

Sport fishing for salmon in state managed waters in the Lainio river

Background to regulations

The Lainio river is home to a unique population of wild salmon. Each individual salmon that returns to its spawning grounds after the almost 2000 kilometer journey from the Baltic Sea has an important role to play both biologically and genetically for the continued survival of Lainio river salmon. In addition to being biologically important, Lainio salmon play an increasingly important role in fishing tourism and regional development.

To achieve a balance between sport fishing and maintenance of a sustainable salmon resource we are now developing management methods in the Lainio river. One of many important factors in the creation of a sustainable sport fishery is the ability to be able to monitor and limit catch levels.

The county administration board of Norrbotten are therefore testing a new system for salmon management in those parts of the Lainio river under county administration. As well as the already compulsory fishing license, all salmon caught and kept in the Lainio river will now be required to be marked with a uniquely numbered gill tag, and all results from salmon fishing must be reported.

The following regulations apply for salmon fishing in those areas of the Lainio river under county management:

- Fishing for salmon is only allowed with the Kiruna fishing license and with the possession of a valid salmon gill tag.
- A gill tag is required even if a fisherman intends to release all salmon catch. When required by a fisheries control officer a valid fishing license and gill tag must immediately be presented.
- Immediately upon landing and retaining a salmon the gill tag shall be attached through the gill opening and mouth of the fish and securely locked around the gill cover. [The gill tag is properly closed only when it is impossible to reopen it.](#)
- The tag must be retained on the fish until the salmon is either to be directly cooked and consumed or filleted for freezing.
- Possession of a retained salmon not marked with a valid gill tag or where the gill tag is not closed violates fishing regulations and can involve police action and/or the prohibition of future purchase of salmon gill tags.
- Only one salmon may be caught and retained per licensed fisherman and day. This is independent of how many tags an angler has purchased and is in possession of.
- It is forbidden to keep/kill female salmon. All female salmon must immediately be released.

Purchase of gill tags and compulsory catch reporting

- Gill tags can be purchased and collected from four places within the Kiruna region: Kiruna Tourist bureau (ph. 0980-188 80), Kallax flyg in Kurravaara (ph. 0980-202 50), Blinds kiosk och bensin in Övre Soppero (ph. 0981-300 42), and Jaktia/Outdoorshoppen Kiruna (ph. 0980-202 00).
- Price: 100 SEK/gill tag.
- When purchasing gill tags a valid fishing license and identification e.g. driver's license must be presented. Personal details and individual fishing license number will be recorded.

- A catch report is compulsory independent on whether a salmon is caught or not. Reporting takes place online via the link in the email or on paper form. Reporting must be done no later than September 30th on the same year of purchasing the tag.
- Failure to report will result in prohibition from future purchase of salmon gill tags.
- Maximum purchase of gill tags per individual:
 - 1-day license - 1 gill tag
 - 3-day license - 1 gill tag
 - 7-day license - 2 gill tags
 - Year license - 3 gill tags

The maximum purchase of gill tags per person and year is 3 gill tags independent of the number of purchased fishing licenses.
- Gill tags can be purchased (max. 3) by every paying holder of a one year license for families.
- Children under 16 years fishing together with parent cannot buy gill tags but can use the parents tags.
- Gill tags are valid for usage during the whole of the legal salmon season. A gill tag purchased in the beginning of a season in combination with a 1, 3 or 7 day license but not used at that time can be used later in the same season in combination with a new valid fishing license.
- One gill tag shall be attached to each salmon caught and retained.
- Issued salmon gill tags are individually numbered and are not transferable between fishermen.
- Tags shall not be re-used.
- There is no refund for unused gill tags.