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Republic of Latvia

Cabinet

Regulation No 31

Adopted 10 January 2006

## **Regulations On Angling**

*Issued pursuant to  
Section 13, Paragraph one, Clause 3  
of the Fishery Law*

### **I. General Provisions**

1. These Regulations prescribe the procedure by which natural persons may perform amateur fishing – angling, as well as underwater hunting, gathering of crayfish and other aquatic invertebrates (hereinafter – angling) with angling, underwater hunting and crayfish catching gear permitted by these Regulations in the waters of the Republic of Latvia.
2. Natural persons (anglers), who carry an angling card with them during angling, may engage in angling in the waters of the Republic of Latvia. In places where licensed angling has been designated, a licence shall be required in addition to the angling card.
3. Persons up to the age of 16 and persons over the age of 65, as well as disabled persons are permitted to angle without obtaining an angling card. The referred to persons must present an appropriate personal identification document or a disability certificate.
4. In private lakes and lakes which are located within the land parcel of one owner and in which the State does not have the fishing rights, the owners of lakes have angling rights. The owner may exercise angling rights by himself or herself or permit other natural persons or legal persons to exercise the rights in accordance with these Regulations and regulatory enactments regarding exercising angling rights in private waters.
5. The procedures by which natural persons engage in angling in bodies of water (also in bodies of water referred to in Chapter V) or parts of the bodies of water where licensed angling has been designated specified in Section 10, Paragraph two of the Fishery Law, these Regulations and regulatory enactments regarding procedures of licensed amateur fishing – angling, as well as by the utilisation regulations of the body of water.
6. The use of underwater hunting gear, as well as crayfish catching gear and methods shall be permitted in those bodies of water where obtaining of crayfish and fish has been specified in accordance with regulatory enactments regarding procedures of licensed amateur fishing – angling. Use of additional underwater hunting gear in the sea is permitted in seacoast waters,

as well as in private lakes in which the State does not have the fishing rights. Underwater hunting gear shall be used taking into account the requirements of these Regulations.

7. Angling in the waters of specially protected nature reserves shall take place in accordance with these Regulations and the regulations on protection and utilisation of the relevant reserves .

8. Regulations for competitions in angling and underwater hunting shall be co-ordinated with the local government, State environmental service and the National Board of Fisheries, and in specially protected nature territories – also with their administration. If the competition is organised in leased bodies of water, the regulations of the competition shall be co-ordinated, in addition, with the lessee of the body of water.

9. An angler during angling has the right to utilise the natural towpath free of charge: along the seacoast – 20 m, along the shores of private waters – 4 m, along the shores of other waters – 10 m.

10. The National Board of Fisheries , in conformity with Sections 15 and 16 of the Fishery Law, as well as taking into consideration scientific recommendations and after co-ordination with the Ministry of Environment, may determine temporary measures for the regulating of angling. The rules of these Regulations shall be in force after the end of the time period specified for the relevant measure. Prior to such rules coming into force, the decision regarding the measures regulating angling shall be published in the newspaper *Latvijas Vēstnesis* [the official Gazette of the Government of Latvia] and a newspaper of the relevant district, as well as announced on television and radio by the National Board of Fisheries.

## **II. Angling Gear and Use thereof**

11. It is permitted to utilise concurrently not more than two angling gear (a rod, spinning, fly rod) with not more than three hooks of any type per each tool if an angling tool is used in internal waters, and not more than four hooks of any type per each tool if an angling tool is used in coastal waters. Each multiple hook shall be considered as one hook.

12. In using angling gear, it is not permitted to use:

12.1. the snagging method, in which a fish is hooked in a part of the body other than the mouth;

12.2. a natural bait for specially protected fish species of limited use – for angling of salmon, sea trout and grayling, as well as brown trout, and the gaff for picking up such fishes.

13. For the catching of bait fish it is permitted to use a net of a size not exceeding 1,5 x 1,5 m with the mesh size of netting not exceeding 10 mm.

14. The catching of crayfish is permitted if not more than five crayfish trap-nets are used, as well as catching with hands, in accordance with Paragraph 6 of these Regulations

15. The following requirements shall be observed when using underwater hunting gear:

15.1. it is permitted to use only a harpoon gun loaded by muscular force, with the harpoon head width not exceeding 10 cm.

15.2. it is prohibited to use an aqualung or other self-contained breathing appliances;

15.3. a buoy of bright colour, which indicates the location of an underwater hunter in the water, shall be attached to the hunter during hunting;

15.4. it is prohibited to use underwater hunting gear in marked public recreational areas and other places of intensive public attendance (swimming places, places for water sports and cultural events); and

15.5. children up to the age of 16 unattended by parents or adults are prohibited from using underwater hunting gear.

16. The catching of fish of all species and crayfish in any other way and by any other means and gear is prohibited in the waters of the Republic of Latvia.

### **III. Permissible Size of Catch and Minimum Permissible Length of Fish**

17. Fish caught by each angler shall be stored separately. An angler at one time of angling may store and keep for the catch:

17.1. turbot, ide, rainbow trout, pike, tench, cod, asp, chub, burbot, vimba bream, pike-perch, eel – five of each species;

17.2. catfish, whitefish, brown trout – three of each species

17.3. grayling – one;

17.4. sea trout, salmon caught in coastal waters, as well as in (the River) Bullupe, (the River) Sausā Daugava and (the River) Daugava from the mouth of the Daugava up to the Riga Hydroelectric Power dam – one of each species, but in other inland waters – in accordance with the by-laws for licensed angling;

17.5. perch caught in inland waters, and flatfish caught in coastal waters – five kilograms of each species;

17.6. perch and smelt caught in coastal waters – 10 kg of each species;

17.7. fish of other species – without number and weight restrictions;

17.8. crayfish (European crayfish and Galician crayfish) – in accordance with the by-laws for licensed angling, but not more than 50 pieces; and

17.9. chironomid larvae and fresh water shrimp – 100 grams.

18. It is permitted to keep as the catch the fish and crayfish conforming to the following minimum permissible length :

18.1. salmon – 60 cm;

18.2. pike, sea trout and catfish – 50 cm;

18.3. pike-perch – 45 cm;

18.4. eel – 40 cm;

18.5. cod – 38 cm;

18.6. turbot, grayling, ide, trout (brown and rainbow trout), tench, asp, chub, whitefish, vimba bream and burbot – 30 cm;

18.7. perch caught in sea coastal waters – 17 cm; and

18.8. crayfish (European crayfish and Galician crayfish) – 10 cm.

19. The length of fish of all species shall be determined by measuring the distance from the tip of the snout to the end of the caudal fin.

20. The length of crayfish shall be determined by measuring the distance from the rostrum (bony spine in front of the eyes) to the telson.

#### IV. General Angling Prohibitions

21. It is prohibited to catch in all bodies of water:

21.1. lamprey – throughout the year;

21.2. salmon and sea trout:

21.2.1. in coastal waters, as well as in (the River) Bullupe, (the River) Sausā Daugava and in (the River) Daugava from the mouth of Daugava to the Riga Hydroelectric Power dam – from 1 October to 15 November;

21.2.2. in other inland waters not referred to in Sub-paragraph 21.2.1 of these Regulations – throughout the year, except places and time periods specified in the by-laws for licensed angling;

21.3. pike – from 16 March to 30 April;

21.4. pike-perch – from 16 April to 31 May;

21.5. grayling – from 16 March to 15 May;

21.6. whitefish, brown trout and vendace - from 1 October to 30 November; and

21.7. crayfish (European crayfish and Galician crayfish) – from 1 October to 30 June, as well as female crayfish with attached eggs – throughout the year.

22. It is prohibited to utilise as a bait, the fish of species referred to in Paragraph 18 of these Regulations, crayfish, as well as lamprey larvae.

23. Any kind of angling is prohibited (also with a spinning) throughout the year:

23.1. in the areas of the mouths of rivers and channels flowing into the sea:

23.1.1. in coastal waters around the mouth of (the River) Venta – within a radius of 2000 m from the mouth, around the mouth of (the River) Daugava, Salaca, Gauja and Lielupe – within a radius of 1000 m from the mouth, but around the mouths of other rivers and channels – within a radius of 200 m from the mouth, except angling from moles on the seaside in places accessible to public;

23.1.2. 200 m in an upstream direction from the line connecting the opposite coasts of the furthest seaward located land points of rivers and channels, while in places where in the areas of the mouths of rivers and channels, moles have been constructed – between moles on the entire length thereof;

23.2. 100 m down the stream from the dams, sluices, waterfalls and other installations blocking the bed;

23.3. from bridges and under the bridge structures;

23.4. at the distance of 50 m from the commercial fishing gear marked in accordance with the specified procedures, fish farming cages and fish way structures; and

23.5. in shipping lanes within the borders of a port aquatorium.

24. It is prohibited to fish with spinning and angling with bait fish from 16 March to 30 April.

25. Any kind of angling is prohibited from 16 April to 31 May:

25.1. from boats and other floating means of transport in all the bodies of water, except angling in coastal waters and places indicated in the by-laws for licensed angling; and

25.2. in canals and channels that connect lakes with rivers, lakes and rivers with the Baltic Sea or the Gulf of Riga, as well as those that interconnect lakes.

26. It is prohibited to stay in the bodies of water or in the close proximity thereof:

26.1. with gear for the obtaining of fish and crayfish the use of which is not permitted in the relevant time period and place;

26.2. with fish, crayfish and other aquatic invertebrates of such species the obtaining of which is not permitted in the relevant time period and place, or the quantity or weight of which exceeds the catch size permitted by these Regulations.

27. It is prohibited to leave without supervision angling gear by moving more than 50 meters away from an angling tool .

28. It is prohibited to perform the following activities arbitrarily:

28.1. moving fish from one body of water to another without observing the requirements specified in Section 22 of the Fishery Law;

28.2. to touch or spoil commercial fishing gear marked in accordance with the requirements of commercial fishing regulations; and

28.3. to create barrages and blocking installations in rivers.

### **Angling Prohibitions in Individual Bodies of Water**

29. Angling is prohibited throughout the year:

29.1. in (the River) Daugava:

29.1.1. from the Riga Hydroelectric Power dam, 700 m down the stream;

29.1.2. from the Ķegums Hydroelectric Power dam, 1 000 m downstream;

29.1.3. from the Pļaviņas Hydroelectric Power dam, 1 000 m down the stream;

29.2. from the waterfall of (the River) Venta at Kuldīga, 500 m down the stream and 200 m up the stream;

29.3. in (the River) Salaca along all the length thereof;

29.4. in the channel of (the Lake) Engures Ezers (Mērsrags);

29.5. from the Aiviekstes Hydroelectric Power dam in (the River) Aiviekste, 500 m down the stream;

30. Angling is prohibited:

30.1. in the basin of (the River) Daugava:

30.1.1. in (the River) Sausā Daugava – from 1 September up to 30 November;

30.1.2. in (the River) Aiviekste from the mouth of (the River) Veseta (new bed) up the stream to the Aiviekste Hydroelectrical Power dam – from 16 March up to 31 May;

30.1.3. in (the River) Aiviekste and (the Lake) Lubāna Ezers 100 m to both sides from the sluice – from 16 March up to 15 May;

30.1.4. in (the Lake) Lubānas Ezers in the part attached to the North dike 1400 m along the coast and in the lake 600 m from the coast (from the mouth of (the River) Rēzeknes Upe to the curve of the dike) – from 1 September up to 30 April; and

30.1.5. in (the River) Rēzeknes Upe from the mouth (at (the Lake) Lubānas Ezers) upstream to the bridge at the populated area “Žogoti” – from 1 September up to 30 April;

30.1.6. in (the River) Daugava from the moles and from the mouth of the Daugava in the Gulf of Riga, 6.5 km upstream to the high voltage crossing in the territory of Riga, as well as in (the River) Bulļupe, (the Channel) Loči, and in (the River) Sarkandaugava – from 1 May up to 31 May;

30.2. in the basin of (the River) Lielupe – from 1 April up to 31 May;

- 30.2.1. from Staļģene bridge on (the River) Lielupe up the stream up to the confluence of (the River) Mūsa and (the River) Mēmele below Bauska castle ruins;
  - 30.2.2. in (the River) Mēmele from the mouth up to the pedestrian bridge in Bauska;
  - 30.2.3. in (the River) Mūsa from the mouth up to the bridge by the motorsports complex;
  - 30.2.4. in (the River) Slocene (Pulkaine) between (the Lake) Valguma Ezers and (the Lake) Kaņieru Ezers and ar Vecslocene in (the River) Slocene between (the Lake) Slokas Ezers and (the River) Lielupe;
  - 30.3. in the basin of (the River) Gauja – from 1 April up to 31 May:
    - 30.3.1. in (the River) Gauja from the mouth up to the bridge of the Tallin highway, from Līgatne mouth up to the Amata mouth and in the rowing racecourse of Valmiera;
    - 30.3.2. in (the River) Brasla from the mouth up to the dam of the fish farm.
31. Angling with spinning and fly rod from 1 October up to 30 November is prohibited in:
- 31.1. the basin of (the River) Gauja:
    - 31.1.1. in (the River) Amata from the mouth up to the highway bridge at Skujene;
    - 31.1.2. in (the River) Brasla from the mouth up to the dam of the fish farm;
    - 31.1.3. in (the River) Gauja from the mouth up to the highway bridge at Strenči;
    - 31.1.4. in (the River) Rauna from the mouth up to the milldam;
  - 31.2. the basin of (the River) Venta:
    - 31.2.1. in (the River) Abava from the mouth up to the waterfall; and
    - 31.2.2. in (the River) Venta from the highway bridge at Zlēkas up to the border of Latvia and Lithuania; and
  - 31.3. in (the Rivers) Aģe, Bārta, Durbe, Gramzda, Inčupe, Irbe, Kīšupe, Lāčupe, Liepupe, Melnsilupe, Pilsupe, Pēterupe, Rīva, Roja, Saka, in the tributary of Salaca – (the River) Jaunupe, in (the Rivers) Svētupe, Tebra, Užava, Vārtāja, Vitrupe un Zaķupe.

## **VI. Duties and Liability of Anglers**

32. An angler has a duty:

- 32.1. to present angling cards, licences and other documents for control at the place of angling in accordance with these Regulations, as well as angling gear and the catch;
- 32.2. to use all necessary aids and methods in order to pick up and free a fish from a hook with care, and to release back into the water the fish and crayfish that are not permitted to be caught and kept. If a hook cannot be taken out from the mouth of a fish in a careful manner, to cut the line of the angling tool;
- 32.3. to send the labels of marked fish to the State Agency Latvian Fish Resources Agency (Daugavgrīvas iela 8, Rīga);
- 32.4. to kill the fish to be kept in the catch immediately after such fish has been caught, except the instances where fish are held alive floating in a water environment. In such cases fish shall be killed immediately after the end of the angling session; and
- 32.5. to treat the natural environment with care, not to pollute bodies of water and the coastal zone thereof.

33. Violators of these Regulations shall be held administratively liable or criminally liable in accordance with the procedures prescribed by regulatory enactments. Such liability shall not release violators from the obligation to compensate for the harm caused to fish resources in accordance with rates specified in the regulatory enactments on commercial fishing in territorial waters and economic zone waters and on commercial fishing in inland waters. In order to fully compensate the losses caused to fish resources, the basic rates of taxes in the referred to regulatory enactments shall be applied in a triple amount for angling without an angling card and angling licence, for angling during a prohibited period and at a prohibited location, for angling exceeding the permitted catch size and minimum permitted fish lengths, as well as utilising unauthorised angling gear and angling types.

## **VII. Control of Observance of Angling Regulations**

34. The observance of angling regulations shall be controlled by inspectors of the State environmental service and State environment inspectors of specially protected nature territories , as well as by a person authorised by the State environmental service within the whole territory of Latvia and by a person authorised by a local government within the administrative territory of the relevant local government. The State Police, local government police, the National Guard, and fish resources managers and users of fishing rights (also lessees) of the relevant bodies of water shall participate in the control of the observance of the Angling in accordance with their competence.Regulations in

35. The officials of the State environmental service, of the administrative bodies of specially protected nature territories, of the State police or local government police and persons authorised by the State environmental service and by local governments shall have the right to examine the catch and the gear used for angling, to compile a protocol regarding violation of these Regulations and licensed angling regulations, as well as, in accordance with the procedures specified by regulatory enactments, to confiscate illegally caught fish and the angling, crayfish catching and underwater hunting gear and means of obtaining such catch.

## **VIII. Closing Provision**

36. Cabinet Regulation No. 67 of 13 January 2001, Regulations on Angling (*Latvijas Vēstnesis*, 2001, No. 27; 2003, No. 66; 2004, No. 175) is repealed.

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