

Manche, Fishing Destination

355 km of coastline, the greatest tidal range in Europe, 5450km of waterways including 4800km first class, nearly 200 hectares of lakes...

There is plenty of fishing in La Manche!

Whatever your level, professionals are at your service to help and teach you the techniques you need to practice your sport well whilst respecting our resources.

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RIVER FISHING

Great fishing spots

- **Small trout watercourses in the north of the Cotentin Peninsula**

The underlying rock rises abruptly out of the Channel to form beautiful granite cliffs on the north-west coast. The local harsh climate transforms the lush bocage into heather-covered moors. Streams flow down the short flanks of the well-preserved basins, rarely stocked with fish. The craggy river mouths admit few migratory fish, thus giving free range to the wild brown trout...

Turning to the west, the land slopes into Seine Bay through the ancient bocage countryside. Cool and lively rivers fan out across the region: the Divette flows to the north and Cherbourg; the Saire and the Sinoppe flow to the east; the Douve arches to the south and flows into the marshes. In addition to trout, the Douve and the Saire also contain salmon.



- **The Regional Nature Park of Cotentin and Bessin Marshes and downstream Vire: the home of Pike**



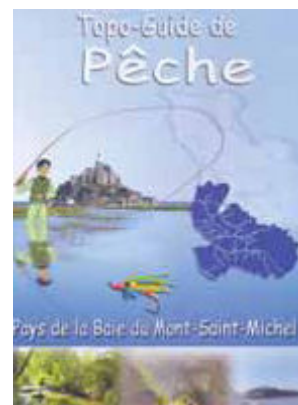
Spread over a quarter of the department, this natural depression is protected from the ravages of the tide by gates on the Douve and the Vire, providing a unique environment for pike, carp, pikeperch and, of course, eel. In winter, the marshes "whiten" as the meadows flood with freshwater, thus obscuring until the following spring the true courses of the Merderet, the Douve, the Sève, the Madeleine, the Taute and downstream Vire. These rivers are not only well known for (large!) predators and carp, but also for the thousands of shad that swim up their courses each year to give the fisherman a sporting surprise on the edges of the marsh.

Learn more: a fishing guide book with 24 trails through the area is available free from the Ponts-d'Ouve interpretation centre by calling 0233 716530.

- **Mont-Saint-Michel Bay and the Sienne Basin : the kingdom of salmon and wild trout**

The granite base rock gives way to schist. The bocage countryside takes on a new appearance. The valleys slope to the west and the north-west. The waters flow into the legendary Mont-Saint-Michel Bay. This may be trout country but even this handsome fish has sometimes to yield to the great migratory salmon and the roving shad. Nowhere in France is the Atlantic salmon so abundant as in the meandering Sée, the mysterious Sélune, and the Airou, a tributary of the Sienne. Careful, stocks are counted, monitored and managed. A rare and precious resource...

Learn more: the fishing DVD/guidebook box set describes all the fishing trails in the area. Available for €3 from tourist offices, fishing tackle shops, and from the AAPPMA in Saint-James, La Truite du Beuvron.



- **Artificial Lakes**

Manche's artificial lakes vary in size, from several thousand square metres to over 100 hectares, and are perfect for all levels of fishermen. Most of the sites are open to families and beginners who fish occasionally, and some are designed for specialists of certain species or techniques. Manche really does have a complete range of public and private fishing sites.

Freshwater Fish

ATLANTIC SALMON



Names: Salmon, *Salmo salar*

Description, biology: The young are born and spend their early lives in rivers. They then swim out to sea where they fatten for between one and three years, exceptionally four, before returning to their home river to reproduce.

Salmon have different names depending on the time any individual has spent at sea:

- **Grilse**, botcher or peal spend one winter at sea, measure less than 70 cm and usually return to rivers in the autumn.
- **Spring salmon** spend several winters at sea and return to rivers at the beginning of the year. They are considered **small** if they have spent two winters at sea and measure between 70 and 90 cm, and **big** if they have spent three winters at sea and measure over 90 cm.

More than 90% of breeding salmon die after their first reproduction. Others, mostly female, return to the sea and begin a new cycle, these are called **kelt**.

Atlantic salmon are present in all of Manche's watercourses where access is possible. The two best-known watercourses in Manche are the Sée and the Sélune which have abundant stocks and great fishing.

Approximately 40% of line-caught salmon in France is taken in the department of Manche.

Description

Fusiform body, slender; adipose fin. The criteria for distinguishing adult salmon from sea trout are: the eye is situated directly above the end of the jaw, the caudal fin is larger and forked with tips slightly pointed, the trailing edge is straight or concave, the caudal fin peduncle is fine and flat, and its skin is rarely very speckled.

Colour varies according to maturity. *Juvenile*: the parr has similar skin to the troutlet with a finger-like pattern and usually a grey adipose fin. The fins are larger than those of a troutlet and have no white trim on the foremost rays. *Smolt*: the body is longer, slenderer and more silver in colour. *Adult*: the skin is silver in colour, during reproduction the flanks are slightly yellow and red spots appear.

Rules: please refer to the by-law concerning the catching of migratory fish issued by the prefecture for the current year.

Minimum Landing Size: no limits during the "spring" season, but under 70 cm during the "grilse" season.

SEA TROUT

Names: trout, *Salmo trutta*

Description, biology: large migratory form of the brown trout.



Sea trout spend their juvenile stage in freshwater courses where they probably memorize their surroundings so as to be able to identify their “home river” when they return. The amount of time spent at sea before reproduction varies between three months to three years. They may complete several sea/river cycles in succession.

Description

Stocky shape, heavier than salmon. The end of the jaw extends to behind the eye. The tail is straight or convex. The caudal fin peduncle is thick and rounded. Its skin is often spotted. Juvenile identical to the river dwelling brown trout.

Fishing season: please refer to the by-law concerning the catching of migratory fish issued by the prefecture for the current year.

Minimum Landing Size: 50 cm

BROWN TROUT

Name: *Salmo trutta fario*



Description, biology: slender body with long head and large mouth, lips extend to the rear of the eye (the latter is a sure sign as those of the Atlantic salmon extend no further than the eye). The caudal fin shows little indentation. Around Manche, the skin is spotted black with some red. Generally, specimens show bright red edging on the leading edge of the adipose fin, and a white margin between the leading rays of the other fins.

Fishing season: from the second Saturday in March to the third Sunday in September.

Minimum Landing Size: 23 cm, unless local AAPPMA rules more strict.

RAINBOW TROUT

Names: *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

Description, biology: similar shape to that of the brown trout but its head is relatively short, it has a blunt snout, its mouth points slightly upwards, and it has large teeth. Skin colour varies, its livery is often pink on both sides with homogenous black patches on the body and fins above the lateral line, the latter helps distinguish it from its European cousin.

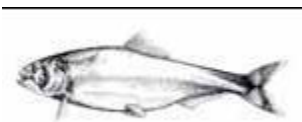


Fishing season: **Category 1**, from the second Saturday in March to the third Sunday in September.

Minimum Landing Size: 23 cm.

ALLIS SHAD

Names: shad, *Alosa alosa*



Description, biology: the Allis shad belongs to the same family as the herring and the sardine. It breeds and spawns in rivers but matures at sea. It can be found from Norway to Morocco. Most shad return to their native watercourse and spawning ground after three to seven years. Spawning takes place at night with the fish swimming rapidly in circles close to the surface, creating a small “whirlpool” and easily recognizable splashing-sound with their tails. Spawning grounds are usually in moderate current, just upstream from a riffle.

Description

It has a wide, slanting mouth, gill arches with long gill rakers, silvery flanks, and its back shows a green to purple sheen. The lateral line is not visible but has a sharp medio-ventral line. Sizes range from 35 cm to 60 cm, with an average weight of 1 kg.

Fishing season: depends on the category of the fishing zone.

Minimum Landing Size: 30 cm

EUROPEAN EEL



Name: *Anguilla anguilla*

Description, biology: The European eel is cylindrical and serpentiform, it has elongated dorsal and anal fins, both confluent with the caudal fin. Its thick skin allows it to breathe out of the water, giving it the ability to colonize freshwater pools and ponds. In autumn, adults migrate to the warm waters of the Sargasso Sea to breed. The larvae are carried by the Gulf Stream for up to three years to European coasts where they continue their development, changing from elvers in salt water to adults in freshwater. Predominately night creatures, fishermen take this into account when bobbing.

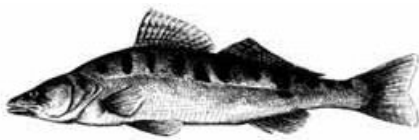
Fishing season:

- From the 1st January to the 15th August at sea and in estuaries,
- From the third Saturday in April to the 1st October, at night by bobbing in Category 2 rivers (prohibited in Category 1).

Minimum Landing Size: 30 cm, fishing for elvers is prohibited

PIKEPERCH

Name: *Sander lucioperca*



Description, biology: oblong body, elongated head with indented pre-operculum. Two separate dorsal fins. Dwells in lakes and slow moving waters. Active in the evening and at night, adapted to turbid waters, spends the day in deep water if clear.

Fishing season: **Category 1**, from the second Saturday in March to the third Sunday in September ; **Category 2**, from the 1st to the 30th January and from the second Saturday in May to the 31st December.

Minimum Landing Size: 40 cm in Category 2 waters.

NORTHERN PIKE

Names: pike, *Esox lucius*

Description, biology: easily recognizable in freshwater, elongated body with brutal "pinching" at the dorsal and anal fins, "duck-bill" snout. Colour changes depending on living environment, nearly always comprising ocelli, evolves through time. Typical of Category 2 waters, hunts in calm areas, likes clear water, may be found in salmonid waters, in deep pools and reaches.



Fishing season: **Category 1**, from the second Saturday in March to the third Sunday in September ; **Category 2**, from the 1st to the 30th January and from the second Saturday in May to the 31st December.

Minimum Landing Size: 50 cm in Category 2 waters, considered a pest in Category 1.

COMMON CARP



Name: *Cyprinus carpio*

Description, biology: stocky and heavy body. Wild carp are covered in scales but there are also scaleless leather carp, mirror carp with scales under the dorsal fin and caudal fins, and another type showing a line of scales along the lateral line. Carp like warm, slow-moving waters with muddy bottoms and plenty of vegetation.

Fishing season: **Category 2**, all year round; **Category 1**, from the second Saturday in March to the third Sunday in September.

ROACH & RUDD

Names: *Rutilus rutilus* & *Scardinius erythrophthalmus*

Description, biology: Roach are a widespread white fish with red eyes, mouth on the front of the snout, and the dorsal fin directly above the pelvic fins. Rudd have golden orange-coloured eyes, the mouth facing upwards, and the dorsal fin to the rear of the pelvic fins. They have similar requirements in terms of environment, typical of Category 2 waters. They like aquatic vegetation and are often used as live bait for fishing predators.



Fishing season: **Category 2**, all year round; **Category 1**, from the second Saturday in March to the third Sunday in September.

CARP BREAM

Names: bream, *Abramis brama*



Description, biology: white fish, tall laterally-compressed body, clearly-defined head. Caudal fin is very indented. Bream live in the lower reaches of rivers and in all large, slow-moving waters, including brackish.

Fishing season: **Category 2**, all year round; **Category 1**, from the second Saturday in March to the third Sunday in September.

BLEAK

Name: *Alburnus alburnus*

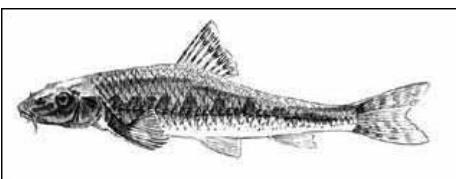


Description, biology: surface fish, likes slow-moving waters free of vegetation, lives in shoals. Recognized by its shiny and laterally compressed body, dorsal and anal fins are relatively far back and accentuate the tapering of the body. The mouth faces upwards, and the back is straighter than the belly.

Fishing season: **Category 2**, all year round; **Category 1**, from the second Saturday in March to the third Sunday in September.

GUDGEON

Name: *Gobio gobio*



Description, biology: bottom fish with mouth facing downwards and barbel. Colour changes depending on the environment, livery always shows brown patches, motif along the lateral line, blackish patch on the operculum.

Fishing season: **Category 2**, all year round; **Category 1**, from the second Saturday in March to the third Sunday in September.

Fish density and course difficulty.

Name of the course	Difficulty of the course	Brown trout	Rainbow trout	Pike	White fish	Shad	Carp	Sea trout	Salmon	Eel
Canal des Espagnols	*	-	-	**	**	-	*	-	-	*
La Douve	*/**	-	-	**	**	-	**	*	*	***
La Saire	*/**	**	*	-	-	-	-	*	*	**
L'Égrenne	***	***	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
La haute Sée	**/**	**	-	-	-	*	-	*	**	*
Les Vaux de Sée	*/**	**	-	*	*	*	-	*	***	**
La Sélune	*	**	-	**	-	*	-	*	**	*
L'Airou	***	***	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	-
La haute Sienne	**	***	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	-
La Vire	*/**	*	*	**	***	**	***	*	*	**
Le Merderet	*	-	-	**/**	***	-	**	-	-	**
La Taute	*	-	-	**	***	-	**	*	*	**
La Divette	**	**	*	-	-	-	-	*	-	-
La Scye	**	*	**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
L'Ay	*	*	-	*	***	-	*	-	-	**
Le Beuvron	**	**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
La Guerge	*	**	**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
La Dollée	*	**	**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SEA FISHING

Fishing areas

- **Sea fishing on the west coast**

The western seaboard of the Cotentin Peninsula has a number of features that the experienced fisherman would no doubt identify with ease. He would notice the succession of dunes, rocky headlands and river mouths or havens constituting potential fishing spots. The foreshore has two specific features that are the trestle-tables and posts of the shellfish farms and the regular outcrops of black schist. Further off the shore, rocks, islets and islands break the surface of the water while seaweed provides plenty of cover to attract the fisherman both by boat and on foot at low tide.



- **Sea fishing on the north and east coasts**

The coast from the Isle of Tatihou in the Saire Valley to Scioto on the Hague Headland is a rocky one. The cliffs of the coves and capes get higher the further west they lie. Fishermen and other visitors can't help but fall under the charm of the countryside, but they must never forget the potential force and danger of the sea and its sometimes powerful currents. Halfway along the coast, Cherbourg harbour and its long sea walls are also home to many species of fish, shellfish and crustacean.



Leaving Saint-Vaast-la-Hougue and heading south, Cul-de-Loup Cove marks the beginning of a long stretch of sandy shore that makes up the east coast of the Cotentin Peninsula. There are plenty of opportunities for good fishing grounds among the Second World War wrecks out to sea and the fish farms on the foreshore.

Sea fish

EUROPEAN SEA-BASS

Name: *Dicentrarchus Labrax* or *Morone Labrax*

Description, biology: its silver and olive green body is long and slender, perfect for quick and powerful swimming. It hunts in shoals and is found almost everywhere, in the rollers heading into the shore, among the rocks at the foot of steep cliffs, in the bottom vegetation and the brackish waters of the estuaries. Spawning takes place from February to May. Bass is also present in the Mediterranean but its characteristics and habits are slightly different.



Fishing season: throughout the year, but not recommended between February and May because of the spawning season.

Minimum Landing Size: 36 cm, but recommended 42 cm (average age of 5 years marking the sexual maturity of females).

POLLACK

Name: *Pollachius pollachius*



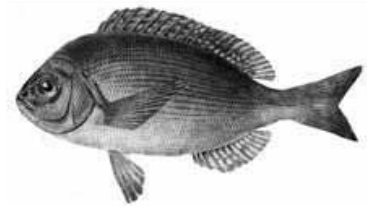
Description, biology: an aggressive fish, the pollack lives mostly in the turbulent waters off rocky coasts and cliffs or at the foot of sea walls. Its long, fusiform body has three dorsal fins. Its lower jaw is the longest and has no barbel, the latter distinguishes it from the saithe. It lives in small groups, generally pelagic, and feeds in rocky waters. Juveniles are born in spring and feed on zooplankton, and then small worms and molluscs.

Fishing season: throughout the year. | **Minimum Landing Size:** 30 cm

BLACK SEA-BREAM

Name: *Spondyliosoma cantharus*

Description, biology: It has a stocky, elliptic body. With long pectoral fins, it is a lively, moody and somewhat aggressive fish. The skin shimmers gold, brown, blue or purple depending on the age of the specimen and its gender. The species is female for the first seven years of its life before becoming male. Found on the coast in summer, it feeds on zooplankton, small organisms and seaweed that it grazes with several rows of small pointed teeth.



Fishing season: throughout the year.

Minimum Landing Size: 23 cm

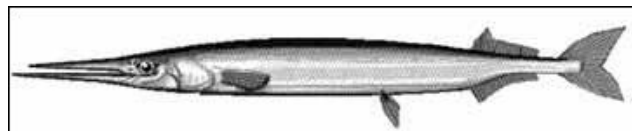
GARFISH

Names: garpike, needlefish, *Belone belone*

Description, biology: Very aggressive, the garfish has a long serpentiform body of up to 80 cm. Easily recognizable by its sharp rostrum and blue-green flesh indicating the presence of oxidized iron phosphate. It feeds on small fish, in the same places as mackerel. Reproduction takes place along the coast at the beginning of spring after a winter spent in deep water.

Fishing season: from the 1st January to the 15th August.

Minimum Landing Size: 45 cm



ATLANTIC MACKEREL

Name: *Scomber scombrus*

Description, biology: its fusiform body finishes in a fine, indented caudal fin. It feeds generally on zooplankton that it filters from the water using its gills. However, after the breeding season from March to July, it may feed on small fish. It rarely reaches 50 cm long and is one of the favourite prey of tuna and dolphins.



Fishing season: throughout the year, but not recommended between March and July during the spawning season.

Minimum Landing Size: 20 cm

MULLET



Name: There are many different species that are hard to distinguish: thick-lip grey mullet, flathead mullet, golden grey mullet, thin-lip mullet...

Description, biology: Mullet has an elongated body covered in scales which give it a silvery appearance. It belongs to the Mugilidae family. It is omnivorous, which explains its wide distribution along rocky and sandy coasts, in estuaries, muddy zones, and ports.



Fishing season: throughout the year.

Minimum Landing Size: 20 cm

EUROPEAN CONGER



Name: *Conger conger*

Description, biology: The conger belongs to the same family as the eel, sharing its snake-like body and the thick mucus which covers it. It has fine sharp teeth. Mostly nocturnal, it lives in rocky cavities and port constructions. Its colour changes depending on its environment.

Fishing season: throughout the year.

Minimum Landing Size: 58 cm

PLAICE

Names: butt, *Pleuronectes platessa*

Description, biology: the plaice is a flatfish. Its body is oval with both eyes generally on the right side. It has one white side and one brown side with orange spots. Plaice are benthic feeding and live on the loose sandy bottoms of coastal areas. Breeding takes place between January and May.



Fishing season: throughout the year.

Minimum Landing Size: 27 cm

COMMON SOLE

Name: *Solea solea*

Description, biology: the sole has an elliptic body with both eyes on its right side. It lives close to the bottom, moving in an undulating motion. It feeds on worms, molluscs and small fish. Its colour depends on the surrounding environment. Easily confused with dab, another species of flatfish.

Fishing season: throughout the year.

Minimum Landing Size: 24 cm

Shellfish and Crustaceans

EUROPEAN CLAM

Name: *Venus verrucosa*

Description, biology: Clams are bivalves, their shells range in colour from white to reddish-brown. The shell is thick, decorated with concentric stripes, and its edges are slightly crenated. Both valves are identical. The best time to gather clams is during spring low tides. They reach sexual maturity after two or three years.



Fishing season: from the 1st September to the 30th April.

Minimum Landing Size: 4 cm (on the widest part of the shell).

COCKLE



Name: *Cerastoderma edule*

Description, biology: the valves of the cockle are striated radially and identical. They have thick white shells out to sea but coastal specimens may be grey, reddish or even blue. Cockles live in colonies and have a very efficient breeding system. It is a burrowing mollusc that likes

Fishing season: Throughout the year except for protected sites.

Minimum Landing Size: 3 cm (on the widest part of the shell).

PALOURDE CLAM

Name: *Tapes decussatus*

Description, biology: this bivalve is dark in colour, ranging from grey to dark brown, sometimes bluish in specimens found in Mont-Saint-Michel Bay. Radial and concentric streaks on the valves, sometimes difficult to see.



Fishing season: throughout the year.

Minimum Landing Size: 4 cm (on the widest part of the shell).

PRAWN



Name: *Palaemon serratus*

Description, biology: the common prawn is the largest of its kind found on Manche's coast. It has a long jagged rostrum and a transparent body. Its habitat is usually seaweed or rocky areas. It has five pairs of legs and, when threatened, can propel itself very quickly backwards using its tail.

Fishing season: from the 1st July to the 1st March exclusive, except for the Chausey Islands, from the 1st August to the 1st March exclusive.

Minimum Landing Size: 5 cm (tail straight, rostrum excluded).

VELVET SWIMMING CRAB

Name: *Macropipus puber*

Description, biology: This crustacean has a brown shell covered in "woolly" hairs and two small red eyes. Its legs are tipped with a flattened segment, resembling an oar, which it uses to propel itself through the water. Its claws are weak but have saw-like hooks which can be dangerous for the unwary crabber.



Fishing season: throughout the year.

Minimum Landing Size: 6.5 cm (shell width).

Fishing Rules

You will find below the general fixed rules as described in the permanent by-laws for fishing in freshwater and for catching migratory fish. There is also a by-law for gathering sea creatures on the shore and boat fishing at sea, both available from the contacts given below.

River fishing usually requires the fisherman to purchase a fishing licence.

Please contact the organizations below for more details:

Freshwater fishing:

- Fédération de la Manche pour la Pêche et la Protection du Milieu Aquatique, Périers, 0233 469650
- Direction Départemental de l'Agriculture et de la Forêt, Saint-Lô, 0233 775100

Sea fishing and gathering shellfish:

- Direction Départementale des Affaires Maritimes, Cherbourg-Octeville, 0233 233609
- The local town hall

WATERCOURSES FOR MIGRATORY FISH:

SALMON WATERCOURSES

the VIRE, throughout its length in the department,
the SIENNE, downstream of its confluence with the stream of Saint-Maur-des-Bois, at Beslon,
the SELUNE, downstream of its confluence with the Garenne, at Lapenty and Milly,
the THAR, downstream of the bridge on the D105, linking Saint-Jean-des-Champs with Lucerne-d'Outremer,
the SEE, downstream of the bridge on the D977, at Sourdeval,
the COUESNON, downstream of the bridge on the local byroad from Vieux-Vy-sur-Couesnon to Saint-Ouen-des-Alleux.

SEA TROUT WATERCOURSES

the DOUVE, downstream of its confluence with the stream of Saint-Martin-le-Hébert, at Sottevast,
the VIRE, throughout its length in the department,
the SAIRE, downstream of its confluence with the stream of Mesnil-au-Val, at Le Theil,
the SINOPE, downstream of the bridge on the D902,
the SIENNE, downstream of its confluence with the stream of Saint-Maur-des-Bois, Beslon,
the SELUNE, downstream of its confluence with the Garenne, at Lapenty and Milly,
the THAR, downstream of the bridge on the D105, linking Saint-Jean-des-Champs with Lucerne-d'Outremer,
the SEE, downstream of the bridge on the D977, at Sourdeval,
the COUESNON, downstream of the bridge on the local byroad from Vieux-Vy-sur-Couesnon to Saint-Ouen-des-Alleux.

WATERCOURSES WHERE FISHING RIGHTS ARE CONTROLLED BY THE STATE

the VIRE, from Saint-Lô Bridge to Les Veys Bridge,
the DOUVE, from Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte Bridge to La Barquette Bridge,
the MERDERET, downstream of the bridge on the D67 to Chef-du-Pont,
the TAUTE, downstream of Mesnil Mill to Marchesieux,
the VIRE and TAUTE Canal,
the SEVES, from Baupte Bridge to its confluence with the Douve,
the MADELEINE, from Baupte Causeway to its confluence with the Douve,
the SIENNE, from 150 m downstream of Hyenville Dam to Pont-Neuf,
the SEE, from its confluence with the Saultbesnon to 1,500 m upstream of Pont-Gilbert,
the SELUNE, from the dyke at Moulin-du-Ducey to 1,500 m upstream of Pontaubault Bridge,
the lakes of VEZINS and LA ROCHE-QUI-BOIT,
the COUESNON, throughout its length in the department to 500 m upstream of Pontorson.

FISHING SEASONS

FISHING SEASONS IN CATEGORY 1 WATERS

From 8 a.m. on the second Saturday in March to the third Sunday in September.

FISHING SEASONS IN CATEGORY 2 WATERS

From the 1st January to the 31st December, but for the following exceptions:

- **pike, pikeperch**: from the 1st January to the last Sunday in January and from the second Saturday in May to the 31st December inclusive.
- **brown trout, brook trout, char, lake trout, rainbow trout**: from the second Saturday in March to the third Sunday in September.
- **noble crayfish, European crayfish, white-clawed crayfish, Turkish crayfish**: for a period of ten consecutive days starting on the fourth Saturday in July.
- **other crayfish**: throughout the year (not to be transported alive).
- **edible frog or common frog**: capture permitted during a maximum period of ten months: (from the 1st January to the first Sunday in April and from the second Saturday in June to the 31st December).
- **eel**: bobbing permitted at night from the third Saturday in April to the 1st October.

FISHING TIMES

Fishing is permitted from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, except in the following instances:

Carp fishing is allowed at any time on the following courses, however no carp caught between 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise by amateurs anglers may be held in captivity or transported:

► The river VIRE

from the bridge on the D999, at Candol (Saint-Lô), to the bridge on the D972 at Saint-Lô.
from the dam at Le Maupas to the bridge on the N174 at Pont-Hébert, left bank
from the bridge on the N174 to the dam at Les Claies-de-Vire, at La Meauffe, right bank
from the dam at Les Claies-de-Vire to the old quarries, at La Meauffe, right bank (La Jouenne Stream)

► The river DOUVE

From Beuzeville-la-Bastille parish boundary to the bridge over the D67 at Beuzeville-la-Bastille (right bank only).
From Saint-Martin Pond at Liesville-sur-Douve to the mouth of the Jourdan on the left bank at Carentan.

► The river TAUTE

From Elm House at Montmartin-en-Graignes, to the lock on the N13 at Saint-Hilaire-Petitville, right bank only.

► The GRAVIER Canal

Carentan (throughout the watercourse).

► The river SELUNE

The reservoir La Roche-Qui-Boit, right bank at La Fieffe-au-Roi, Vezins, from the confluence of the Le Neufbourg Stream upstream to the edge of the wood downstream (400 m).

The Vezins Reservoir at Bois-d'Isigny, Vezins.

The Vezins Reservoir at La Pommeraie, Saint-Martin-de-Landelles.

BOUNDARY WATERCOURSES AND LAKES

When a watercourse or lake constitutes the dividing line between departments, the least restrictive regulations are taken to be those in force.

FISHING RESERVES

There are fishing reserves on most watercourses. They are generally the zones 50 m upstream and 50 m downstream of dams and mills. Some exceptions are to be found on the Sienne, the Jourdan, the Selune, the Vire, the Saire and some streams. For more details, please refer to the by-law in force for the year relating to freshwater fishing in the department of Manche: D.D.A.F. Saint-Lô, Tel. 0233 775100 <http://ddaf.manche.agriculture.gouv.fr/>

BAG LIMITS

MINIMUM CATCH SIZE OF CERTAIN SPECIES

Fish of the species described hereafter may not be caught and must be returned to the water immediately after their capture if their length, measured from the tip of their snout to the tip of the tail spread out, and for crayfish measured from the tip of the head excluding claws and antennae to the tip of the tail spread out, is less than:

- 0.50 m for salmon,
- 0.50 m for northern pike in Category 2 waters,
- 0.35 m for sea trout,
- 0.35 m for lake trout,
- 0.40 for pikeperch in Category 2 waters,
- 0.30 m for shad,
- 0.30 m for grayling and common whitefish,
- 0.20 m for European river lamprey,
- 0.40 m for sea lamprey,
- 0.23 m for trout other than sea trout, brook trout, and char,
- 0.30 for largemouth bass in Category 2 waters,
- 0.20 m for mullet,
- 0.09 m for noble crayfish, European crayfish, white-clawed crayfish, and Turkish crayfish.

Fishing for elver (juvenile eel) is prohibited.

Salmonids:

The daily bag limit per fisherman for salmonids, other than salmon and where appropriate sea trout, is set at ten.

In Category 1 rivers, the daily bag limit per fisherman for trout is set at six.

Bag limits for salmon and sea trout are set annually. Please refer to the chapter "Annual Rules" below, or contact:

- ▶ D.D.A.F. Saint-Lô, Tel. 0233 775100 <http://ddaf.manche.agriculture.gouv.fr/>
- ▶ Fédération de la Manche pour la pêche, Périers, 0233 469650

MARKING AND DECLARING CATCHES

At the beginning of the fishing season, each fisherman wishing to fish for salmon or sea trout must acquire a "migratory" permit from an agent after paying a one-off tax.

After the first catch of a migratory salmonid, the fisherman must renew the permit. He does this by handing in to the nearest agent the catch declaration.

Eel

Fishing for downstream migrating eel and elver (juvenile eel) is prohibited upstream of the zone where saltwater and freshwater meet.

In Category 2 waters, the following are permitted:

- the use of eel pots (maximum 6, maximum diameter of opening 40 mm),
- bobbing at night from the 15th April to the 1st October (prohibited in Category 1).

Predators

The combined daily bag limit of pike and pikeperch per fisherman is set at six.

PERMITTED FISHING METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

- 1 – In Category 1 waters, the number of lines, used in conjunction with rods, permitted for each member of a registered association for fishing and the protection of the aquatic environment (AAPPMA) is limited to one line.
- 2 – In Category 2 waters, the number of lines permitted for each member of a registered association for fishing and the protection of the aquatic environment (AAPPMA) is limited to four lines.
- 3 – In public waters and lakes classified Category 1, the use of two lines used in conjunction with rods is permitted.

In accordance with the measures of article R.436-23 of the French environment code, lines must be fitted to rods and carry a maximum of two hooks or three artificial flies. They must be close to the fisherman.

- 4 – The only fishing devices permitted in Category 1 waters during the fishing season are bobs and lift nets for crayfish (maximum six).
- 5 – In Category 2 waters, the following devices are permitted: lift nets for crayfish (maximum six), eel pots (maximum six, maximum diameter of opening 40 mm), bottle traps for minnows or other fish intended as bait (maximum one, maximum size two litres).
- 6 – In Category 1 lakes, fishing with maggots is permitted without baiting.

Specific courses:

- 7 – On the Vire, for the period from the third Saturday in April to the 31st August: artificial fly fishing only, from the discharge of the sewage treatment station at Saint-Lô upstream to Agneaux Castle downstream.

PROHIBITED FISHING METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

- 1 – The transport and use of gaffs is prohibited throughout the watercourses.
- 2 – During the pike and pikeperch closed season, any fishing using live, dead, or artificial bait, spoon-bait or lures that may catch such fish intentionally, except for artificial flies, is prohibited in Category 2 waters. This ban does not apply to fishing for salmon and sea trout in watercourses or sections of watercourses classified as watercourses for salmon and sea trout.
- 3 – The use of maggots and other dipterous larvae is prohibited in Category 1 waters, except for lakes that may be included in article 11.6.
The following types of bait are prohibited: fish eggs, live or dead fish for which there is a minimum catch size or a special measure of protection (bullhead, common dace).
The use of hooks larger than size No. 5 for fishing trout with worms is prohibited.
The use of animal bait is prohibited at night for fishing carp that must be returned to the water.
- 4 – With a view to protecting fish spawning areas, fishing requiring the fisherman to walk in fishing waters is prohibited in Category 1 watercourses and sections of watercourses from the 1st January to the 1st May.
- 5 – Fishing using gang hooks or harpoons is prohibited throughout the watercourses.
- 6 – Fishing for kelt (migratory salmonids returning to the sea) is prohibited throughout the year.