



*A special stopper that is inserted to a fish trap prevents the ringed seal pup from entering the trap.*

#### FUNNEL STOPPER AND ITS USE:

You can make the special funnel stopper from 6 mm rebar. The stopper must be rigid enough so that the ringed seal cannot spread the funnel of the trap farther than 15 centimeters, as seen in the picture. The stopper is firmly attached to the fish trap using four cable ties.

You can get a stopper for example from FANC's offices in Savonlinna and Lappeenranta. More information about the ringed seal and its conservation, distributors of the stoppers and a video showing how to use the stopper can be found on our site: [www.sll.fi/mita-me-teemme/lajit/saimaannorppa/ringed-seal](http://www.sll.fi/mita-me-teemme/lajit/saimaannorppa/ringed-seal).

# FISH RIGHT WITH A FISH TRAP



**THE WORLD'S MOST ENDANGERED RINGED SEAL, THE SAIMAA RINGED SEAL, LIVES IN LAKE SAIMAA, FINLAND. THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT 300 INDIVIDUALS LEFT. DEATHS CAUSED BY FISHING TACKLE MUST BE STOPPED. LET'S SAVE THE RINGED SEAL!**

**FISHING WITH A FISH TRAP IS A NICE HOBBY AND AN EXCELLENT WAY TO GET FRESH AND HEALTHY FISH ON YOUR DINNER TABLE. FOR THE SAIMAA RINGED SEAL IT IS ALSO A FAR BETTER OPTION THAN FISHNET FISHING. BUT WHEN FISHING WITH A FISH TRAP, YOU MUST BE AWARE OF THE APPLICABLE DO'S AND DON'T'S, PERMISSIONS, LICENSING REQUIREMENTS, AND ETHICAL RULES.**

#### PERMISSIONS AND TAGS IN ORDER

When fishing using a fish trap, you always need a separate fishing permission of the owner of the water area. In addition to this a fishing management fee must be paid by people between 18 and 64 years of age (according to the new fishing legislative proposal from the year 2015 onward by everyone who is over 18).

The Fishing Act states that fishing nets must be clearly marked and tagged with a name and contact information.

#### FISHING RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO THE RINGED SEAL

According to the trap type regulation and the fishing restriction agreement, it is forbidden to use a fish trap with a funnel wider than 15 centimeters (or so loose that the seal pup can enter it) during the spring in the Saimaa ringed seal territories. Therefore, when fishing on Saimaa Lake, one should use a sturdy enough fish trap with a tight funnel, or equip an ordinary fish trap with a so-called funnel stopper or its equivalent (for example cable ties) so the funnel cannot be expanded.

#### WHAT TO FISH WITH A FISH TRAP?

A fish trap is especially suitable for fishing perch, pike, roach and burbot. A fish trap is usually used in the summer time, but is suitable also for winter fishing. You can try to attract fish to the fish trap using for example twigs or baits.

Good spots for catching pike using a fish trap are e.g. borders of rushes. Burbot can be caught using a fish trap during its spawning period at its breeding ground. Perch and roach can be found at coastal waters amidst aquatic plants and at the borders of underwater rock outcrops.

#### CAUTION WHILE USING A FISH TRAP

A fish trap must be put in water so that it is fully submerged, or the part of the funnel that is above the water must be closed. Also, when a fish trap is on dry land, you must, by closing its funnel, make sure it won't turn out to be the death trap of a bird or any other animal.

The fish trap must be checked often enough, depending on the conditions, usually once every 1–2 days.

#### FISH HANDLING

Fish too small in size must always be released and let back to the water. Otherwise the catch should be handled appropriately: stun, bleed, gut, chill. Cook and enjoy!

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The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation is taking part in the EU-financed project Saimaa Ringed Seal – LIFE in 2013–2018. The aim of the project is, in collaboration with different actors, to enhance the conservation of the Saimaa ringed seal and acquire a prosperous level of conservation through versatile measures. The part of the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation in the project is focused on different campaigns as well as work on communication, enlightenment and environmental education.



**A FISH TRAP WITH A LOOSE FUNNEL IS A THREAT TO SAIMAA RINGED SEAL PUPS. FISH TRAPS WITH LOOSE OR WIDE FUNNELS ARE PROHIBITED IN THE MAIN RINGED SEAL TERRITORIES, BUT NEVERTHELESS, THEY CAN STILL BE FOUND BY FISHING INSPECTORS.**

**GET A STURDY FISH TRAP WITH A TIGHT FUNNEL, OR MAKE AN INADEQUATE FISH TRAP SAFE FOR RINGED SEALS BY INSERTING A SPECIAL STOPPER INTO IT.**

PICTURE: JUHA TASKINEN



#### LET'S SAVE THE RINGED SEAL!

The Saimaa ringed seal will no longer be under the imminent threat of extinction once the population has grown to 400 individuals. Support our work for the conservation of the ringed seal by calling 0600 17110 (5 euros/call). You can also support our work on the Internet [www.sll.fi/lahjoita](http://www.sll.fi/lahjoita) or by making a donation to our bank account SAMPO FI94 8000 1600 0988 50 (message: ringed seal).

