

## **APPLICATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING PERMITS FOR THE STATE'S PRIVATE WATER AREAS AND PUBLIC INLAND WATER AREAS FOR 2026–2030 (excluding the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki)**

Under sections 8, 41 and 45 of the Fishing Act (379/2015), Metsähallitus makes decisions on fishing rights and the organisation of fishing in state-owned water areas.

The commercial fishing permits that are currently valid in state-owned private and public water areas administered by Metsähallitus will expire on 31 December 2025.

Metsähallitus invites operators to apply for commercial fishing permits for 2026–2030 for **state-owned private and public (inland) water areas. The permit application period is 15 September – 10 October 2025, 4:15 PM.**

Metsähallitus is introducing an electronic application system for commercial fishing permits, which will be the primary channel for submitting permit applications. For the permit application system, visit: [www.eraluvat.fi/en/areas/permits-for-commercial-fishing-1355](http://www.eraluvat.fi/en/areas/permits-for-commercial-fishing-1355). Before submitting an application, the applicant must create a user account in Eräluvat.fi service.

Permits can also be applied for by submitting an application form to Metsähallitus' Registry. In this case, the applicant should carefully complete all sections of the application, sign it, and send it and its attachments to Metsähallitus' Registry, using the return address indicated at the end of the form. Incomplete applications and applications without a certificate stating that the applicant is listed on the ELY Centre's register of commercial fishing operators, and applications that arrive late, will be processed on a secondary basis.

If an operator applies for permits for several counties, a separate application must be submitted for each county.

Commercial fishing permits may be applied for the following types of fishing gear:

- seine net
- fyke net or fish trap (height no more than 1.5 m)
- fyke net (height 1.5 to 5 m)
- fyke net (height over 5 m)
- trawl net (headrope length no more than 300 m)
- trawl net (headrope length over 300 m)
- net (length no more than 31 m, height no more than 5 m), crayfish trap, fish trap (3 traps), 10 bait hooks and longline with max. 100 hooks



- net (length no more than 31 m, height over 5 m), crayfish trap, fish trap (3 traps), 10 bait hooks and longline with max. 100 hooks
- rod (no more than 8 rods)

### **General criteria for granting commercial fishing permits**

See below for the key principles of granting Metsähallitus' permits for commercial fishing and determining who is given priority when granting the permits.

- Applications that arrive by the application date indicated in the announcement will be processed on a priority basis. Applications that arrive late or are incomplete will be processed on a secondary basis.
- Permits can also be granted on a secondary basis after the application period has ended if fishing rights are still available. Applications received after the actual application period will be processed in the order of arrival, and the possibilities of granting a permit are decided based on overall consideration in each individual case.
- The minimum number of nets to be applied for is 15 per application.
- The duration of the permit is 1 to 5 years subject to individual consideration.
- In order for the permits to remain valid each year, the permit holder must submit to the ELY Centre the annual catch report referred to in the current national and/or EU fisheries legislation.
- Permits may be cancelled before their expiry in the event of abuses, violations of legislation, legislative amendments, violations of permit conditions or other similar matters.
- One of the objectives of the permit procedure is to ensure appropriate use of the granted fishing permits. For this reason, the permit may be cancelled before its expiry if it has remained unused without a justified reason. Failure to use a granted fishing permit without a justified reason will also affect negatively the applicant's possibilities of obtaining future permits. The permit will be deemed unused if the permit holder has not submitted a report to the ELY Centre or if no agreement has been reached with Metsähallitus on not using the permit.

Permit decisions are based on overall consideration, in which the criteria for determining priority listed below and the policies on commercial fishing in the management plans for fisheries are taken into consideration. Determination of priority when granting permits (in order of importance):

1. A permit is granted to an applicant who is listed in the ELY Centre's register of commercial fishing operators. As a commercial fishing operator is



**Metsähallitus**

PL 80 (Opastinsilta 12)

FI-00521 HELSINKI, Suomi Finland

Tel. 0206 39 4000

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Y-tunnus / Business ID: 0116726-7

regarded a natural or legal person (limited liability company, limited partnership, business name or similar) entered in the register of commercial fishing operators maintained by the ELY Centre. Commercial fishing operators in Group 1 will be prioritised over those in Group 2 when granting permits. Prioritisation of Group 1 commercial fishing operators is consistent with sections 9 and 15 of the Fishing Act.

2. An applicant's previous fishing history in the area or site in question (local knowledge) will be considered an advantage. Metsähallitus stresses previous fishing history in the permit granting criteria because such operators have usually already engaged in fishing under their previous permits and may have made investments in fishing in the relevant area. To ensure methodical business planning and its continuity, such operators are given priority over other applicants when granting permits. This criterion corresponds to the criteria for determining priority laid down in section 15 of the Fishing Act.
3. The applicant's other fishing possibilities, such as the possibility to fish in the waters of a joint ownership association, may affect the granting of permits. Applicants' fishing possibilities will be taken into consideration as a whole when granting permits. Having other areas can be deemed an advantage due to the significance of a wider continuous fishing area, which improves the preconditions for profitable commercial fishing.
4. Local commercial fishing operators will be given priority in terms of receiving permits. The main factor in assessing if an applicant is local is their municipality of residence. Prioritisation of local commercial fishing operators promotes local fishing possibilities and the profitability of commercial fishing while mitigating climate change.

## How to apply

Permit applications should be submitted between 15 September and 10 October 2025, 4:15 PM, primarily using the digital application system: [www.eraluvat.fi/en/areas/permits-for-commercial-fishing-1355](http://www.eraluvat.fi/en/areas/permits-for-commercial-fishing-1355).

Applications can also be submitted by sending the application form with its attachments by 4:15 PM on 10 October 2025 to the address: Metsähallitus, Registry, P.O. Box 80, 00521 HELSINKI, or by e-mail to: [kirjaamo@metsa.fi](mailto:kirjaamo@metsa.fi).



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Once the permit application has been submitted, applicants can track its processing by logging in to their user account in Eräluvut.fi service. You can find your application in the service through the menu: "Applications > Commercial fishing". A notification of the permit decision will be sent to the email address entered in the Eräluvut.fi service when applying.

## Prices

The prices of commercial fishing permits are laid down in a Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Decree.

Permit prices applicable from 1 January 2026 will be confirmed in late 2025 as the new decree enters into force. A general increase in costs may affect the permit prices.

An invoice based on the number of nets/traps will be sent annually to the customer.

## Further information:

### Lapland, excluding Inari, Utsjoki and Enontekiö:

Markku Vierelä, Senior Specialist, Fisheries  
markku.vierela@metsa.fi, +358 40 667 4656

### North Ostrobothnia, Northeast Finland and sea areas north of Kalajoki:

Eero Hartikainen, Senior Specialist, Fisheries  
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### Kainuu:

Pasi Korhonen, Senior Specialist, Fisheries  
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### Eastern Finland, inland waters and sea areas from Hanko to Vironlahti:

Teijo Hyytiäinen, Senior Specialist, Fisheries  
teijo.hyytiainen@metsa.fi, +358 40 190 8549

### Western Finland, inland waters and sea areas from Kokkola to Hanko:

Veijo Honkanen, Senior Specialist, Fisheries  
veijo.honkanen@metsa.fi, +35840 571 4397

<https://www.eraluvat.fi/yrittajille/kaupallinen-kalastus>



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FOR INFORMATION

ELY Fisheries Services  
Finnish Fishermen's Association  
Suomen sisävesiammattikalastajat (Finnish Inland Fishermen's  
Association)  
Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations



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