

## **An overview of the coastal fishery in the Netherlands and the impact on salmon**

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In the coastal area of the Netherlands there is an intensive professional fishery by a few hundred companies. There are 319 licenses for trawlnets fishing for shrimps, 124 for fykes (max. 25.000) and 97 for gill-nets (max. 250 km). Not all these nets are permanently used. The fykes are concentrated in the Waddensea, Haringvliet en Eastern and Western Scheldt and gill nets are used in the area between the Afsluitdijk and Haringvliet. There are 23 licenses for seines of max. 1500m. Apart from professional fishery there is also recreational fishery with 50 m gill nets (max. 35 km) and ca. half a million anglers fishing at sea.

To get this information the owners of the fish licenses, the institutions issuing these licenses, the fisheries institute Imares and the inspectorates enforcing the law were interviewed. Apart from the licenses and nets we asked to give an estimate of the number of salmonids caught and we also reports of Imares on recreational fishery, on salmon migration and RWS reports on telemetry research into salmon migration.

The chance to catch salmonids in trawlnets is very low because they are fished close to the bottom and the entrance is protected by a net. Less than 10 are caught per year, the same is true for seines. Professional gill nets catch 100-400 adult salmonids per year, whereas fykes will catch also young salmonids, smolts in particular. Approx. 100-1300 adults are caught yearly. Gillnets of recreational fishermen catch 200-400 adult salmonids. Anglers catch both smolts and adult salmonids, 1500-8000 adults and max. 32000 smolts.

Totally 1000-11000 adult salmonids are caught. 500-1500 die in gill nets and fykes and 1000-6000 are retained (illegally), so 1500-7500 disappear. Approx. 10% of the salmonids is salmon, so max. 150-750 salmons disappear because of fishery in the coastal area. Telemetry data show that only 40% of these fish would enter the river and only 10% would arrive at the German border, that is 15-75.