

FISHING ZEALAND

magazine

#2

The volunteers
AND THE AQUATIC
ENVIRONMENT

Focus on
SUSTAINABLE
FISHING

Who are the fishermen of *tomorrow?*



FISHING EXPERIENCES FOR
KIDS AND ADOLESCENTS



FISHING
ZEALAND

Welcome to Fishing Zealand Magazine

The primary purpose of this magazine is to inform readers about the efforts made by Fishing Zealand to create a solid foundation for recreational fishing in the Zealand region.

Among other things, we will introduce you to the story of Fishing Zealand and outline the many initiatives and events that we have sparked. Our efforts with selected examples from the member municipalities.

In Fishing Zealand, recreational fishing is the focus, but we put an emphasis on broadly-based collaborations between fishermen and communities. We work on creating optimal conditions for fishermen within local communities, as well as providing fish stocks with the necessary protections. Without fish, no recreational fishing!

The natural and aquatic environment along our coastlines are diverse. There are sheltered fjords and exposed coastlines, shallow bays, areas with deep water, coastal regions with high salinity and others with brackish water. The species of fish one can catch are equally diverse, and it provides you with an opportunity to catch whatever species you prefer with whatever tackle you most enjoy.

For more information about the Fishing Zealand project and the Zealand fisheries, check out:

www.fishingzealand.dk

Whether you're a seasoned angler or a newcomer to the sport, we hope that this magazine will provide you with insight and inspiration.

Fishing Zealand



Fishing Zealand Magazine #2

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A man in a brown jacket and waders is fishing in a river. The sun is setting in the background, creating a warm, golden glow. The man is holding a fishing rod and looking up at the sky. The water is calm, reflecting the light from the sky. The background shows a rocky riverbank and some vegetation.

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Right from the get-go, Fishing Zealand has worked tirelessly to create great fishing experience for everyone – including children and adolescents. The latter constitute one of the core pillars of the project, and Fishing Zealand continues to develop and innovate our efforts to inspire and encourage children and adolescents to go fishing.

Children and Adolescents FISHING EXPERIENCES FOR THE YOUNG GENERATION

by HENRIK LARSEN

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mathematics	Biology	Danish		Physics
Mathematics	Biology	Danish		Danish
Danish	Chemistry	German		Danish
Danish	Chemistry	German		Danish



FISHING ZEALAND'S EFFORTS to create more young fishermen and a heightened conscience of the environment have been an integral part of the events; Put i Påsken (Easter Put & Take) and the Fishing Zealand Week. Both events have been characterized by being (mostly) free and by being part of the Easter and autumn holidays, which means that the parents are available for transportation and (if necessary) co-participation.

Because the fishing trips are aimed at kids and adolescents, they're orchestrated in a way so that it's possible to join instructors, fishing guides and other specialists. These people are present to instruct and help the beginners and share their personal experiences with fishing and the fascinating world below the surface.

The events that take place during Put i Påsken, primarily focus on stocked fish, but there are also trips to, for instance, harbours and rivers. A much wider palette of fishing experiences is on the menu during the Fishing Zealand Week. Here, all sails are set, and a long list of fishing events are offered along rivers, harbours, lakes, coastal shores – and even from commercial charter boats. The individual fishing spots are carefully selected because of their accessibility and because they're great places to return to for those who get inspired.

A separate list of isolated events also evolves around children and adolescents. For instance, this holds true for Havens dag (The Harbour Day). The common denominator

for all the events is that they address children and adolescents regardless of previous experience. And for those, who don't have any fishing tackle, Fishing Zealand has its own tackle stock, which can be lend.

Fishing During School Hours?

Most people think about Danish and Math, when school is brought up as a subject. This is of course still the case, but with the 2014 school reforms new possibilities for exploring learning and educational means came into existence. Among other things, the reform requires the schools to open up towards the surrounding society. This opening is intended to help establish cooperation with local operators like music schools, NGO's, businesses and cultural institutions and societies. The open school system is a welcome opportunity for Fishing Zealand to become a part of the local efforts to teach the pupils about the outside world using alternative methods – like, for instance, fishing rods.

Formalized Cooperation

The fact that the new open school system is to be based on education that is goal-oriented, differentiated, varied and at the same time include new learning spheres that are motivating and diverse, might very well seem incompatible with fishing. There are, however, lots of obvious possibilities when it comes to meeting the schools' formal requirements when using fishing as the primary point of departure.



Because all the activities during a fishing trip must adhere to formalized educational requirements it's only natural to select courses that provide a good basis for cooperation. All individual courses have therefore been studied to identify, which educational requirements, a fishing trip is capable of covering. Perhaps not surprisingly, biology-, nature and technology, and home economics courses were found to be suitable. For each course, a series of subsidiary goals for the fishing trips have been hand-picked, and they are communicated to both the students and the teachers – as well as the Fishing Zealand representatives. Within this framework there is also room for local wishes and ideas, which are natural extensions of Fishing Zealand core competence area.

Fishing as Part of Biology Class

When fishing is part of the school timetable, a fishing spot, that provides great chances of catching specific target species, is carefully selected. Lakes, coastal shores and harbour areas are all obvious choices, but a nearby put and take fishery is also an option. The fishing trips take place during the period from April to June or during August and September because these are the times of year, when the general- and weather conditions are most conducive to successful fishing. Usually one or two teachers, with whom the students are well-acquainted, will take part.

Fishing Zealand's representative and the class meet at the chosen location, where the students will receive instructions and information about the program, goals, and the fishing. The fishing itself is closely supervised, and Fishing Zealand's guest lecturer will instruct with assistance from the school teachers. The fishing session is about three hours long, which means that there's plenty of time afterwards to teach the pre-approved subject matters.

In case no fish are caught for dissecting, Fishing Zealand's guest lecturer has brought back-up fish representative of the biotope. This way, the educational goals won't be neglected. Logistically, all fishing trips take place

at locations in such close proximity to the school that the students can either walk, ride bikes or use public transportation. This way the funding needed is minimal.

How Can Fishing Become the Conveyer of Learning?

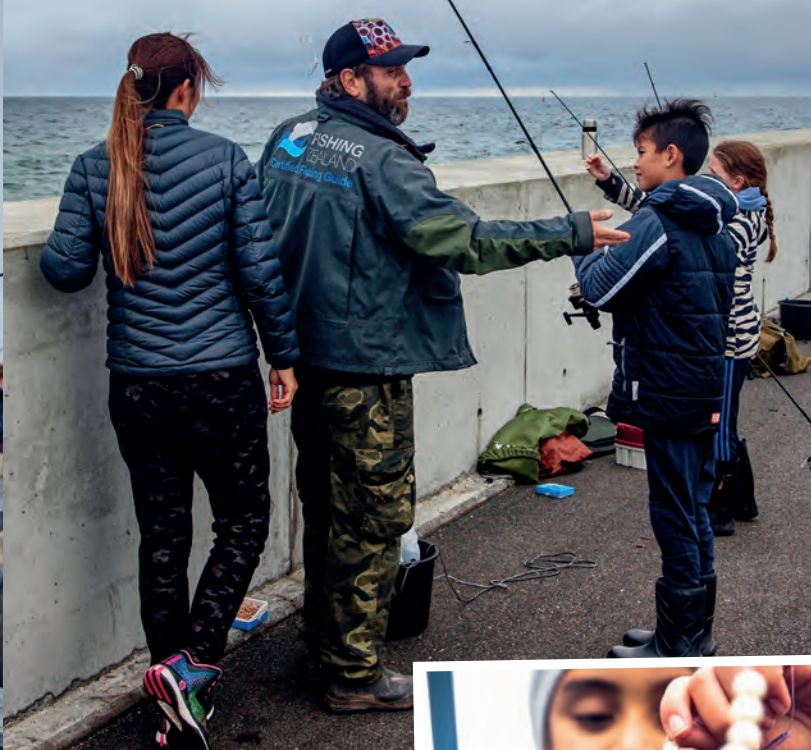
Compared to a traditional day at school, a fishing trip provides the students with an opportunity to experience a more practice-oriented form of teaching. A fishing trip to

"The students partake in the actual dissection work and learn from practicing – something that makes the learning experience much more multifaceted"

the local pier or pond expands the learning environment and embraces the fact that children have different learning styles. During a fishing trip, theories from the biology books can be linked with practical observations. The students partake in the actual dissection work and learn from practicing – something that makes the learning experience much more multifaceted. In other words, the students learn from experience.

More Young Fishermen Needed

The primary idea behind all of Fishing Zealand's different events for children and adolescents is to keep things simple. As a result, the equipment and fishing techniques used are pretty basic – and so is the instruction. We've learned from experience that this is the best way to provide the young fishermen with memorable experiences and heightened self-confidence. The goal with our many initiatives,



however, isn't just to provide isolated fishing experiences. We aim at opening their eyes to a meaningful community full of exciting experiences and have them enter into the recreational world of active fishing. We, therefore, try to plan and execute all our events in close cooperation with local fishing clubs, tackle stores and institutions that are capable of helping new fishing careers flourish. At the same, it is our hope that these young people will learn about the importance of taking good care of our natural resources.

BIOLOGY ACADEMIC GOALS

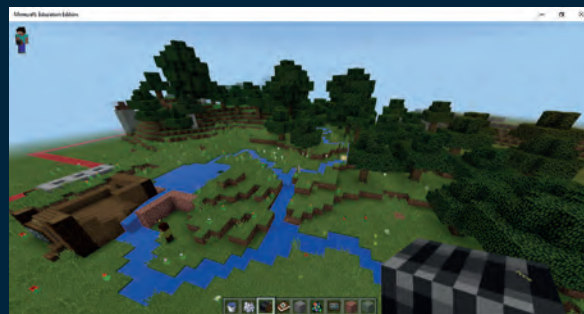
During the fishing, the biotope-discussions (the fishing spots) and the dissection exercises, the pupils are taught so called skill- and knowledge-oriented biology basics in order to fulfil the following goal:

The pupil should learn how to analyse and explain the adaptability of organisms to certain biotopes. The pupils should also acquire knowledge about:

- The morphological, anatomical, and physiological adaptations of organisms
- The life functions of organisms
- Environmental factors in different biotopes
- Food chains, food networks, and the accumulation and conversion of organic material
- Energy-demanding life processes in ecosystem-based organisms
- Biodiversity

The Digital Trout Patrol

In a time that is ripe with opportunities for smartphone and tablet entertainment, there's good cause for concern over the many possibilities and experiences that children and adolescents miss out on in nature.



The project, "Bliv Naturligvis", is an acknowledgment of the fact that many young people live behind screens, and that's why the Digital Trout Patrol has been developed. The Digital Trout Patrol is a teaching resource for 4th – 6th grade pupils. It builds on the familiar digital gaming principles and platform used in Minecraft. The Digital Trout Patrol is comprised of four elements: The circuitry of the water, trout as environmental indicators, nature restoration, and nature and society. The education resource invites the pupils to explore life along the river banks, while at the same time introducing them to various challenges that they must complete in the digital universe. An educational course involving the Digital Trout Patrol isn't simply a digital portal to four different academic river themes, however. Each course also includes concrete suggestions for field work and excursions.

Fishing Zealand eagerly anticipates the Digital Trout Patrol and we look forward to borrowing licenses for our future cooperation with the schools.

Bliv Naturligvis is a nature mediator effort aimed at developing children's nature identity and -understanding. The effort is split between Denmark's Sportsfishing Association and Denmark's Hunting Association with support from Nordea-fonden.

A full-page photograph of a fisherman with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a green jacket and a brown cap, crouching in shallow water. He is holding a large sea trout with both hands. The background shows a calm body of water and some distant land under a clear sky.

Fjordlandet Open COASTAL COMPETITION FOCUSES ON CATCH AND RELEASE

The Isefjord has always appealed massively to coastal seatrout fishermen, but the nearby Roskilde Fjord certainly also has lots to offer. Both fjords are incredible habitats for seatrout. The Fjordland-area offers numerous coastal fishing spots and, due to the geography, there's always good fishing spots to be found – no matter the conditions.

by KELD JUUL MICHAELSEN

TWICE A YEAR, some 100 coastal fishermen meet and compete in the Fjordland realm, which consists of the two fjords: Isefjorden and Roskilde Fjord and the surrounding Fishing Zealand-municipalities, Odsherred, Holbæk, Lejre, Roskilde, and Frederikssund. The competition has its origins on the Island Orø with Orø Kro as the main base and when Fishing Zealand became the co-organizer back in March 2016, it became the first ever coastal catch and release competition.

The catch and release concept is based on having the participants voluntarily releasing the fish back into the water, quickly registering them for the competition by shooting a picture clearly showing the fish's length. This entails several advantages. First of all, post-spawn fish, which are abundant during spring and don't have particular culinary qualities, can be released. Secondly, coloured pre-spawn fish can be released during the fall competition, which will enable them to reach the headwaters and spawn successfully.

New Location – More Opportunities

Since the fall of 2017, the competition is now based in the city of Holbæk. The competition is held in cooperation with the municipality of Holbæk, Visit Holbæk, local businesses, local fishing clubs and Fishing Zealand. In the event of profit yields, these will go towards stocking programs for the fjords and tributaries.

The cosy restaurant, Værtscafeen, on Holbæk harbour, provides the facilities for the competition. It features just the right maritime atmosphere to make fishermen feel at home. As tradition will have it, the competitors meet on Friday night for a briefing on the competition rules and a quick lesson on how to gently handle and release seatrout. Afterwards, there's a presentation on seatrout fishing in the fjords, and finally people are invited to tie flies and socialize. The spirit is always high these Friday evenings where tackle, fishing spots, and the wind and weather are common discussion topics.

A Competition with Lots of Facets

The competition begins at 00.01 on Saturday morning and runs until Sunday at 4pm, at which point the last catches/pictures are submitted. Fishing is allowed south of the Kattegat mouth and both fjords are fair game. Only very few participants start fishing at midnight, but they get up early – especially if they plan to fish one of the more popular spots. Apart from the fishing competition, there's also a photo- and video competition, and the material submitted is usually excellent. The participants meet again for the highly anticipated prize ceremony where the winners are announced.

As a fun gimmick, the competition Facebook site is continually updated with the most recent seatrout catches. To keep the excitement intact, the lengths of the fish, however, aren't revealed until Sunday afternoon. Another interesting detail is that the organizers will continually inform about what size the catches need to be in order to be eligible for a prize. This is done to make sure that the participants don't waste time measuring and photographing fish that stand no chance of winning. The Facebook site also features the contributions submitted for the photo and video competition.

Helpful Participants and a Great Atmosphere

I have participated in the competition, guided journalists from SCALE Magazine in Hamburg, and helped arrange Fjordlandet Open. As a participant, I've always been struck by the great atmosphere and how helpful, friendly and talkative the participants are.

Especially the weather conditions can be challenging. I remember one Spring competition where the weather was extremely cold and, as a consequence, very few fish had been caught. I had fished several spots and driven many kilometres, but I had only caught a few smaller fish. On Sunday, I was then notified that fish had been caught in the southern part of Isefjorden. (It's a typical Spring phenomenon, where the first ragworms, sparked by the warming sun, start to swarm above the soft, muddy fjord beds).

We quickly drove there and immediately caught fish. They weren't big enough to win any prizes, but others had run into bigger specimens. Actually, several of the top-five fish were caught in this area late Sunday.

Give Fjordland Open a try next time. You will not regret it!

For more information about Fjordlandet Open, please check: www.fjordlandetopen.dk and the Facebook site: www.facebook.com/fjordlandetopen

Fishing

A Cross-Disciplinary

Five years down the road, the involved Fishing Zealand-project parties can look back on a lot of great results and a myriad of pending thoughts and ideas that will – no doubt – add new successful chapters to the project story in the future. The main story is about the Zealand fisheries and their potential, the water environment and the local communities – and it's worth a recount...

by THE EDITORIAL STAFF



FISHING ZEALAND'S FRAGILE BEGINNING dates back to 2010 when Denmark's Sportsfishing Association held a meeting in Næstved to discuss the possibility of developing the Zealand fishing tourism sector. In 2011 there was a follow-up meeting between the mayors of Odsherred and Vordingborg and the chairman of Denmark's Sportsfishing Association. At this meeting a new project based on sustainable fishing tourism was agreed upon.

Two years later, the website www.fishingzealand.dk goes live, marking the official start of the Fishing Zealand project. As of 2018, a total of 12 municipalities have joined the Fishing Zealand project, which has thus become an influential factor – not only when it comes to developing fishing tourism, but also when it comes to the water environment.

A Cross-Disciplinary Cooperation

Fishing Zealand is a joint venture between Denmark's Sportsfishing Association and an array of Zealand municipalities. Fishing Zealand consists of a steering committee and a project group. The executive responsibility rests with the steering group while the project group is responsible for day to day operations. Both groups meet individually twice a year. The project group is also involved in a number of theme groups. Additionally, the Fishing Zealand project includes an array of local businesses, stakeholders, and organizations that are all eager to contribute. Fishing Zealand is not an authority or a political organization; we endeavour to lead by example in order to promote initiatives that benefit Fishing Zealand's overarching goals.

Fishing Zealand's organisation is further elaborated on our website. Additional information is available at www.fishingzealand.dk/fishing-zealand-en/fishing-zealand/

The project is propelled by idealism and is based on the relentless work of passionate-



Zealand

Project with a Clear Mission

ly engaged individuals with a common goal: They want to help improve the Zealand fisheries and water environment.

The project's strength is that it is based on a broad foundation of ideas, skills, and knowledge. Representation and input comes from experienced volunteers with a plethora of local knowledge, politicians, entrepreneurs, as well as experts within the fields of water environment, fish stocks and river restoration.

The versatile composition is important as it provides the project with a span of cross-disciplinary proficiencies that ensure that the right decisions are made and that the resulting processes are carefully executed. The Zealand Gravel Gang, which is a coordinating effort for the volunteers invested in the Zealand water environment, is a shining example of this. The same goes for the many reports and strategies that have been drawn up by Fishing Zealand to better live up to and achieve its core values and goals.

The Natural Environment Is the Product

Fishing Zealand is founded on several pillars with recreational fishing as the overarching theme. The working idea is that without a healthy environment, there will be few or no fish, and without fish there can be no recreational fishing. As a result, work is done in order to secure healthy spawning and habitat conditions in an attempt to foster and establish self-reproducing wild fish stocks. These wild fish stocks are managed sustainably by river and fish stock management efforts such as minimum measurements, conservation periods, and bag limits. Furthermore, Fishing Zealand is supporting new scientific studies that will benefit the Zealand fisheries and fishermen.

Fishing Zealand sees recreational fishing as a good, meaningful, and healthy hobby that – aside from being very social – gives rise to an appreciation and responsibility for the environment. We would like to ensure that recreational fishing is passed on to future generations, and we therefore place great emphasis on children and adolescents in our work. We know from experience that fishing clubs are struggling to recruit new, young members. We therefore put a lot of time and effort into reversing this trend. After all, the future and viability of the Zealand fisheries depend on the engagement of the younger generations.

Sustainable Fishing Tourism

Fishing Zealand's vision is to "create experiences of international standard for recreational fishermen and their families", but (as we mention elsewhere in this magazine) it must not happen at the expense of the environment. Fishing Zealand rests on the pillars of sustainability and orderliness even though, as a consequence, additional resources and patience is needed to achieve our goals. Strengthening the Zealand water environment is a time-consuming affair, and we are well-aware of that.

When it comes to the water environment and natural resources, Fishing Zealand is responsible for a number of initiatives. In





"The project is propelled by idealism and is based on the relentless work of passionately engaged individuals with a common goal: They want to help improve the Zealand fisheries and water environment."

recognition of the fact that policy decisions are made in political spheres, we have assembled an environmental group that is involved in river restoration efforts. This group is assisted by biologists and scientific institutions that compile reports and recommendations. Knowledge and fact-based recommendations play a vital role in Fishing Zealand's ongoing work. Many of the reports that we have initiated and supported (among them our 2014 and 2015 seatrout reports and our 2017 report on the development of the harbour fisheries) are important when it comes to ensuring appropriate fisheries legislation. Several of our reports have made it to the tables of decision makers and have influenced debates on the sustainability of our fisheries and the water environment.

At the moment, the project's seatrout strategy is one of the main priorities and includes communication and population surveys. We are also currently busy with the following efforts and projects (which you can read more about elsewhere in the magazine): The Zealand Gravel Gang, the Brackish Water Project Group, pike factories, the Trout Patrol, river restoration courses and scientific fisheries consultancy.

Local Anchoring - Local Economy

An important premise for Fishing Zealand's success is that the project creates a profitable foundation for the development of tourism, including a prolongation of the traditional tourism season. Fishing Zealand is constantly focused on anchoring its work locally and this has resulted in a series of synergy-conducive business clusters that provide businesses with sparring and working relationships. In these clusters, local businesses, fishing clubs, tourism organizations etc. are gathered in order to hatch new and exciting ideas and local initiatives. New collaborations are forged across different business spheres,



which in the long run, will ensure that the infrastructure, water environment prioritizing, and organization needed to support recreational fishing tourism are developed locally. The results are usually promptly visible.

As you can read several other places in this magazine, Fishing Zealand has entered into a long array of collaborations with different local businesses with the purpose of establishing events that produce many positive outcomes. Boosting the local economy, strengthening the sense of community, initiating new fishing careers, and heightening the general sense of environmental consciousness are all examples of positive outcomes resulting from these collaborations. All in all, this will help create local anchorage, engagement, and economy to the benefit of all involved parties.

Events and Marketing

Among the many tourism marketing initiatives that Fishing Zealand has helped launch, support and see through, the following are worth mentioning: press trips for (primarily) foreign journalists, the yearly Fishing Zealand Conference (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and beyond), the magazine at hand, The Mackerel Festival, Fjordlandet Open, The Garfish Festival, free events for children (Easter put &

take fishing), cluster meetings, certification of guides, the FZ Week, fishing pamphlets, several films about (for instance) fishing ethics and general behaviour, the online TV-program series "Fiskeguiden" (10 episodes), and the EU-project "CATCH."

Without fish, there would not be any recreational fishing. Without marketing, there would be no fishing tourism. The idea is to develop the product – ie. the natural resources and the Zealand fisheries (and be a sparring partner in the management thereof), and simultaneously focus on marketing and tourism-generating efforts such as campaigns and events. When doing this in unison across business factions and individual business interests, such as Fishing Zealand suggests, it is expected that the future of the natural and water environment in Zealand as well as the Zealand fisheries will be bright. This will benefit and bring joy to both inland and foreign fishing tourists and nature lovers.

If you would like to know more about Fishing Zealand, there's lots of additional information in the magazine at hand. Otherwise, you can explore:

www.fishingzealand.dk



Summer and Sunshine The Garfish Festival in Kalundborg

During May, big schools of feisty garfish show up along the shorelines in the municipality of Kalundborg, and they mark the beginning of a great fishery – no matter the level of experience. These super-entertaining and tasty fish constitute the foundation for the Garfish Festival in Kalundborg.

by HANS MUNK

THE GARFISH FESTIVAL is one of Fishing Zealand's annual events. Its origins can be traced back to Samsø, but in 2017 it was moved to the municipality of Kalundborg with Havnepladsen as the central arena. It was a successful event with high spirits, lots of great experiences, culinary impressions, and great catches.

The organisers behind the Garfish Festival in Kalundborg are: Gørlev Sportsfiskerforening, Høng Sportsfiskerforening, Kalundborg Sportsfiskerforening, VisitVestsjælland, the municipality of Kalundborg, and Fishing Zealand – with support from Kalundborgregionens Erhvervsråd. The festival is held over a full weekend in May – and in 2018 it will be May 12th – 13th.

The Longest Fish Wins

The concept behind the Garfish Festival is fairly simple: The participants fish along the beautiful coast in Kalundborg the whole weekend – from Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon – and Sunday afternoon the winner of the longest fish is announced. During the course of the weekend, all participants can keep up-to-date via the festival Facebook-site, and here you can see how long your next catch has to be to enter in the race for a prize – without revealing the exact rankings. In this way, the excitement is intact until the big award ceremony begins.

The purpose of the Facebook-site is to create trans-

parency and at the same time ensure sustainability. After catching a garfish and having quickly measured it, the contestants will know whether or not the fish is capable of aspiring for a prize. If not - and they don't desire to bring it home, they can choose to release it. There is no reason to keep fish, unless they eventually get eaten.

Grilled Garfish for Everyone

When the Garfish Festival was held in 2017, more than 100 fishermen participated. The main sponsor was Abu Garcia, and they had sponsored an array of great prizes. Additionally, there were prizes from Smoke It All. Both also sponsored registration prizes for all the participants along with the third sponsor: Silkekrogen. The weather on Sunday was incredible, and it meant that the festival site in Kalundborg Havnepark really came alive. Throughout the weekend, the three co-organizing fishing clubs, Høng, Gørlev and Kalundborg Sportsfiskerforening made sure that there were grilled garfish for all the participants, guests and curious locals that dropped by. As we've experienced time and time again – most people are very surprised to find that grilled garfish is a heavenly mouthful.

The Helpful Local Fishing Clubs

The sportfishing clubs in Kalundborg, Gørlev and Høng know the western Zealand coastlines extremely well, and

during the Garfish Festival they provide instructions so that people with little experience can make the most of the fishing. Furthermore, there is ample amounts of fishing gear for loaning if you don't already have the necessary tackle. So, if you lack the experience but want to experience a fun and relaxing fishery, just drop by the festival site at the Garfish Festival.

The Good Fishing Spots in Kalundborg

The local fishing clubs here lift the veil on some of the best fishing spots when garfish is the main target. The fishing is particularly good along the coastline of Reersø, the south-side of Asnæs, the north-side of Asnæs at Havnemarken, at Røsnæs along the stretch due south of Naturskolen, on the point of Røsnæs, along the north-side of Røsnæs, Nyby Havn, Vollerup Strand, and the Saltbæk-area.

Effective Fishing Tips from the Local Fishing Clubs

One of the most popular techniques is using spoons where the normal treble hook has been replaced with a silk hook. Silk hooks come in several different colours and they're made out of real silk. When the garfish strikes, the silk threads tangle around the fish's teeth and it can then be landed. In this way - if you've already caught enough or if your catch is too little, the fish can be released without a minimum of harm. We advocate sustainable fishing, and we recommend that you don't kill more fish than you actually need for consumption.

Another fishing method that is more wide-spread is using a spoon with a treble hook. We recommend spoons between 15 and 22 grams depending on how shallow the water is.

The third fishing method is bait

fishing for garfish. You simply mount a float on your line and attach a leader to it between 0,5 – 1m, preferably made out of fluorocarbon. Tie in a treble hook at the end of the leader and bait the hook with herring slices, shrimp or small garfish filets made out of one of the garfish you've already caught.

The Garfish Festival Is for Everyone – Also for Those Who Don't Fish

If you're not into fishing – or you need a break from the fishing, you can sit down and have a coffee, soft drink, or beer at the festival site. Everyone is welcome, and there's a big tent with tables and benches.

The fishing clubs grill and smoke garfish all weekend. Come have a taste and get inspiration for grilling your own garfish at home. At the festival site, there is also a giant flat screen showing fishing films. Here, you can also get tips on how to catch garfish on your own.

The festival ends Sunday afternoon with an award ceremony. There are prizes in four categories: Kids-, juniors-, adults- and boat fishermen. The main sponsor is Abu Garcia and Smoke It All co-sponsors smoke dust prizes.

In 2017, we had more than 100 participants, but in the future, we expect even more. Register in good time, no matter the wind and weather there's always great fishing to be had along the coastal shores of Kalundborg.

Come celebrate the arrival of the garfish with us – see you at the Garfish Festival in Kalundborg!

For more information and registration, please check the Garfish Festival homepage: www.hornfiskefestival.dk or the festival Facebook site: www.facebook.com/Hornfiskefestival-178718725609897/





In
Lejre
Municipality many
winter nights are spent

Fly Tying Deep in the Forest

Fly tying is an important pastime for many fly fishers during the cold and dark winter months. A unique opportunity where one can be absorbed by one's dreams and mentally prepare for the up and coming season. Some tie flies for the coast whilst others fill their boxes for summer expeditions to unknown climes. Each fly, however, is tied with the exact same amount of intense hopes and dreams. Perhaps a trophy fish catcher later on in the season?

by **FREDERIK LORENTZEN**

FLY TYING IS for the nerds and dreamers: A niche activity that sparks creativity and sends thoughts adrift to the many rivers, lakes, fjords, and oceans of the world. It isn't just for the fly fisher who seeks shelter in his man cave during the harsh winter months. Quite the contrary, it's an activity that is surprisingly compatible with social intercourse.

Fly Fishing Events That Focus on «Hygge»

Social intercourse has been the overarching theme for our "Session" events. The fly fishing festival "Session", which you can read more about elsewhere in this magazine, has become an institution in the Zealand (and for that matter the international) fly fishing community, and its inception idea was to gather fly fishing enthusiasts from far and wide to beautiful and atmospheric locations to celebrate their common passion for fly fishing.

Our experiences from the festival clearly showed that fly fishermen are social creatures and that, when they meet up, their spirits are high. It was this ethos that gave us the inspiration for Bindesession (Tying Session). Why not supplement our late-summer fly fishing festival with a series of

intimate indoor events during the winter months? Events, where one wouldn't risk getting frostbite, and where one could simply sit down, relax and create while conversing about all the good things that are to come on warmer days.

Restaurant Herthadalen – The Perfect Location

We were eager to get started working on our idea, and after having experienced the food, facilities and location of Restaurant Herthadalen, we no longer had any doubts. We had found the right arena – a charming and ambient spot with lots of room for creativity and socialization. Here at the North West of Lejre, in the idyllic Land of Legends, at the cross-section between forest and water, we intended to gather a bunch of fly fishing nerds for a series of winter-fly tying events.

Gordon P. Henriksen and I quickly started organizing, and Herthadalen supplied us with menus that surpassed our wildest dreams.

The basic idea was to firstly arrange delicious meals and great beer in beautiful surroundings then, secondly, invite a couple of Denmark's most innovative fly tyers to come and



provide inspiration and tips. Fortunately, it was an idea that proved to appeal to many.

Fishing Tales and Great Food

During the winter months, more than 30 participants gathered per event. But the success of these events was not to be measured in numbers. Rather, it was to be found in the atmosphere – and it was sublime right from the get-go. In no time, people were busy talking to each other and exchanging experiences and ideas, and the flies seemed to almost tie themselves. Beers from Herslev Bryghus were enjoyed and Herthadalen had conjured up some of the most delightful dishes like game stew with root crop puré and freshly baked organic bread – the food was applauded by all.

The feedback received from the Bindsession-participants has been overwhelming, and it bears witness to the fact that a great many Zealand fly fishermen have been missing a series of fly tying events to supplement those orchestrated in the local fishing clubs.

Bindsession's popularity is probably due to the fact that

it offers a unique chance to make new fly fishing acquaintances from different areas, and one gets inspired to try out new patterns and tying techniques. And the dinners and beer probably don't do any harm either!

We are certain that our Bindsession-concept is here to stay, and we plan on seeing you for some good eating, a few cold beers and, not least, a delightful round of fly tying at Herthadalen.

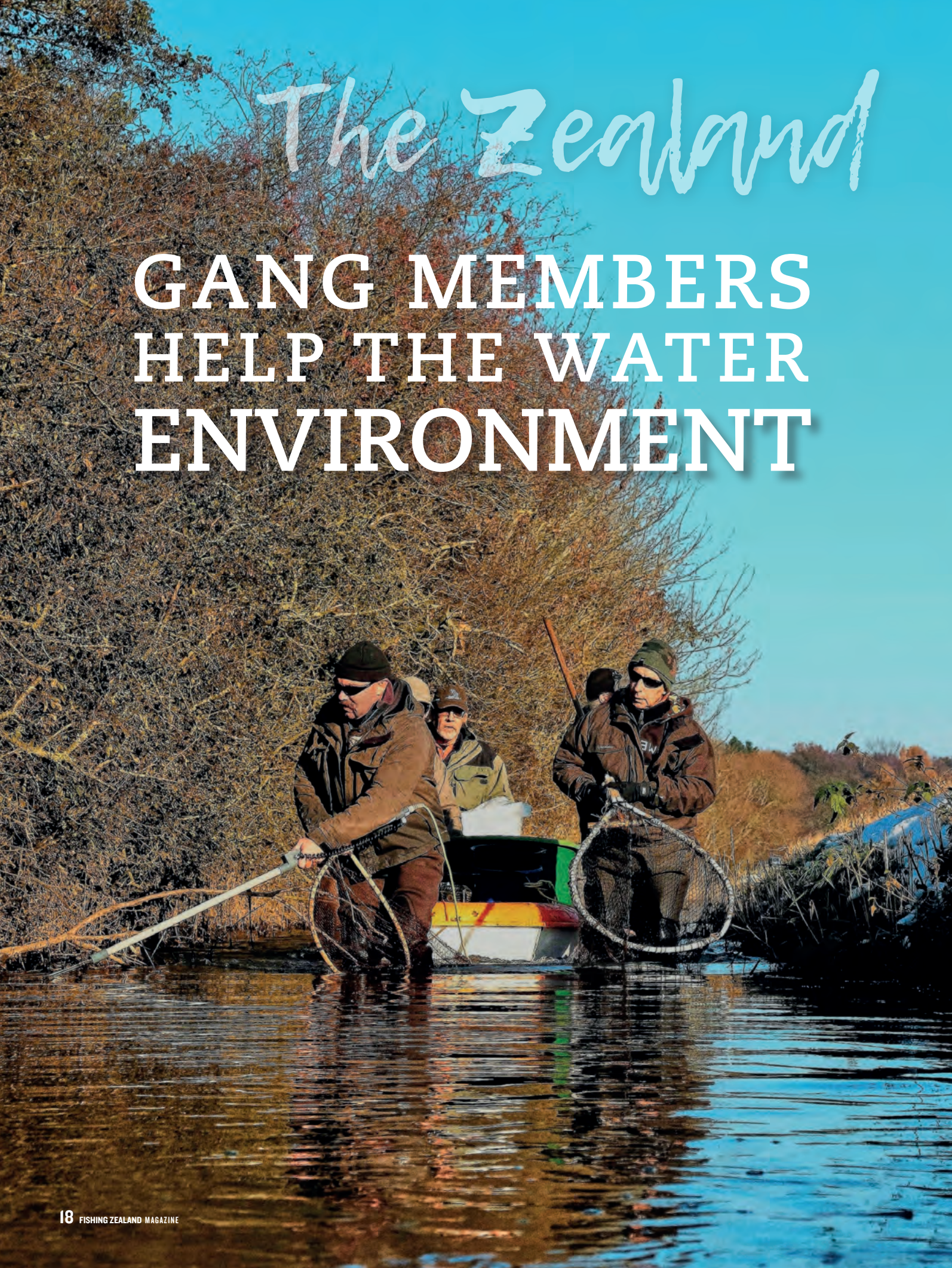
Can you think of a better way to spend a dark winter night?

For further information:

Restaurant Herthadalen: www.herthadalen.dk

Session: www.facebook.com/flyfishersrendezvous



A photograph of three people in a small boat on a body of water, surrounded by dense, dry brush. The person on the left is using a long-handled net, the person in the middle is holding a white container, and the person on the right is using a circular net. The water reflects the surrounding vegetation and the boat. The sky is clear and blue.

The Zealand

GANG MEMBERS HELP THE WATER ENVIRONMENT

Gravel Gang:

A group of six people, mostly men, are standing on a snow-covered bank next to a river. They are dressed in outdoor or fishing gear, including jackets, hats, and waders. One person on the left is holding a blue folder or map. The background is a clear blue sky. The overall scene suggests a field activity or a group outing in a natural setting.

It's super-trendy to be a "Gang member" – a member of the Zealand Gravel Gang. It's a gang of volunteers that work hard to protect and restore fish populations and rivers across Zealand and its islands.

Currently, the gang consists of more than 600 enthusiastic members and continues to grow.

by RUNE HYLBY



Even a single barrier on the lower section of a river can prevent the sea trout from reaching the spawning grounds. Creating free passage ensures that migratory trout stand a good chance of spawning successfully, thus ensuring future trout generations in the small, productive rivers.



SINCE ITS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS on 12 August 2016, the Gravel Gang has continued to increase in size. Its river and fish conservation work has gained respect well beyond the borders of the Zealand region. A collaborative effort between Fishing Zealand and Denmark's Sports-fishing Association, the Zealand Gravel Gang is at work in the different membership municipalities in the Fishing Zealand project. However, by extension, a lot of the Gravel Gang's work transcends municipality boundaries in that every environmental restoration effort branches off into the Zealand region as a whole. Fish, as you know, swim freely and they don't adhere to municipality boundaries. As a result, the work of the Gravel Gang not only creates results locally, but also the chances of catching fish all across Zealand.

Together, We Stand Strong

We believe in positive stories, in whole-hearted involvement and the fact that small changes can mean so much. Or, put differently, it takes small streams to create a big river. This is essentially the crux of the matter: Collectively we can change the conditions of our rivers for the better. In so doing, we create a better fishery for everyone, and at the same time contribute to a small community. The result of these positive joint ventures provides gratification and is what constitutes the core philosophy of the Zealand Gravel Gang.

Being a volunteer effort, it's up to each member how much time and effort they are willing to put into the many

projects of the Gravel Gang, but the rewards are great, and despite bad weather, mud, rain and other Danish scourges, nothing compares to the feeling of having made a positive difference to your environment.

A Collaborative Effort

The Zealand Gravel Gang works closely with a long list of partners. First and foremost, the Gravel Gang's main sponsors: the Fishing Zealand municipalities and Denmark's Sportfishing Association. In addition, the Zealand fishing clubs fulfil a paramount role since without their help and engagement, the Gang would be severely challenged when it comes to achieving its goal of improving the local fish stocks and river conditions.

The Gravel Gang is also assisted by relevant scientists from DTU Aqua in Silkeborg – the institute responsible for the national Fishcare Management, together with the major advisory companies that some municipalities use for river restoration projects, regulatory revisions etc. We also work closely with Fisheries Inspection, The Ministry of Environment and Food, together with private hatcheries that deliver trout fry for stocking projects. Several schools and educational institutes, which include biology students, as well as private individuals who are keen on making a difference all offer their expertise and time unselfishly.

Last, but certainly not least, one of the most essential players are the riparian landowners. Without their positive mindset, the Gravel Gang would not stand a chance of improving the conditions of the many rivers that it's enga-

ging in. After all, it's their land that are involved in our river restoration projects.

With a mutual trust established between all parties involved, the network of the Zealand Gravel Gang keeps getting wider and wider with each collaborative project that we engage in and handle with success. And with each success story the ripple effect continues.

Examples of the Gravel Gang's Work

In order to better understand how the Gravel Gang functions, here are a few examples of its projects. These comprise a mere percentage of the Gravel Gang's efforts, but they provide valuable insights into the inner mechanics and principles of its practices.

The Elverdam River is one of the finest trout rivers in Zealand, and – as a result – it is an important source of sea trout for the thousands of fish-

"We believe in positive stories, in whole-hearted involvement and the small changes that mean so much."

ermen that seek out memorable experiences in the nearby Isefjord. Enjoyed not only by the locals, but also fishermen from Copenhagen and its surrounds, along with a rising number of foreign anglers who have become aware of the great sea trout fishing in the fjord. This in turn contributes significantly to the generation of local tourism revenue. The Elverdam River forms the border between the two Fishing Zealand municipalities – Lejre and Holbæk, and the fine condition of the river and the long-term sustainability hereof, will therefore demand special attention from the public sector.

The Elverdam River has been a time-consuming "appendix" for the Tuse River Trout Association (TRTA), which has adopted the river based on a structural overlap with Holbæk municipality's river assessment groups, since the Tuse River and Elverdam River feed into the same watershed. With the establishment of the Zealand Gravel Gang, an opportunity arose for the TRTA's experiences and resources to come into play along with the energy and engagement of the Gravel Gang members.



The collaboration that has since developed between the Zealand Gravel Gang and TRTA clearly illustrates the potential that local clubs have when it comes to securing help and manpower for the common good.

One of the first efforts initiated by the Zealand Gravel Gang was a survey of a fish ladder in a small but productive tributary, the Taderød Creek. Tadre Watermill at times didn't emit enough water for the fish ladder to work properly when trout needed to pass. We therefore met with the municipality of Lejre, a representative from

Friends of Tadre Watermill and the engineer consultancy firm Niras in order to find a viable solution. During the meeting, constructive deals were forged, and all parties contributed with both goodwill and vision. Taderød Creek supports a solid trout population, and when member of parliament Mette Abildgaard (K) expressed her wish to become more knowledgeable about what had been deemed "the detested rivers" during the heated debates of 2016, it seemed an obvious decision to invite her to attend a short electrode fishing session and population survey. Mette's was pleasantly surprised to learn that the secret behind the good trout population was the several hours of volunteer work that local fishermen invested here.

Electrofishing for Brood Stock

The volunteer efforts are also perfectly exemplified when

RIVER AND FISH MANAGEMENT PROJECTS IN THE ZEALAND GRAVEL GANG

River restoration work:

Spawning gravel and shelter rock deposits, re-planting of valuable water flora, barrier removals, ventilation of spawning gravel, gentle maintenance, planting of bank flora, sand traps and education.

Fishcare management:

Stocking, electrofishing, population surveys, spawning-bed counts, trout safari, subvention and sponsoring and education.





Top corner: **The Zealand Gravel Gang's stocking efforts are usually accompanied by many curious looks.**

Above: **Happy school children distribute shelter rocks as part of their education.**

TRTA and the Zealand Gravel Gang collaborate on catching brood stock for hatchery fish intended for Isefjorden. The Elverdam River is expected to deliver the majority of the trout smolt stocked into the Isefjord estuary. The TRTA folk are responsible for the electrofishing, and the Zealand Gravel Gang assists with the hands needed to carry heavy equipment, handle big sea trout, and transport the fish to TRTA's facilities.

This cooperation not only represents an opportunity for the individual Gang members to see big, pre-spawn sea trout, it's also an opportunity to meet the fishery supervisors who participate in these events. Many local landowners also partake, and some excitedly watch from the banks as the big sea trout are brought to the waiting nets. These seasonal events are based on the fall and early winter spawning runs, and we typically see between 25 and 30 Gang members show up to assist with the process.

Another follow-up project in the Elverdam River was where we invited all the Gang members on a sea trout safari at night. Wearing headlamps and using stealthy skills,

we experienced spawning sea trout at close range – right on the spawning nests. It was an experience never to be forgotten! Rumours spread quickly and soon the Gravel Gang was contacted by a nature photographer who wanted to document the spawning sea trout. Wearing a wetsuit and and guided by the Gravel Gang, the photographer subsequently got some incredible underwater stills.

There is no doubt that the Gravel Gang's efforts in the Elverdam rivershed have had positive effect on the trout population. During the summer of 2017, the Det Grønne Råd (The Green Council) in the municipality of Lejre went on its annual field trip and was presented with a fine trout population during a population survey in Taderød Creek. The creek was simply teeming with small trout, and no less than 178 trout were sampled along a short stretch of the river.

New River Bends

It was in the next project where the Zealand Gravel Gang members were to roll up their sleeves and get to work. Facilitated by the Ministry of Environment and Food, it was focussed on establishing wet meadows in the area south of the Holbæk highway. During the inauguration of the new river stretch – and the closure of the old one – the Zealand Gravel Gang was responsible for saving as many fish as humanly possible in the closed off river section, and subsequently restock them, so they could continue their existence in the new river stretch. During this chaotic ordeal, which was marred by the dramatic downpours during the fall of 2017, 33 big sea trout together with

"The effects of even the smallest measures can often be decoded directly as nature responds instantly to them."

myriads of smaller fish were saved and restocked into the new river stretch.

The most recent project in the Elverdam River is still in the procurement phase, but the idea is to round up the Lejre- and Holbæk municipality, landowners and the Zealand Gravel Gang and work out a river restoration project in the upper reaches of the river. The idea is that 30 cubic metres of spawning gravel will be deposited, and together with the Zealand Gravel Gang applying serious elbow grease in the actual distribution of the spawning gravel, the municipalities of Lejre and Holbæk will be responsible for facilitating the project – another collaborative effort.

The Gravel Gang in the Media

The aforementioned projects in the Elverdam River only



It's the ultimate reward when nature repays your efforts.

serve to illustrate the possibilities embodied in the Zealand Gravel Gang: projects that span from labour intensive environmental improvement efforts such as gravel distribution, to more exciting events such as trout safaris and stocking of trout fry. The common denominator being that all of these efforts are a collaboration.

To promote these events they are featured on the Fishing Zealand website and Facebook page, and there are two main channels that Gang members follow to keep up to speed with what's going on and to volunteer for proposed projects. Press releases are published by the relevant municipalities, local newspapers and media outlets, including the occasional TV and radio broadcasts.

But a great deal is going on behind the scenes. We participate in many meetings, plan initiatives and engage in dialogue with decision makers. This holds true when it comes to water, wildlife and regulatory councils as well as state and municipal affairs, but it is also the case when it comes to, for instance, spawning-bed counts, which provide important data for hearings etc. These aspects of the Zealand Gravel Gang's efforts rarely make it to the front pages, but they are vitally important for the future of our environment and the fishery.

Small Changes - Big Effects

All in all, we have initiated and participated in more than 100 projects and events during the past couple of years. We have been involved in river and fish restoration projects practically everywhere on Zealand and the southern islands to the benefit of fish populations, fishermen, tourists and just about everyone who cares about the environment. And the perspectives are encouraging! We've seen again and again that with even the slightest river restoration effort, the results and yield can be dramatic. The effects of even the smallest bit of effort can often be seen directly as Nature responds to them. This is clearly evident, for instance, in the effect that removing migratory barriers have had. Even a single barrier in the lower

section of a river will prevent the trout from reaching the spawning grounds. A renewed passage will provide access to the small, productive creeks and the upper reaches where the fish can spawn successfully again. A small effort, but considerable end results.

We also witnessed considerable effects last fall, during our Gravel Gang project in Hårbølle Creek in the municipality of Vordingborg, where the small, half-year trout had settled on the gravel bars before we had even finished distributing all our gravel. Such experiences are contagious, and all those who participated in this particular project stood in awe with smiles on their faces. And that is essentially what the Gravel Gang is all about.

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER OF THE GRAVEL GANG?



There are two ways to become a member of the Gravel Gang. The first is via the Gang's Facebook site:

www.facebook.com/groups/Grusbanden/

Simply request to become a member, and then start receiving notifications whenever there's a new post or event. The Facebook site is under constant development since more and more people use it as a platform for networking. The other way to become a member of the Zealand Gravel Gang is by sending an e-mail to: hylby@mail.dk, expressing your wish to join the mailing list that informs about ongoing activities. Last but not least, you can access loads of information on Fishing Zealand's website

www.fishingzealand.dk/grusbanden/

This is where all the blog entries are posted, and it's a great place to keep up to date with and register for upcoming projects.



Working Overtime in the Pike Factory

Contrary to what the name suggests, a pike factory isn't a place where pike are processed into fish fillets and bone meal. No, a pike factory is the popular name for a spawning and nursery habitat, a place that brings renewed numbers to pike populations – especially in brackish areas, where such habitat is of vital importance. **by SØREN KOCK LAURSEN**

HISTORICALLY, the Zealand populations of brackish pike had lots of flooded meadows to use for spawning. Because of agricultural activity – including draining of farmland – many of these spawning habitats have now vanished. The municipality of Guldborgsund, however, has decided to do something about it.

Pike Factories

Even though it sounds like an industrial project, Guldborgsund municipality's new pike factory is really all about the environment. A so-called pike factory is essentially a meadow that's flooded during winter and spring. The flooding is usually controlled by a small dam or barrier in connection with a nearby river, along with a spillway and channel to direct water back to the river. Using the channel, big pike can push upstream into the flooded meadows, which provide prime spawning habitat.

Even though the habitat is meant for pike, a long list of other species also will claim it for their use. Birds and insects quickly establish in flooded meadows. And the habitat's ability to filter nitrates and phosphates from the water give it an even wider appeal.

Drastically Improved Spawning Conditions

During the spawn, a pike's sticky eggs will cling to the flooded grass. The 20-30cm tall grass keeps the eggs away from

the bottom, where they would otherwise easily become suffocated by sediment and decaying plant material.

The water temperature in a flooded meadow is warmer than in the main river, because the greater surface area provides a massive receptor for the heat of the spring sun. Pike have a highly developed sensory apparatus. When water temperatures reach approximately 6 degrees, they can easily sniff out good spawning habitat. The warmer water accelerates hatching times, while the flooded grass provides the newly hatched (and hungry) fry with a great nursery rich in food.

When the fry reach a length of 4-6cm, they leave "the factory." As the water is drained from the meadow, the fry will descend downstream, ultimately migrating into the brackish realm, where they can grow and mature.

Fishing Zealand's Brackish Efforts

Within Fishing Zealand, a working group has been formed to strengthen the management of populations of brackish pike and perch in southern Zealand, Lolland and Falster. The group consists of representatives from Guldborgsund, Vordingborg and Næstved municipalities, DTU-Aqua, local fishermen and consultants.

In Guldborgsund, the municipality is researching the feasibility of removing reeds and re-meandering the River Flintinge near Grønge in order to improve spawning con-



GULDBORGSUND

As the ice melts and the water in the flooded meadows warms up, the pike will quickly sniff out habitat suitable for spawning.

After the spawn, the flooded meadow grass serves as a hiding place – and a feeding ground – for the hungry pike fry.



The idea of creating pike factories that run themselves – while at the same time creating great fishing experiences – is enthralling!

Creek, which pour into Præstø Fjord and Stege Bugt respectively. These areas are home to populations of brackish pike but, in terms of numbers, they are far from their historical levels, which have declined

drastically since the late 60s.

The pike factories will re-flood lowland meadows using drainage canals. At the same time, Hulebækken will be re-meandered, which also should improve the numbers of migratory seatrout.

Pike can be difficult to lure into new watersheds, because – like salmon and trout – they're pre-programmed to return to the waters where they were hatched. For this reason, the municipality has applied for a permit to capture brood stock for inoculating the factory, in hopes that this will speed the creation of a healthy spawning population.

There are several additional projects under way in Næstved, Vordingborg and Guldborgsund municipalities. All of them are trying to find appropriate areas for pike factories. The requirements include steady water supplies, suitable acreages and – not least – willing landowners, whose activities harmonize with a controlled yearly flooding. The potential, however, is great. Pike factories work – this was thoroughly documented long ago!

ditions for resident pike. It's not a real "pike factory," but does represent an attempt to find an alternative that is very acreage-efficient and inexpensive to establish and administer. (The area's lowland meadows are typically only used for hunting and it will remain possible to hunt there.)

The project was established in November 2017. Even though pike – for lack of better alternatives – will sometimes use reeds for attaching their eggs, experience has shown that these plants are not very conducive to successful spawning. Once the reeds have been cut, the area will need about six months to re-settle with new weeds and plants. Afterward, the pike populations will be surveyed. Historically, there have been large populations of pike along Lolland and Falster's coastal shore, and the aim is to help pike re-establish themselves, thus improving the pike fishery.

Meadows Are Re-flooded

The municipality of Vordingborg is currently planning two real pike factories near Hulebækken and Keldermose



Streetfishing

– A PART OF THE FISHING ZEALAND WEEK

Suså River merrily gurgles downstream towards Karrebæk Fjord. Along the rivers concrete edges, people are lined up, busy fishing – or curiously watching those who are fishing. Every year, in the autumn holiday, people are drawn to the very heart of Næstved to experience an entertaining and rewarding streetfishing event.

by HENRIK LARSEN

ALONG THE WAY, Næstved Municipality's streetfishing event has turned into a yearly event. It has enjoyed increasing popularity and attendance, and it's a part of the Fishing Zealand Week, which aims at increasing the knowledge of, and interest in, recreational fishing.

Autumn Holiday Fishing

The state school autumn holiday frames the Fishing Zealand Week. It has been planned and organised specifically for kids, who now have plenty of time to enjoy some fresh air with a fishing rod at hand.

In Næstved, the street fishing event, in the middle of the bustling city, has become an attraction especially because of the close working-relationship with both "Mærk Næstved" and Center for Dagtilbud og Skole. The center is deeply involved in the local marketing on, for instance, SkoleIntra – a portal that provides a direct connection to the target audience; local kids and adolescents.

Everyone Is Welcome to Participate

Even though the event is open to all fishermen regardless of age, it does focus particularly on kids and adolescents. They are encouraged to bring their own fishing tackle, but Fishing Zealand provides tackle for those, who haven't already invested in the hobby. Additionally, there's plenty of help and instruction to be had from volunteer helpers and municipality representatives, who are active fishermen themselves.

It's both interesting and positive that so many girls are present along the River Suså's banks. For instance, several mothers have shown up with their daughters to help bait hooks with squirming worms provided by the municipality for the event. As such, the event thoroughly breaks with the traditional perception of fishing primarily being for boys.

Among the many participants along the river are also a lot of immigrants, who enjoy the opportunity to experience

the active and social aspects of city-life in Næstved. Consequently, the event also serves as an integration-conducive initiative, where fishing functions as a mutual gathering point for the exploration of life beneath the surface. Several of these immigrants have shown great interest in taking up fishing on their own and having three tackle stores within close range makes it easy to point them in the right direction.

Fishing Spots with Great Biodiversity

At the fishing spot, which is right behind Sankt Peders Church, on the newly opened stretch of River Suså, awaits a true Eldorado of different fish species. The catches typically consist of roach, ide, bream and goby, but the fleeting water also harbours perch, pike, eel and even burbot and sea trout. As a result, you can never really know what's biting your hook, worm and sinker.

The fishing spot has been chosen because it's easily accessible, and because there are level concrete sidewalks along the pulsating river. Prams and wheelchairs therefore enjoy unhindered access and – additionally, it's a very open area, which makes it easy to keep an eye out on the enthusiastic kids.

Nature Experiences in the City

While the participants wait for that magical bite, one can clearly feel the level of excitement along the river. And if anyone should lose patience between the bites, they can visit the stand set up by the Danish Amateur Fishing Association. It provides a glimpse into the fishing equipment and techniques used in Karrebæk Fjord. There's even a few small fish tanks where one can watch, and the brave can touch, the different fish and aquatic insects that are found in the fjord.

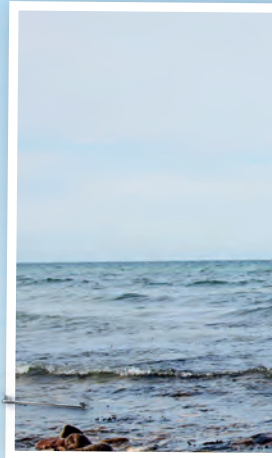
Næstved's streetfishing event is a great example of how you can create engaging nature- and fishing experiences for the locals – even in the city realm.



NÆSTVED



The fabulous Seatrout Fishing along Nordkysten



In the municipality of Gribskov there are lots of forests, lakes and small creeks – with River Esrum as the most renowned. Gribskov also boasts a great chunk of Nordkysten (the Zealand north coast), which – from east to west - stretches all the way from Dronningmølle to Tisvildeleje. It offers a multitude of great coastal fishing spots that are particularly interesting for those targeting seatrout.

by HENRIK QVIRIN REITER

TO ME, NORDKYSTEN in Gribskov is something very special. As a continuation school student, I would ride my bike to Vejby Beach and fish the breakwaters – and it was here that I caught my very first seatrout. I'll never forget when the fish struck. Boom! The 2-kilo fish inhaled my Silver Arrow right in front of my feet and provided me with an intense and wild fight. Proud beyond words, I rode my bike back to school and had the fish weighed.

Unfortunately, disappointment set in as the scales didn't quite confirm my estimates. I was sure a fish **THAT** powerful would weigh at least five kilos. Regardless of the weight, that was when my pas-

sion for seatrout fishing was lit – and I've been chasing trophy fish ever since!

Seatrout Spots En Masse

Nordkysten is typically made up of sandbanks interrupted by occasional bladderwrack patches and depressions. The sandbanks make Nordkysten an effortless place to wade and fish, and they make it easy to cover a lot of water - including the darker patches where the water drops off. Fishing here is a tranquil experience where one can enjoy the sight of Nordkysten's steep bluffs and be reminded of the violent storms that this harsh coastal realm has been exposed to through the ages.

The many breakwaters, which have been established to protect the coasts, create superb conditions for seatrout on the prowl. The depressions between the breakwaters function as pantries for the seatrout and, as a result, it's a good idea to pay careful attention to them. The coastal shores along Gribskov, however, offer much more than just





sandbanks and depressions. You'll also find many spots with reefs, where dark patches of water can be found right next to the shoreline, and here you can fish dryshod. Sometimes, you'll experience hectic fishing along these reefs, and during wintertime, they provide a good starting point when hunting for that elusive chrome trophy fish well over five kilos. Having said that, fish can be found just about anywhere along Nordkysten, and this means that there's plenty of water for both spin- and fly fishermen.

Year-Round Season

Nordkysten is fishable all year round. The best time of year is spring and fall but even during the cold winter months – notwithstanding the high salinity levels – you can experience great fishing.

During winter, the fish are often found in the depressions right along the coastline, and here you should use flies or light lures. During the summer months, select a big reef and concentrate your efforts at dusk and at night. While waiting for the fish to suddenly show up, there's the beautiful sunset over Kattegat to behold. Especially the month of August is a great month for fishing into nightfall, and here you also stand good chances of running into mackerel.

The Weather Conditions

Gilleleje is situated at the centre of Nordkysten to the far north, and from here the coastal line takes off to the southeast/southwest. This means that you can always find calm water along the eastern shorelines of Gilleleje when the western winds are blowing and vice versa. Harsh northern winds, however, can make it challenging to fish Nordkysten's many sea trout spots.

Nordkysten offers more than just sea trout fishing – for instance surf-casting from the sandy beaches: A fishery that

is capable of producing great European flounder, plaice, turbot and sole fishing. Near the harbour in Gilleleje, from the piers, you can also fish for flounders with great success. Typically, a bottom rig baited with either rag- or lugworms is used. It's a very child-friendly form of fishing, which makes it a great starting point for parents who would like to get their kids into fishing.

BOMBARDA!

I personally prefer to fish with bombarda and flies when I visit Nordkysten. Being able to imitate the sea trout's prey items using small flies combined with the distance offered by a bombarda float makes up a superior technique. And when you suddenly observe sea trout hunting for sandeel along the sandbanks, the flexibility of quickly being able to change from a small shrimp pattern to a bulky sandeel imitation is also a clear advantage.

I use an intermediate 20 to 25-gram float, and I like to keep my rig simple in order to avoid tangles. I insert my mainline through the float, slide on a small bead, tie on a small swivel and attach my leader to it. Typically, I fish the fly 3 – 4 meters behind the float depending on the weather conditions – in rough weather shorter leaders and vice versa.



How Do We Catch *The Fishermen*



of Tomorrow?

The number of issued annual fishing licenses has decreased over the past ten years and several fishing clubs are challenged to retain members and not least recruit new ones. If we are to reverse the trend and make fishing more popular, we need to crack the code on how to catch the interest of the fishermen and –women of tomorrow.

by CHRISTEN STENILD





LET ME BE VERY CLEAR - as a tackle business insider, I have a clear commercial interest in an increased number of fishermen: that those who actually fish go fishing a lot more, and that more fishing tackle is sold. Having said that, I also have three wonderful kids and when I think back on my own childhood and upbringing, and all the fantastic experiences I had fishing, I sincerely hope that they'll get inspired to take part in the joys, experiences, understanding and respect for the environment that is derived from being a fisherman.

At the same time, a new study concludes that it is super-beneficial for both body and mind to venture outdoors (no, it's not just common sense) – especially during a time when the competition from tablets and computers, ie passive entertainment, has never been fiercer. The TV doctor Peter Qyortrup Geisling has written a book entitled, "Naturen på recept" (The Outdoors on Prescription) and he points to another important aspect of the outdoors: the fundamental appreciation and awareness of the environment.

"If we are to save the environment, we must begin with saving an endangered species: the child outdoors".

Fewer Fishing Licenses – More Hunting Licenses

It ought to be quite simple. With all the wonderful experiences we have as fishermen, why don't more people go fishing? Unfortunately, the numbers show that there's a downward spiraling trend. During the period of 2005 to 2016, the number of people who bought annual fishing licenses dropped more than 12% or nearly 20,000 licenses.

That's a lot! And if you ask Denmark's Sportsfishing Association or the Ministry, there's no clear answer. Some of it might be due to an increased number of people who fish illegally – either consciously or unconsciously, while others fish less and therefore settle for week or day licenses, of which a slight increase in sales has been detected.

If one draws parallels to hunting, which is probably the pastime most relatable to fishing, the picture looks quite different. In 2005, there were 161,000 hunting license holders in Denmark. In 2016, that number had risen with almost 10% with more than 15,000 new hunting licence holders. The interest in the outdoors is present, and even though

"...2005 to 2016, the number of people who bought annual fishing licenses dropped more than 12%"

some people might have swapped their fishing licence with a hunting licence, many of the new hunters are actually people who weren't previously into life outdoors.

Many mention the Nak og Æd (Kill and Eat) TV programs as a considerable factor for this blossoming movement. The hunting and cooking program has become very popular, and it's made hunting a lot more tangible. But prime-time TV isn't enough in itself:

"Hunting is an equipment-based sport like golf. But in hunting there's reason for the madness. It requires commit-



ment and skills that we, as a society, look up to. Killing your own food is a back-to-basics experience, which resonates well with the primate in man”, says lifestyle expert Anne Glad in an article about hunting in BT.

The above also holds true for recreational fishing, so why don't more people go fishing?

The Fisherman of Today – The Fisherman of Tomorrow?

The Ministry of Environment and Food published a report some eight years ago with the title “Recreational Fishing in Denmark”, where – in addition to surveying the socio-economic significance of recreational fishing in Denmark – the motivational factors of recreational fishermen were studied. It showed that they were a good mix between excitement, relaxation and outdoor experiences, and based on those motivational factor observations, five stereotypes were outlined. It provided the below picture of today's fisherman:

The five fishing stereotypes

30%	Fisherman in the great outdoors
24%	In it to catch fish
24%	Relaxation
13%	Likes to fish in good weather
9%	An active fishing lifestyle

The report provides a status on how many fishermen we are today, but the interesting question is: Who are these fishermen, and who are the potentially new ones?

Who Is Really Interested in Being a Fisherman?

It's become a bit of a sport for me to ask people who don't already fish what they associate with being a fisherman. It's pretty clear that most have an idea that it requires loads of patience; that it's a bit nerdy; that it's mostly for those who need to unwind and relax; or that it's mostly about the catch. These are quite stereotypical perceptions, but they're not too far off for a lot of us.

However, when I look back on my latest fishing trips and the fishing trips of those I associate with, these have been the key words: planning, friendly but fierce competition, top-tuned gear, being on the move in order to find the fish, getting exposed to the elements and releasing whatever was

caught. In other words, not something that matches very well with what my nonfishing friends perceive fishing to be all about. And that, perhaps, is the reason why they have never considered getting into fishing in the first place. Put differently, one might suggest that recreational fishing has an image problem!

To many, being a fisherman fulfils the need to relax and enjoy the outdoors. We shouldn't change that, but it's important to add that fishing also represents an opportunity to challenge one self, to battle the elements, reach personal goals and achieve recognition.

Recreational fishing covers different facets, but many aren't known by outsiders. As such, the image problem isn't due to the motives and aspirations of today's fishermen. But if one is to attract newcomers to the sport, the whole palette of facets should be made visible. The question is: how do we make recreational fishing a real alternative when the eight-year-old can choose between gaming, parkour and mountain-biking; the 40-year old, who now has the energy and time to fulfill himself, can pick and choose between triathlon, hunting and crossfit; and the pensioner can prioritise golf, wine travels or educational courses?

Access Barriers

One way is to make recreational fishing visible to people on the lookout for a new outdoor activity, the next challenge is to improve access. Most people have already realised that it requires tackle – preferably lots of it – technique, access to fishing spots and knowledge about the species, minimum sizes, conservation periods and zones etc. As a result, having someone to help out and provide guidance on the first couple of fishing trips is quite pivotal.

Hunters have a great advantage in that they are legally required to pass a hunting exam before they can get a licence, and newcomers to hunting are therefore pretty well equipped both theoretically and practically before their first solo commercial hunt. And the supply of hunting courses is enormous. If you Google fishing courses, the contrast is stark and the supply limited indeed. I am convinced that there is a potential market for fishing courses where everything from fish biology, fishing techniques and how to prepare and cook fish are dealt with in theory and practice. Perhaps something to consider for Fishing Zealand's certified guides during the winter season?



Rental and loaner fishing gear services are practically nonexistent, but it's an obvious arena when it comes to attract the attention of those who would like to try one or two fishing trips before fully committing to the sport. I know all about the challenges that come with lending out fragile fishing equipment, but concepts have been developed in our neighbouring countries where this barrier has been overcome – and it provides potential fishermen the opportunity to try out fishing without the financial commitment towards a tackle purchase.

A World of Opportunity

The supply of sports and outdoor activities, and the competition for people's spare time, has never been greater. We like to fulfil and challenge ourselves and today's kids and adolescents are products of a "look at me" generation where the mobile phone camera is on selfie mode and used industriously in order to generate likes and hearts on social media. It might seem overwhelming and frightening, but at the same time it provides a very wide palette of opportunities when it comes to promoting recreational fishing.

Fly-tying and rod building courses every Tuesday in the local fishing club might not catch the attention of the young generation today. If you're accustomed to a world of gamers and YouTubers, it might be better to think along the lines of recognisable challenges and game plays within their frame of reference if you want to arouse interest.

Last summer, I took my boys on a fishing mission to the local pier, and we quickly found ourselves competing in how many different species of goby and wrasse we could catch. They instantly related to the game play involved because it was similar to that of Pokémon. In many ways, fishing fits perfectly with social media in that there are very few things that generate more likes than when a fish that is caught at the right place and time and handled in the right

way, is flashed on Facebook or Instagram.

Social media are capable of connecting people across geographic borders and age groups, and create niche communities such as brackish pike, mullet on fly, or tropical jig and popper fishing groups. The fact that much of the

"Social media don't simply compete over time that could've been spent fishing. It is also a fantastic tool..."

communitarian interaction is facilitated online obviously provides the fishing clubs and associations with a challenge, but there are also vast opportunities to be explored. In fact, new and engaging fishing clubs and associations come into existence precisely because of social media.

Social media don't simply compete over time that could've been spent fishing. It is also a fantastic tool to show all of those who don't fish what an amazing and exciting opportunity fishing provides for experiencing and learning about the great outdoors.

The Future Is Only a Click Away

The fisherman of tomorrow is actually just a click away, and we can all take part in it. Just imagine, if all 140,000 fishing licence holders shared an invitation on, for instance, Facebook for someone who has never fished before to come fishing, and thereby challenge their perception of what fishing really is! In less than eight years, more than 1,000,000 people would have gone fishing – and it wouldn't be surprising at all if several of them were then hooked on it for life.



CATCH

FISHING ZEALAND JOINS INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

by NIELS LAGERGAARD PEDERSEN

Fishing Zealand, which for several years have promoted sustainability in recreational fishing, is a partner in the 3-year long EU project, CATCH, which is about sustainable fishing tourism in the southern part of the Baltic Sea.

The CATCH midway-conference was held in Peenemünde, Germany. Here, the participants are inspecting the local fishing lodge.



THE CATCH-PROJECT INVOLVES several business partners from near and far. The international partners are from Germany, Poland and Lithuania. The municipality of Vordingborg is also part of the project on behalf of Fishing Zealand's members and it will function as a secretariat for the Danish involvement in the project.

About the Project

The purpose of the project is to formulate a strategy for sustainable recreational fishing in the Baltic Sea, with, and for, the participating countries. Among other things, the project will aim at developing solid, sustainable, fishing products, and services, in the participating countries. The scope of the project will include the promotion of sustainable catch methods, and completion of at least one practical project in each country. A joint international online fishing portal will be completed addressing the value, and fishing potential, of the Baltic Sea.

Fishing Zealand is responsible for the fishing portal. It is meant to address regions, municipalities, tourism organisations, NGO's and, not to forget, fishermen who aren't fully aware of the attractive fisheries in the southern parts of the Baltic Sea. The digital fishing portal is the main objective of the project, and the idea is that the portal should be relevant in the future so that when fishermen visit the Baltic area in years to come they will have access to all relevant information across country borders.

Why Has Fishing Zealand Joined?

Fishing Zealand has great expertise when it comes to the different project aspects, and we're capable of providing lots of know-how and important input. At the same time, we'll benefit from the international cooperation, especially when it comes to the development of new fishing products.

Furthermore, it will be easier to put relevant subjects on the international agenda. Lastly, Fishing Zealand's website will be linked up with the international Baltic fishing portal and thus become internationally exposed.

What Has Happened So Far?

The initial project description stated that the CATCH kick-off-conference was to coincide with the 2016 FZ-conference. It was held on November 22nd at Sonnerupgaard Gods in Lejre municipality. With 150 participants it was the biggest FZ conference to date.

All CATCH project member countries are obligated to complete a practical project. The Danish delegation has decided to construct a so-called pike factory in the brackish region of southern Zealand – the first of its kind in Denmark. In connection with this two films are currently in the making. One is about the process of making a pike factory and it follows the work of the biologists before, during, and after, the establishment of the pike factory.

The other film is aimed at recreational fishermen and it's about how to correctly handle pike during the fight, landing, and release, more commonly referred to as "Catch & Release". These films will be made available on the Fishing Zealand and CATCH portal websites. Furthermore, work has begun on the upcoming digital platform where one can find maps showing the best local fishing spots in addition to all necessary fishing information including lodging, boat rental services, and tackle stores.

Read more about the project's aims for the future, here:
www.fishingsouthbaltic.eu

Nordic Cooperation Fuelled by the Nordic Council of Ministers

Scandinavia, people have realised how much potential the-



re is in recreational fishing and tourism. As a result, it makes sense to meet up with experts from across the Nordic countries and talk about the potential and challenges involved in the development work. One of the things quickly discovered by the participants was that a lot of the same challenges exist across country barriers. With support from the Nordic Council of Ministers, three conferences were held on recreational fishing and Fishing Zealand participated along with Denmark's Sportsfishing Association. The conferences were held in 2014, 2015 and 2016 in Finland, Norway and Sweden respectively, and they resulted in a report with a long list of recommendations for the Nordic Council of Ministers. These conferences comprised scientists, biologists, government officials, businesses, consultants, the national fishing associations, and other Nordic experts on recreational fishing.

Daniel Melin from Jordbruksverket in Sweden, and Gordon P. Henriksen from Fishing Zealand, organised the last workshop, which was held in Jönköping in December 2016. The idea was to condensate the experience exchanges, and debates, down to six concrete recommendations on how to best develop recreational fishing tourism in the Nordic countries.

The full report from the conference was published during Fall 2016 by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the major points and recommendations are shown in the column on the right.

We are all very conscious about the fact that things are, oftentimes, more complicated and nuanced than what the above recommendations imply. Nonetheless, we see them as important guidelines, especially considering that the report has been signed by all leading experts in the Nordic countries.

Our hope is that these recommendations will be frequently cited and referred to, and that they will set a precedent for the management and development of fishing tourism in the years to come.

You can read the report in its entirety here:
www.fishingzealand.dk/fishing-zealand/rapporter-og-udgivelser/



1. Fisheries management and conservation should be based on knowledge and scientific data, long term sustainability, and aim at optimising the social, and economic values, of the fish resource.
2. The needs of recreational fishing, and fishing tourism, such as abundant wild stocks, and large individuals, of important gamefish species, should be taken into high consideration in fisheries management and conservation.
3. Negative influences on fish stocks of importance for recreational fishing and fishing tourism should be pinpointed and measures taken to decrease or eliminate such influences.
4. Public interest and participation in recreational fishing should be promoted by introducing children, adolescents, elderly and immigrants to the sport.
5. Marketing of countries and regions as fishing destinations should be funded and coordinated by relevant authorities and executed by expert stakeholders and organisations.
6. The role and responsibility of authorities and stakeholders in promoting development of recreational fishing and fishing tourism should be better defined and financed.



World Class Fisheries and River Restoration Work

The municipality of Frederikssund boasts a range of exceptionally good coastal spots because of its location right in the middle of the Fjordland, between Roskilde fjord and Isefjorden. The municipality is especially known for its great seatrout fishing, but great garfishing can also be had during the early summer-months.

by **KELD JUUL MICHAELSEN**

ONE OF ZEALAND'S MOST WELL-KNOWN

garfishing spots is Kronprins Frederik's Bridge in Frederikssund. Here, Roskilde Fjord narrows and becomes deep – something that attracts garfish during early summer, and people gather around, shoulder by shoulder, in order to catch garfish.

Roskilde Fjord is also well-known for offering prime seatrout habitat both to the north and south of the bridge and below the beech trees along the Jægerspris-side of the fjord. And if you have access to a boat, you can enjoy some great mackerel and flounder fishing, which includes turbot (especially if you use Kulhuse Harbour as your point of departure). Seatrout can also be found in Isefjorden along the beautiful coastal shores of Hornsherred in the northern part of the fjord and in the Orø-area. And the legendary Vellerup Vig is located in the southern part of the municipality.

Vellerup Vig, Well-Known Internationally

In Vellerup Vig, people have fished for seatrout for ages, and it's where I fished as a kid in the 1980s – learning lots from the local experts. When winter subsides, and the ice breaks in Vellerup Vig, that's when it all happens. One of the area's trout rivers, Velje Mølleå, which marks the boundary to the Fishing Zealand-municipality, Lejre, pours into the bay – and it is like a magnet to the seatrout.

Since its admission into Fishing Zealand, in 2018, the potential for a sustainable fishery throughout the Fjordland is greatly improved. Now, both Roskilde Fjord and

Isefjorden are covered by Fishing Zealand municipalities, and it means that there's a solid foundation for cooperation between the Fjordland-municipalities when it comes to river restoration work and fishing events.

The fact that the whole Fjordland is now covered by the Fishing Zealand-project means that accommodation services can now make fishing packages etc. for tourist. Especially Hornsherred, between the two fjords, offers great potential as a weekend destination for fishermen. In Hornsherred there's also Hammergården - Center for Outdoor Activities, which is situated right between Vellerup Vig and Hammerbakke. Here, you can sleep over at a campsite close to some of the best fishing spots, and, as a consequence, Hammergården is an obvious location for upcoming fishing events.

Lots of Great Trout Streams

With its five trout streams, Frederikssund Municipality provides important habitat for the seatrout populations in the fjords. One of them, I've already mentioned. The four others are Græse River, Havelse River, a small tributary in Hornsherred and Sillebro River, which runs along the local shopping mall and the train station in Frederikssund towards Sillebro River Valley. Here, in the middle of Frederikssund, you can watch as the seatrout migrate upstream to spawn during fall.

Being a school teacher in the municipality, I've done river restoration work with my students. I teamed up with



my colleagues, Jesper Tews and Kaj Larsen from Havelse River Restoration Group, and we made spawning beds with the school Trout Patrol on the above-mentioned stretch of river below the train station. We've done two Trout Patrol courses at our school, and during the first one, we made spawning beds in Sillebro River Valley. Both times, Pia Rangen and Uffe Clemmesen from the Trout Patrol secretary and Fishing Zealand have provided the financial foundation. (Read more about the Trout Patrol on pages 40).

Visionary Climate Adaptation

Frederikssund was the second municipality to arrange Trout Patrol courses effectively uniting theory, practice and the surrounding community. During the fauna survey, we concluded that the biodiversity was good with, for instance, great numbers of water quality-indicating specimens of non-housebuilding caddis.

Frederikssund Municipality has been very far-sighted when it comes to climate adaptations and increased amounts of downpours.

In the river valley, they have made water reservoirs in the shape of small lakes – instead of the normal concrete basins. At the same time, Sillebro River has been re-meandered, which means that the locals can now marvel at the sight of a valley with rich and lush fauna and flora. In the river valley, Grønliegård Lake is also situated, and here fishing is allowed for everyone. Roach, perch, pike and bream can be caught here, which makes it the perfect fishing spot for Frederikssund's kids.

I've previously mentioned the Havelse River Restoration Group. They do an exceptional job with the municipality's trout rivers. The chairman, Kaj Larsen, does spawning surveys in the rivers, and a recent 2017 survey showed that the number of spawning redds in both Sillebro- and Græse River were record-high. 216 spawning redds were registered in the Havelse River-system. It clearly demonstrates the potential and rewards of good river restoration work.

With Frederikssund Municipality's recent admission into Fishing Zealand even more river restoration work can be done in the Isefjord and Roskilde Fjord tributaries, thus further enhancing the biodiversity, fish stocks and the quality of the fisheries.





The Trout Patrol

A "Seatrout World" of Difference

Getting kids into environmental conservancy in a meaningful way is the basic foundation for the Trout Patrol. Strengthening the environment surrounding our rivers, while crafting optimal spawning and habitat conditions for trout in the process, creates great value for the natural environment and therefore our fisheries. Enhancing the trout population requires river conservation and management, and here kids and adolescents can make a world of difference.

by UFFE CLEMMENSEN

THE TROUT PATROL ORIGINATES in Roskilde Municipality, where Roskilde og Omegns Lystfiskerklub (the local fishing club) has developed a comprehensive teaching concept that – among other things – aim at raising awareness of and a sense of responsibility for the water environment. Since the beginning of the project in 2014, interest has grown decidedly, and, as a result, several additional Trout Patrol instructors have been certified. The young candidates are taught by the Trout Patrol's very own instructors – all of whom have completed Fishing Zealand's river restoration course. Additionally, these instructors whom consist of grade school teachers, nature guides, pedagogues, and other environmental professionals, are very knowledgeable about trout biology.

Teaching a Versatile Target Group

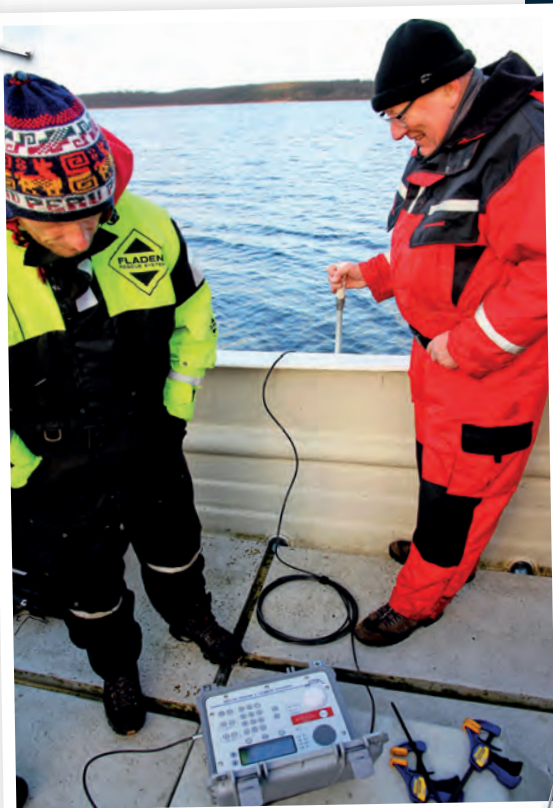
The teaching is based on an interplay between theory and practice, and it revolves around three main topics: the river, the biology of trout, and river restoration. The varied teaching thus meets the demands of a versatile target group, which includes students that are found to benefit particularly from the many practical elements. The teaching resources, which have been developed in cooperation with

Denmark's Sportsfishing Association, spans 3 x 3 hours and aims at students between 14 - 20 years of age. This means that the Trout Patrol isn't just for the oldest students in the state schools, but also for students from production schools and other education enrolments. Students that benefit from a heightened sense of responsibility, involvement, and environmental consciousness.

Local Anchoring with Perspectives

When the Trout Patrol instructors initiate new courses, the individual groups typically consist of 10 - 12 students. During the introduction, a film is screened that explains the idea behind the concept so that the students are prepared for the upcoming river and fish stock restoration work. Whenever possible, the teaching is done in close cooperation with a local fishing club, since they are often involved in ongoing river restoration efforts and can assist with locally anchored guidance. This cooperation is particularly conducive to strengthening the interest and appreciation of the water environment and fishing.

Once the course is completed, the pupils are handed a Trout Patrol jacket, ID card and a USB key with all the teaching resources. They are now official members of the



From the first “eavesdropping” trip during the migratory surveillance project. It was done with a handheld antenna in Roskilde Fjord.

Trout Patrol community, which has its very own Facebook group. The theoretical and practical part of the course will have prepared the students to get engaged in the future work with securing the local rivers and their fish stocks.

The Trout Patrol Secretariat

When establishing a Trout Patrol course, you can contact the volunteer secretariat, which will be helpful with guidance, practical details and contact mediation to instructors.

The Trout Patrol Secretariat

Strandgade 2, 4000 Roskilde

Nature guide, Pia A. Rangan

Phone +45 2860 3080 /
ranganpia@gmail.com

Project manager, Uffe Clemmensen

Phone: +45 4053 2775 / uffec@rolk.dk

ROSKILDE FJORD:



ROSKILDE
KOMMUNE

The Seatrout's Migratory Routes are Surveyed

In 2018, the migratory routes of the Roskilde Fjord sea trout will be surveyed, and the results will be of great scientific interest. Among others, they can be used for assessing climate change effects and the results of fisheries management efforts. Furthermore, the timing is perfect when it comes to the upcoming river restoration projects in Langvad River – and the barrier removal at Kattinge Lake.

by PETER W. HENRIKSEN

The opportunity to chart the migratory routes of Roskilde Fjord's sea trout arose because senior scientist Jon C Svendsen from DTU Aqua did a similar study of stocked turbot. And since everything was set up – with listening buoys, personnel and all – it made sense to include sea trout. All that was required was 55 local sea trout and 110.000kr to buy transmitters with. With great help from Uffe Clemmensen from Roskilde og Omegns Lystfiskeklub (the local fishing club) and Foreningen til ophjælpning af fiskeriet i Roskilde Fjord (the Roskilde Fjord fishery management group), a project was established under the professional supervision of Fishing Zealand-biologist, Peter W Henriksen. The financing was taken care of by the Roskilde Fjord municipalities and Fishing Zealand. The brood stock came from a breeding program in Langvad River.

Trout on the Operating Table

The method, in all its simplicity, is about implanting transmitters in the fish. The transmitters' signal ranges are about 500m and they're intercepted by a large number of listening buoys, which have been strategically placed along narrow passages in the fjord. Furthermore, fish are regularly traced down with handheld, underwater antennae that make it possible to locate the fish's holding spots during, for instance, heat waves.



Speedy Fish

At new year 2017/18, 55 brood fish from Langvad River had transmitters implanted in their bellies and were consequently released into the river below the Kattinge Dam. DTU Aqua and volunteers from the local fishing club and fishery management group frequently collect data, and at the time of writing (1 February 2018), surprising new findings have already emerged. Practically all sea trout (except three) have left the river, and in late January, seven sea trout were registered as far out as Eskildsø. It's very surprising that the sea trout, after a mere one-and-a-half months, have spread as much as 8 km into the fjord.

The partial results of the ongoing survey will be posted on Fishing Zealand's blog.

Shortcut to success **USE A CERTIFIED FISHING GUIDE**



by HENRIK LARSEN

Are there even fish here, or am I just not fishing correctly?

Lots of fishermen have probably asked themselves these questions the first time they've fished a new spot, or when they've started using a new fishing technique.

There are many ways to get answers to these questions, but if you ally with a fishing guide you will get them promptly and in detail.





FISHING
ZEALAND
Kette

arctic silver
a specialist in your fishing equipment



Finally, a professional guide will function as an important point of reference when navigating through the many official regulations, but certainly also when it comes all the unwritten rules. These are especially important when tourists find themselves fishing among locals and trying to adapt to the Danish fishing culture.

Certified Guides

In collaboration with Denmark's Sportsfishing Association and Aktiv Danmark, Fishing Zealand has certified a number of fishing guides who have all been through a course that ensures professionalism and highest of standards. The course provides the guides with both practical and theoretical skills, but especially the pedagogical skills are given full priority.

During the pedagogical part of the course, special attention is paid to communication, relationship-building

"The possibilities, when fishing with a guide, are almost endless"

SINCE 2013, FISHING ZEALAND has tabbed into the potential there is in referring newcomers to guides who have the necessary experience and local knowledge to - not only create memorable experiences during the time spent fishing, but also provide basic skills that will enable people to fish more effectively on their own.

Why Choose a Fishing Guide?

Accompanied by a guide you're well-equipped when it comes to developing and strengthening your fishing skills in many crucial ways. A new horizon unfolds, when fishing with a guide for a full- or even a half day. The guide has unique and decisive insights into the world below the surface. As a result, he knows how to strategically tackle the weather and general conditions in order for you to make the most of your fishing trip.

Using a guide can be about anything from general decisions such as choosing the right lures and tackle. But there is also room for detail. For instance, the guide will be able to help you when it comes to refining your casting- and fishing techniques, and he will be able to explain in detail, which prey items you need to imitate on certain spots - at certain times of the year. He could also help you tie advanced traces.

Using a guide can obviously also be about tabbing into local knowledge relating to one or multiple fishing spots. Afterwards, you'll know how to tackle the challenge of these (and similar) fishing spots if you return on your own at a later time.

and relationship skills, and not least the differentiation between guiding and instruction. Especially relationship-building and relationship skills are crucial points in successful guiding. In order to deliver the best experience and guiding on a given day, the guide should meet the client at eye level.

Guiding During Events and Courses

The Fishing Zealand-certified guides don't just guide privately. They also help out at Fishing Zealand's many events.

At the children- and youth events, such as the Fishing Zealand Week and Easter Put & Take, the guides are crucial. They play an active organizing role, but they also help out instructing the many children of which quite a few find themselves with a fishing rod in hand for the first time. When present at these events, the guides do their best to inspire and engage through words and action - and by engaging in dialogue with the participants. The whole idea is that the guidance and help should enable the participants master the basic aspects of fishing and provide them with the skills, drive and confidence to fish successfully on their own.



Adjust Your Expectations

A day with a guide can be about much more than the fishing itself. Typically, the guide will also be knowledgeable about what other engaging experiences can be had in the area that is fished. This might be in the shape and form of characteristic flora and fauna or interesting input about the local culture and history.

The possibilities, when fishing with a guide, are almost endless, and that's why it's a good idea to carefully adjust the expectations in advance. The more the guide knows about your wishes

"With a fishing guide at hand,
you're well-equipped to develop
and strengthen your own fishing
skills in many crucial ways"

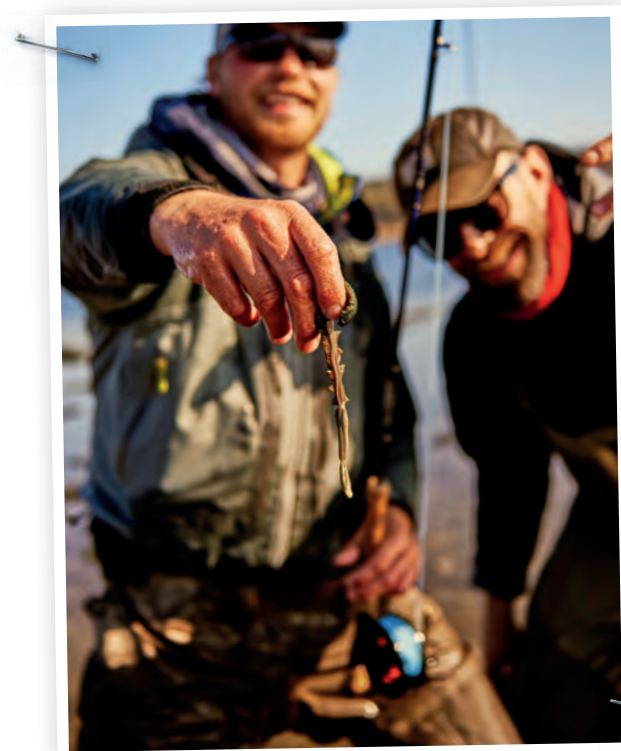
and expectations the easier it is for the guide to meet and exceed your expectations and leave you with memorable experiences and useful tips for upcoming fishing trips.

Book Your Own Guide

Fishing Zealand's certified guides are highly-qualified, and – in addition to being fishing experts – they are guaranteed to have experience as instructors, a boat exam, and an updated first-aid course – just in case.

Fishing Zealand's guides vouch for exceptional local knowledge across all the Fishing Zealand member-municipalities and they cover a wide array of different fishing styles and species. In

the following, you can read more about the individual Fishing Zealand guides and book your own shortcut to great fishing experiences.



CERTIFIED FISHING ZEALAND GUIDES



Jan Svenstrup

Jan has fished from small skiffs for 30 years and he therefore has plenty of experience to draw upon when guiding out to sea. Also, it's no coincidence that Jan has won the Swedish trolling championships. Jan has landed no less than four trolling salmon above 20 kilos.

Specialty: Fishing from small skiffs - trolling and sea fishing



✉ jan@svenstrupsportfishing.dk
☎ +45 22 21 99 68
🏠 www.svenstrupsportfishing.dk

Allan Hvithamar

Allan lives in Sundby and he has fished intensively for the last 22 years. Allan provides guiding services at sea while fishing from charter boats but his real specialty is Put & Take fishing. Here, he guides for both trout and sturgeon and he has lots of experience with children and adolescents.

Specialty: Put & Take and sea fishing



✉ Fiskeguide.dk@gmail.com
☎ + 45 26 51 50 71 / +45 22 52 38 38
🏠 www.fiskeguide.dk

CERTIFIED FISHING



Ken Sørensen

Ken has fished Møn for the last 45 years and it has given him invaluable insights. Ken knows which spots to fish at specific times of year, and since he does a lot of diving, he is also very knowledgeable about what goes on beneath the surface. With Ken as a guide, both newcomers, experienced anglers, young and old are always welcome.

Specialty: Coastal fishing with both spin and fly

✉ ken@moenfiskeguide.dk

☎ +45 23 42 37 47

🏠 www.moenfiskeguide.dk



Rune Westphal

After 37 years of coastal fishing – and 20 as a guide, you're in safe hands when hunting for seatrout with Rune. Rune's secret spots and his knowledge of the prey items will help you achieve your seatrout dreams. Rune guides both spin and fly fishermen all across Zealand – right from the open coasts of the Baltic Sea to the salty Kattegat.

Specialty: Coastal fishing with both spin and fly

✉ seatroutfisher@seatroutfisher.com

☎ +45 23 74 18 69

🏠 www.seatroutfisher.com



Knud Stangegård

Knud has more than 50 years of experience as a seatrout and pike fisherman. Knud is a nature guide at Geocenter Møns Klint, and – with his knowledge of the local environment and history - he's capable of adding another dimension to your fishing trip. He guides both newcomers to the sport and experienced anglers, and he enjoys guiding family- and group fishing trips.

Specialty: Coastal fishing with both spin and fly

✉ Moenguide@gmail.com

☎ +45 40 86 19 24

🏠 www.moenguide.dk



Keld Juul Michaelsen

Keld runs the guide agency, Fabulous Fly Fishing, and he has more than 37 years of experience along the Danish coastal shores. Keld primarily fishes with a fly rod but he occasionally spin fishes too. Keld offers both introductory spin- and fly courses and half- or full day guided fishing trips for seatrout along the Zealand coasts – with special focus on Isefjorden, Roskilde Fjord and Nordkysten.

Specialty: Coastal fishing for seatrout, children and adolescents

✉ flyordie@fabulousflyfishing.dk

☎ +45 29 45 85 58

🏠 www.fablousflyfishing.dk



Nikolaj Martins

Being a municipal, Nikolaj is used to working with people. Nikolaj's home turf is Southern Zealand and the Møn-area. He primarily guides fly fishermen and instructs in fly casting, but he is also ready for a spin fishing trip – no matter if you're into pike or seatrout.

Specialty: Coastal fishing for seatrout and pike – with both spin and fly

✉ pikeguide@hotmail.com

☎ +45 20 65 87 56

🏠 www.pikeguide.com



Lars Juel Hansen

Lars is a full-blooded seatrout fisherman, and he knows everything about the fjords and open coasts. His experience stems from a vast number of guided coastal fishing trips, week-end courses, and fly casting courses throughout the last 13 years. Lars is positive, flexible, outgoing and eager to share his knowledge.

Specialty: Seatrout fishing in the fjords and ocean, and fly casting lessons

✉ lars@edoras.dk

☎ +45 30 75 89 07

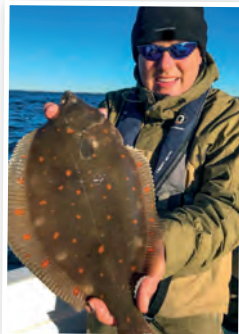
🏠 www.seatrout4you.com



Bjarne Poulsen

Saltwater runs in Bjarne's veins, and he's been fishing for more than 50 years – with 37 of them spent on Øresund. It's the whole experience with the scenery, gear, methods, and not least the fish cooking that Bjarne likes to mediate through his guided trips on Øresund. Bjarne is a full-time professional guide.

Specialty: Great local knowledge of the gear and fishing methods used on Øresund. How to cook fish



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☎ +45 22 27 02 37
🏠 www.dinfiskeguide.dk

Tue Blaxekjær

Tue has fished for seatrout along the Møn and Falster coasts for more than 20 years, and – along the way – he has gained vast experience about the area. As a seatrout guide, Tue is adamant about providing his guests with useful information about the importance of the weather conditions, the choice of lure and other strategies.

Specialty: Coastal fishing with both spin and fly



✉ tue@ifish.dk
☎ +45 20 48 50 45
🏠 www.ifish.dk

Claus Larsen

For the last 30 years, Claus has fished for anything with fins. He guides from his own top-tuned boat and – as a result, he's capable of reaching some very interesting sea trout spots that are otherwise inaccessible. His seatrout fishing is primarily confined to Roskilde Fjord, Isefjorden, Stevns and Møn, but he also targets brackish pike from his boat.

Specialty: Boat fishing for seatrout and pike

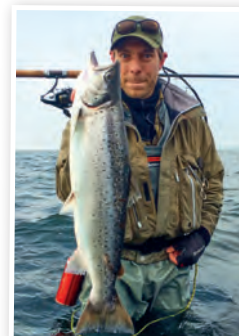


✉ cbl.toemreren@gmail.com
☎ +45 40 20 97 96
🏠 www.pikeandseatroutguide.com

Henrik Qvirin Reiter

Henrik is a passionate seatrout fisherman and he runs the guiding business, Ifish.dk. The hunt for seatrout has taken him far and wide, and – as a result – Henrik knows coastal seatrout spots throughout Zealand – and he is especially knowledgeable about Stevns, the North- and East coast and the fjords. His preferred weapon of choice for seatrout is a spinning rod, and fishing with bombarda and flies is his specialty.

Specialty: Year-round coastal fishing



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🏠 www.ifish.dk



Gordon P. Henriksen

Gordon specializes in recreational fishing mediation and he's known from TV-shows such as Storygeren, Nak & Æd and FISKEguiden in addition to Fisketegn on Radio 24syv. He loves to plan and execute unique fishing events and he has tons of experience with big group- and business events orchestrated together with the chef, Nikolaj Kirk, and several P&T lakes, charter boats etc.

Specialty: Businesses - Events - P&T – Sea fishing – Pike fishing



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☎ +45 29 90 87 70
🏠 www.megalops.dk

Niels Lagergaard Pedersen

Niels is very passionate about coastal seatrout fishing and he's especially into coastal fly fishing. Niels also guides spin fishermen searching for chrome sea trout and he's very thorough about providing his clients with useful tips and explaining the techniques, strategies and tackle used. Niels is a biologist and he runs the guiding business, Fishing Guide Denmark.

Specialty: Year-round coastal fishing for seatrout with fly- and spin fishing tackle



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MØN SESSION

A Festival for Fly Fishermen

by TORBEN MELDGAARD

Since 2015, fly fishermen from all over Denmark and the neighbouring countries have met on the island of Møn - a prolonged weekend in September. The purpose? To socialize, fly fish and have a great time with like-minded fly fishermen.



FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, Camping Møns Klint has provided the arena for 50 – 70 fly fishermen, who have participated in Møn Session: Fly fishermen, who are drawn by the fantastic pike fishing in Stege Nor (Stege Lagoon) and the phenomenal September-fishing for seatrout along the island's coastal shores.

In 2017, the event was prolonged with an additional day, which meant that it ran from Thursday to Sunday. Thursday night there was a gathering at the ambient restaurant, Peer to Heaven, on Klintholm Harbour, where the grill was lit, and the organizers bid everyone welcome.

Coastal Fishing and a World-Class Atmosphere

On Friday it was time for the big opening along the coasts and in Stege Nor. The water levels were back to normal after a big storm a few days before, and a solid western wind provided near-perfect conditions.

During the evening, people started to return to the Session festival site. Tasty, local beer, sponsored by Møns Bryghus awaited the guests, and while darkness descended, throats were wetted and stories from around Møn's fishing spots intermingled with the dense bonfire smoke.

Lots of great fish had been landed – both along the coastline and in Stege Nor, and very few had struggled to connect.

In the darkness, an incredible open-fire meal, consisting of cabbage-sausages and lots of garnish, was served. Fin Followers – a group of young fly fishing fanatics – had built a bar for the event, and it specialized in gin-based drinks. The bar was very popular, and there were smiling faces all around, when – later in the evening – the band, Workers in Songs, entered the stage and gave an all-acoustic performance. From a rustic, barn-like stage, they performed a set of songs that immediately resonated with the audience.

Saturday, the pattern repeated itself. Some were disciplined enough to get up early and go fishing, while others slept in until late. The winds had now shifted to a southwestern direction, and the southern coast was clearing up.

Along the northern coast, the lightly milk-colored water was now gin-clear, and the fish – of which there were many – proved to be shy and finicky. There were, however, several fish landed with a handful of 70cm+ fish in between.

Visual and Culinary Impressions – and Agility

During the afternoon, several photos had been submitted for the yearly photo competition, and it was now time for the fly fishing agility competition. It involved dressing up in the world's ugliest waders, scaling an electrical fence, tying a self-chosen fly, and downing a Fernet Branca shot before catching a small toy pike at a distance of 15 meters with the newly-made fly

– and then proceeding to shoot the obligatory selfie and posting it on social media using the hashtag #Mønsession17.

The house-cook, Joel, once again did his magic and served the juiciest grilled steaks imaginable – with lots of garnish. Darkness had once again descended upon the festival site accompanied by the sound of happy voices, and it was now time for world-premieres of no less than four fishing films.

A winner of the #plasticinthebasket competition (collect garbage in your line basket, take it with you, and post a picture on social media) was also found. The competition meant that the Møn beaches were drastically cleaner by Sunday afternoon, compared to Wednesday! Additionally, a photo competition winner was found, and people now headed back to the bar – or to bed.

Sunday morning some chose to head back to the real world, while others headed out to squeeze a bit more fishing in. The southern coast was now fishable, but even though the water looked excellent, the weather was just too calm. However, despite the challenging conditions, Sunday also yielded its fair share of good catches.

Not Just for Men

A few female fly fishers also found their way to Møn; Among them, Katrine Kirk from Copenhagen, who participated for the first time:

"I was pretty tense when I arrived. But the first dinner had barely started before I felt open-heartedly welcome and even though I only superficially knew three of the other participants, the whole weekend proved an immensely enjoyable experience. It heightened my passion for fishing, made me feel part of the community, and I definitely plan on participating again – hopefully with more female fly fishers."

Katrine is ready for next year's Session, where a dedicated lodging service for women will be provided. If you're interested in becoming a part of this lodging service, check out "Truefiskerne" on Facebook.

Here to Stay

After three years, Møn Session has proven that it's here to stay. Møn itself boasts so many great fishing spots that 70 participants aren't very visible, so even if solitude is your thing, don't hesitate to give Møn Session a try. Session has developed a befitting shape and form with lots of enticing activities, some of them new and some of them already laden with tradition.

*For additional information about Møn Session: :
www.facebook.com/flyfishersrendezvous/
Møns Klint Resort: www.moensklintresort.dk*



The Mackerel Festival in Odsherred

Underneath the big lampposts on Odden Harbor you see the shapes of people materialize out of the charcoal dark of the summer night. All of them carry fishing tackle, and they're headed towards their own boat – or one of the commercial charter boats. They're part of the competition to become the Danish Mackerel Champion.

by NIKOLAJ KORSHOLM

THE MACKEREL FESTIVAL ISN'T JUST for fishermen. It's for anyone who loves nature, the ocean and fish. Along the waterfront, a multitude of stands have been erected by the locals, where – among other things – you can have a taste of wild, local herbs: Herbs that you can go out and pluck the very same day since they grow all over Odden. Close by, freshly-caught mackerel are grilled and smoked and samples are handed out. Just a stone's throw away, the local tuna museum is located.

The tuna museum houses the incredible history of the local tuna fishing industry at Odden Harbor, which peaked in the 50s. Odden Harbor was the epicenter for commercial- and recreational tuna fishing back in the days, and today – since the Bluefin tuna are making their way back into Danish waters - the museum is more relevant than ever. Maybe new history will be written in the years to come?

A Local and Volunteer Effort

The Mackerel Festival is organized as a joint effort between VisitOdsherred and Fishing Zealand, but the driving force is the volunteers and locals that take care of most practicalities. Odsherred Sportsfiskerforening makes sure that the competition rules are implemented and followed. Every year, the club members turn out in strength, instruct guests, weigh-in fish, and make sure that everyone is in high spirit.

The many locals, who provide food, beverages, and accommodation, make it easier for the festival guests to simply focus on the great experiences. Every Saturday

during the Mackerel Festival, the participants, guests, and locals gather for a big celebration on the harbor. Great food is served at reasonable prices, and when the music starts playing, the atmosphere reaches new heights. It's a party for all ages, with popular songs and great food.

Everyone Is Welcome

When the first Mackerel Festival was organized, mostly locals showed up but, in time, the great atmosphere has drawn people in from far away. Apart from the locals, lots of city dwellers find the festival a great escape and a welcome opportunity to get out of the concrete jungle and experience the countryside, the ocean and the local culture. Even people from abroad have started showing up, including several Germans, Swedes, and Dutchmen. Many of them bring their families and use the Mackerel Festival to kickstart a prolonged vacation in Denmark.

Danish Championships in Mackerel Fishing

If you'd like to participate in the competition, there are different categories that you can enter into. The basic idea, however, is to fish from your own personal boat – or from a commercial charter boat. For instance, there's





See you
during the
third weekend
of August!



a team competition, where the 10 biggest mackerel in each boat are weighed-in. The team with the biggest average weight for their 10 mackerel will be awarded the prize for Best Team.

If you're under the age of 15, you can participate in the Junior competition. And if you've registered for one of the sub-categories, you're obviously still part of the overall competition to win the Danish Championship.

The festival is rounded up with a big prize ceremony, where all the participants eagerly await the final results. The participant with the biggest mackerel will be awarded the title of Danish Mackerel Champion along with great prizes.

The competition is held during the third weekend of August.

*For additional information and registration
check out the competition website:
www.makrelfestival.dk*

CATCH A MACKEREL

If you want to catch mackerel, you'll need a spinning rod of about 9' with a casting weight of up to 40 grams. It is perfect for dinghy- and charter boat fishing. Additionally, you'll need a spinning reel pre-spoiled with 20-22lb test line. This suffices when it comes to lifting the mackerel out of the water and into a boat.

If there are lots of mackerel, the best method is to use small pilkers mounted on a mackerel leader. A mackerel leader usually has 4-5 flies, but if you hook five big mackerel at the same time, it is almost impossible to bring them all in. As a result, it is advisable to reduce the number of flies on the leader.

If you're fishing from a small boat, using a line-thru float can be effective. For bait, small herring-, garfish- or mackerel filets work wonders.

And then, a final tip: Remember to throw the mackerel on ice as soon as you've caught them. This way, their porous meat doesn't go bad in the warm summer sun.





New strategy under way RECREATIONAL FISHING AND SUSTAINABLE FISHING TOURISM

by OLE TOFT,
Head of Department at Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Fishing tourism is an activity that is capable of prompting local growth and development. At the same time, fishing is a hobby that many people enjoy in their spare time - and that even more people could benefit from. In Denmark, the long coastlines and beautiful lakes and rivers offer ideal conditions for recreational fishing - and great potential for tourism development.



THE VALUE OF THE RECREATIONAL fishing tourism sector is estimated at one billion kroner per year. Moreover, fishing tourists like to travel to Denmark during the spring- and autumn months, thus providing what tourism insiders call 'the shoulder season' with valuable business. Tourists, who have chosen Denmark as their destination for other reasons, will also enjoy recreational fishing offers if presented in an accessible and service-oriented way.

Recreational fishing is capable of reaching new target groups. In, for instance, the USA – and in our neighbour country, Sweden – there are many female fishermen. In Denmark, however, very few women spend time fishing. Furthermore, when it comes to youth groups, there's great potential for kids and adolescents to benefit from real nature experiences away from media screens.

A Strategy for Recreational Fishing

Fisheries minister, Karen Ellemann, is keen to have a strategy drawn up for the development of recreational fishing and recreational fishing tourism in Denmark. The strategy is expected to entail a list of concrete recommendations on how to promote and develop recreational fishing and recreational fishing tourism in Denmark.

The strategy development work was begun little over a year ago – in March 2017, during a project day in Maribo about recreational fishing and -fishing tourism. The project day was

well attended, and several representatives from organizations, municipalities and businesses shared valuable input. It was clear that Denmark has an enormous recreational fishing tourism potential that a strategy could help satisfy. Our coastal shores, for instance, are teeming with seatrout. The salmon fishing in the western-Jutland rivers is unique and there are lots of other exciting fisheries on which to focus. The municipalities are eager to join in, and the tourism organizations are aware of the great potential.

There are many passionate volunteers who diligently work on enhancing fish populations and the general water environment. There are, generally, many positive mainstays at work, and the overall effort will benefit greatly from increased coordination.

Fishing Zealand Is Part of a New Task Group

After the project day, a task group was established with Jakob Ellemann-Jensen as the chairman. In the task group, which has 15 members, Fishing Zealand officials were represented. They were a considerable contributor to a previous task force about recreational fishing tourism. The other members of the task group represent fishing organizations, the tourism sector, the tackle industry, the Danish Outdoor Council, accommodation services, Local Government Denmark, and DTU Aqua.

The work group has taken its point of departure from a terms-of-reference, which provides guidelines for the ongoing work. The goal is to propose new ideas and recommendations to the minister in the shape of strategic goals and concrete initiatives that support the objective of:

- 1. BETTER UTILISING THE NATURAL RESOURCES AND THEIR POTENTIAL IN RECREATIONAL FISHING**
- 2. INCREASING THE NUMBER OF VISITING FISHING TOURISTS IN DENMARK**
- 3. DEVELOPING A FISHERIES MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION THAT WILL SUSTAIN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIFFERENT FORMS OF FISHING**

Some of the ideas were presented to a variety of interested parties in Vingsted in November 2017.

The current results

Throughout the year, we have worked intensively, with many exciting new ideas and propositions that have been brought up and entered into the upcoming strategy.

A topic that received a lot of attention during the project

day in Vingsted and afterwards in the task group, was how to increase interest in recreational fishing among representatives of the younger generation. There are many competing spare time activities for the younger generation, so how do we make them familiar with the natural environment, and how do we introduce them to recreational fishing? Is it possible to successfully invite the children's mothers along for the journey?

Lots of great ideas on how to solve these issues were brought up during the project day. Furthermore, because fishing is a social activity that involves health benefits, memorable experiences and increased life quality, it's now being looked into how seniors, who are transitioning from work life into retirement, can be turned on to fishing. Both children and adolescents under the age of 18 and pensioners can fish for free, since these groups don't have to buy national fishing licenses.

Generally, in order to increase the number of fishermen, it's important to focus on improving accessibility to local fishing spots, for instance in harbors. In this regard, Fishing Zealand – in cooperation with Denmark's Sportsfishing Association, has already come up with tentative suggestions

"THE STRATEGY WILL ENTAIL A LIST OF CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP RECREATIONAL FISHING AND RECREATIONAL FISHING TOURISM IN DENMARK"

on how to improve access, facilities and safety. This theme was eagerly discussed during the project day, and it was clear that improved accessibility to fishing spots was a key concern.

Another important theme is how to improve and develop the marketing of seatrout fishing in Denmark – a fishery that is in a league of its own and capable of attracting many foreign fishing tourists.

And finally, it's worth mentioning that the task group has been busy discussing the many aspects involved in improving the spawning- and habitat conditions for local fish stocks.

The Onward Process

The objective of the new strategy is to improve the general framework for our fisheries so that more people can go fishing and experience the beauty of great fishing spots with solid catch potential. Furthermore, it's intended that an increased number of fishing tourists from inland and abroad will end up choosing Denmark as a vacation destination – or choose a fishing activity during their vacation stay in Denmark.

The strategy launch is expected to take place during the spring of 2018.



"THE OBJECTIVE OF THE NEW STRATEGY IS TO IMPROVE THE
GENERAL FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FISHERIES SO THAT MORE
PEOPLE CAN GO FISHING AND EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY OF
GREAT FISHING SPOTS WITH SOLID CATCH POTENTIAL"

Stevns

A Zealand-Gem for the Fly Fisherman



It's early in the morning. The thermometer shows that the temperatures are dangerously close to freezing. Luckily, the roads are fairly dry, and that helps locate random icy patches along the way. The car hums merrily, and as I make my way toward my fishing spot, I pass a road sign saying "Stevns Klint UNESCO".

by ALLAN OVERGAARD

I TRAVEL TO STEVNS a lot. I'm a fisherman, you see! A fly fisherman, to be more precise. In many places Stevns' chalk cliffs rise majestically straight from the ocean. Being a fly fisherman, I need a bit of space both in front of- and behind me. As a result, I often experience Stevns' beautiful panoramas while fishing from my belly boat. A belly boat is the perfect vessel for exploring the many spots that a wading fly fisherman would never be able to reach.

I'm right in the surface mist as the sun slowly rises to the east. It radiates its first, gentle rays on the chalk cliffs, which reflect the light into the emerald-green water. This creates the most incredible flashes of yellow and white in a blazing inferno of light.

An Area of Migratory Runs

One stands a great chance of running into seatrout both along the southern and northern reaches of Stevns. The lifecycle of the seatrout makes the Baltic Sea and the area around Stevns a veritable hotspot for this species. Here, they feed and grow big, and when the timing is right, they'll slowly start heading for whatever river they were hatched in – and this is a very opportune moment for us fishermen – they're all chrome and in prime condition.

Stevns' location on the map, protruding towards the east, makes it a place where big, migratory fish come close to the shoreline. They do so during the summer and fall months while slowly making their way to their home rivers. They will have spent a lot of time feeding on sandeels,

sprattus and herring, and big silvery flies will often induce an immediate reaction.

More Than Just Fishing

There are plenty of great fishing spots along Stevns' shorelines, and I don't always choose the spots that hold the most fish. I also like to go where the views are pretty. For instance, there's a beautiful area around Højerup Church, where one can see how Mother Nature is slowly but surely devouring the house of God.

During the dark winter months, on a quiet evening- or night underneath Stevns' Lighthouse, one is reminded of the importance of shipping traffic navigation and safety. You can "dive" into history by spending time underneath the Stevns Fortress; the Danish defence bastion against any perceived threats from the east. When the fish aren't biting you can even hike along the small fishing ports, which can be found at Bøgeskov and Lund. On the wharfs here, there's always an authentic atmosphere of old tar ropes and Kansas-overalls.

An Area with International Awareness

The Stevns chalk cliffs were entered into the UNESCO world heritage list in 2014 because of the uniqueness of the terrain and the sediment layers here – layers that tell the story of the extinction of the dinosaurs along with half of all the living creatures that existed on this planet 66 million years ago.

The possibilities for engaging in formidable, unique experiences along the eastern-Zealand shorelines are numerous, and being a mere hour's drive from the capital, Copenhagen, Stevns is a veritable gem for the fisherman.



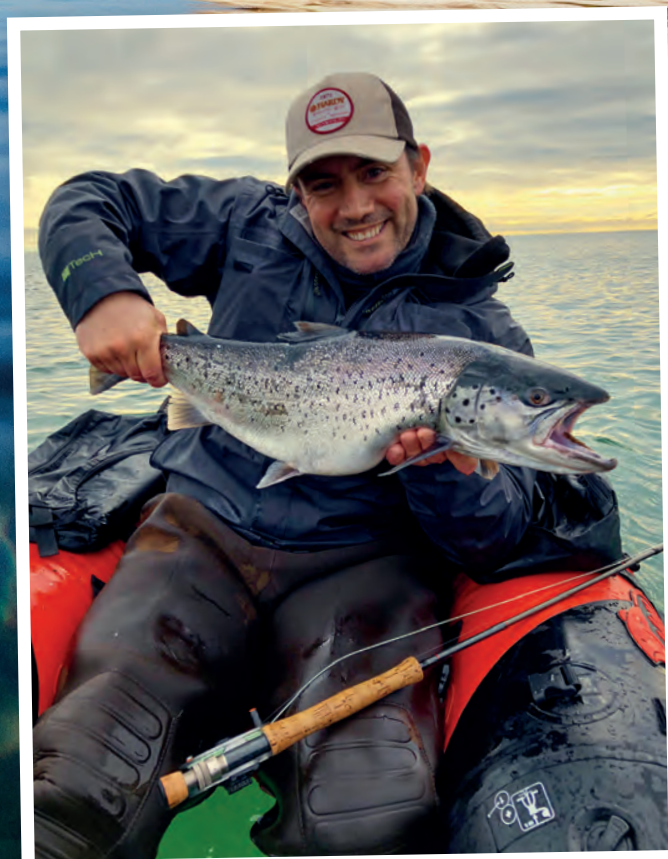
FLYFISHING FROM A BELLY BOAT

Fishing from a belly boat, pontoon boat or a kayak is an exciting way to explore the area and the fishing around Stevns. It does, however, require a little extra gear. The prices for fishing vessels varies a lot, but you can get started for around 250 – 300 euros, if you chose a basic outfit: a belly boat and a set of fins.

When being on the water, it is necessary to take certain precautions. First of all, a life vest is both essential and mandatory. The self-inflating ones are great for fishing because they provide both comfort and maneuverability.

A mobile phone in a waterproof bag functions effectively as an additional lifeline (the emergency number is 112) if an emergency should arise. Always check up on the local weather forecasts before heading out. Float tubes are fairly weather-resistant, but it's always more enjoyable when one can relax and enjoy a day out in calm weather.

For fishing purposes, I use a 9' fly rod, which is equipped with a 15 – 16 gram shooting head. I find this to be the perfect compromise when going through everything from small and light flies to big, wind-resistant flies. The leader should be about 2 rod's lengths, and I prefer tapered nylon with a tippet of 0,22 mm. The reel should come spooled with about 80 – 120 meters of backing.





The harbours

Fishing Spots and Experiences for Everyone

by HENRIK LARSEN

In cooperation with Denmark's Sportsfishing Association, Fishing Zealand has provided important input on how to further develop the harbour fisheries. Everything is comprised in a new brief, which provides an analysis of the possibilities and limitations when it comes to reaching the full potential for recreational fishing in the Zealand harbours.





RECREATIONAL FISHING in Danish harbours is very popular, in particular because the harbours offer unique experiences for both beginners and experienced anglers. The deep waters surrounding the harbours attract a myriad of different fish species, which – unless you have a boat at your disposal, are otherwise difficult to catch. A great many fishermen visit the harbours every year; especially during periods when species like mackerel, herring and garfish can be found along the piers and wharfs. These special fishing spots also attract the attention of surf casters, who use the protruding piers to reach different species of flounders. Furthermore, you'll find specimen hunters along the bulwarks looking for species variety and trying to catch as many different species as possible.

Harbour fishing isn't simply about fishing. Its potential is greater than that. It provides kids and adolescents with a unique opportunity to experience nature and become part of a community that consists of both old and young, beginners and experts. Harbour fishing also aids integration when different cultures and individuals show up to fish. Standing side by side fishing is a natural starting point for engaging in conservation.

Finally, the harbours constitute an opportunity for nature experiences in close proximity to the major cities, and many city-dwelling fishermen use the harbours simply because they can be reached on foot, by bicycle, or by public transportation.

Initiatives and More Information

In the brief drawn up by Denmark's Sportsfishing Association and Fishing Zealand a number of initiatives are listed, which can help increase the number of fishermen that frequent the harbours. More (and better) information about the fishery and possibilities in the harbours, more facilities like cleaning tables and storage solutions, further safety measures and access possibilities for the disabled are some of the elements highlighted in the brief.

Especially access is an issue and a challenge. After the introduction of terror secured zones in 2001, access to many of the most attractive harbour fishing spots has become reduced drastically. The terror secured zones are off limits. It's a general and local challenge that can't be solved everywhere, but we have already seen that through dialogue between harbour representatives and fishermen, good solutions that meet recreational interests can actually be found.

Increased Political Interest

In recent years, recreational fishing has been the subject of great political interest – and not without good reason. Karen Ellemann, Minister of Fisheries, has read the brief, and she agrees that there is great potential for further development.

"Recreational fishing is an important part of the Danish fisheries. Not alone is it both healthy and fun, and a good way to spend time together; it also strengthens the tourism sector and the local communities. There's great potential for growth in recreational fishing to take advantage of, and Fishing Zealand and Denmark's Sportsfishing Association's brief is very interesting. It tallies with the national strategy set forth by the Government for the development of recreational fishing. I personally look forward to continuing the dialogue about how we can strengthen the recreational harbour fishery", says Minister of Fisheries, Karen Ellemann.

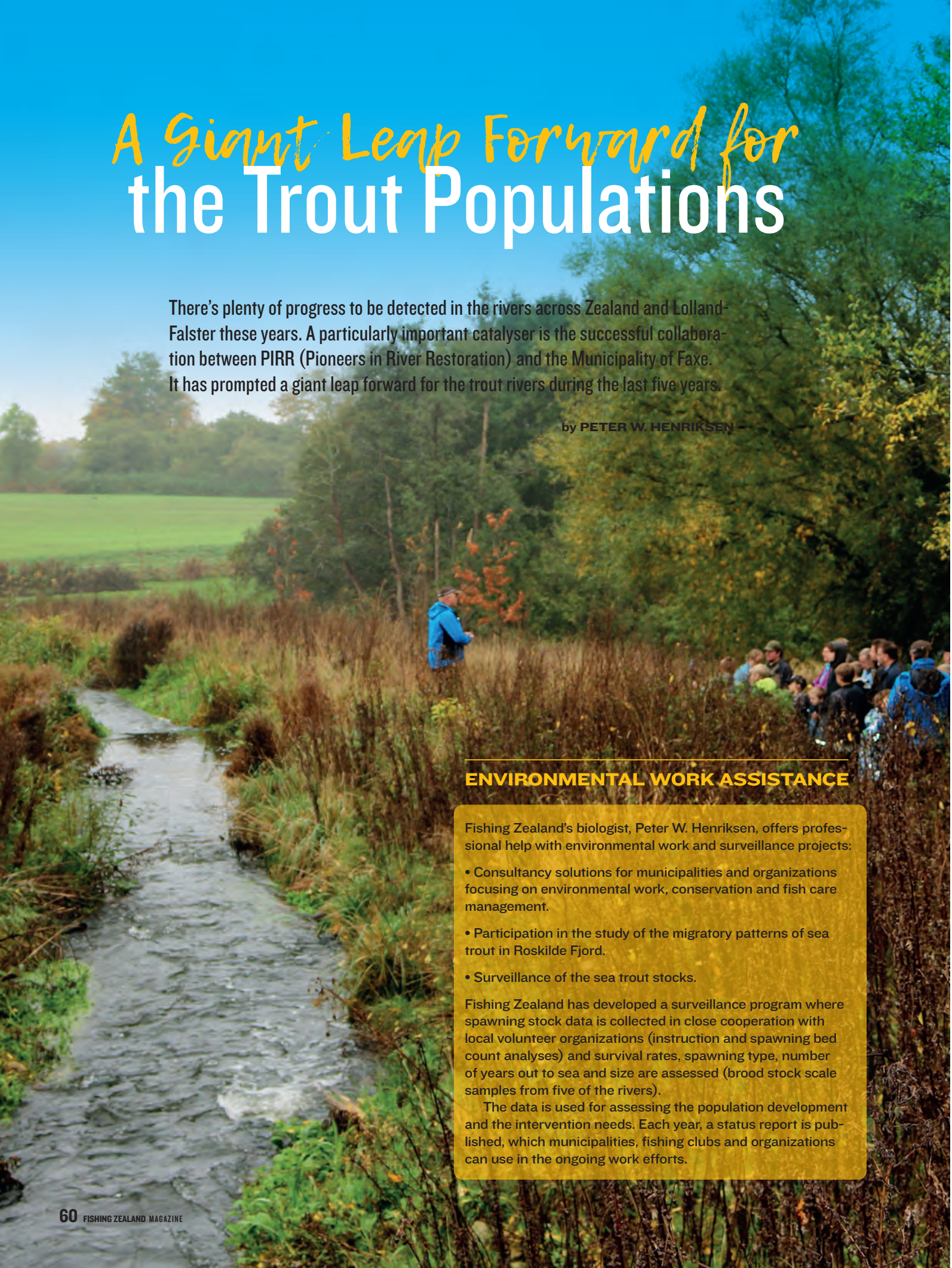
The Future of the Harbour Fisheries

The brief has been made in close cooperation- and dialogue with local fishing clubs, municipalities, harbour personnel, and other interested parties. These cross-disciplinary representatives have been key in terms of creating a basis for further developing the harbour fisheries. Furthermore, the brief drafting process clearly demonstrated that there is lots of engagement and goodwill when it comes to improving the conditions for local and visiting fishermen, and it will now be followed up by action.

Among other things, Fishing Zealand have set aside resources to start up work on improved information signposting in a number of big harbours. The signposting is meant to bid fishermen welcome and inform about: The rules and regulations for fishing, general conduct, which fish can be caught how and when, conservation periods and minimum measurements, references to public restrooms and cleaning tables, local fishing clubs, tackle stores and other information that might be relevant.

The future cooperation surrounding the harbours also aims at improving safety by setting up rope ladders and life-buoys and improving access for walking-impaired individuals and wheelchair-users etc.

The brief can be read in its entirety on Fishing Zealand's website. Just click the menu, "Rapporter og udgivelser".



A Giant Leap Forward for the Trout Populations

There's plenty of progress to be detected in the rivers across Zealand and Lolland-Falster these years. A particularly important catalyser is the successful collaboration between PIRR (Pioneers in River Restoration) and the Municipality of Faxe. It has prompted a giant leap forward for the trout rivers during the last five years.

by PETER W. HENRIKSEN

ENVIRONMENTAL WORK ASSISTANCE

Fishing Zealand's biologist, Peter W. Henriksen, offers professional help with environmental work and surveillance projects:

- Consultancy solutions for municipalities and organizations focusing on environmental work, conservation and fish care management.
- Participation in the study of the migratory patterns of sea trout in Roskilde Fjord.
- Surveillance of the sea trout stocks.

Fishing Zealand has developed a surveillance program where spawning stock data is collected in close cooperation with local volunteer organizations (instruction and spawning bed count analyses) and survival rates, spawning type, number of years out to sea and size are assessed (brood stock scale samples from five of the rivers).

The data is used for assessing the population development and the intervention needs. Each year, a status report is published, which municipalities, fishing clubs and organizations can use in the ongoing work efforts.



The trout populations here are unique. The Fishing Zealand-backed DNA tests have found these trout to be indigenous and wild.



THE MEMBERS OF the laborious group PIRR are often seen along the banks of local Zealand rivers scribbling on note pads. They take notes for future river restoration projects, count spawning beds or monitor and assess the effects of previous projects. A solid collaborative foundation has come into existence, where PIRR compose a number of river restoration projects, which are then handed over to the municipality of Faxe by PIRR's Søren Jensen.

Everything is nicely presented with detailed project descriptions and – not least – agreements with the land owners. As Søren says, it's vital that the landowners are consulted so they don't feel like things are forced upon them. "And oftentimes it's a clear advantage that it is volunteer citizens, and not the municipality, knocking on the door", says Søren with a sparkle in the eye. In this way – during the last few years, several tons of spawning gravel and hiding rocks have been distributed in local rivers, which have also been re-meandered, restored and liberated from barriers. This means that many rivers have been optimized and that greater trout reproduction is now expected.

Immense Spawning Activity

Among other things, Fishing Zealand provides consultancy when it comes to spawning activity assessments, and these assessments have shown that Vivede Mølleå has more than doubled its trout population, and that spawning activity is abundant. Similarly, there are now numerous spawning redds past previous barriers on, for instance, Faxe River upstream Blåbæk Mølle and in Herredsbækken. The most recent observations come from the source of Lilleå, which was recently restored and liberated from drain pipes.

Completely New Knowledge about Smolt

A new study is particularly interesting. PIRR have long dreamt about a survey on the smolt emigrations from Vivede Mølleå, Faxe River's main run and the tributary Lilleå. In 2017, Faxe municipality hired Limno Consult to do a smolt

study where the field work was done by volunteer PIRR helpers. And the results were incredible.

In total, 14000 smolt emigrated from the three rivers, which makes them some of the most productive rivers in the country relative to size. Compared with similar surveys conducted in Faxe River a few years back, the smolt emigration has doubled five times – not least thanks to the removal of the Blåbæk Mølle-barrier. Vivede Mølleå is particularly interesting in that half of the emigrating trout were very small – and not particularly chrome.

It's the first time that massive emigrations of non-smoltified Danish trout into the Baltic Sea have been documented. But the fact that it is possible means that the overall production can grow considerably. One might then ponder whether or not the small trout stand a good chance of surviving out to sea. The answers will hopefully crystalize eventually since Vivede Mølleå – as a brood stock river for donor eggs – is included in Fishing Zealand ongoing sea trout surveillance project.

Scale samples from brood stock in Vivede Mølleå have shown that a lot of fish are actually quite small when they leave the river and head out to sea. Obviously, PIRR and Faxe Municipality can hardly get their arms down because of the fine results. In only a few years, poor and moderately good rivers have been transformed into productive habitats for smolt.

Everyone Is Happy

The municipality has ascertained that, in many places, population indexes have been fulfilled. The coastal fishermen are happy about the improved fishing possibilities and nature lovers enjoy the fine rivers with kingfishers, river lampreys etc. And to any sceptics we can supplement with the following: No, there haven't been any floods as a result of our projects. There is still plenty potential for improvements, so don't be surprised if Søren is about to head to municipality with a new stack of project descriptions.

The Cluster Members

Services, Infrastructure, and Cooperation

Close cooperation with the local businesses in Fishing Zealand's member municipalities not only serves to strengthen the project's local anchorage. It brings together a lot of important synergies and benefits all parties involved – not to mention the local economy.

The local businesses belonging to Fishing Zealand's cluster count everything from accommodation services, restaurants, and tourism agencies to retail stores, put & take lakes, and local attractions. They form a network that meets the service needs of visiting anglers, whether it be accommodation, catering, advice, or equipment - regardless of whether you come exclusively for the fishing or you're bringing your whole family to enjoy a bit of fishing in addition to other nice holiday activities.

Solid Services Are an Important Part of the Basic Product

Fishing Zealand continuously work on expanding the service network comprised by the cluster businesses, so that visiting anglers - from the planning stage to the actual journey - can concentrate on creating good and memorable experiences. In addition to developing guidelines for - and consulting on the services offered by the cluster members, Fishing Zealand focuses on making sure that the cluster members adhere to the sustainability principles on which the entire project is based. We want the cluster member cooperation to be mutually beneficial and to make sure that visitors are met with professionalism and services of high international standards.

Anyone Can Join

All relevant businesses in Fishing Zealand's member municipalities are welcome to become part of our cluster and join the angling tourism support network. Here's lots of sparring and counselling to be had in regard to target audiences, service design, marketing, involvement in events, press trips, and the like. The basic idea of the business cluster is to help promote angling tourism through services development and by creating the best possible conditions for traveling anglers, who come to Zealand in order to fulfil their fishing dreams. And with more than 100 dedicated cluster members, the idea has already been turned into a reality.



"Through our collaboration with Fishing Zealand, we have enjoyed a massive increase in attention throughout the Zealand-region and we have also experienced an increase in the number of visiting guests. I therefore look very much forward to our future cooperation with Fishing Zealand."

Restaurant owner, Mikkel Jerger, Herthadalen, the municipality of Lejre

"In Pro-Outdoor, we have worked together with Fishing Zealand on several events, including Fjordlandet Open and our fishing trips for children during the summer and autumn holidays. Our events have sparked increased interest in angling in our local area and have helped shed light on how simple it is to get your children "offline" and into fishing. Ultimately, it translates into better life quality - and more customers in our store."

Thomas Bastlund, Pro-Outdoor, the municipality of Holbæk



"At Møns Klint Resort, we have worked with Fishing Zealand since the very beginning. Along the way, we have gained important insight into how anglers think and with that knowledge we have adapted our products to the target group, which - ultimately - has given us more customers. Fishing Zealand's sustainable approach to recreational fishing tourism appeals greatly to us, and we have enjoyed the many events they've helped co-organize."

Ole Eskling, Møns Klint Resort, the municipality of Vordingborg

Fishing Zealand is currently collaborating with

Vordingborg Municipality

MØN:

Moens Klint resort (1)
moensklintresort.dk

House of Moen (2)
visitmoensklint.dk

Camping Moenbroen (3)
moenbroen.dk

Feriepartner Møn - Stevns (4)
feriepartner.dk/moen-stevns

**Feriecenter Østersø
Færggård (5)**
faergegaard.dk

Tiendegaarden (6)
tiendegaarden.dk

Mønbådene.dk (7)
moenbaadene.dk

Sweet & Coffee (8)
sweetcoffee.dk

Kalundborg Municipality

Rødvig Ferieby (9)
roedvigferieby.dk

Kalundborg Vandrerhjem (10)
fridage.dk

Urhøj Camping (11)
urhoej-camping.dk

Kaldred Put & Take (12)
kaldredputandtake.dk

Høng Handelscenter (13)
honghandelscenter.dk

Vesterlyng Camping (14)
vesterlyng-camping.dk

Ugerløse Feriecenter (15)
feriecentret.dk

Stevns Municipality

Rødvig Ferieby (16)
roedvigferieby.dk

**Stevns Klint
Strandpension (17)**
strandpension.dk

Rødvig Kro & Badehotel (18)
roedvigkro.dk

Damgården B&B (19)
damgaarden-stevns.dk

**Vemmetofte Præstegård
B&B (20)**
vemme.dk

Skelbækgården B&B (21)

Nøddebo B&B (22)

Sigerslevhus B&B (23)
sigerslevhus.dk

Klintgården B&B (24)
stevnsklintegaard.dk

Akaciegaarden B&B (25)
akaciegaardenbogb.dk

Piccobello (26)
piccobello-bnb.dk

DADA Bed & Breakfast (27)
dadasbb.dk

Karens B&B (28)
stevnspil.dk

Guldborgsund Municipality

Mertz (29)
mertz.dk/jagt-fritid/fiskeri

Hotel Saxkjøbing (30)
hotel-saxkjobing.dk

Hotel Falster (31)
hotel-falster.dk

**Danhostel Nykøbing Falster
/Vesterskoven.dk (32)**
vesterskoven.dk

**Korsgaardens
Put & Take (33)**
korsgaardspuandtake.dk

**Voldstedgaard
Herregårdspension (34)**
voldstedgaard.dk

Nature Calls Put & Take (35)

Stubbekøbing Camping (36)
stubbekobing-camp.dk

Oldfruen B&B (37)
oldfruen.dk

Radstedhus B&B (38)
radsted-hus.dk

Cottage.dk (39)
cottage.dk

Iglekjær Put & Take (40)
facebook.com/iglekaer

**Fiskernes
Indkøbsforening (41)**
udiluft.dk

Visit Lolland-Falster (42)
visitlolland-falster.dk

Roskilde Municipality

**Jan og Bo's
Lystfiskershop (43)**
janogbo.dk

Jagt og Lystfiskerhuset (44)
jagtoglystfiskerhuset.dk

Ørsted Fisk & Golf (45)
fisk-golf.dk

Roskilde Fiskeland (46)
fiskeland.dk

Hove Put & Take (47)
hoveputandtake.dk

Holbæk Municipality

Hegnegaarden (48)
hegnegaarden.dk

**Holbæk Fjord Camping &
Wellness (49)**
holbaekfjord.dk

Pro-Outdoor (50)
pro-outdoor.dk

Fiskehuset SuRi (51)
suri.dk

Visit Holbæk (52)
visitholbaek.dk

Hotel Strandparken (53)
hotelstrandparken.dk

Hotel Sidesporet (54)
sidesporet.dk

Orø færgen (55)
visitholbaek.dk

Østrefærge (56)
oestrefaerge.dk

Orø Strandcamping (57)
oscamping.dk

Orø Brugs (58)
coop.dk

Odsherred Municipality

Rørvig Centret (59)
rorvig-centret.dk

Hotel Højby Sø (60)
hotelhoejbysoe.dk

Brynshøj Put & Take (61)

**DCU-Camping Rørvig
Strand (62)**
camping-roervig.dk

Feriepartner Odsherred (63)
feriepartner.dk/odsherred

**NOVASOL AS –
dansommer A (64)**
novasol.dk

Odden Bryg (65)
oddenbryg.dk

Kirsebærgården (66)
kirsebaergaarden.com

the following local businesses:



Dragsholm Slot (67)
dragsholm-slot.dk

Udsigten (68)
udsigten-Odsherred.dk

VisitOdsherred (69)
visitodsherred.dk

Land & Vand (70)
landogvand.dk

Rørvig Fisk & Røgeri (71)
roervig-fisk.dk

Odsherred Camping (72)
odsherredcamping.dk

Faxe Municipality

Feddert Strand Camping & Feriepark (73)
feddetcamping.dk

Vemmetofte Strand Camping (74)
vemmetoftestrand.dk-camp.dk

Næstved Municipality

De Hvide Svaner (75)
dehvidesvaner.dk

Lf Marine Lars Fischer (76)
lf-group.dk

Bihuset (77)
bihuset.dk

Engly B&B (78)
engly.info

Næstved Turisme (79)
visitnaestved.com

Smålandshavet Kursus- Og Conferencecenter (80)
smalandshavet.dk

Hotel Menstrup Kro (81)
menstrupkro.dk

Marineevent (82)
rotteoen.dk

Hotel Kirstine (83)
hotelkirstine.dk

Heinos Camping (84)
heinoscamping.dk

Hotel Vinhuset (85)
hotelvinhuset.dk

Holmegaard B&B (86)
holmegaardbedandbreakfast.dk

Lejre Municipality

Herslev Bryghus (87)
herslevbryghus.dk

Ryegaard Gods (88)
ryegaard.dk

Hvalsø Spisehus (89)
hvalsoespisehus.dk

Sagnlandet (90)
sagnlandet.dk

Herthadalen (91)
herthadalen.dk

Hornbeer (92)
hornbeer.dk

Gribskov Municipality

Gilleleje Badehotel (93)
gillelejebadehotel.dk

Sankt Helene (94)
helene.dk

Kysthusene Gilleleje (95)
kysthusene.dk

Havhøkeren (96)
havhokeren.dk

Gun & Country Shop (97)
countryshop.dk

vildmeddyrnordsjaelland.dk (98)
vildmeddyrnordsjaelland.dk

Dronningmølle Fiskesø (99)
dronningmølle.nu/putandtake.html





Sustainable Fishing FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

by THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Sustainability is a core value in the Fishing Zealand project and an important starting point for the activities that take place in the project. In the following you can read more about what sustainability really is - as a basic concept and as a practical guideline for Fishing Zealand.

FISHING ZEALAND FOCUSES on developing fishing in Zealand to benefit the local community, the environment and businesses in the region as well as local and visiting anglers. But not only that! Fishing Zealand is keenly focused on sustainable fishing – i.e. fishing that doesn't negatively impact the fish stocks or the aquatic and natural environment. In other words, Fishing Zealand wants to promote a form of recreational fishing that is capable of supporting its own weight – one that is lasting and self-sustaining, so future generations can also benefit from our shared passion and hobby.

Sustainability - A Basic Guideline

Creating a good starting point for recreational fishing is not necessarily that difficult. In the past, fish were stocked directly in the waters along the Danish coasts. In this way - from one day to another, fish stocks capable of satisfying some of the need for catches were introduced. Today, we know that such an approach is not a long-term solution.

The resource-demanding hatchery and stocking efforts must be repeated year after year, and the survival rate among stocked fish is far lower than that of naturally reproduced wild fish.

Fortunately, a completely different approach is used today. Nowadays, river restoration- and spawning habitat re-establishment work is at the forefront. This approach ensures that anadromous fish such as sea trout can reach the spawning grounds. Overall, the idea is to have a healthy natural- and aquatic environment along with natural and self-producing wild fish stocks. This is a more time-consuming approach but, in the long run, it will provide better fishing as fish stocks acquire better survival and reproduction abilities. In other words, it is a natural and sustainable way of developing recreational fishing and tourism.

In the Fishing Zealand region, sustainability is one of the fundamental pillars - both when it comes to the core values of the project and the practical

A man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a red shirt and a cap, is fishing in a river. He is holding a fishing rod with a cork handle and a reel. The background shows a calm river with a small log floating in the water.

"...in the long run, it will provide better fishing, as fish stocks have better survival- and reproduction abilities"

work involved with river and fish stock maintenance, fisheries management, fishing events and in contact with relevant decision makers. We know by experience that fishermen are not only interested in catching fish. They also care about the quality of the fish they catch and the environment, and for many of them experiencing nature also plays an important role.

A Holistic and Sustainable Approach to Recreational Fishing Tourism

Fishing Zealand is adamant that recreational fishing tourism should be based on a solid and healthy environmental approach. For decades, river restoration work has been done all across Zealand, and this is a job that



The best way, to learn how to handle fish correctly, is to spend time with someone who has more experience than oneself.

CATCH AND RELEASE TOOLS

There are lots of practical equipment that make it easier and gentler to handle and release the fish.

They are, for instance:

- **Unhooking pliers**
- **Side-cutter pliers** – for instances when cutting a hook becomes necessary
- **Handling gloves** – which, in wet condition, help protect the fish' slime layer during handling.
- **Knotless fishing net** – preferably with fish-friendly micro mesh netting.
- **Jaw spreaders** – for keeping a pike's toothy jaws open while unhooking the fish.
- **Unhooking mat** – for use in a boat or on land.



- **Fish cradle** – for storing fish until they've been documented, and the camera is ready.
- **Weighing sling** – vnever weigh a fish by hanging it from its gills.

Fishing Zealand is committed to developing and stimulating further. It is an important priority when it comes to ensuring a natural and aquatic environment that allows wild and self-reproducing fish stocks to flourish.

The many positive results continue to be revealed along the way as more streams are re-meandered, man-made barriers in rivers are removed, spawning grounds and habitats are re-established, nutrient salt (nitrogen and phosphorus) discharges are minimized, and non-sustainable netting and fish trapping are prohibited. (You can read much more about this in Rune Hylby's Gravel Gang-article on page 18).

Regulations and Mediation of Fishing Pressure

Alongside the enhancement of the natural environment, we must also manage and regulate the fishing pressure. Fisheries management is capable of providing adequate amounts of fish in attractive sizes, so that there are both fish to be caught (and potentially killed) and sufficient numbers of fish for natural reproduction. For many, catching and cooking a fish is an integral part of being a fisherman, and Fishing Zealand isn't opposed to this at all. We're just adamant that the prevailing regulations and the resulting fish harvesting don't negatively influence fish stocks, slowly causing them to decline.

Fishing Zealand collaborates with a wide range of



Sustainable Fishing

Fishing Zealand defines sustainable fishing as a form of fishing that is capable of supporting its own weight over time - or, in other words, a long-term fishery that does not negatively

influence that which constitutes its basic foundation: The natural and aquatic environment and the self-reproducing stocks of wild fish.

competent partners who are experts in river and fish care management and who are capable of assessing the impact of regulations such as daily catch limits, conservation periods and minimum sizes. Their expertise also extends to the biology of trout and the limiting factors when it comes to freshwater. Furthermore, Fishing Zealand collaborates with local associations, a biological advisory firm, business interest groups, politicians, nationwide interest organizations and research institutions - including DTU Aqua.

In cooperation with these partners, Fishing Zealand has prepared a list of recommendations for sustainable catch limits and catch & release principles aimed at decision makers. In 2015, a number of temporary protection areas were established for the southern Zealand brackish pike: Jungshoved Nor, Fane Fjord, Stege Nor and Præstø Fjord. In the same waters, a ban on net fishing has been introduced between February 1st and May 31st along with a catch-and-kill ban. It was at the request of Denmark's Sportsfishing Association and similar interest groups that this very welcome initiative saw the light of day. Initiatives of this nature comprise an important step forward in restoring the southern-Zealand pike stocks to their previous levels.

Conservation Periods, Minimum Sizes, and Bag Limits
Fishing Zealand will continue to propose new recom-

mendations for fish stocks that require sustainable management and increased protection by means of conservation periods, minimum sizes and so-called bag limits. This, for instance, applies to the predatory fish in the Zealand lakes: perch, zander and pike - but it also applies to coastal seatrout.

Aside from a few club waters with special rules, it is currently legally permitted to kill an unlimited number of zanders, as long as they measure a minimum of 50 cm. Here,

"Here, Fishing Zealand proposes that catch limits be introduced, so that a maximum of two zanders per fisherman per day can be harvested"

Fishing Zealand proposes that catch limits be introduced so that a maximum of two zanders per fisherman per day can be harvested. Additionally, Fishing Zealand proposes to introduce a minimum and maximum size of 50 and 70 cm respectively.

Sustainable regulations are expected to result in the following positive long-term effects:



CATCH & RELEASE TIPS

With sustainability in mind – and Fishing Zealand's aspirations for introducing new catch-and-kill restrictions – it is important that anglers practice catch & release correctly so as to not cause excessive mortality in the fish stocks. A fish that is handled incorrectly might not survive after being released.

Here are ten basic rules that you should adhere to as far as possible when you fish waters where catch & release is either mandatory or recommended.

1. Fish with equipment that is powerful enough to fight and handle the fish you are after.
2. Have a long, knotless fishing net by your side.
3. Remember unhooking pliers!
4. Avoid laying the fish on surfaces that will damage its slime layer.
5. Avoid unnecessary handling of the fish.
6. Have the fish as much as possible in the water during handling – especially on hot and sunny days.
7. If you can't unhook the fish in the water, place it on a wet surface – or even better, a wet unhooking mat.
8. Do not squeeze the organs of the fish or damage its gills during handling.
9. Be sure that the fish has regained its strength before releasing it.
10. When coarse fishing, set the hook as soon as the bite is detected – so the fish doesn't swallow the hook too deeply.

• Better fishing

In terms of increased average length and more fully-grown individuals.

• Increased spawning biomass

More mature fish of different sizes that contribute to and ensure future generations of predatory fish.

• Better and healthier size structure

Ensures that the entire stocks rest not only on one (or a few) year groups, something that will, otherwise, make them vulnerable.

• Little impact on the biggest specimens

Ensures the so-called trophy fish that are highly attractive and sought-after among fishermen. Also ensures the continuation of strong genes and solid contributions to the egg pool – and for some species also more viable eggs – during spawning.

• Catch restrictions provide anglers with more fish for the pot

Restrictions on the number of fish killed can reduce the risk of stock depletion, and at the same time, the harvested fish are distributed among more fishermen.

• Far more sustainable fishing

The achievement of a fishery that is less vulnerable to over-fishing and provides more opportunities for good experiences.

• More members of the fishing clubs

As fishing becomes better in the fishing club waters, this will provide a basis for increased club membership.

• Greater value for society

Several reports and surveys show that angling has great economic value for society. Measures that are capable of ensuring sustainable fishing will also generate greater economic benefits for society in general.

The idea is basically that good fishing waters should be developed and managed soundly and that a resulting increase in recreational fishing tourism can provide a basis for increased socio-economic growth and, consequently, contribute to greater focus on and improvements in the natural and aquatic environment. With the right measures, we believe that the full potential of our Zealand fisheries can be fulfilled and reach an equilibrium!

Further reading:

Sustainable Limitations: www.fishingzealand.dk/baeredygtigt-lystfiskeri/baeredygtigebegraensninger/

Fishing Zealand online

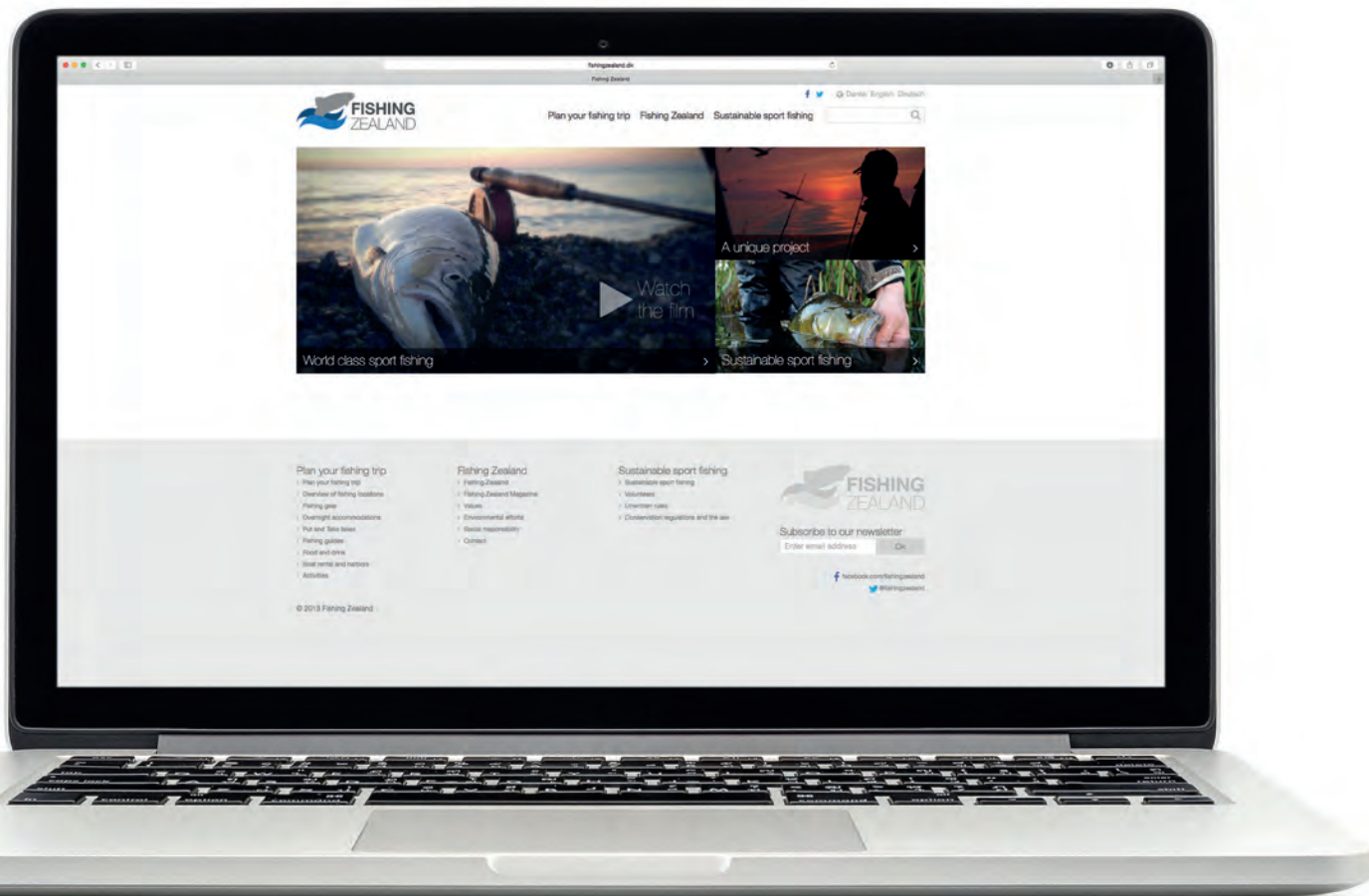
We hope that Fishing Zealand Magazine has provided you with some good input. Fishing Zealand, however, is much more than what has been outlined in this magazine. Therefore, we'd like to direct your attention to our website (www.fishingzealand.dk) and our activities on Facebook. On both of these platforms, you can keep up-to-date with current news and events.

Furthermore, you'll find:

- Frequent blog entries from a long list of freelance writers
- Invitations to upcoming events
- Information and background for new initiatives
- Film releases
- Descriptions of fishing spots
- Reports and other publications

And much, much more...

Catch Fishing Zealand on Facebook: www.facebook.com/fishingzealand





See You on the Water!



facebook.com/fishingzealand



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ZEALAND**

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