

FISHING, MADE EASY!



► CODE OF PRACTICE

The tips and advice in this brochure are intended to promote responsible fishing practices. They are designed with fish welfare and environmental protection in mind.



MAISON WALLONNE
DE LA PÊCHE

YOU MUST HOLD A FISHING LICENCE

WHERE TO BUY YOUR LICENCE

Fishing licences can be purchased online at www.permisdepeche.be. You can download your licence instantly.

When fishing, you must carry your Walloon Region fishing licence and a form of ID. There are no age restrictions on licences.

TYPES OF FISHING LICENCE

20€

Licence

A

Daytime fishing with one or two lines, from the water's edge only + day fishing with a maximum of five crayfish scoopnets.

45€

Licence

B

Same entitlements as an "A" licence + daytime fishing with one or two lines other than from the water's edge (wading, boat or pontoon); daytime fishing using up to five crayfish scoopnets.

110€

Licence

C

Same entitlements as a "B" licence + carp fishing day and night with max. three handlines, from the water's edge only, including from a platform that is removed after fishing.

FREE, for under-15s only

Licence

J

Daytime fishing using one handline equipped with a single hook (barbless or flattened barb), from the water's edge only, including from a platform that is removed after fishing; use of a hand net; daytime fishing using no more than five crayfish scoopnets.

25€

Licence

T

Same entitlements as a "B" licence, but limited to a period of 14 consecutive days.

15€

Licence

L

Daytime fishing on Plate Taille Lake, from a boat (max. 2 fishermen per boat), with one or two handlines and use of a hand net, for a single day.

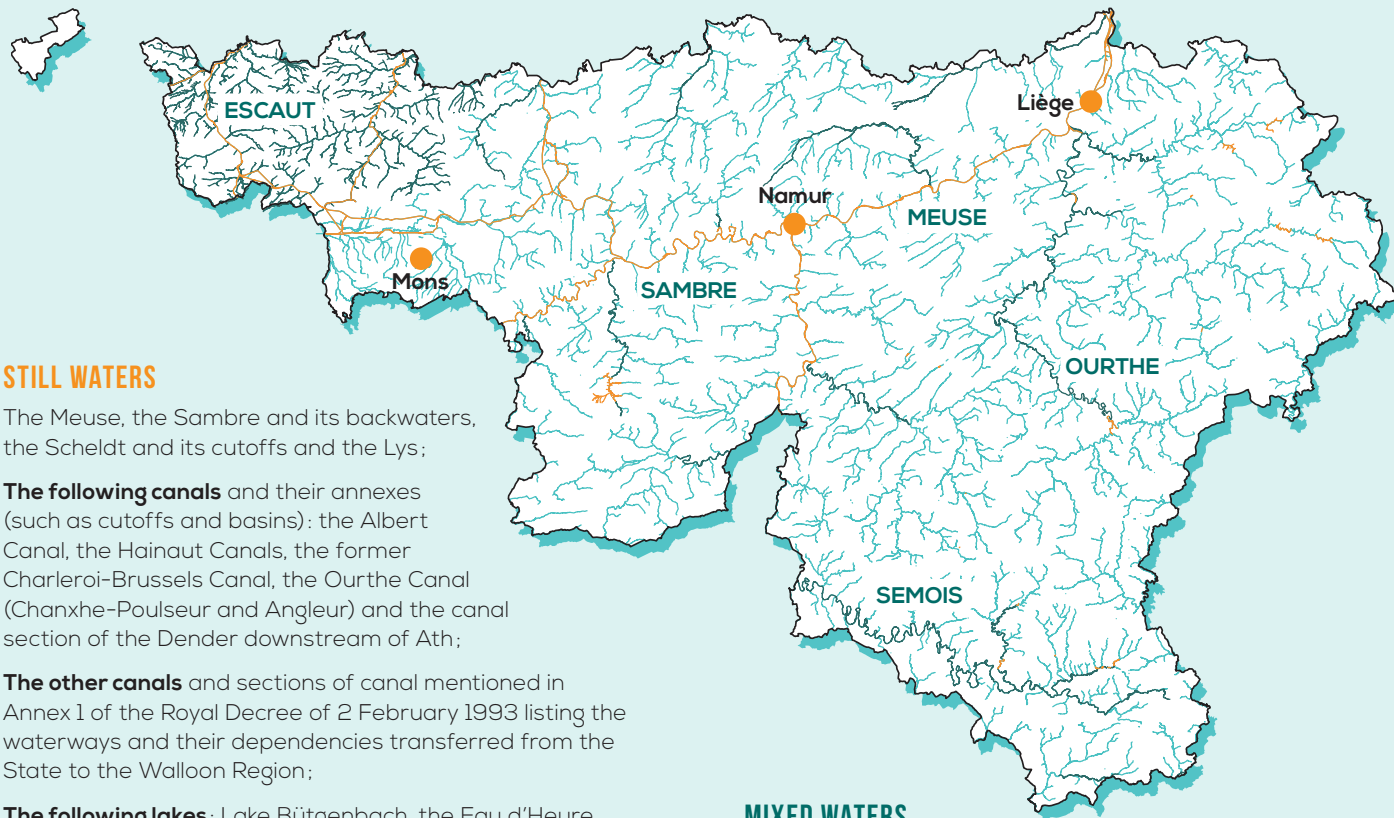
The licence is personal to you and valid for the current calendar year. It cannot be exchanged for a different type of permit.

A Walloon Region licence entitles you to fish in all **public waterways**. If you want to fish in **other watercourses**, you will need a licence plus a membership card for the relevant angling club or, failing that, permission from the neighbouring landowner.



To buy a membership
card, go to
www.cartedepeche.be

Watercourses by zone



STILL WATERS

The Meuse, the Sambre and its backwaters, the Scheldt and its cutoffs and the Lys;

The following canals and their annexes (such as cutoffs and basins): the Albert Canal, the Hainaut Canals, the former Charleroi-Brussels Canal, the Ourthe Canal (Chanxhe-Poulseur and Angleur) and the canal section of the Dender downstream of Ath;

The other canals and sections of canal mentioned in Annex 1 of the Royal Decree of 2 February 1993 listing the waterways and their dependencies transferred from the State to the Walloon Region;

The following lakes: Lake Bütgenbach, the Eau d'Heure Lakes, Lake Eupen, Lake Gileppe, Lake Neufchâteau, Lake Nisramont, Lake Robertville, Lake Ry de Rome, Lake Suxy and Lake Warfaaz;

The following ponds: Basses Forges pond (Mellier), Bocq pond (Scy), Happe ponds fed by the Les Cresses stream (Ciney), Bologne ponds (Habay), Le Châtelet pond (Habay), Les Doyards lake (Vielsalm), La Fabrique pond (Habay), Le Moulin pond (Habay), Poix pond (Poix-Saint-Hubert), Pont d'Oyes pond (Habay), La Trapperie pond (Habay), Serinchamps pond, Ochamps municipal pond (Libin), Hemlot (Hermalle-sous-Argenteau), Pond Remy in Habay.

WHITE WATERS

The Amblève upstream of Sougné bridge and the Vesdre upstream of the confluence with the Hoëgne, the Lesse upstream of the confluence with the Lhomme.

All other watercourses not listed above.

MIXED WATERS

The Amblève downstream of Sougné-Remouchamps bridge, the Chiers, the Dender (non-public-waterways section) and its tributaries, the Dyle downstream of the confluence with the Gala (or Cala), the tributaries of the Scheldt and the Lys in the Scheldt-Lys sub-watershed, the Eau d'Heure, the Hantes downstream of the French border at Montignies-Saint-Christophe, the Lesse downstream of the confluence with the Lomme, the Mehaigne and its tributary the Soile, the Neufchâteau stream downstream of Lake Neufchâteau, the Orneau downstream of Onoz, the Ourthe downstream the Nisramont dam, the Rulles downstream of La Fabrique pond, the Semois, the Senne, the Vesdre downstream of the confluence with the Hoëgne, the Vierre downstream of the confluence with the Neufchâteau stream, the Viroin, and the Vire between the confluence with the Ru du Fond du Haza and the confluence with the Ton, the Geer.

For more information about water zones, visit www.maisondelapeche.be

PLACES WHERE FISHING IS PROHIBITED

Fishing is prohibited at all times
(no pictogram required):

- in **locks**
- in **fish passes, in artificial rivers bypassing** obstacles that hinder the free movement of fish and in **outfalls to facilitate downstream migration** and within 50 metres of these structures across the entire width of the watercourse
- on, and within 50 metres downstream of dams and weirs in the **still water zone**
- from the top of **bridges and footbridges** spanning public waterways
- on **Monsin Island**, other than from the water's edge on Esplanade Albert 1^{er}
- in **valleys**, other than the valleys of the Sambre and the Hemlot, where fishing is still allowed
- in watercourses in the **white water zone**, where they pass through woodland covered by the forestry regime
- in the **Meuse**, downstream of the Lixhe dam, on the right bank up to the boundary with the Flemish region and on the left bank up to the junction between Rue de Halle and Quai du Barrage
- in the **Amblève**, within 50 metres downstream of the Coo waterfall
- in the **Ourthe**, between the dam and Nisramont bridge, and downstream of Les Grosses Battes dam as far as Les Grosses Battes bridge (Angleur)
- in the **Semois**, from the Vanne des Bains up to and within fifty meters downstream of the Aiguilles dam at Bouillon, and along the entire width of the Semois from twenty meters upstream of the mouth of the noue des Ilions to the bridge over the N832 road at Cugnon;
- in the Neufchâteau stream, downstream of the Klepper mill and in the upstream part of the Neufchâteau lake, including the spawning ground;
- in the Gileppe, Eupen and Ry de Rome lakes.

The following pictograms may indicate that fishing is prohibited in other areas:



More about
the prohibited
areas:



FIND A FISHING SPOT

To see angling club fishing spots, go to
www.parcoursdepeche.be



TIMES WHEN YOU CAN FISH

Fishing is permitted between one hour before the official time of sunrise and one hour after the official time of sunset.



From 01/01/25 to 31/12/27, fishing for pike is prohibited in the calm water zone, except in lakes and ponds.

STILL WATERS

1st Saturday in March 1st Saturday in June

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Group 1	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted
Group 2	permitted	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted
Group 3	restrictions apply	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	restrictions apply
Group 4	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted

● permitted ● restrictions apply

WHITE WATERS

1st Saturday in March 1st Saturday in June

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Group 1	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted
Group 2	permitted	permitted	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted
Group 3	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted
Group 4	permitted	permitted	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted

*it is prohibited to remove pike in the white water zone

PERIODS WHEN FISHING IS PERMITTED

MIXED WATERS

1st Saturday in March 1st Saturday in June

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Group 1	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted
Group 2	permitted	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted
Group 3	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted
Group 4	permitted	permitted	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	restrictions apply	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted	permitted

1 Common bleak, silver bream, common bream, crucian carp, common carp (including black carp and mirror carp), three-spined stickleback, roach, ide, stone loach, rudd, tench.

2 Spirlin, asp, pike, common barbel, European chub, ruffe, gudgeon, common nase, grayling, European perch, zander, common minnow, common dace.

3 Rainbow trout, brown trout.

4 Spinycheek crayfish, Louisiana crayfish, signal crayfish, Turkish crayfish, round goby, western tubenose goby, pumpkinseed, wels catfish.

For a full list of species in each group, visit our website at: www.maisondelapeche.be

Any fish or crayfish captured outside the opening period must be released immediately back into the water at its place of capture.

THE EXCEPTION : NIGHT-TIME FISHING

Carp fishing is permitted all year round, from the water's edge only and on the main watercourse, between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. The fish must be released back into the water immediately. A "C" licence is required.

For the full rules on night-time fishing, go to: www.maisondelapeche.be

PERMITTED EQUIPMENT

You cannot use any fishing gear or equipment other than:

- a **handline** with no more than three single or multiple hooks per handline.
- a crayfish scoopnet (max. five per person), up to a maximum size of 60 cm.

In the white water and mixed water zones, only barbless hooks or hooks with flattened or pinched barbs are permitted.

- a hand net (for removing line-caught fish or crayfish only).

All fish caught other than by mouth must be released back into the water immediately at the place of capture.

WHAT YOU CANNOT DO

It is prohibited to:

- hold fish and crayfish in group 4 alive at the place of capture.
- in the Meuse, Sambre and Escaut rivers, live fishing in prohibited outside the main river bed.
- in the Semois, from the 1st Saturday in March to the Friday before the 1st Saturday in June, fishing by entering the river bed.
- hold pike, zander and brown trout in a basket.
- use a metal basket.
- practise ice fishing.
- fish by hand or use any other search technique in places frequented by fish and crayfish.

During the pike close season, it is prohibited to use:

- whole fish as live or dead bait.
- artificial baits.
- live or dead birds, amphibians or mammals, alive or in pieces.

The following exemptions apply:

- in **mixed waters**, it is now permitted to use lures and dead baits between the 1st Saturday in March and the opening of the pike season (1st Saturday in June). Lures and mounts measuring up to 7 cm (including hooks and fish) may be used. Minnow and gudgeon are the only species that may be used on a mount.
- in **still waters**, it is now permitted to use artificial baits measuring up to 7 cm, including a single hook and used with appropriate fly-fishing gear, between 1 February and the Friday before the 1st Saturday in June.

BANNED BAITS AND GROUNDBAITS

- Blood, cord, brain and offal (offal is permitted for crayfish fishing using scoopnets).
- Fish eggs (fresh or canned, alone or mixed in baits or groundbaits).
- Live fish. in which case the line must be installed with a fishing pole only.
- ▶ **However, fishing with live bait is permitted for some species (see the list below).**

BOTTOM POUNDING

Bottom pounding (stirring up the bottom of the water-course with the feet to attract fish) is permitted between the 1st Saturday in June and 30 September.

- ▶ **If possible, use a deep basket made from a soft, knot-free material;**
- ▶ **Remember to clear away all surplus baits and groundbaits as well as gear and tackle (nylon, weights, etc.).**



LIMITS ON FISHING AND REMOVALS

FISHING IS **PROHIBITED** FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIES :



REMOVAL IS **PROHIBITED** FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIES :







REMOVAL BAN

Removal is prohibited:

- in the Meuse, Sambre and Scheldt for fish not caught in the main bed of the watercourse.
- in the Meuse downstream of the Lixhe dam.
- for brown trout caught on Plate Taille Lake.
- for all catches of whitefish and grayling.

RULES ON TRANSPORTING FISH

LIVE		OR	DEAD	
Applies only to live fish			Applies only to groups 1, 2 and 3	
Max. 20	Max. 5		Max. 20	Max. 5
				
≤ 15cm	> 15cm		≤ 15cm	> 15cm

The maximum number of removals per species still applies. Evidence must be provided in the event of a dispute relating to the origin of the fish.

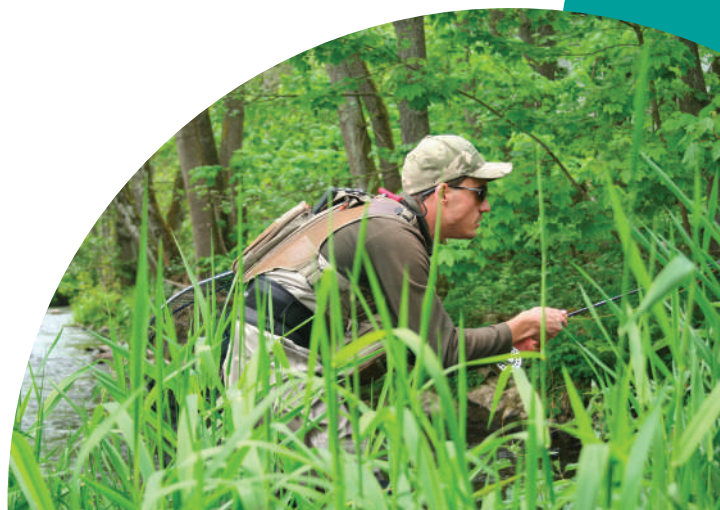
SPECIES FOR WHICH LIVE FISHING IS PERMITTED*

- Common bleak
- Spirlin
- Crucian carp
- European chub
- Roach
- Gudgeon
- Rudd
- Minnow

*except for coloured varieties of these species, if any.

SELLING FISH

There is a year-round ban on selling and offering for sale any fish or crayfish caught in waters subject to the decree of 27 March 2014.



REMOVAL SIZE LIMITS

The **length of the fish** is measured from the tip of the mouth to the tip of the tail fin.



Where a removal size limit applies to a species, any fish of this species with its head or tail severed is considered as not meeting the removal size limit.

REMOVAL SIZE LIMITS

A fish may only be removed if it meets the minimum size limit:

REMOVAL SIZE LIMIT OF **60 CM** :



Pike

- ▶ Only in whitewater and mixed water zones and in lakes and ponds in the calm water zone;
- ▶ Handle your catches gently, wetting your hands first;
- ▶ If the fish has swallowed the bait too deeply, cut the line.

REMOVAL SIZE LIMIT OF **50 CM** :



Zander



Common barbel

REMOVAL SIZE LIMIT OF **30 CM** :



Common nase



Ide



European chub



Tench



Common dace

REMOVAL SIZE LIMIT OF **24 CM** :



Rainbow trout



European perch

*Removal banned for specimens measuring less than 50 cm in still waters and mixed waters other than lakes and ponds.



Brown trout*



Common carp*

*Removal banned for specimens measuring less than 30 cm



DAILY REMOVAL QUOTAS PER PERSON

Any fish subject to a removal ban or exceeding the catch quota must be released back into the water immediately at the place of capture.

MAXIMUM OF 1 SPECIMEN :

Only in whitewater, mixed water zones and lakes and ponds in the calm water zone.



Pike*

MAXIMUM OF 2 SPECIMENS :



Zander

MAXIMUM OF 5 SPECIMENS :

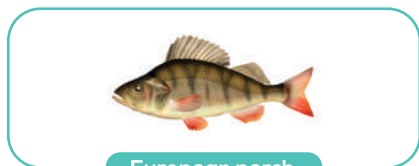
For all group 3 species



Brown trout



Rainbow trout



European perch

*It is prohibited to remove pike between the opening of the trout season (1st Saturday in March) and the opening of the pike season (1st Saturday in June).

MAXIMUM OF 20 SPECIMENS :



Gudgeon



Minnow



Spirlin

- ▶ Treat the riverbanks, crops, flora and other people's property more generally with respect ;
- ▶ Do not disturb wildlife ;
- ▶ Take all litter away with you, including any litter you find on site, to help keep fishing grounds clean.



The Maison Wallonne de la Pêche:



Supports approved federations and the regional government



Provides information about fishing in Wallonia



Helps restore biodiversity and protect aquatic environments



Organises fishing events and courses
www.stagesdepeche.be



Promotes fishing tourism
www.sejoursdepeche.be

MAISON WALLONNE DE LA PÊCHE ASBL

10 Rue Lucien Namêche, 5000, Namur, Belgium
+32 (0)81 41 15 70
info@maisondelapeche.be | www.maisondelapeche.be

HUNTING & FISHING DIRECTORATE

15 Avenue Prince de Liège, 5100, Jambes, Belgium
+32 (0)81 33 58 50
<http://environnement.wallonie.be>

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

15 Avenue Prince de Liège, 5100, Jambes, Belgium
+32 (0)81 33 59 00
sp.dnf.dgarne@spw.wallonie.be

PUBLIC SERVICE OF WALLONIA TOLL-FREE NUMBER



S.O.S ENVIRONNEMENT – NATURE (ANTI-POACHING HOTLINE)



FISHING VESSELS

Vessels operating on public waterways must have a registration certificate. For information, contact:

Federal Public Service Mobility and Transport

56 Rue du Progrès, 1210, Brussels, Belgium
info.mar@mobiliteit.fgov.be | www.mobiliteit.belgium.be

For more information, contact:

PSW Mobility and Infrastructure

8 Boulevard du Nord, 5000, Namur, Belgium
+32 (0)81 77 26 03

FISHING PLATFORMS

To request permission to set up a fishing platform by a public waterway, contact:

PSW Mobility and Infrastructure

8 Boulevard du Nord, 5000, Namur, Belgium
+32 (0)81 77 26 03





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10 Rue Lucien Namêche, 5000, Namur, Belgium

+32 (0)81 41 15 70

info@maisondelapeche.be

WWW.MAISONDELAPECHE.BE



WITH THE SUPPORT OF :



Wallonie

the Fisheries Fund and the Fishing
Federations of Wallonia

This brochure is a simplified overview of applicable regulations. The information relates to general regional provisions. Special and temporary provisions may apply in addition to these general rules.

Visit www.wallex.wallonie.be to see the full, official version of the regulations.