

APPLICATIONS FOR LEASES OF SALMON AND TROUT FISHING SITES FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING IN FINLAND'S EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE AND STATE-OWNED PUBLIC WATER AREAS AT SEA FOR 2026–2030

Under sections 8, 41 and 45 of the Fishing Act (379/2015), Metsähallitus makes decisions on fishing rights in state-owned public water areas. As authorised by section 8 of the Fishing Act, Metsähallitus leases salmon and trout fishing sites in Finland's exclusive economic zone and in public water areas at sea for commercial fishing.

The leases of salmon and trout fishing sites valid for state-owned public water areas at sea administered by Metsähallitus will expire on 31 December 2025.

Metsähallitus invites fishing operators to apply for **salmon and trout fishing sites in state-owned public water areas at sea** for commercial fishing for 2026–2030. **The application period is 15 September – 10 October 2025, 4:15 PM.**

Metsähallitus is introducing an electronic application system for commercial fishing, which will be the primary channel for submitting applications for fishing sites. For the permit application system, visit: 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.

Applicants must include the exact locations of the fishing sites in their applications. For each fishing site, the coordinates of the fyke net end and start of the leader net must be defined separately. The location data must be provided in the ETRS-TM35FIN coordinate system. For instructions on finding the coordinates, visit: www.eraluvat.fi/en/entrepreneurs/commercial-fishing

Fishing sites 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.

General criteria for granting commercial fishing permits

See below for the key principles of leasing Metsähallitus fishing sites and determining the priority of applicants for leases.



Metsähallitus

PL 80 (Opastinsilta 12)

FI-00521 HELSINKI, Suomi Finland

Tel. 0206 39 4000

kirjaamo@metsa.fi

www.metsa.fi

Y-tunnus / Business ID: 0116726-7

- 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.
- Fishing sites can also be granted on a secondary basis after the application period. Applications received after the actual application period will be processed in the order of arrival, and the possibilities of granting fishing sites are decided based on overall consideration in each individual case.
- The term of lease is one to five years based on individual consideration.
- In addition to general terms of lease, the lease may include various regional restrictions if these are considered necessary. If the fishing site is partly or completely located in a Finnish Defence Forces restricted area, it may not be taken into use without a restricted area permit issued by the Finnish Defence Forces.
- The lease may be cancelled before its expiry in the event of abuses, violations of legislation, legislative amendments, violations of lease terms or other similar matters.
- In order for the lease to remain valid each year, the leaseholder must submit to the ELY Centre the catch report referred to in the current national and EU fisheries legislation.
- The objectives of the leases include ensuring appropriate use of the allocated fishing sites. The lease may consequently be cancelled before its expiry if sites have remained unused without a justified reason. Failure to use a lease without a justified reason will also affect negatively the applicant's possibilities to obtain future leases. The lease will be deemed unused if the leaseholder has not submitted a report to the ELY Centre or if no agreement has been reached with Metsähallitus on not using the lease.
- Fishing sites will only be leased to commercial fishers who have an operator-specific salmon quota.
- At most 10 fishing sites will be leased per operator.
- The lease is specific to an individual operator and may not be handed over or subleased to a third party.
- Commercial fishers in Group 1 will be prioritised over commercial fishers in Group 2 when granting leases.
- An applicant's previous fishing history in the area or site in question (local knowledge) will be considered an advantage.
- 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 a lease. The applicants' fishing possibilities as a whole will be taken into consideration when granting leases.
- Local commercial fishers will be given priority in terms of receiving leases. The applicant's municipality of residence is the main factor in determining if a fisher is local or not.



How to apply

Applications should primarily be submitted using the electronic permit application system between 15 September – 10 October 2025, 4:15 PM: 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.

Once the permit application has been submitted, applicants can track its processing by logging in to their user account in eraluvat.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 Eräluvat.fi service when applying.

Once a decision to grant a fishing site has been made, the applicant will be sent a lease to be signed digitally. The lease will not enter into force unless it is signed. If the lease is not signed by the specified date, the decision to grant a fishing site will be revoked.

Prices

For fishing sites for salmon and trout, the fee laid down in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Decree will be charged. Priced on commercial grounds, it will be EUR 120 (+VAT 25.5%)/fishing site per year. An invoice based on the number of fishing sites will be sent for fishing site leases to the customer annually.

Further information:

Sea areas north of Kalajoki:

Eero Hartikainen, Senior Specialist, Fisheries
eero.hartikainen@metsa.fi, +35840 821 9679

Sea areas from Kokkola to Hanko:

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



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Sea areas from Hanko to Vironlahti:

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

www.eraluvat.fi/en/entrepreneurs/commercial-fishing

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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