



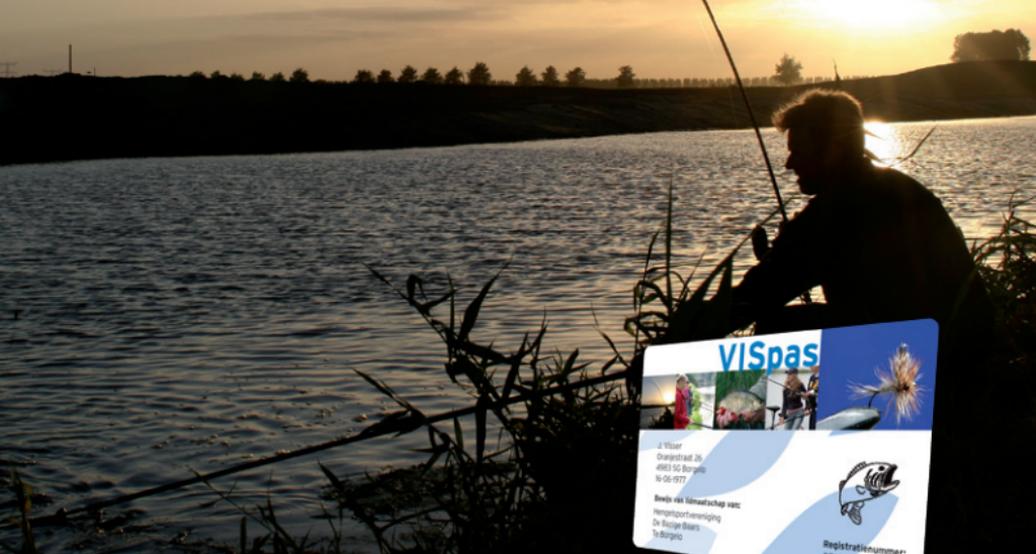
Engels



Sportvisserij  
Nederland

# Going fishing?

Always bring your VISpas!



# Landelijke Lijst van Viswateren



FEDERATIE RANDMEREN



Zuidwest Nederland



LIMBURG



It is permitted to fish in the waters included in this Landelijke Lijst van Viswateren (National List of Fishing Waters) as part of the VISpas with two rods and any permitted type of bait, unless indicated otherwise at the waters.

This National List of Fishing Waters does not provide any rights in itself. The holder is required to hold a VISpas that is valid for the year in question.

In addition to the VISpas, you are required to always carry this list with you and produce both if inspected.

The National List of Fishing Waters is valid for three years.

Do not throw this list away, but keep it until the end of .



# Going fishing? Always bring your VISpas!

## Many fishing waters with the VISpas

The Netherlands is a true paradise for anglers. Compared to other countries, we have many fishing waters, the greater number of which can be fished by VISpas holders.

The **VISpas** is the proof of membership of a fishing club associated with Sportvisserij Nederland. Membership usually amounts to no more than 30 to 45 euros per year. As a member, you are entitled to fish with two rods and all permitted types of bait in all waters included in the **Landelijke Lijst van Viswateren** (National List of Fishing Waters). You are also permitted to fish in the waters of any enclosed federation and club list.

The VISpas and fishing water list(s) together form the fishing permit for all waters stated in the fishing water list(s). In the waters stated, you may fish with two rods and any permitted type of bait. You thus avail of an enormous area of fishing waters throughout the Netherlands, where you can fish according to your own wishes, naturally within legal regulations. The VISpas is also the proof of membership of the club of which you are a member.



The following conditions apply to holders of the *VISpas*:

1. With the *VISpas* you are permitted two fish with no more than two rods (provided you fish with no more than three one, two or three-forked hooks) and any permitted type of bait.
2. Fish caught is to be put back in the same water undamaged or - if intended for own consumption - killed immediately (by a forceful blow on the head). For many waters, a maximum amount of fish is allowed to be taken.
3. It is forbidden to sell caught fish.
4. Holders of the *VISpas* must comply with the General Terms and Conditions stated below, as well as other legal rules and regulations. Non-compliance with the conditions and legal rules and regulations is considered as fishing without a permit (written permission) and thus constitutes fishing in breach of the Fisheries Law.

**Availability:** The *VISpas* is issued by fishing clubs associated with Sportvisserij Nederland. The *VISpas* is obtained by entering into membership (from 1 January through 31 December) with one of these clubs. Membership is automatically renewed unless it is resigned prior to 1 November. Entering membership is also possible through fishing shops functioning as a point of sale for the clubs in question. Club addresses can be found on [www.vispas.nl](http://www.vispas.nl).

## Youngsters under 14

Youngsters under 14 who want to fish with two rods and any permitted bait can obtain the **jeugdVISpas** (junior fishing pass). When purchasing a jeugdVISpas, you are automatically a member of a fishing club and have all the advantages granted with a *VISpas*. However, the jeugdVISpas is considerably cheaper as compared to the *VISpas*!

If you are not yet 14 and want to fish in the water of a local club with one rod, it is usually possible to purchase a junior



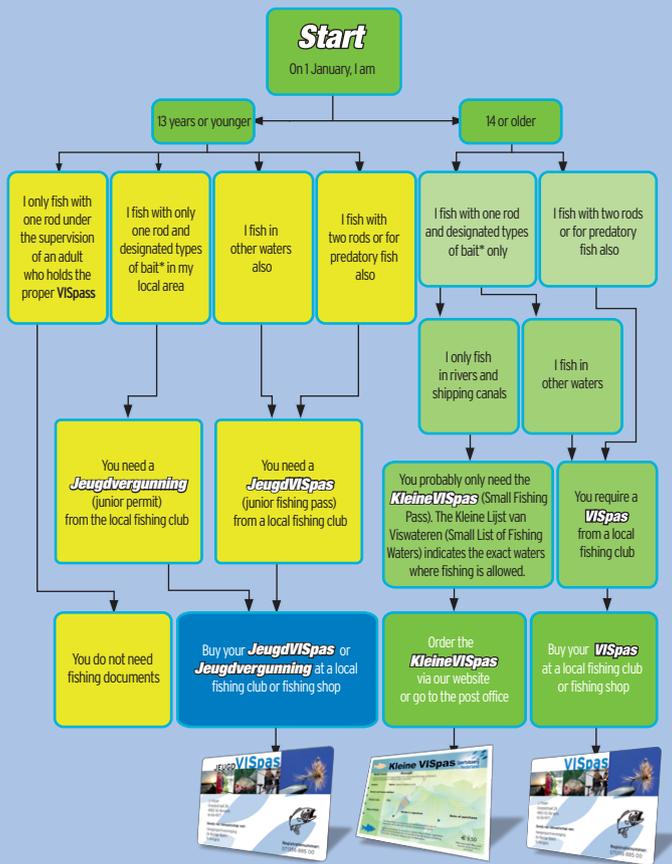
permit from the fishing club, in which case a *jeugdVISpas* is not required.

There is one exception: youth under 14 do not require a junior permit or jeugdVISpas if they fish under the supervision of an adult who has a valid *VISpas* or *Kleine VISpas* (small fishing pass). There is one limitation: the youngster is permitted to fish with no more than one rod and under the same conditions as the supervisor.

## Choose the proper *VISpas*

Find out which *VISpas* you require and do the *VISpasCHECK* using the diagram on the next page. The *VISpasCHECK* is very easy: complete the diagram by answering a few simple questions and you will automatically see which *VISpas* suits you best. The diagram also shows how and where to purchase your *VISpas*.

# Do the VISpasCHECK (fishing pass check)



\* Designates types of bait are bread, potato, dough, cheese, grains and seeds, worms and prawns, insects, insect larvae and imitations, provided that they do not exceed 2.5 cm.

**Note:** in certain waters, written permission other than the VISpas (Fishing Pass) is required.

Go to [www.vispas.nl](http://www.vispas.nl) for information about the waters included in the Fishing waters list, and to [www.visplanner.nl](http://www.visplanner.nl) to see the exact location of the waters.

## Becoming a member of a fishing club

Fishing clubs have standard registration forms for new members. The A4 form (next page) consists of two parts: the upper part is the temporary proof of membership and the temporary permit that allows for **one month** of fishing. When you register as a member, you immediately pay the annual membership fee and receive the temporary proof of membership and the lists of fishing waters as a part of the membership. This temporary proof of membership allows you to fish for one month (with no more than two rods and any permitted type of bait) stated in the waters on the accompanying lists of Fishing Waters. Make sure that this temporary proof of membership is fully completed; it is invalid if not entirely filled out.

The lower part of the registration form is a postcard and to also be completed in full. You must send the postcard to Sportvisserij Nederland not later than one week after it has been issued. The membership card (VISpas) will be sent to you in 15 working days, after which you are a member of the fishing club in question until you resign.

It is therefore important for you to send the (correctly completed) postcard as soon as possible to allow for the temporary proof of membership to be converted into a definitive proof of membership (VISpas) in good time (within one month).

Many fishing clubs have these registration forms available at the local fishing shop or other outlets (camp sites, Tourist Information Offices, etc.) where you can immediately register as a member. If this is not the case, please contact the secretariat of the fishing club in question. Go to [www.vispas.nl](http://www.vispas.nl) for addresses.

## Temporary proof of membership / temporary VISpas

(strictly personal)

Date of issuing	<input type="text"/>	Valid one month after the date of issue.	<input type="text"/>
Last name	<input type="text"/>		
Initials	<input type="text"/>	First name	<input type="text"/>
Address/house number	<input type="text"/>		
Postal code	<input type="text"/>	City	<input type="text"/>
Date of birth	<input type="text"/>	Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <small>(tick the appropriate box)</small>
Fishing club	<input type="text"/>		
Established in	<input type="text"/>		
Price	<input type="text"/>		
<input type="text"/>			

## Application for definitive membership/VISpas

Send this card within one week after receiving it. The membership card (VISpas) will be sent to you within 15 working days. Please complete in print.

Fishing club	<input type="text"/>		
Established in	<input type="text"/>		
Last name	<input type="text"/>	Initials	<input type="text"/>
Address/house number	<input type="text"/>		
Postal code	<input type="text"/>	City	<input type="text"/>
Date of birth	<input type="text"/>	Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <small>(tick the appropriate box)</small>
Telephone number	<input type="text"/>	E-mail	<input type="text"/>
I hereby grant the fishing club permission to annually debit the membership fee for the following year from my account in November. This debit takes place once a year. If you do not want this, please tick the box: <input type="checkbox"/>			
Account number	<input type="text"/>		
City	<input type="text"/>	Signature	<input type="text"/>
Date	<input type="text"/>		

(Applicant's signature; the parent's or guardian's signature if under 18)

After processing the 'application for definitive membership', you are a member of the fishing club until notice of termination.

Your personal details are included in the members administration of the fishing club and the central members administration of Sportvisserij Nederland. Your personal details are used also for the production fishing documents, the provision of information and verification. Personal details are not provided to any third parties for commercial objectives.

Go to [www.sportvisserijnederland.nl](http://www.sportvisserijnederland.nl) to read the entire privacy policy. Clear applications completed in full are dealt with only. There is no refund in the case of incorrectly completed applications.



This temporary proof of membership allows for fishing with no more than two rods in waters stated in the accompanying lists of fishing waters and under the conditions stated there. This document is invalid once the expiry date has elapsed.

This temporary proof of membership is invalid if it has not been entirely completed.

This temporary proof of membership is to be produced immediately if inspected.

Sportvisserij Nederland  
Postoffice Box 162  
3720 AD Bilthoven  
(0900) 2025358  
[www.sportvisserijnederland.nl](http://www.sportvisserijnederland.nl)

Sender

Put your  
stamp here

**Sportvisserij Nederland**

Attn: members registration department

Postoffice Box 162

3720 AD Bilthoven



**Kleine VISpas** Sportvisserij Nederland

**Valid from** \_\_\_\_\_ **through** \_\_\_\_\_

For fishing with one rod in the waters included in the accompanying Kleine Lijst van Viswateren (Small List of Fishing Waters) under the conditions stated there.

**Initials** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name** (please complete in print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Street and house number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal code** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of birth** \_\_\_\_\_ **Holder's signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of purchase** \_\_\_\_\_

This Kleine VISpas is to be produced immediately in the case of inspection and is valid only if entirely completed and signed.

Your personal details are included in a Kleine VISpas holder registration of Sportvisserij Nederland for the benefit of the distribution of fishing documents, verification and provision of information.

€ 9,50  
Nine euro and fifty cents  
Payment at the counter is permitted.

#### Note!

According to the Fisheries Act (Article 21), you are required to hold written permission from the party entitled to the fishing rights when you go fishing. The accompanying Kleine Lijst van Viswateren (Small List of Fishing Waters) states the waters where fishing with the Kleine VISpas (small fishing pass) is permitted and the conditions involved. In addition to the Kleine VISpas, you are also required to carry the Small List of Fishing Waters and be able to produce both if inspected.

The Kleine VISpas is not valid if you want to fish with two rods, artificial bait or in waters that are not included in the Small List of Fishing Waters. In these cases, you require written permission from the party entitled to the fishing rights of the waters where you want to go fishing, usually a fishing club. Once you become a member of one of the almost 1000 fishing clubs associated with a federation or Sportvisserij Nederland, you receive the VISpas which allows you to fish in many waters in the Netherlands with any type of permitted bait and with no more than two rods.

Go to [www.vispas.nl](http://www.vispas.nl) for more information about the required fishing documents, or call 0900-2025358 (35ct/m).

#### Rules of behaviour

1. Try to prevent the hook from being swallowed;
2. Touch caught fish with wet hands only;
3. Remove the hook with extreme caution;
4. Throw caught fish back into the same water.



## The Kleine VISpas (Small Fishing Pass)

If you do not want to become a member of a fishing club and do want to go fishing, you can purchase the Kleine VISpas with the accompanying Kleine Lijst van Viswateren (Small List of Fishing Waters). Together with this limited list of fishing waters, the Kleine VISpas is the fishing permit for waters included in this list. The waters included in Kleine VISpas mainly consist of public waters; large rivers and canals where professional shipping takes place. There are certain limitations as regards the number of rods and types of bait also.

The following conditions apply to *Kleine VISpas* holders:

1. The *Kleine VISpas* allows you to fish with **one rod** only, using the following indicated types of bait:
  - Bread, potato, dough, cheese, grains and seeds;
  - Worms and prawns;
  - Insects, insect larvae (maggots, for instance) and imitations thereof, provided they do not exceed 2.5 cm.
2. Fish caught is to be put back in the same water undamaged.
3. It is forbidden to kill fish and/or take them with you.
4. Holders of the *Kleine VISpas* must also comply with the following General conditions and legal rules and regulations. Non-compliance with these conditions and legal rules and regulations means that one is considered to be fishing without a permit (written permission) and is thus in violation of the Fisheries Law.

**Availability:** the Kleine VISpas is valid from 1 January through 31 December. The pass is issued by Sportvisserij Nederland and is available at post offices and Sportvisserij Nederland via [www.vispas.nl](http://www.vispas.nl). If you have purchased a *Kleine VISpas*, you can have Sportvisserij Nederland send it to your home address every year.

## Kleine Lijst van Viswateren



This List of Small Fishing Waters states waters in which Kleine VISpas holders are allowed to fish with one rod and designated types of bait. This Small List of Fishing Waters does not provide any rights in itself. The holder must have a valid Kleine VISpas in his/her possession.

When fishing, you must carry this Small List of Fishing Waters as well as the Kleine VISpas and be able to produce both for inspection.

### Sportvisserij Nederland

Postbus 162, 3720 AD Bilthoven  
Telefoon +31 (0) 30 6058490  
www.sportvisserij nederland.nl



## Statutory fishing rules

(Sports) fishing is regulated in the Fisheries Law of 1963. The most important statutory rules are described below.

### Fishing in inland waters

#### Written permission (Permit)

In order to be permitted to fish in inland waters, every angler - regardless of age - always requires a written permission (permit) from the person with fishing rights to the water where one wants to go fishing. This fishing rights owner is usually a fishing club or federation who has rented the fishing rights for their members and provides these fishing rights through a permit. The VISpas and accompanying List(s) of Fishing Waters together form the permit which allows you to fish in the waters stated in the list(s). The same applies to the Kleine VISpas, which together with the Small List Fishing Waters constituted the permit.



### Closed time types of bait

A prohibition of certain types of bait applies from 1 April until the last Saturday in May. During this period, it is forbidden to fish with: worms (or imitation worms), slaughter products, a dead fish or a piece of fish (regardless the size), any type of artificial bait with the exception of fishing flies smaller than 2.5 cm. For the IJsselmeer Lake, this prohibition applies from 16 March through 30 June.

**Note:** a longer closed time applies to a number of waters in the fishing water lists. This is stated in the federations and/or at the waters concerned.

### Closed time for fish species

A closed time applies to a number of species of fish. If you catch one of these species during this period, you are required to handle it with the greatest possible care and throw it back in the same water alive and uninjured.

Note: if you fish using a *Kleine VISpas*, you are required to throw all the fish caught back in the same water uninjured.

Fish species:	Closed period:
- Pike	1 March through 30 June
- Pike and bass	1 April until the last Saturday in May
- Barbel, chub, dace, beaked carp, ide, grayling	1 April through 31 May
- Brook trout, char	1 October through 31 March
- Sea trout, salmon	the entire year

## Minimum sizes of fish species



Perch - 22 cm



Barbel - 30 cm



Flounder - 20 cm



Trout \* - 25 cm

\* Char, brook trout or rainbow trout



Chub - 30 cm



Rudd - 15 cm



Dace - 15 cm



Nose carp - 30 cm



Pike - 45 cm



Pike perch - 42 cm



Grayling - 35 cm



Ide - 30 cm



Tench - 25 cm

### Minimum sizes of fish species

If you catch a fish that is smaller than the minimum size for the type, you are required to immediately put it back in the same water. Species that are not mentioned are protected species, or there is no minimum size.

Note: when fishing with a *Kleine Vispas*, you are required to put all the fish back in the same water undamaged.

### Protected fish species

The Flora and Fauna Act includes a number of fish species that are not permitted to be fished. These are: schneider, brook lamprey, stone loach, bitterling, minnow, houting, European catfish, weatherfish, spined loach, bullhead, lampern and sturgeon.

If one of these species of fish is caught, they must immediately be put back in the same water. Always put back fish if you do not know what species it is.

### Prohibition to take eel

Due to water pollution, overfishing, weirs and dams the eel is threatened in its existence. Therefore, from January 1, 2009 all sportfishermen in the Netherlands must return every eel caught directly in the same water.

### Prohibition on the use of live bait

It is forbidden to use vertebrates as bait for fishing (such as live fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds or mammals). It is allowed to fish with maggots, worms, etc.

### Night fishing

In the months of June, July and August, it is allowed to fish all night through in most waters. Outside of these months, fishing is allowed from one hour before sunrise until two hours after sunset. In some waters, it is allowed to fish outside this period from June through August; refer to the List of Fishing Waters. Night fishing is not permitted on the IJsselmeer Lake and in adjoining open harbours.

## General conditions for the Fishing Pass and Small Fishing Pass

1. The National List of Fishing Waters and (any) federation and club lists as part of the VISpas are valid only if combined with a valid VISpas. The same applies to the Small List of Fishing Waters. This is valid only in combination with a valid *Kleine VISpas*. The fishing water lists themselves do not provide any rights.

### It is forbidden:

2. To hold fishing contests, except if a written permission has been provided by the federation or fishing club holding the fishing rights. If a track has been set out along water based upon a permit issued, it is obliged to keep the track free.
3. To fish or feed using coloured maggots.
4. To execute actions that may result in disruption, destruction or damage of the countryside and/or other people's properties or cause nuisance to others.
5. To fish in such a way that (water) birds can catch the bait.
6. To leave fishing line and other refuse at the site. When leaving the site, it should be clean!
7. To enter private grounds and banks without the owner's consent, even if one is entitled to fish in the adjoining water.
8. To enter land with plants and crops, or grass that is yet to be mowed, unless one has valid walking rights.
9. To bring pets into the vicinity of free-ranging cattle. Gates on farmlands are to be closed at all times.



Stipulations and conditions are to be complied with when in recreation and scenic areas. These are usually indicated by signs.

- It is obliged to submit the *VISpas* or *Kleine VISpas* and the fishing water lists as part of the document in question for inspection to authorised inspectors of the fishing club, federation and/or Sportvisserij Nederland, the police or any other legally authorised investigators. Directions given by these are to be followed immediately.
- Anglers fish at their own risk and are personally liable for their actions. Sportvisserij Nederland, the federations and/or fishing clubs and the owners of the fishing water accept no liability whatsoever.
- The *VISpas* and *Kleine VISpas* and the fishing water lists that are part of the document are strictly personal yet remain the property of the club that has issued the *VISpas* and Sportvisserij Nederland, respectively.

The above conditions apply to all waters included in the fishing water lists. Additional or limiting conditions may apply for each federation area or water, which are stated separately at the federation or water in question. For instance, it may be that certain types of bait are forbidden in a certain period of the year, or that certain species of fish are required to be put back. Sometimes, lower minimum sizes are stated than the legal measure. So be sure to read the additional conditions on the fishing water lists carefully before you go fishing. Often, you require a separate walking right permit. Ask for these at the location where you are.

## Handling fish

- Try to prevent the hook from being swallowed.
- Touch caught fish with wet hands only.
- Remove the hook cautiously.

### Lead code

Lead does not belong in the environment; it is harmful for both humans and animals. So be sure to use lead as little as possible and prevent loss. Important recommendations include:

- Buy dispenser boxes of lead shots only that give just one shot at a time.
- Use soft lead shots only; these are easily removed from the line and allow for repeated use.
- Use an artificial bait rescuer when using artificial bait that contains lead; this limits loss.
- Put lead that you no longer use with chemical waste.

### Keepnet code

Research shows that the use of a live net is not harmful for fish kept. In general, however, it is proven that the fewer actions carried out with a fish, the smaller the risk of injury. Every additional action means additional risk, so only use a Keepnet if required, but limit the use as much as possible. If you intend to use a Keepnet or if your net needs replacement, choose a live net with the following characteristics:

- A diameter of 40 cm or more.
- A length of 2.5 metres or more.
- A mesh width of no more than 6 mm.
- Without knots.
- Made of soft material.
- Provided with sufficient hoops to lay it out properly.



#### When using a keepnet, make sure that:

- The maximum possible part of the net is under water, allowing the fish to utilise the entire volume.
- The keepnet preferably stands out horizontally stretched instead of vertically.
- Waves do not influence the keepnet to prevent injury to the fish.
- Fish do not stay in the keepnet for longer than necessary.
- There are not too many fish in the keepnet.
- The keepnet is emptied carefully.

#### Code of conduct by the Karperstudiegroep Nederland (Netherlands carp study group)

There are a number of specific rules for carp anglers in addition to the standard applicable rules of conduct:

- Use only fish safe systems.
- Use an unhooking mat when removing the hook or making pictures.
- Keep caught fish wet when removing the hook or taking pictures.
- Be responsible when using a carp sack.
- Put the carp back in the water in which it was caught.

## Sea fishing

In the Netherlands there is more fishing than just in inland waters. Anglers go out to sea as well, where other rules apply. In general, it can be stated that the rules for sea fishing are much simpler. For instance, fishing at sea with rods does not require a permit, but...

#### zeeVISpas (sea fishing pass)

If you plan on fishing in sea only, the special zeeVISpas with accompanying *Lijst van Zeevismogelijkheden* (List of Sea Fishing Options) is a good option. The zeeVISpas provides a number of advantages: you become a member of a (sea) fishing club, which allows you to participate in (inter)national contests and provides exclusive access to the Grevelingenmeer and Veerse Meer Lakes. In addition, the zeeVISpas contains a permit for digging in the delta area. And, maybe the most important thing: you contribute to the representation of interests and promotion of sea fishing in the Netherlands! All of the sea fishing opportunities are also included in the VISpas, so the ZeeVISpas (which is cheaper than the VISpas) is intended for people who are planning to fish at sea only.

#### What does the zeeVISpas contribute to?

- The realisation of slipways and other facilities.
- Preservation of a part of the Voordelta for angling.
- Continuation of the option to dig for sea bait.
- Campaigns for the regulation of vertical rigging on angling pitches.
- Improved and adjusted maintenance of bass.
- Striving for a net-free zone at the coast.
- Intensive lobbying for sea angling in The Hague and Brussels.



### Coastal waters, sea area and fishing zone

The Fisheries Act distinguishes three different sea fishing areas: 'fishing zone', 'coastal waters' and 'sea area'. In the coastal waters, a limitation of (a maximum of) two rods applies.

#### Coastal waters

These include the Waddenzee, the Dutch part of the Dollard and Eems, the Maasmond, the Nieuwe Waterweg to the line of the eastern jetty of Maassluis and the green leading light no. 14, the Calandkanaal canal and open harbours as far as the outermost dam, the Beerkanaal channel with open harbours, the Zeegat van Goeree tidal inlet, the Brouwerhavensegat, the Oosterschelde and the Westerschelde.

**NOTE.** The sea along the Noord-Holland and Zuid-Holland beaches and above the Frisian Islands are commonly referred to as coast, but, according to the Fisheries Act, this is the fishing zone instead of 'coastal water'.

#### Sea area

Contrary to what one might think, the sea area only refers to a number of limited water surfaces: the harbours of IJmuiden (including the interior of the jetties) and the access canals to the North Sea Canal, the Uitwateringskanaal canal of Katwijk and the harbours of Scheveningen as far as the outermost-located dams.

#### Fishing zone

The fishing zone indicates the North Sea along the Dutch coast next to the sea area and the coastal waters. The fishing zone is actually what is called the 'sea' in popular speech.

#### Minimum sizes of fish species

Flounder	20 cm	Whiting	27 cm
Cod	35 cm	Ling	63 cm
Haddock	30 cm	Blue ling	70 cm
Saithe	35 cm	Bass	36 cm
Pollack	30 cm	Mackerel	30 cm
Hake	27 cm	Herring	20 cm
Megrim	20 cm	Scad	15 cm
Sole	24 cm	Sardine	11 cm
Plaice	27 cm	Anchovy	12 cm

No minimum size applies to species of fish that are not included in this list.

# Good catch!



***If you go fishing in the Netherlands,  
you need a VISpas.  
So do the VISpasCHECK on [www.vispas.nl](http://www.vispas.nl)  
to find out which one you require.***

Offered by:



**Sportvisserij Nederland**  
Postbus 162, 3720 AD Bithoven  
Telefoon +31 (0)30 6058400  
[www.sportvisserijnederland.nl](http://www.sportvisserijnederland.nl)