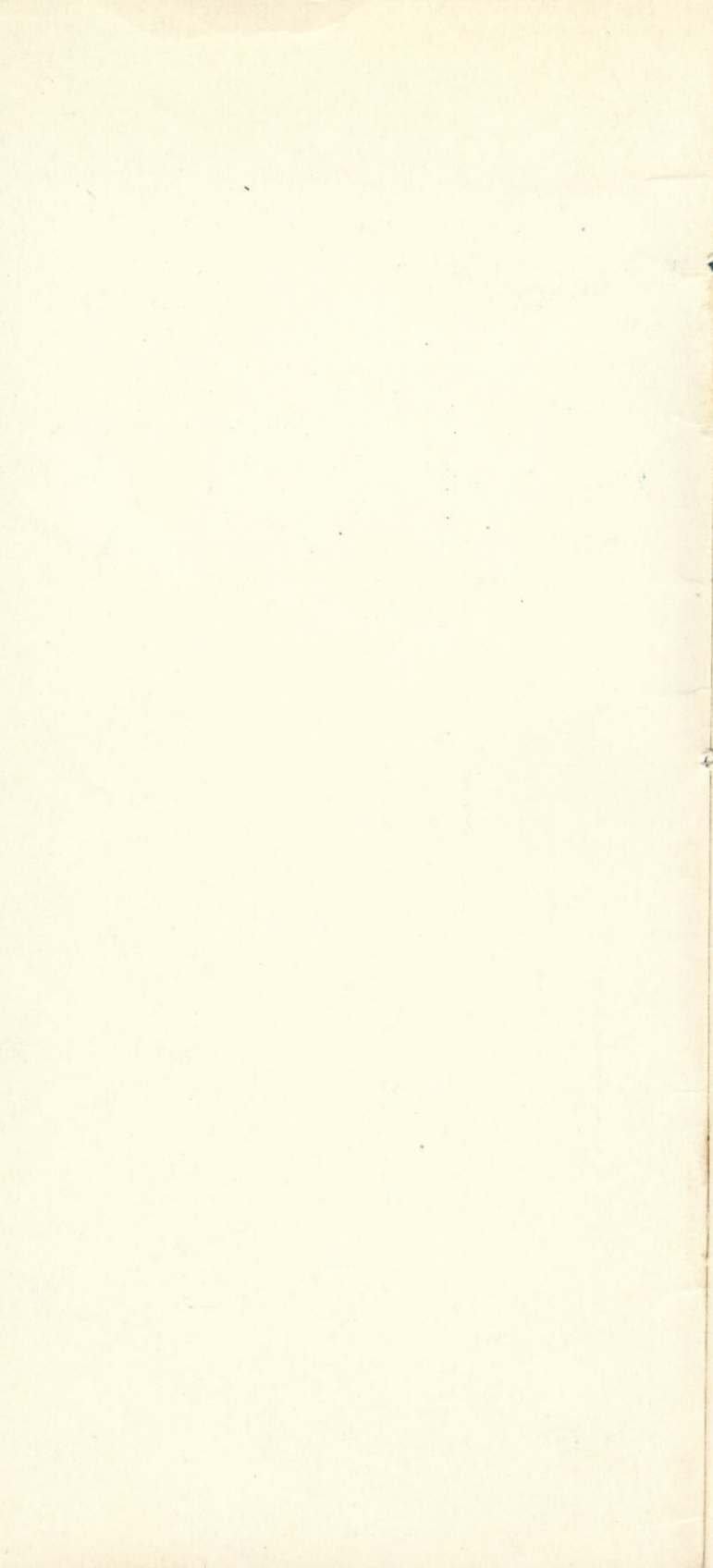


FISHING IN *Finland*







Fishing

in
Finland

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FISHING IN FINLAND

Finland is as rich in running water as in lakes. No novelist or poet describing the Finnish landscape omits to include a foaming rapid. Even the ancient epos Kalevala contains an allegorical description of a rapid and of what must have been a monster salmon.

The multitude of small streams and rivulets that is a feature of the Finnish landscape and the prevalence of rapids are due to the same unique configuration of the land that is responsible for the tens of thousands of lakes which even on a small-scale map give Finland the appearance of being honeycombed with waters. There are few large rivers and hardly any that are navigable for more than short stretches; either rapids block the way or else the river dissolves into a tracery of narrow waters flowing from every direction.

The fisherman whipping a Finnish rapid or trolling a spinner in one of the lakes is thus not missing the ordinary pleasures afforded by the Finnish landscape. Indeed, compared with the tourist he has the best of it. For not only is he in intimate communion with Finnish nature at its most characteristic, but he has his absorbing sport into the bargain. And even if, while absorbed in his sport, he has little attention over for his surroundings, these nevertheless do impress themselves on him. When he recalls his fishing holiday he will remember the brilliant sunshine, the gold and violet of evening and the shimmering transparent twilight of the northern white night over forest, fell, lake and rapid, the clear invigorating air, the fresh, virginal landscape — in a word, the special charm of Finland.



Fishing is a popular sport in Finland.

Fish Species, Fishing Rights and Fees.

The main consideration for the fisherman, however, is of course fish. In Finland he will find, among game fish, salmon (*Salmo salar*), sea trout (*Salmo trutta*), lake trout (*Salmo lacustris*), trout (*Salmo faris*), lavaret (*Coregonus lavaretus*, a freshwater fish unknown in English waters) and grayling (*Thymallus vulgaris*). Coarse fish species fished with rod and spinner are pike, perch and pike-perch.

The chief game fishing waters from the foreign visitor's point of view, arranged according to the region in which they are situated, are described in this booklet. Coarse fishing can be practised anywhere by amateur fishermen without fee or licence, except in certain populous coast districts and parts of the archipelago, where owners of fishing rights were compelled to prohibit unauthorised fishing to prevent a too wholesale destruction of the stock. Trout under a foot in length have to be returned, unless so badly injured that they are unlikely to live. Any country hotel, tourist inn or boarding house can arrange at least pike and perch fishing for guests.

Fishing rights are invested in the landowner or the State. Most of the State-owned game fishing waters can be fished on payment of a very moderate fee. These fees, which cover a single day or longer periods, are mentioned in connection with the descriptions of the individual waters.

The best private waters have been leased either by the *Suomen Urheilukalastajain Liitto* (Finnish Game Fishermen's League) or by private fishing clubs.

The private fishing clubs, whose membership is strictly limited, own the fishing rights in specific waters, which they strictly preserve.

Owing to the nature of the banks, fly-fishing is mostly from boats. The ordinary rate of payment for boatmen is 10 marks (about 1/—; 20 cents) per hour; 15 marks (1/6; 30 cents) for a single hour. In remote waters where regular boatmen are lacking, the fisherman may have to make his own agreement with a boat-owner. The extra payment demanded may be anything up to an additional sixpence per hour, but not more, and is justified by the circumstance that the man is interrupting his regular occupation.

Transport and accommodation.

An ideal way of organizing a fishing expedition would be to proceed by car from place to place at the angler's own convenience, as nearly all the places dealt with in this paper are easily reached by car. Not many foreign visitors, however, are likely to bring their own cars, and as the cost of hiring for a round tour may be more than some visitors are prepared to pay, the best means of transport (rail or motorbus) are mentioned in connection with each place.

Travelling expenses are exceedingly low. For example, a second class railway ticket from Helsinki to Rovaniemi, 604 miles, (973 kilometres) costs only 239 marks (about 1 guinea: \$ 4.75) and from Helsinki via Viipuri to Imatra, 239 miles, (385 kms) 135 marks, via Virasoja, 208 miles, (336 kms) 122 marks (11/—; \$ 2.50) with an extra 60 marks (5/3; \$ 1.20) in each case for a sleeping-berth. Motorbus tariffs are usually only 40—60 pennis (average: 1/2 d or 1 cent) per kilometre. Thus the journey from Rovaniemi to Iijinahamari on the Arctic coast, 330 miles, (531 kms) in the excellent Government mail motorcars costs 117 marks (10/3; \$ 2.40). For private cars the charge is generally at the rate of 3 marks (3 d; 6 cents) a kilometre.

The quarters and food available vary greatly. Where tourist traffic is at all lively there are good clean hotels and inns, but elsewhere the angler may have to put up with very modest lodging or even camp out in the open. The real sportsman, however, is used to such conditions and inclined to accept them as part of the game, provided the fishing is worth the trouble. Many of the hotels at which an angler will probably stay are under the management of the Finnish Tourist Association, and in these the tariff is generally the same everywhere, viz., 75—95 marks (7/— — 9/—; \$ 1.50—2.00) per day for full board. English and German are spoken at these hotels. At other establishments, where the standard of accommodation is lower, the tariff may be considerably cheaper.

For the kind of accommodation available at any particular site, see the descriptions of the individual fishing waters.



The Great Arctic Highway leading to the Arctic Coast is skirting many beautiful lakes.

Notes.

In some fishing waters, especially those in the far north and the Kuusamo district, the fisherman may meet with mosquitoes and gnats. These insects are absolutely harmless; they are not germ-carriers as in the tropics. Comfort can be ensured by a mosquito-net that protects the face and neck; a little citron oil rubbed on exposed parts of the body will also keep mosquitoes away.

Place-names will perhaps be easier to memorize if the fisherman remembers that the suffixes *-joki*, *-järvi*, *-koski* mean, respectively, -river, -lake, -rapids. The suffix *-köngäs*, met with only in Lapland, means a «fall». Examples: Oulujoki = Oulu-river, Inarijärvi = Inari-lake, Pyhäkoski = Pyhä-rapids, Kolttaköngäs = Koltta-fall.

Map of Finland (Suomen kartta, in book-form, scale 1 : 400,000, Fmks. 100:—; 10/—; \$ 2.—), published by the Board of Survey, is very useful to anglers.

The Finnish Tourist Association (Suomen Matkailijayhdistys), Helsinki, Aleksanterinkatu 7 A, supplies any information desired regarding travelling in Finland.

WATERS FLOWING INTO THE ARCTIC OCEAN

THE MOST interesting waters, and those holding most fish, are situated in Lapland and the Petsamo area, so that the very region that attracts most tourists by the beauty and unique character of its landscape is now most in favour among fishermen as well. One good result of the popularity of Lapland among tourists is that travel conditions in this vast, sparsely populated area have been properly organized. The State owns the fishing rights in this region, and game fishing is consequently open to everyone, irrespective of nationality, at a moderate fee. Communications and hotel accommodation have been developed to a satisfactory level by the State and the Finnish Tourist Association. From Rovaniemi station modern motor-buses carry passengers right to the Arctic coast along the unique Great Arctic Highway, the only automobile road in the world to the shores of the Arctic Ocean.

Trout, grayling, pike and perch can be caught with rod and line in nearly every lake or stream, however small, in this well watered region, but actual game fishing is



The Virtaniemi tourist inn is especially favoured by anglers.

concentrated in the best stations, situated near the highways, of which detailed descriptions are given below.

Virtaniemi, 216 miles (348 kms) distant from Rovaniemi and 33 miles (53 kms) from Ivalo, on the main road from Ivalo to Petsamo at the point where the River Paatsjoki, which flows into the Arctic Ocean, leaves the wild and beautiful lake Inarijärvi. The Finnish Tourist Association's inn is beautifully situated on the road above the crystal clear water. About a mile downstream from the inn are the first of the many Paatsjoki rapids, each more magnificent than the other, with small stills in between. The rapids in the River Paatsjoki are still in a state of nature, with the exception of the Jäniskoski rapids, about 10 miles from Virtaniemi, on which a nickel mining concern has built a large power station. They are first class waters for trout and grayling, while the stills can be fished for pike and perch. The uppermost rapids are the best known and the most frequented owing to their proximity to the inn and the provision of several rowing boats, specially reserved for fishermen, in this stretch, a further advantage being that they are easily reached by road, as the highway runs quite close to the river for a distance of about 3 miles (5 kms). The rapids farther downstream are difficult of access. The River Paatsjoki can be fished from the bank in many places, but the best catches and the biggest fish are caught from a boat either just at the head or the foot of the rapids and the currents between the rapids. When the trout are rising well, it is not uncommon for an angler to catch 20—30 trout and grayling, the biggest up to 2 kgs (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs).

The lake trout in Lake Inarijärvi, which reach a weight of 6—8 kgs (13—17 lbs), and char, as well as pike and perch can be caught by trolling along the channels from Virtaniemi in the direction of Inari. Expeditions in that direction by rowing-boat or the motorboat that can be hired from the inn are well worth while. The lake trout in Lake Inarijärvi do not appear to descend farther down the River Paatsjoki than about two miles from Virtaniemi. On this stretch, however, good catches of lake trout can be made in August during the dark part of the night.

Virtaniemi is a fishing station especially favoured by anglers, in particular by British anglers, owing to the good stock of fish and the convenient communications and good accommodation at the inn. For this reason the inn is usually full of travellers, and accommodation, boatman and fishing times should therefore be booked in advance, as the supply of boats and oarsmen is by no means unlimited.

The best fishing season is in July and August. Trout rise best in the morning and in the evening up to midnight, sometimes especially well at night; grayling are caught in the middle of the day, which is perhaps the best time for this fish. The best catches are made between 3 and 6 p.m., and 3.30—9 a.m.

The flies recommended are medium-sized trout and grayling flies: Stone Fly, Bridge, Mallard Claret and Blue, Heckum and Orange, Teal and Red, Alder, Red Tag, March Brown, Zulu, Alexandra, the small salmon-flies Silver Doctor, Black Doctor and Silver Grey. As regards spinners, the following are recommended: a small mother of pearl or copper spoon, a silver Devon, a medium sized silver-gold spoonbait, a pike-tinted wooden spinner, etc. Those on the lookout for big grayling should try 3/0—5/0 salmon-flies.

The fishing rights are owned by the State. Licence, payable at the inn, 25 marks (2/3; 50 cents) per day. The oarsman's charge is 15 marks (1/3; 30 cents) per hour; for six hours or over in any single day the charge is only 10 marks (1/—; 20 cents) per hour.

Proud anglers. Paatsjoki.



Nautsi, 18 miles (30 kms) north of Virtaniemi on the main road, on the River Nautsijoki, which flows into the River Paatsjoki. A decent state inn, not however to be compared with a hotel in the matter of conveniences. Trout and grayling of no great size can be caught in the River Nautsijoki a little way above the inn, but the best places are about a mile and a half away in the chain of rapids in the River Paatsjoki called Rajakoski, several miles long (on the frontier between Finland and Norway), where the best place is the broad current below the last rapids and around the islands. This beautiful part of the River Paatsjoki, typical of virgin Lapland nature, has latterly attracted more fishermen than before. Fishing is best done from boats, which, with oarsmen, have to be procured from the inn.

Fishing season and tackle the same as at Virtaniemi.

Höyhenjärvi. About 12 miles (20 kms) to the north of Nautsi on the Petsamo highway is the Höyhenjärvi Inn, from where the Hevoskoski Rapids, about a mile away, can be reached by boat. This rapids and the currents above and below it are good places for trout and grayling. In the current below the rapids and in the surge above it are the biggest lake-salmon (weighing up to 18 lbs) of the Paatsjoki waters caught. The left or northern half of the rapids is, as is the case with the rest of the Paatsjoki waters from Nautsi (Rajakoski) to Kolttaköngäs, Norwegian territory, which can be fished only by special permission from the authorities on that side.

A Koltta Lapp woman of Kolttaköngäs cleaning a salmon.





A salmon weighing 38 lbs caught at Kolttaköngäs.

Kolttaköngäs (Boris Gleb), the last and most powerful of the rapids on the River Paatsjoki, flowing from Lake Inarijärvi into the Arctic Ocean. High, rocky cliffs hem in the river on this part of its course. The rapids consist of a sheer waterfall twelve feet high, which no fish can pass, and beyond this a stretch of rough water about half a mile long gradually merging into the fjord called Bökfjord. The tides are so much felt in the lower part of the rapids that they determine the best times for fishing. On the west bank of Kolttaköngäs is a church built long ago by monks, an ancient dwelling-place of the Koltta (Skoltje) Lapps, with many interesting features, and the modern tourist inn of the Finnish Tourist Association, crowded during the height of the tourist season to its utmost capacity.

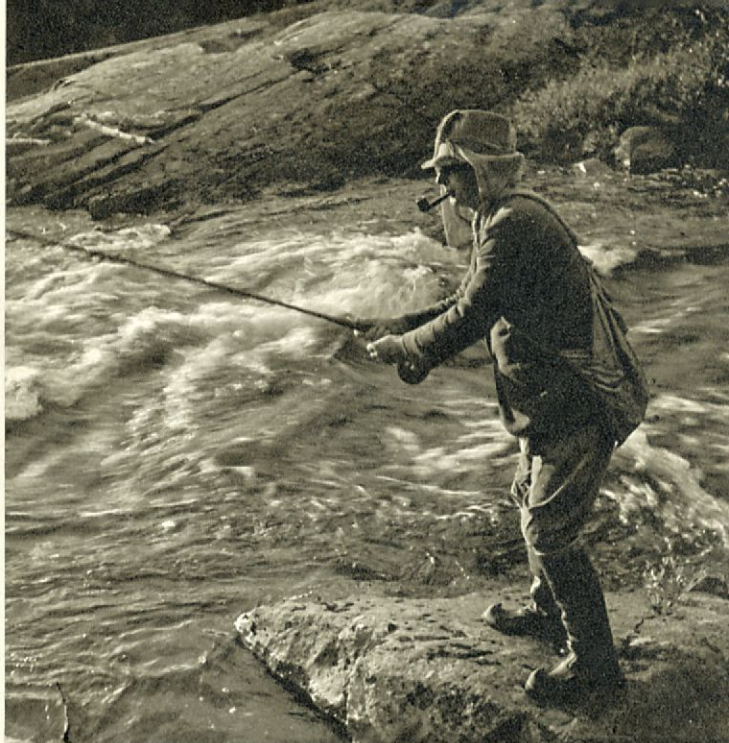


A happy coincidence. These two salmon were caught at the same moment at Kolttaköngäs.

Kolttaköngäs is reached from Salmijärvi (on the Great Arctic Highway 280 miles (452 kms) from Rovaniemi and 64 miles (104 kms) from Virtaniemi) by bus or private car passing en route (18 miles; 30 kms) the mighty Jäniskoski Rapids and crossing Kolttaköngäs by the new road bridge; an alternative route is to proceed by the Government vessel »Jäämeri» from Liinahamari, the terminus of the Great Arctic Highway, to Kirkenes in Norway (a voyage of 6—7 hours) and thence by motorboat (1 1/2 hours) to Kolttaköngäs. Kirkenes can also be reached by the Norwegian steamers which ply round the North Cape to this stretch of the Arctic coast.

Salmon running up the River Paatsjoki from the sea spend some time in the rapids and currents below the fall and at the base of the fjord. Some of them rise up the ladder at the fall to the upper waters, others return to the sea in a few days or weeks, and a small proportion remain in the rapids till the autumn to spawn.

The fishing season at Kolttaköngäs lasts from about the middle of June into the second half of August (fishing is legal from the beginning of May to Sept. 15th), and fishing is almost entirely from boats; casting from the bank is only possible from a few places near the fall. The custom is to have two rods out at the same time and to let the current work the bait, while the oarsman holds the boat against the stream. Casting from the boat is seldom attempted.



Casting from the bank at Yläluostari.

Fishing is carried on for 3—5 hours during the ebb and flow of the tide. At high and low tide the boats are not usually out. As the fishing area is restricted, only four boats are permitted to be afloat at the same time, with the Lapps' own boat crew as a fifth. The work of rowing the boats is a special privilege of the Lapps living in the Koltta Lapp village, and their remuneration, unless otherwise agreed, is 10 marks (1/—; 20 cents) per hour. These Koltta Lapps are admirable oarsmen and know how to take the angler to the best places, and after a strike to guide the boat to still water, where they skilfully gaff the salmon.

The fishing licence, which also goes to benefit the Kolttas, is 25 marks (2/3; 50 cents) per day or part thereof when a single rod is used, and 40 marks (3/6; 80 cents) if two rods are used. For fishing from the bank only the fee is 25 marks (2/3; 50 cents) per day.

At Kolttaköngäs salmon are not, it is true, caught every day, but those that are caught are almost without exception large, sometimes weighing over 20 kgs (44 lbs). The angler should therefore use his best and strongest tackle and, having got his fly or lure in the water, should always be ready for the powerful pull of a big salmon.

In addition to salmon, trout and grayling are sometimes caught at Kolttaköngäs, but in general no one tries for these species in the hope of securing a big salmon.



Long waders are useful when fishing the River Petsamojoki.

The flies recommended are the big number 6/0 and 5/0 Silver Doctor, Silver Jock Scott, Silver Lion, Silver King, Dusty Miller, Mar Lodge, Waverley, Murdoch and Black Prince; the spinners recommended are the Norwegian silvertinted Delphin, the American big wooden spinners and the big Silver Devon. In general a bright silver colour seems to have a special attraction for the Kolttaköngäs salmon.

Jäniskoski and Väliniva. These two rapids in the River Paatsjoki above Kolttaköngäs are worth trying by those who have come as far as Kolttaköngäs. The Jäniskoski Rapids, about 2 miles up the river, are regarded by many as being even mightier and more interesting than Kolttaköngäs. At the head of the rapids a ladder has been dynamited in the rock on the Finnish side (the eastern bank). Under the fall the rapids continue on a less steeply inclined plane, yet here, too, the boiling waters foam white for several hundred yards to the backwater below, which stretches, almost smooth except for the intervening smaller Väliniva Rapids, down to Kolttaköngäs. In the lower stretches of the Jäniskoski Rapids, fishing is possible here and there from the bank, but the best place for trout, grayling and even salmon is from a boat rowed below the rapids. It should be noted that salmon now ascend the ladder at Kolttaköngäs to the backwater below Jäniskoski in fairly large numbers.



A nights catch in the River Petsamojoki.

On the Finnish bank of the Jäniskoski Rapids the Finnish Tourist Association owns a shelter (key on application to the Kolttaköngäs inn), where fishermen can spend the night. The shelter is equipped with 4 beds, a cooking range and essential cooking utensils and table service.

On the way to Jäniskoski and on the return trip the angler should try his luck at Väliniva, halfway between Kolttaköngäs and Jäniskoski, where grayling in particular rise easily to flies or a small spoon.

Petsamojoki. On the Petsamo road, 312 miles (502 kms) from Rovaniemi, 95 (154) from Virtaniemi and 31 (50) from Salmijärvi, is the Yläluostari Inn owned by the Finnish Tourist Association. About 3 miles up the river Petsamojoki from this inn, which occupies a fine site in a setting of high fells, is the Lohilinna fishing inn, also owned by the Tourist Association. Midway between the two inns is the old monastery of Yläluostari with an interesting Greek Orthodox church and other buildings. With the inns as a base, anglers can make expeditions with one of the inn guides to the River Petsamojoki, which rises far away in the Petsamo fells and follows an exceptionally tortuous course, with frequent stretches of broken water, past Yläluostari to the base of Petsamo Fjord, where it flows into the sea near Alaluostari (Lower Monastery). The river is comparatively narrow along most of its course and in many places it is shallow enough to be forded (in



The winding course of the River Petsamojoki.

normal seasons), but here and there are pockets, locally known as «lompolos», which are sometimes very deep and hold the biggest salmon. Salmon and smaller sea trout ascend the Petsamojoki from the Arctic in great numbers; there are also large river trout. The method of fishing is casting from the shore or wading, for which long waders are essential. The best places are between the monastery and the village of Moskova and again beyond the village. Moskova village can be reached by car (abt. 6 miles of straight road). With the exception of this Koltta Lapp village and the village of Puska a short distance upstream,

the banks of the Petsamojoki above Yläluostari are wholly uninhabited and in a state of virgin nature. The only trees are scattered stunted birches, which, with the level carpet of lichen give the landscape a peculiar savannah-like character.

The fishing rights belong to the State. The legal salmon-fishing season is from the beginning of May to Sept. 1st. The fee for fishing (licences obtainable at the inn) is 25 marks (2/3; 50 cents) per day, or 500 marks (£ 2/4—; \$ 10. —) for the whole season.

Tackle as at Kolttaköngäs.



The Lohilinna fishing inn on the bank of the River Petsamojoki.

Liinahamari, terminus of the Great Arctic Highway, the only automobile road in the world to the Arctic coast, Finland's only ocean harbour, ice-free all through the winter. Finnish Tourist Association's inn of a good standard of comfort. A suitable place for delightful rambles, exceedingly interesting to students of nature, among the surrounding fells, and at low tide along the shore of the fjord, whose varied Arctic flora and fauna fascinate by their novelty. Rather good catches of sea trout can be made by trolling from a boat along the shores of the fjord and casting from the shore during the latter half of the summer. Black flies (Zulu) have yielded good results. Such fishing is free. The payment for boats and oarsmen can be agreed on beforehand at the inn.

Liinahamari is a suitable place for expeditions on the Arctic Ocean to the Heinäsaaret Islands and Kirkenes in Norway (see above). Those interested can also arrange to accompany one of the fishing vessels to watch the deep sea fishing in Petsamo Fjord or out in the Arctic.

Rahakoski, 10 miles (17 kms) from Ivalo on the highway to Inari is the name given to a succession of rapids more than half a mile long in all, consisting of several falls with intervening stills, flowing from Lake Rahajärvi into Lake Ukonjärvi. The banks are thickly covered with boulders, but casting with flies or small spoons presents no difficulties. The rapids contain many trout and grayling, and lake trout of some size occasionally ascend from Lake Inarijärvi towards the autumn.

The district is uninhabited, but there is a shelter on the bank of the rapids beside the highway. The fishing rights belong to the State. Licence 25 marks ($\frac{2}{3}$; 50 cents) per day, which may be paid at the Ivalo tourist inn before setting out for the rapids.

Juutuanjoki (also called Joenjoki), the river which collects all the water from the fell region west of Lake Inarijärvi, flows out of Lake Paadarjärvi through Lake Solojärvi into the western end of Lake Inarijärvi close to the village of Inari. From Lake Solojärvi the river is about 7 miles long and abounds in rapids with scarcely any still water between. The neighbourhood is typical uninhabited Lapland country. From the village of Inari one can proceed by car for about 2 miles along the river. The rest of the journey can only be made on foot if the traveller intends to visit the upper reaches of the river, where there is a Lapp homestead called Jurmu, which can supply a boat and oarsman for fishing in the upper rapids. Casting is possible, however, from the banks of most of the rapids. There are plenty of trout and grayling in the river, and lake trout of some size also run up from Lake Inarijärvi in the first half of August.

The Tourist Association maintains a modern tourist inn on the river bank in the village of Inari, where rowing boats and a motorboat can also be hired for fishing in Lake Inarijärvi.

The fishing rights are owned by the State. Licence 25 marks ($\frac{2}{3}$; 50 cents) per day, payable at the tourist inn.

The same tackle is recommended as for Virtaniemi. However, later on in the autumn it is best to use 2/0—4/0 salmon-flies or a copper spoon for lake-salmon.

Interior of the Lohilinna fishing inn.





Fishing by the light of the Midnight Sun.

Lemmenjoki. From Jurnu on the upper River Juutuanjoki a trip can be made, if a boat and an oarsman can be secured, through Lakes Solojärvi and Paadarjärvi to the River Lemmenjoki, which flows from the south-west. While crossing the lakes the fisherman can troll for lake trout and char. Trout and grayling abound in the River Lemmenjoki, which is famous for its beauty and lies in wholly virgin surroundings in the fairest kind of Lapland scenery. The river can be fished in many places by casting from the bank. An expedition to this river takes at least 4 days. Camping out necessary the whole time.

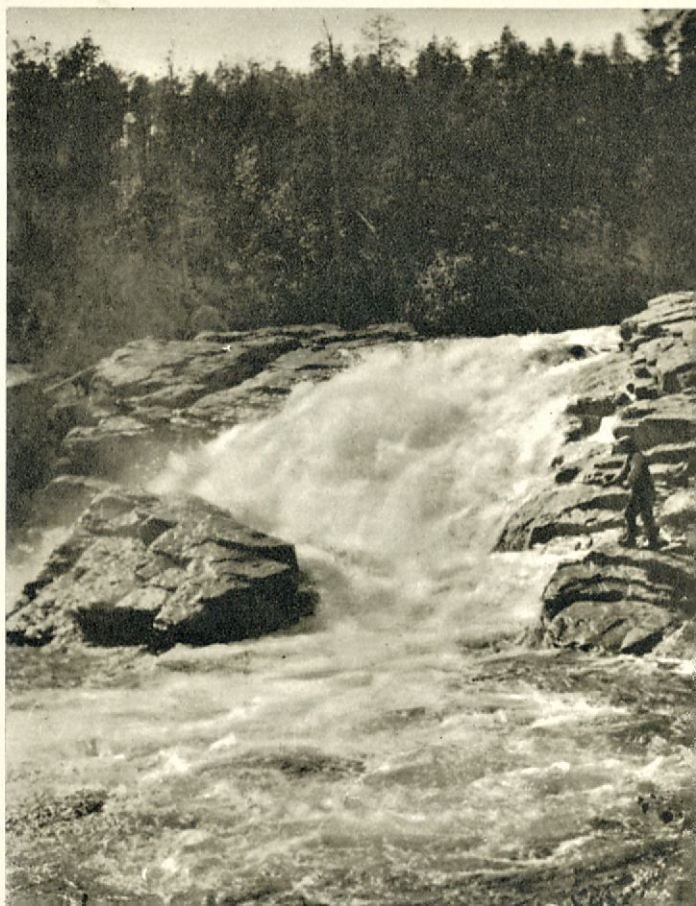
Keptukoski. Some rapids on the upper River Keptujoki between Lakes Muddusjärvi and Paadarjärvi 2 miles south of the Riutula Children's Home form a good, but short stretch of water for grayling and trout. Fishing can only be done from a boat. The place is difficult to reach.

The angler must proceed about 7 miles on foot from Inari village to Riutula along a footpath, or else by car for about 4 miles from Inari along the new Kaamanen highway to the Sikovuono inlet in Lake Muddusjärvi and thence by boat for about 5 miles. The only place where a boat can be obtained is Riutula, so that fishermen who choose this route must order a boat from Riutula by telephone to meet them at Sikovuono. From Riutula the journey is then continued by boat to the rapids. While crossing Lake Muddusjärvi trolling should be tried for lake trout and char.

Food and possibly lodging for the night can be obtained at Riutula. The charge is voluntary and helps to support the Children's Home. It is also hoped that anglers will give away their catch to the Home for the same purpose.

Tenojoki, a river on the northernmost frontier between Finland and Norway, is one of the most beautiful and best stocked waters in Finland. Access to the river is, however, still so difficult that very few foreign anglers go so far. When the road from the village of Inari is completed to Utsjoki, this river will probably become the most important fishing station in Lapland. The best salmon-flies are Snow Fly, Black Prince, Cainer and Kate.

The Ravadas falls in the River Lemmenjoki.





A contented angler by the River Oulujoki.

WATERS FLOWING INTO THE GULF OF BOTHNIA

FOR PRACTICAL purposes the only rivers flowing into the Gulf of Bothnia in which salmon, sea trout, trout, grayling, lavaret, pike and perch are to be found, are the rivers Tornionjoki and Muonionjoki, Kemijoki, Iijoki and Oulujoki. These rank among the biggest rivers in the country and all contain numerous first class fishing waters, but fishing conditions and housing accommodation are unfortunately still unorganized and the visiting angler from abroad will encounter difficulties unless accompanied by a Finn. A happy exception in this respect is formed by the River Oulujoki, and the following brief descriptions are given of the best fishing places on that river.

Oulujoki, the big river flowing from Lake Oulujärvi into the Gulf of Bothnia, is famous for its magnificent long rapids. Before road traffic was developed in this region and the railway built, goods were transported down the river in long narrow boats, which could be navigated down the whole length of the river. At present boats of this type are used only for tourist traffic. An experience that will

not easily be forgotten is the descent of the Niskakoski Rapids with its abrupt breakers in one of the fully reliable boats of the Finnish Tourist Association, and still more the descent of the Pyhäkoski Rapids, during which the boat, deftly steered through the raging waves, is carried down 11 miles (18 kms) of unbroken rapids between high wooded banks almost as fast as a railway train.

Salmon and sea trout ascend the River Oulujoki in large numbers as far as Vaala. From Lake Oulujärvi lake trout and lavaret descend into the river, but are only found in any considerable numbers in the upper reaches. The river also holds trout, grayling, pike and perch. The biggest salmon weigh over 20 kgs (44 lbs), the sea trout usually 4—6 kgs (9—14 lbs), the lake trout 0.5—4 kgs (1—9 lbs), and grayling 1—2 kgs (2—5 lbs). The angler must consequently be provided with strong tackle and very long lines.

Salmon, sea trout and lavaret fishing rights belong to the State, but have been leased to the local fishing association. The association issues whole-season fishing cards covering all species of fish to foreign sportsmen at 100 marks (10/—; \$ 2.00) for any specific beat.

Pyhäkoski Rapids. A boat and reliable oarsman (best ordered in advance through the Finnish Tourist Association's agent) must be secured from the Ojalanoja railway halt. Except for a restaurant of the Finnish Tourist Association in Leppiniemi, there are no hotels or inns near the rapids, so that the angler has to carry some provisions with him. At the head of the rapids, on the right bank, is the State fish hatchery for increasing the stock of fish in this river. Fishing is begun at the head of the rapids, after which the boat slowly descends the river. It is advisable to have two rods out the whole time. Besides for

The rapids on the River Oulujoki can only be fished from a boat





On the River Oulujoki two or three rods are usually kept out at the same time. Niskakoski rapids.

short rests for food or tea, the angler comes ashore for the night, which can be spent in camp or at some farmhouse conveniently situated about halfway down the river. To fish the rapids from end to end usually takes a couple of days. From the village of Muhos, where the rapids end, the angler can continue his journey either by train or car.

The fishing licence is paid either to the oarsman or to the person to whom he directs the angler. Oarsman's remuneration according to agreement.

Recommended: nos. 3/0—2/0 salmon-flies (double hooks), minnow (loach), wooden minnow and an assortment of spoons.

Vaala. At Vaala, situated at the head of the River Oulujoki in Lake Oulujärvi, the Finnish Tourist Association maintains a hotel. Vaala is easily reached by train or road; the railway halt is just beside the hotel. Boats and experienced oarsmen are at the angler's disposal. It is hardly worth while fishing from the banks. In the vicinity are several rapids, jointly called Niskakoski, at the head and foot of which and in the intervening stills are good casts. Usually two and even three rods are kept out at the same time. The best season is the spring after the ice has gone and in the autumn, but good catches can be made also at other times. In these waters grayling, lavaret and lake trout are the chief species; salmon are rarer, but when caught are generally large.

The flies recommended are the medium sized Silver Doctor, Silver Grey, Jock Scott and Black Doctor. For trolling a wooden minnow, spoon and live minnow.

The licence may be paid either at the hotel or the inn. The oarsman's charge is generally 10—15 marks (1/— —1/6; 20—25 cents) per hour, unless otherwise agreed.

The Selkäkoski rapids at Paanajärvi.



EAST FINNISH WATERS

EAST FINLAND, where the northern rivers flow from Finland into Russia and those in the south in the opposite direction, contains many good fishing waters. Only a few, however, can be recommended to fishermen from abroad as being accessible without excessive trouble and as possessing some kind of ordered accommodation; the rest lack communications and provide no accommodation for the visitor.

Fishing Waters in the Kuusamo Rural Commune.

In the large rural commune of Kuusamo, which extends to the Russian frontier and is famous for the beauty of its landscape, there are many large clear lakes, long rivers and mighty rapids containing lake trout, trout, grayling, lavaret, pike and perch. The fishing waters in this area have not yet been enclosed and there are consequently no restrictions on fishing.

The traveller who wishes to visit the best fishing waters in this district, and at the same time see something of the sights of the locality, should choose the village of Kuusamo for his base. The village can be reached by hired car or by the excellent State mail motorcars, the distances being, 148 miles (240 kms) from Oulu, 119 miles (192 kms) from Rovaniemi, and 152 miles (244 kms) from Kiehimä in the Kajaani district. The People's College in the village is turned into a tourist inn in the summer, and here intending anglers can obtain advice.

The best known fishing places in the Kuusamo district are dealt with below.

Upper and Lower Lakes Kitkajärvi are the biggest lakes and probably hold most fish. The best places are reached by following the road from Kuusamo to Rovaniemi as far as Haataja posting station or to the village of Määttälänvaara, from where it is a few miles by road to Vaarala farmhouse on the shore of Lake Yläkitkajärvi, where a boat and oarsman have to be procured. Yläkitkajärvi is a lake lying west to east, about 30 miles long, big enough in its open reaches for the opposite shore to be out of sight. There are a few homesteads scattered round the lake, but mostly the scene is one of grandly beautiful, untouched forest and hill country. The water is extremely clear, and here and there are fine stretches of sand along the shore. Yläkitkajärvi discharges through a channel called Kilkilösalmi in the east into Lake Alakitkajärvi and via the River Kitkajoki into the River Oulankajoki linking up with Lake Paanajärvi and the big Lake Pääjärvi beyond the frontier.

The best place for lake trout is the broad expanse of water in the middle of the lake known as Vasikkaselkä, and the southern part of this water between Jäkäläinen farm and a height called Vasikkavaara. The method is to

Casting below the Jyrävänköski rapids



troll backward and forward along the broads in a boat, preferably with several lines out at the same time. The usual size of the trout is 2—3 kgs (4—6 lbs), but sometimes a big one of 5—6 kgs (11—14 lbs) is caught. The fish rise best at the new moon, and the best season for lake trout trolling is the early part of September. The best hours are from 7 to noon and between 2 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon; it is not worth while fishing after sunset. Fishermen generally put up at the farms on the shore, viz., Jäkäläinen, Vaarala and Tolvaniemi. The board and lodging provided by these is of a modest nature.

The lake trout fishing in Lake Alakitkajärvi is not so good as in the upper lake.

Besides lake trout fine pike and perch may be taken while rowing along the shores of the lakes.

The River Kitkajoki flows eastward out of Lake Alakitkajärvi into the River Oulankajoki. Along its 20 miles long course lies a succession of magnificent rapids, some of which are navigable by boat, while others are too steep or rocky. Between the rapids are smaller stretches of broken water and stills. The surroundings are mostly virgin wilderness with high rock bluffs and fine old trees. Lake trout from Lakes Pääjärvi and Paanajärvi ascend the river, and there are also plenty of trout, grayling, pike and perch. This river is the best and most comfortable place to fish in the Kuusamo district. The best season is a fortnight or so after Midsummer's Day, but good catches can be made at other times. Fishing is usually done from a boat, but is also possible from the banks in many places. To reach these a boat is necessary in any case as there are no paths along the banks. The biggest lake trout weigh 6—8 kgs (13—17 lbs), grayling over 1 kg (2 lbs), pike several kgs, and perch 1/2—1 kg (1—2 lbs).

No fishing licence. Oarsmen are paid as agreed on with them beforehand.

Modest accommodation is available at the Käylänkoski tourist inn on the Märkjärvi road about 30 miles (47 kms) from Kuusamo. Boats and oarsmen are also provided by the inn. A State fish hatchery for increasing the stock of lake trout, lavaret and grayling in these waters is situated here.

Kiutaköngäs, rapids on the River Oulankajoki with several falls and deep rocky holes between them, situated about 8 miles (13 kms) from Käylänkoski (see above) near the new road to Tuutijärvi. The rapids, set between steep rocky banks, are a magnificent sight. Lake trout from Lake Paanajärvi and from Lake Pääjärvi across the Russian border ascend to the uppermost fall and past this by the ladder blown into the rocky bank and may be fished at Kiutaköngäs in the upper and lower parts of the rapids and all along the river Oulankajoki. When the water is high, however, fishing is difficult owing to the precipitous nature of the banks.



View of the precipitous banks of the Kuuta-köngäs rapids in the River Oulankajoki.

The surroundings are uninhabited wilds, but a shelter furnished with a stove and sleeping berths has been built on the bank of the rapids for the use of tourists.

Lake Paanajärvi. The traveller who comes to Kuusamo will not neglect to visit beautiful Lake Paanajärvi with its high, occasionally precipitous rocky shores. The lake is narrow, but fairly long, about 20 miles, the eastern end touching the frontier between Finland and Russia. The easiest way to reach Lake Paanajärvi is by mail motor car from Kuusamo, but the angler will prefer to descend the River Kitkajoki with his boatman from the Käylänkoski inn. By so doing he is able to fish all the Kitkajoki rapids on the way, and while he is being rowed on Lake Paanajärvi he may catch a big lake trout by trolling.

The most suitable lodgings are provided by the Paanajärvi tourist inn and the Red Cross cottage hospital, where neat rooms and suitable food have been arranged for travellers.

River Kuusinkijoki. The return journey from Lake Paanajärvi to Kuusamo village is best made up the River Kuusinkijoki to Lake Suininkijärvi. This river, which flows into the River Oulankajoki close to the outlet of the latter into Lake Paanajärvi, is almost one continuous stretch of swiftly running water and rapids from Lake Alavuotunkijärvi onward. This part of the river flows so close to the road that it can occasionally be seen from there. The fishing in the river is good. There are plenty of grayling, some trout, and Paanajärvi lake trout, best fished after the floods are over about Midsummer, also ascend the river. Boats cannot be used, so that the angler has to walk along the bank. For casting this river is therefore ideal.

At the lower end of the river flowing from Lake Suininkijärvi into Lake Vuotunkijärvi, near the road bridge,



Whirling waters in the Saimaa Lake district.

there are beautiful rapids which the angler can easily visit from the road.

The other big lakes in the Kuusamo area, **Lakes Sui-ninkijärvi, Kiitämäjärvi, Kirpistönjärvi** and **Muojärvi**, all of which have sandy shores and clear water, are also good fishing waters. Trolling in them sometimes yields very fine results, as all contain lake trout in addition to other fish.

FISHING RAPIDS IN THE SAIMAA LAKE-SYSTEM

FISHERMEN in search of sport in the numerous rapids of North Savo will find the town of Kuopio a comfortable headquarters. The nearest rapids can be fished on day trips from the town.

Palokki Rapids, situated in the Heinävesi rural commune, about 37 miles (60 kms) south-east of Kuopio, are leased at present to the Kuopio Game Fishermen's Association. The chain of 12 rapids, a stretch of several miles of beautifully situated clear water, begins at the big Lake Juojärvi and flows into the Heinävesi waterway (a popular and beautiful lake-steamer route). The rapids contain lake trout, trout, lavaret, pike and perch. The biggest lake trout weigh 8—9 kgs. (16—20 lbs.) Fishing is mostly from boats.

A little way above the lowest rapids is the association's fishing cabin, where lodging and simple food can be obtained, and a hatchery for spawn, from which young lake trout, lavaret and a small lake herring are annually turned into the rapids.

June is the best fishing month, and then September.

Palokki is reached by road, or by the lake steamers on the Heinävesi route between Kuopio and Savonlinna; the lake trip from Kuopio to Palokki quay, about half a mile's walk from the fishing cabin, takes about three hours.

Viannankoski Rapids in the Maaninka rural commune, 34 miles (55 kms) by road from Kuopio. The fishing rights are leased by a local association, but fishermen from abroad are allowed to fish on payment of a fee. Fishing chiefly from the banks. There are lake trout, trout, pike-perch, pike and ide in the rapids.

As only rough accommodation is available, fishermen are advised to stay in Kuopio and use the good bus service to the rapids as a means of going to and fro.

Fishing in the Palokki rapids on the Heinävesi route.



Åyskoski Rapids in the Tervo rural commune, 46 miles (75 kms) by road from Kuopio. Lake trout, trout, lavaret and pike-perch. Very simple accommodation locally.

Game fishing can further be had in other rapids around Kuopio, such as the Konnuskoski and Naapuskoski rapids in the Leppävirrat commune, and the numerous rapids in the Lake Varpaisjärvi basin. Detailed information from the Tourist Information Office and athletic dealers in Kuopio.

Imatra and Linnankoski. Before the power station was built on the Imatra Rapids the waters at the head of the rapids and the broken water higher up afforded extremely good fishing, but the power dam has now had the effect of transforming these into an extensive lake. Nevertheless good catches are made here even now. In addition to the local trout, grayling, pike and perch, the Imatra waters yield lake trout and lavaret, which have come down from Lake Saimaa. Fishing is from boats, the season lasting from the breaking-up of the ice to September 15th.

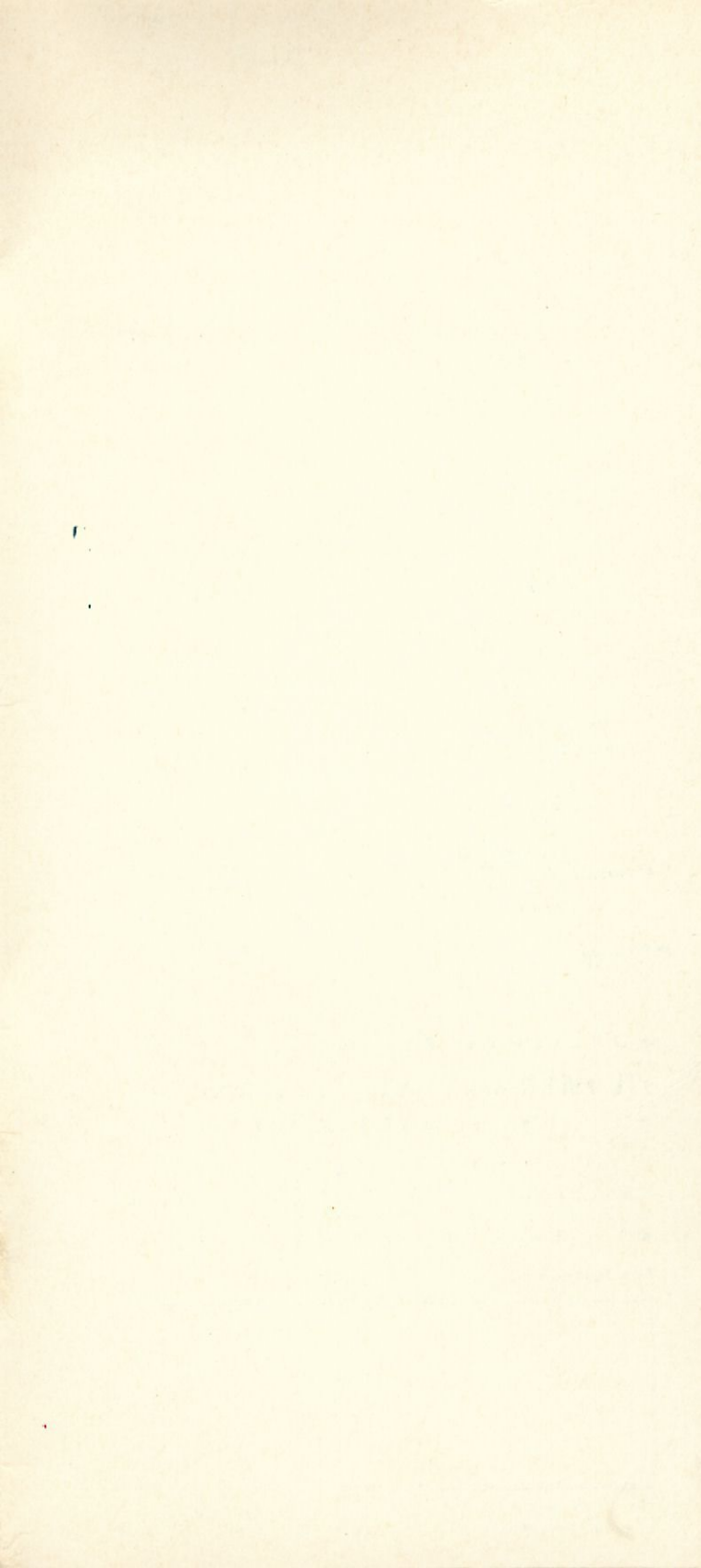
The State has leased the fishing rights to the Game Fishermen's League on certain conditions, one of which is that anglers from abroad may fish there at a charge of 60 marks (5/6; \$ 1.20) per day.

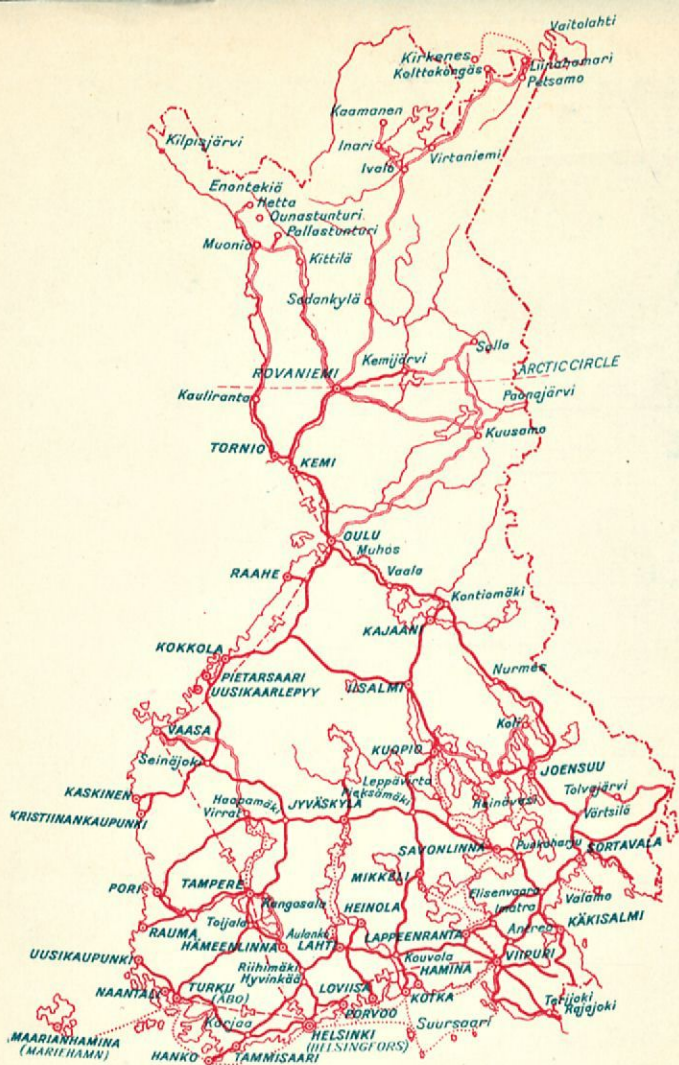
The best catches in these waters have been made with a *nirha* (a local artificial minnow covered with fish-skin); trolling, minnow, wooden minnow and flies follow in order of usefulness.

Imatra is reached by railway. All matters relating to angling, boats, oarsmen, etc., can be arranged at the State Hotel on the right bank of the rapids.

Photographs by O. Enwald, A. Koivisto, M. Palmén, P. Petrowsky, A. Pietinen, F. Runeberg, V. Setälä and E.-L. Viljanen-Lönnberg.





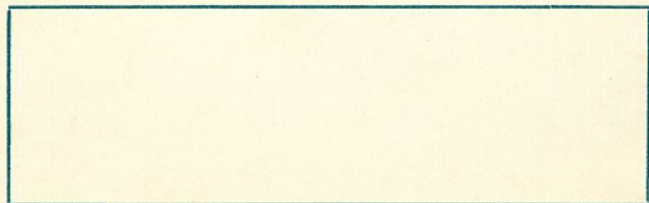


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