortet for the current calendar year via Elveguiden (app or elveguiden.no) before fishing begins.

All anglers must purchase a fishing permit or otherwise obtain permission from the rights holder of the relevant fishing area, and for the period in which fishing will take place, before fishing begins.

Each angler is required to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the fishing regulations before fishing begins and to follow the fishing regulations while fishing.

§ 6. REQUIREMENT FOR DISINFECTION OF FISHING EQUIPMENT

All fishing gear and other equipment (e.g., boats, nets, waders, etc.) that has been used in other river systems during the current season must be disinfected at an approved disinfection station in Gauldalen before being used in the Gaula river system.

A disinfection certificate must be shown when purchasing/renting fishing gear, as well as during inspections by the river owner's fishing patrol, if the angler has fished in other rivers.

The costs of disinfection at the river owner's approved disinfection stations are included in the Gaulakortet.

§ 7. PROTECTION

The following national protection regulations, established in or under the authority of law, apply as part of these fishing regulations:

It is prohibited to catch fish in fish ladders, fish passes, or similar structures, to increase or decrease water flow, or to prevent or attempt to prevent fish from entering or passing through the structure. This prohibition also applies to a stretch of 50 meters above and 50 meters below the fish ladder, fish pass, or similar structure.

Protection regulations:

- All salmon over 65 cm must be released alive.
- All salmon under 35 cm must be released alive.
- Winter-run salmon must be released alive.
- All sea trout and brown trout must be released alive.

Additional local protection regulations established by the river owner's association:

It is prohibited to fish from bridges and bridge structures.

Common to all protection regulations:

In case of doubt regarding sex, size, or species determination in relation to the protection regulations, the captured fish must be released alive. All releases should be evaluated and carried out in accordance with § 13.

§ 8. QUOTAS

Quota for killed salmon: A maximum of one (1) per day and two (2) per season.
The salmon must be under 65 cm.

Quota for catch and release of salmon/sea trout:

- 3 per day
- A maximum of 20 per season

Daily quota: Defined as the number of salmon an individual can kill and/or catch and release in a 24-hour period (0:00-24:00). Once the daily quota is reached, all fishing must cease immediately until the new day starts.

Seasonal quota: Defined as the number of salmon an individual can kill during a season. Once the seasonal quota is reached, all fishing must cease for the remainder of the season.

The quotas apply to the individual angler and cannot be transferred. The person who hooks the fish is responsible for recording it on their quota.

§ 9. NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Any catch of farmed salmon, pink salmon, and rainbow trout must be killed and never released. These species are not subject to quotas but must be reported.

§ 10. REQUIREMENT FOR CATCH REPORTING

The angler must report all catches, both killed and released fish, as soon as possible and no later than 6 hours after the catch. The reporting requirement applies to all species.

Catch reports are made via Elveguiden (app or elveguiden.no).

The catch report must be accurate and complete, including the date, fishing area, species, weight, sex, length, angler's full name, phone number, gear used, and whether the fish was killed or released.

The angler is personally responsible for ensuring that the catch is reported with correct information within the specified deadline.

Incorrect or incomplete reporting, including late reporting, will be considered a violation of the fishing regulations.

All catch information will be publicly published on Elveguiden. The river owner's association reserves the right to further use images attached to the catch report.

§ 11. REQUIREMENT FOR SCALE SAMPLES

The angler must take scale samples from all killed catches, including any killed protected fish and non-native species. The scale sample should be placed in a sample envelope where all required information must be recorded.

By writing their mobile phone number on the sample envelope, the angler agrees to receive an SMS from the Norwegian Veterinary Institute with the results of the scale sample. The mobile phone number will not be used for any other purpose and will be deleted after the fishing season.

The sample envelope must be delivered to an approved collection point in Gauldalen within two days of the catch.

§ 12. MID-SEASON EVALUATION WITH PRE-AGREED MEASURES

The river owner's association will carry out a mid-season evaluation of the salmon fishing according to the regulations. The river owner's association will enter into an agreement with the County Governor before the fishing season regarding measures to be implemented if the mid-season evaluation indicates that the spawning stock target in the river system is unlikely to be met. The pre-agreed measures will aim to adjust the harvest rate so that the spawning stock target can be reached or minimize any negative deviation.

The mid-season point is defined in relation to historical catch volume, when 50% of the season's catch has been recorded, and is set for the start of July. Catch statistics up to the evaluation point will be an important part of the decision-making basis.

Any measures to increase or decrease the harvest for the remainder of the season will be announced on Elveguiden and the Gaula River Owner's Association's website. Measures may involve changes to fishing times, quotas, and/or the size of protected salmon. The angler is obliged to stay informed about the outcome of the mid-season evaluation.

§ 13. ANIMAL WELFARE

Fishing must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act. Fish should not be subjected to unnecessary stress.

Killing. Evaluate whether the fish should be killed instead of being released. If the fish should not be released after evaluation, it must be killed.

Quickly kill the fish if it has external or internal injuries, has swallowed the hook, it would take too long to remove the hook, or there are other reasons why it should not be released.

Killing should be done in an animal welfare-appropriate manner. Stun the fish with a hard, well-aimed blow between the eyes. Then use a sharp knife to bleed the fish with a deep cut across the gill arches to allow the blood to flow out. Remove the hook from the fish after it has been killed.

The fish must also be killed if it was caught in violation of the quota, protection regulations, or other private or public fishing regulations. If a protected salmon must be killed, it should be handed in and will not be counted in the angler's personal seasonal quota. Fishing can resume the next day.

Fish species: If in doubt about the species of the fish, it should be released alive. We recommend that all spawning-colored salmon be released alive. If there is doubt whether a protected fish will survive a potential release, the fish should be killed and handed in.

Catch and Release

Take the fish to a place where it will not be damaged by rocks, twigs, or similar.

Do not use a clamp or tailing. Do not lift the fish unnecessarily out of the water – the fish should preferably stay in the water at all times.

Hold the fish as horizontally as possible, with good support under the body and a firm grip around the tail (sporden). Do not hold the fish by the gill covers, and do not hold it out of the water for more than a few seconds. Do not lift the fish by the tail alone.

Only touch the fish with wet hands. Handle the fish as little as possible. Do not lift the fish unnecessarily out of the water – the fish should preferably stay in the water at all times.

Check the fish without lifting it out of the water, for example with one hand around the tail and the other gently under the belly. Gently release the hook with hook-removal pliers (long and straight).

Do not stroke or pat the fish. Handle fish that has just come out of the sea especially carefully. Early in the season, fish are particularly vulnerable to losing scales, leading to fungal infections.

Avoid weighing the fish. Estimate the size of the fish visually or measure the length. You can, for example, place measurement marks on your fishing rod. You can later read from the length-weight table to approximately determine the fish's weight.

Turn the fish upright in the water once the hook is removed. Hold the fish with its head facing the current, preferably with one hand gently around the tail and one under the belly.

Keep the fish still while it recovers, do not move it back and forth in the water. Do not release the fish until the gill covers are pumping well, and the fish is balancing on its own. Be especially careful when the water temperature exceeds 18°C.

Remember that even released fish must be reported.

Requirement for Submission

Fish caught in violation of the quota, protection regulations, or other private or public fishing regulations, but which are still killed for animal welfare reasons, must be submitted to the river owner's association at an approved submission point.

Fish submission:

- Fishing must always cease when a salmon is handed in. The angler may resume fishing the next day.
- Submitted salmon that is protected and not subject to a quota (over 65 cm) does not count towards the angler's personal seasonal quota.
- Submitted salmon that is subject to a quota (under 65 cm) counts towards the angler's personal seasonal quota.

Guidelines for the angler's handling and submission of fish:

- The fish must be reported in the usual manner as killed.
- Fish brought ashore should be bled as quickly as possible.
- To the extent possible, direct contact with soil should be avoided.
- All direct handling of the fish should be done with good hand hygiene.
- The fish should be wrapped in clean packaging suitable for contact with food.

- The packaging should be clearly marked with the catch ID and frozen as quickly as possible on/near the fishing area.
- The required storage temperature is a maximum of 4 degrees Celsius. Freezer storage should be at -18 degrees Celsius or colder.
- The fish must be submitted within 24 hours to an approved submission point.

§ 14. REQUIREMENTS FOR GEAR USE AND FISHING METHODS

General

Only rods are allowed for catching anadromous salmonid fish. Only one gear per person, one line per gear, and one bait per line are permitted. The gear should not be left unattended while fishing. It should never be fished in a way that will likely result in the fish being hooked improperly.

Only natural bait (i.e., biological worms, such as earthworms), lures, spinners, flies, and wobblers with a maximum of one treble hook are allowed as bait.

Bait with more than one single hook, a double hook, or a treble hook is prohibited. The distance between the hook shank and the hook point must not exceed 13 mm for a single hook, or 15 mm for a treble hook.

The fishery management encourages barbless hooks. For fishing with natural bait, the use of circle hooks is recommended.

When using a fly as bait, the float or fly line must serve as the casting weight, and the weight should not be in the hook, tube, or other parts of the gear. The use of weights is only allowed when fishing with worms. When fishing with a float, the float must always be on the surface.

Special restrictions for designated sub-sections

In the large pool below Gaulfossen, from June 1–30, only worm fishing without weight and fly fishing are allowed.

From Eggafossen down to approximately 100 meters below the pool's outlet, only light fishing is allowed, in accordance with the definition of light fishing in point 3.

In the tributary Sokna, only worm fishing with weight, spinner up to 15 g, and fly fishing are allowed. If the water flow at the Hugdal Bridge gauge is at least 15 m³/s, the use of lures and wobblers with a maximum of one treble hook is also allowed.

Requirement for light fishing during low water flow

If the water flow at the Gaulfossen gauge is 20 m³/s or lower, only light fishing is allowed in Gaula and its tributaries Fora and Bua. The light fishing restriction ends when the flow increases to 25 m³/s or higher.

Light fishing includes: a) fly fishing where a floating float or fly line serves as the casting weight, b) worm fishing with or without a float. Weights are prohibited.

The light fishing arrangement does not apply downstream of the flood gauge at the outlet of Varmbubekken (Hølbekken) in Melhus.

If the water flow at the Hugdal Bridge gauge is 8 m³/s or lower, only light fishing is allowed in the tributary Sokna. If the water flow is 4 m³/s or lower, all fishing in Sokna must cease.

Other

All other gear, technology, and fishing methods designed to locate, capture, or find fish, other than what is expressly allowed under these regulations, are prohibited.

In cases where incidents or conditions may significantly impact the fish stock, the association may choose to close fishing in all or parts of the river system or implement changes to quotas, allowed gear use, and/or fishing methods.

The board's decision regarding measures will be announced on Elveguiden and the association's website. The angler is obligated to stay updated on rule changes or special measures in the river system.

§ 15. CONTROL AND FISHING INSPECTION

The rights holder or their representative (permit seller/lessor/fishing inspector) must be able to verify and confirm all prerequisites that must be arranged before fishing begins, in accordance with §§ 5 and 6.

The river owner's association hires fishing inspectors in the Gaula river system, who, on behalf of the association, will ensure that the fishing regulations are followed. The fishing inspectors have the authority, on behalf of the river owner's association, to react to and report violations of the regulations.

The river owner's association reserves the right to report potential violations of public legal obligations, regardless of whether the violation also constitutes a breach of the association's fishing regulations.

Each angler is obligated to assist in ensuring that compliance with the fishing regulations is quickly and efficiently controlled, including by identifying themselves, presenting their catch and fishing gear, and providing confirmation of prerequisites that must be arranged before fishing, in accordance with § 5 and 6.

§ 16. REACTIONS TO VIOLATIONS OF FISHING REGULATIONS

Violations of these fishing regulations may result in fines, expulsion, and/or suspension. In the case of specific incidents and serious violations of the association's fishing regulations, the Gaula River Owner's Association may impose stricter reactions than those mentioned here. In exceptional cases with specific mitigating circumstances, the board of the river owner's association may choose to impose lighter reactions than those outlined in this provision.

The following reactions apply for violations of the association's fishing regulations (per incident and per angler):

Fishing without the rights holder's permission or the Gaulakortet: 4,000 NOK and suspension for up to the remainder of the season.

Quota violations: 8,000 NOK and suspension for up to 2 years.

Failure to submit scale samples: 1,500 NOK.

Other violations of these fishing regulations: 4,000 NOK.

Assisting in violations is treated as a violation under this provision. Fishing during periods when the river system is temporarily closed or fishing in protected areas is considered a quota violation.

§ 17. ANGLER'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE REGULATIONS AND FISHING INSPECTORS

By engaging in fishing, purchasing the Gaulakortet, fishing permits, or renting fishing rights, the angler accepts these fishing regulations with the subsequent consequences for violations.

By engaging in fishing, purchasing the Gaulakortet, fishing permits, or renting fishing rights, the angler agrees that violations of the fishing regulations will be enforced by the fishing inspectors and that violations will be handled by the board of the river owner's association. The river owner's association may, if necessary, convey relevant information about violations of the fishing regulations to the relevant rights holders and/or fishing permit sellers.

In case of a dispute, the case may be brought before the Trøndelag District Court.

Collection points for scale samples (fishing regulations § 11):

Scale samples should be submitted in collection boxes at Coop stores in Melhus, Kvål, Ler, Lundamo, Hovin, Bjørgen, and Haltdalen, or at Gauldalsporten in Støren.