

WHAT CAN BE FISHED AND WHEN BY USING A FISH TRAP?

A fish trap is especially well suited to catching perch, cyprinidae, pike, and burbot. A fish trap is commonly used to catch fish during a spawning and feeding migration. Although mostly used in summer, a fish trap can also be used all year round.

PERCH AND CYPRINIDAE

are found among the bottom vegetation close to the shore and next to underwater rocks.

PIKE

favours, e.g., the edges of reed beds.

BURBOT

can be caught with a fish trap during the spawning season in the traditional spawning areas.



Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto
The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

sll.fi/saimaa-ringed-seal

OUR SAIMAA SEAL LIFE

LIFE19 NAT/FI/000832

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The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation, 2022

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FISH RIGHT WITH A FISH TRAP



Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto
The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation

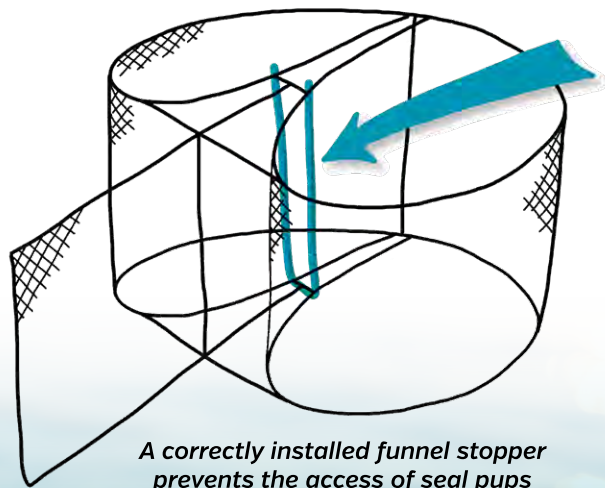
SEAL-SAFETY OF FISH TRAPS

The use of fish traps whose funnel is wider than 15 cm (either by design or when spread out) is prohibited in the main habitats of the Saimaa ringed seal.

A fish trap that has a loose or wide funnel poses a threat to seal pups, as they can follow fish into it and be suffocated to death.

Therefore, you should only use sturdy fish traps that have a narrow funnel. The funnel of a defective fish trap can be equipped with **a funnel stopper made from bent rebar** or with **horizontally installed cable ties**.

The area where fishing is restricted can be checked from the kalastusrajoitus.fi service.



A correctly installed funnel stopper prevents the access of seal pups into the fish trap.

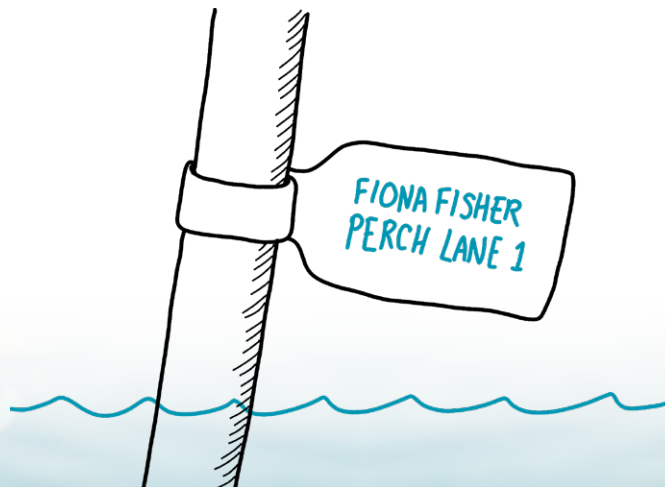
HAVE YOUR PERMITS AND MARKINGS IN ORDER

Fishing with a fish trap always requires a separate **fishing permit issued by the owner of the waterway**.

In addition, persons aged 18-64 years must have paid the **State's fisheries management fee**. The fisheries management fee is always personal. The fee can be paid, for example, through the Eräluvut.fi web service or at an R-kioski shop.

Based on the Fishing Act, each fish trap must be **clearly marked**. The marking requirements depend on where and when you fish. Instructions on the markings can be found on the website of the Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations.

Each fish trap must be equipped with **the name and contact details of the owner** at all times.



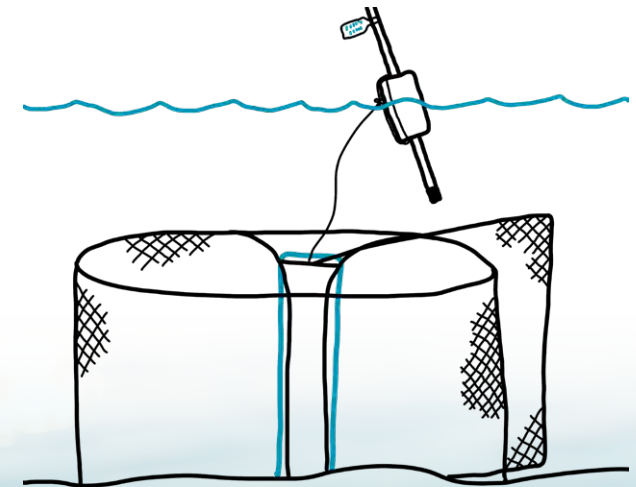
THE USE OF A FISH TRAP

A fish trap must be placed in water so that it is **fully submerged** or the section of the funnel that remains above the water surface must be closed to prevent the access of, e.g., aquatic birds into the fish trap.

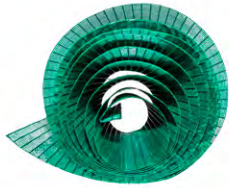
Conifer twigs or **baits** can be used to lure fish into the trap. Larger fish will often follow smaller fish into the fish trap.

The catch can be increased by using **a series of fish traps** that are tied together with a light rope and weights that prevent the rope from rising up to the surface.

Close the funnel of the fish trap when it is on dry land. This ensures that birds and other animals cannot get trapped in them.



MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THE SAIMAA FISH TRAP



PVC COATED MESH [3 metres]

Cavatorta Esaplax
Light Mesh;
width 1 m;
mesh size 19 x 19 mm



C CLIPS
[approx. 300 pcs]
+ a few larger M clips
also known as hog rings,
fence netting clips, and
fish trap staples



C CLIP FENCING PLIERS

also known as
mesh clipping
pliers, fish trap
pliers, and hog
ring pliers



SIDE CUTTER
for cutting
the mesh



BOLT CUTTER
for cutting the
clips, where
required



BUNGEE CORDS WITH HOOKS [2 PCS]

a normal sized bungee
cord for the bottom
hatch and a smaller one
for the bird hatch

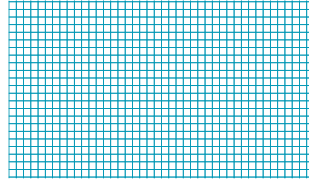


ROPE
[slightly over
1 metre long]
for the lifting rope

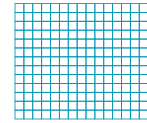
PARTS OF THE SAIMAA FISH TRAP

Cut the parts of the Saimaa fish trap from plastic covered mesh with side cutters in accordance with the following measurements.

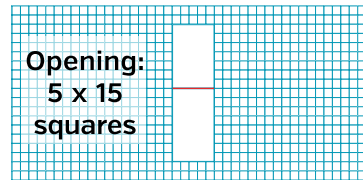
FRAME 96 x 53 squares



BOTTOM HATCH 16 x 13 squares

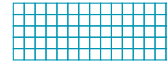


FUNNEL 1 53 x 19 squares

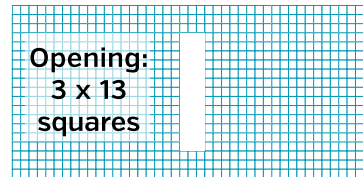


Please note! Do not cut the centremost wire of the opening of FUNNEL 1. This is a safety wire that prevents the mouth of the funnel from opening wider than 15 cm

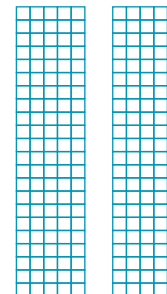
BIRD HATCH 15 x 5 squares



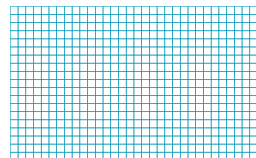
FUNNEL 2 53 x 19 squares



2 x EDGE REINFORCEMENTS 5 x 21 squares



BACK WALL 33 x 19 squares



ETHICAL USE OF A FISH TRAP AND HANDLING OF FISH

Captivity is stressing for the fish, making them more susceptible to illnesses. Physical injuries also become more common the longer the fish spend in the fish trap. For this reason, **fish traps should be checked at least once a day.**

Undersized fish must always be released back into the water. Avoid any unnecessary handling of the fish when doing this and do not lift the fish from the water, if possible.

Only keep the fish that you can eat in one go. Fish is best when fresh.

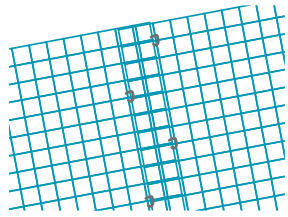
Handle your catch appropriately. Stun the fish immediately after pulling it out of the water by hitting it firmly on the head. Bleed the fish immediately after stunning. Gut, rinse, and cool the fish quickly after bleeding and store in a cool place.

The Animal Welfare Act also applies to fish. Therefore, do not cause unnecessary pain or suffering to the fish.

BENEFITS OF THE SAIMAA FISH TRAP

- ✓ seal safe
- ✓ releasing fish is easy
- ✓ lightweight and easy to handle
- ✓ economical
- ✓ can be made at home
- ✓ helps protect the endangered Salmonidae of Lake Saimaa

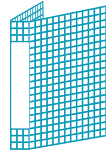
MAKING THE SAIMAA FISH TRAP:



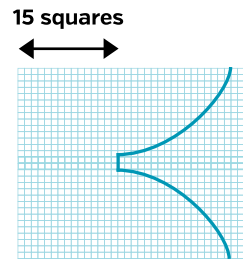
1. Bend the **FRAME** piece into a wide cylinder: bring the short edges of the frame piece together so that two rows of squares are overlapping and fasten the seam by inserting a C clip in roughly every three squares with C clip fencing pliers. The seam is on the top side of the fish trap frame and the centremost wire of the seam is the centre point of the top side.

2. Find the wire that is exactly opposite to the centremost wire on the bottom side of the fish trap by calculating the wires [47]. Mark this centremost wire of the bottom side with a C clip.

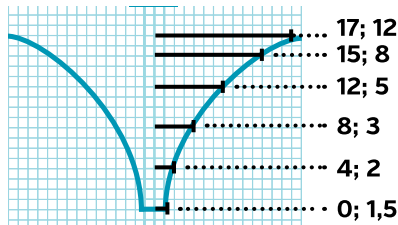
3. Bend **FUNNEL 1** and **FUNNEL 2** into shape, so that they resemble folders. Bend the corners of the funnels slightly outwards.



4. Fasten the narrow part of **FUNNEL 2** to the seam in the top part of the frame with C clips, **15 squares from the edge**. Ensure that the centre point of the funnel is aligned with the centre wire of the seam. Fasten the narrow part of the funnel to the opposing side (bottom) in the same way.



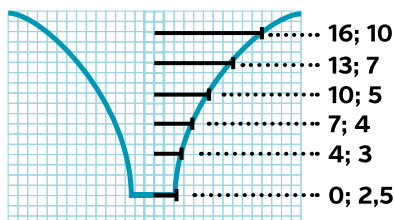
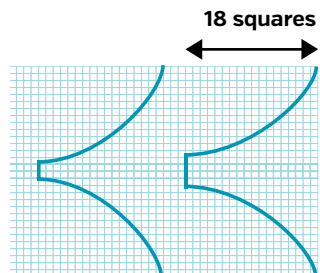
5. Fasten the walls of the funnel piece symmetrically on either side of the centre wire. Use the square count provided in the drawing. Fasten the walls of the funnel in the same way to the other side of the trap.



The first number indicates the No. of squares from the narrow end of the funnel. The second number indicates the No. of squares from the centre wire.

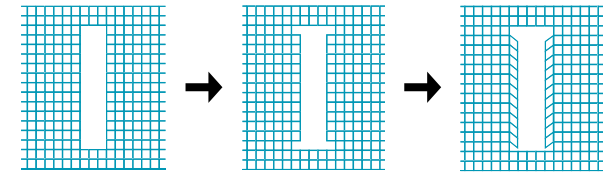
6. Fasten the bent corners and the ends of the funnel piece to the frame.

7. Fasten **FUNNEL 1** to the fish trap, **18 squares from the other edge** of the fish trap. Fasten the walls of the funnel piece on the sides of the frame so that they are located symmetrically on either side of the centre wire. Use the square count provided in the drawing. Fasten the corners and ends of the funnel piece to the frame of the fish trap.

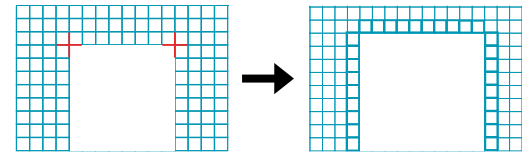


The first number indicates the No. of squares from the narrow end of the funnel. The second number indicates the No. of squares from the centre wire.

8. Add flexibility to **FUNNEL 2** by cutting one wire at each corner by using side cutters and bend the edges slightly towards the second compartment of the fish trap.

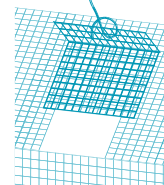
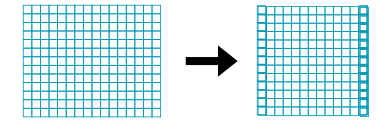


9. Bend the corners of the **BACK WALL** piece similarly to the funnel corners and fasten the back wall to the end of the fish trap with C clips so that the bent corners go inside the frame. **Leave roughly 10 squares of the back wall piece unfastened next to the frame seam** for making the bottom hatch.



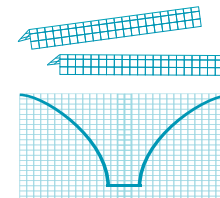
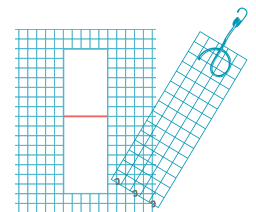
10. Cut an opening of **8 x 8 squares** in the unfastened section of the back wall with side cutters. Cut cross-shaped pieces off the rear corners of the opening. Bend one row of squares fully back at the edges of the opening to make them stronger.

11. Take the **BOTTOM HATCH** and bend one row of squares fully back at one of the short edges. Bend one row of squares fully back twice at the other the short edge.



12. Align the edge of the **BOTTOM HATCH** that has been bent once with the rear end of the opening (cut in step 10) so that one row of squares overlaps, and fasten the hatch loosely in place with a few C clips (the clips will serve as hinges). Bend the other edge of the **BOTTOM HATCH** as a cap. Fasten half of the normal-sized bungee cord at the edge of the cap with M clips.

13. Fasten the **BIRD HATCH** loosely to the bottom of funnel 1 with three C clips ("hinges"). Shape the edges of the hatch, where required, so that it sits tightly against the funnel. Fasten half of the small bungee cord to the top of the hatch with C clips.



14. Reinforce the edges of funnel 1 with two **REINFORCEMENT PIECES** by bending them fully back lengthwise and fastening them to the edges of the fish trap frame with C clips.

15. Fasten the ends of the **ROPE** to the top of the fish trap at the points where the funnels are mounted either with knots or clips. Make a loop for lifting the fish trap at the funnel 1 end of the trap.

