



English



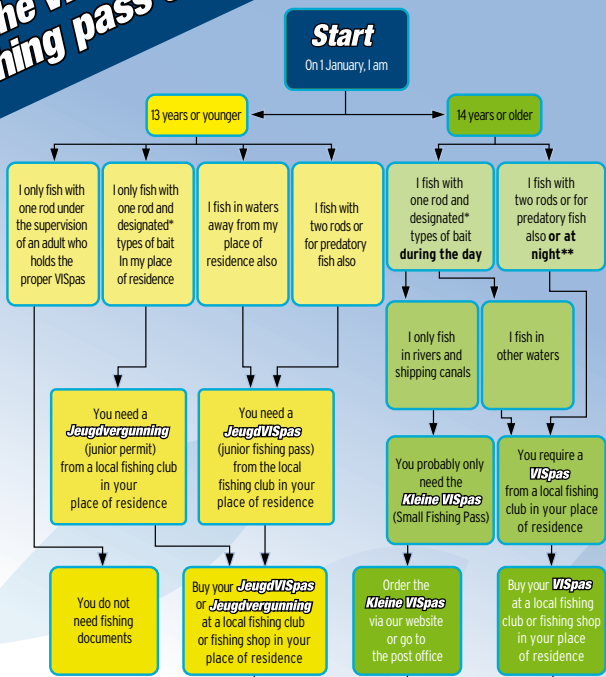
Sportvisserij
Nederland

Going fishing?

Always bring your **VI**Spas!



Do the VISpasCHECK (fishing pass check)



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

** Night fishing is allowed only if you have permission for night fishing in addition to a VISpas. The Landelijke Nachtvistoestemming (National Night Fishing permission) can be ordered via the websites of Sportvisserij Nederland, angling federations and De KSN. **NOTE:** children aged 16 or older are allowed to go night fishing only under the supervision of a person of 16 years or older.

In certain waters, written permission other than the VISpas (Fishing Pass) is required!

You can also do the online VISpasCHECK on www.sportvisserij nederland.nl. Go to www.visplanner.nl to see which VISpas is required for which water or download the App!

Going fishing? Always bring your VISpas!

Going fishing? Always bring your VISpas!

Many fishing waters with the VISpas

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

The **VISpas** is the proof of membership of a fishing club associated with Sportvisserij Nederland. On average, membership amounts to no more than 30 euros per year. As a member, you are entitled to fish with two rods and all permitted types of bait in all waters included in the **Gezamenlijke Lijst van Nederlandse Viswateren 2016-2017-2018** (Joint List of Dutch Fishing Waters 2016-2017-2018) and waters of the club list (if included).

The VISpas and Lijsten van Viswateren (Lists of Fishing Waters) together form the fishing permit (written consent).

You need to carry both when fishing.


As from 2015 the combination of a VISpas and VISplanner **also** constitutes valid permission (see www.visplanner.nl or download the app!).



The List of Fishing Waters on your telephone!

VISpas + VISplanner =
legal permission
for fishing



- Always up-to-date 
- Always at hand
- Preserves the environment


Sportvisserij
Nederland

www.visplanner.nl

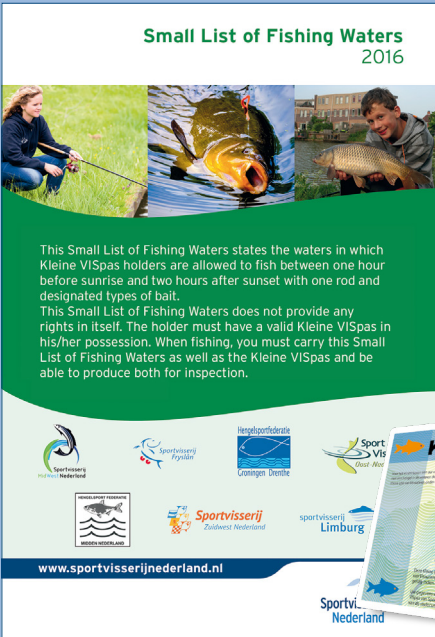
Kleine VISpas (Small Fishing Pass)

The **Kleine VISpas** is the slimmed down VISpas and intended exclusively for anglers who do not wish to become a member of an associated fishing club. The Kleine VISpas is basically intended for anglers who wish to fish with one rod and limited (designated) types of bait.

The Kleine VISpas does not allow fishing for predatory fish (pike and pike perch) and is intended only for fishing during the day and on a limited number (and parts) of large rivers and lakes. These waters are listed in the Kleine Lijst van Viswateren (Small List of Fishing Waters) supplied. The Kleine VISpas is available at the post office and Sportvisserij Nederland. In most cases, a Kleine VISpas will not suffice for anglers and the VISpas

will prove to be the best option.

So do the **VISpasCHECK** at the page in the beginning of this brochure to see which VISpas suits you best.



Small List of Fishing Waters 2016

This Small List of Fishing Waters states the waters in which Kleine VISpas holders are allowed to fish between one hour before sunrise and two hours after sunset with one rod and designated types of bait. This Small List of Fishing Waters does not provide any rights in itself. The holder must have a valid Kleine VISpas in his/her possession. When fishing, you must carry this Small List of Fishing Waters as well as the Kleine VISpas and be able to produce both for inspection.

www.sportvisserijnederland.nl

Logos for: Sportvisserij Nederland, Sportvisserij Fryslân, Hengelsportfederatie Groningen Drenthe, Sport Vis Oost-Ned, sportvisserij Limburg, and Sportvis Nederland.





Youngsters under 14

Youngsters under 14 (reference date 1 January) who want to fish with two rods and any permitted bait can obtain the **JeugdVISpas** (junior fishing pass). When purchasing a JeugdVISpas, you are automatically a member of a fishing club and have all the advantages granted with a VISpas. However, the JeugdVISpas is considerably cheaper as compared to the VISpas! If you are not yet 14 and want to fish in the water of a local club with one rod met designated types of bait, it is usually possible to purchase a junior permit from the fishing club, in which case a JeugdVISpas is not required. There is one exception: youth under 14 do not require a junior permit (**Jeugdvergunning**) or JeugdVISpas if they fish under the supervision of an adult who has a valid VISpas or Kleine VISpas. There is one limitation: youngsters are permitted to fish with no more than one rod and under the same conditions as the supervisor.



Choose the proper VISpas!

Find out which VISpas you require and do the **VISpasCHECK!** using the diagram. Complete the diagram by answering a few simple questions and you will automatically see which VISpas suits you best. The diagram also shows how and where to purchase your VISpas.

Purchasing a VISpas

When purchasing a VISpas at a tackle shop or through your fishing club for the first time, you receive a Voorlopig Bewijs van Lidmaatschap / Tijdelijke VISpas (Temporary Proof of Membership / Temporary VISpas) (**VBL**) and the accompanying Lists of Fishing Waters. The upper part is the temporary written consent with which you can fish for one month. Make sure that this temporary proof of membership is fully completed; it is invalid if not entirely filled out.

The lower part of the application for the VISpas is also to be completed in full. Send this part to Sportvisserij Nederland not later than one week after it has been issued. Your fishing club will send you the VISpas within 10 working days, after which you are a member of the fishing club until you resign.

If you become member of a second fishing club, you will receive an additional VISpas, because the VISpas is proof of membership to the club. You do not have to pay the national payment to Sportvisserij Nederland for this second (or third or fourth) VISpas. You do pay the contribution when purchasing a Temporary Proof of Membership; Sportvisserij Nederland will pay this back as soon as it is proven from the central member registration that you are a member somewhere else.

The image shows two forms from Sportvisserij Nederland. The top form is titled 'Temporary proof of membership / temporary VISpas (strictly personal)'. It includes fields for 'Date of fishing' (with a dropdown for 'Valid one month' and a date picker), 'Last name', 'Initial', 'First name', 'Address/Postcode number', 'Postal code', 'City', 'Date of birth', 'Sex' (M/F), 'E-mail', 'Fishing club', 'Landmark', and 'Price'. The bottom form is titled 'Application for definitive membership/VISpas'. It includes a checkbox for 'Send this card and address one week after receiving the temporary VISpas will be sent to you within 10 working days. Please complete the application for a definitive VISpas'. It also has fields for 'Fishing club', 'Last name', 'Initial', 'First name', 'Address/Postcode number', 'Postal code', 'City', 'Date of birth', 'Sex', 'E-mail', 'E-mail', 'Mobile phone number', 'Account number', 'City', 'Signature', and 'Date'. A large 'Translation' watermark is overlaid on the forms.



Order digitally and go fishing immediately!

The (additional) VISpas and JeugdVISpas can be ordered online 24 hours a day via the websites of various fishing clubs or the www.VISpas.nl website. Order and pay using the Online VISpas Bestelmodule (order module) and receive an e-mail containing a Temporary Proof of Membership/ Temporary VISpas (VBL) and the accompanying Lists of Fishing Waters. With the VBL prints-outs, the cover of the Joint List of Dutch Fishing Waters, the VISpas conditions and the page with the location you want to fish allow you to go fishing immediately. The VBL is valid for one month and the definitive VISpas will be sent to your home address within one month. The printed Lists of fishing waters can be ordered directly or collected later at the nearest tackle shop or fishing club. As from 2015 the combination of a VISpas and VISplanner **also** constitutes valid permission (see www.visplanner.nl or download the app).

Legal rules, conditions and codes of conduct

Statutory fishing rules

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

Written permission (Permit)



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

the waters stated in the list(s). The same applies to the Kleine VISpas, which together with the Small List Fishing Waters constitutes the permit. As from 2015 the combination of a VISpas and VISplanner **also** constitutes valid permission (see www.visplanner.nl or download the app).

Closed time types of bait

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



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

Closed time for fish species

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

Note: VISpas holders are required to return all the carp and eel caught back in the same water alive. Holders of a Kleine VISpas are required to return all the fish caught back in the water alive.

Fish species:	Closed period:
Pike	1 March until the last Saturday in May
Pike perch and perch	1 April until the last Saturday in May
Barbel, chub, ide	1 April until 1 June
River lamprey	1 November until 1 February 1 March until 1 May
Brown trout	1 October until 1 April
Sea trout, salmon, allis shad, twaite shad, burbot, dace, nose carp, grayling, sea lamprey and European catfish	the entire year

Minimum sizes of fish species



Perch - 22 cm



Barbel - 30 cm



Flounder - 20 cm



Brown trout - 25 cm



Chub - 30 cm



Pike - 45 cm



River lamprey - 20 cm



Pike perch - 42 cm



Tench - 25 cm

If you catch a fish that is smaller than the minimum size for the type, you are required to immediately put it back in the same water.

Note: VISpas holders are required to return all the carp and eel caught back in the same water alive. Holders of a Kleine VISpas are required to return all the fish caught back in the water alive.

- (With the exception of the IJsselmeer), you are permitted to carry live undersized perch, provided that the fish is kept in a keepnet or bucket and is put back into the same water alive.
- The number of dead perch under the minimum size someone may carry as bait has been established to a maximum of 20 specimens (with the exception of the IJsselmeer).



Protected fish species

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

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


Prohibition to take eel

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

Prohibition on the use of live bait

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

Permission for night fishing

Night fishing can be forbidden or limited by the party entitled to the fishing rights. The prohibition or limitation is included in the written consent that applies to that particular water. For waters included in the Joint List of Dutch Fishing Waters, Joint List of Dutch Fishing Waters and VISplanner, night fishing is allowed only in waters indicated with the symbol  if you also have the **National Night Fishing Permission** (hologram sticker)

To order:

www.sportvisserijnederland.nl/vispas/nachtvis_derde_hengel/

In waters without this symbol, night fishing is not permitted or permitted only with the consent of the local party holding the fishing rights. Night fishing is not permitted in a number of waters indicated by the Minister, such as scenic areas, the IJsselmeer lake and the open harbours of the IJsselmeer lake.



General conditions for the VISpas and the Kleine VISpas

Holders of the VISpas and the Kleine VISpas must comply with a number of conditions, which are included in the Lists of Fishing Waters and VISplanner concerned. These are the main conditions.

It is forbidden:

- To sell fish you have caught.
- To participate and or hold/organise fishing contests, except if a written permission has been provided by the federation or fishing club holding the fishing rights. If a track has been set out along water based upon a permission issued, it is obliged to keep or make the track free.
- To possess carp or eel.
- To fish or feed using coloured maggots or carry maggots in the proximity of the water.
- To fish in such a way that (water) birds can catch the bait.
- To leave fishing line and other refuse at the site. When leaving the site, it should be clean!
- Make a campfire or have a barbecue.
- To enter private grounds and bank without the owner's consent, even if one is entitled to fish in the adjoining water.
- To enter land with plants and crops, or grass that is yet to be mowed, unless one has valid walking rights.
- To bring pets into the vicinity of free-ranging cattle. Gates on farmlands are to be closed at all times.



The conditions on the facing page apply to all waters included in the lists of fishing waters and the VISplanner. Additional or limiting conditions may apply for each federation area or water, which are stated separately at the federation or water in question.

Codes of conduct

In addition to the legal fishing rules and conditions, codes of conduct have been set up with 'rules of play' concerning the size of fish, use of lead, keepnets and fishing for carp. These important rules of play are also described in the Joint List of Dutch Fishing Waters and VISplanner.

The main rules for handling fish are:

- Try to prevent the hook from being swallowed.
- Touch caught fish with wet hands only.
- Remove the hook with extreme caution.
- Put fish back in the same water undamaged.

Sea fishing

If you fish in the sea only, the special **zeeVISpas** (sea fishing pass) with accompanying Lijst van zeevismogelijkheden (List of Sea Fishing Options) is a good option. The zeeVISpas is also proof of membership to a fishing club. Fishing at sea is not subject to authorisation, so fishing at sea without a zeeVISpas is permitted. The zeeVISpas, however, does provide a number of advantages: you become a member of a (sea) fishing club, which allows you to participate in national and international contests and provides exclusive access to the Grevelingenmeer and the Veerse Meer Lakes. In addition, the zeeVISpas contains a permit for digging worms in parts of the Delta area. All of the sea fishing options are also included in the VISpas, so the zeeVISpas (which is cheaper than the VISpas) is intended for people who are planning to fish at sea only.



Angling in the fishing zone, coastal waters and sea area

Naturally, inland waters are not the only waters in the Netherlands where people fish. Anglers also fish at sea, where other rules apply. In general, it may be stated that the rules for sea angling are simpler compared to angling in inland waters. It is important to know that the Fisheries Act distinguishes three different sea fishing areas: 'fishing zone', 'coastal waters' and 'sea area'. You do not need permission from the party holding the fishing rights to fish with rods in the fishing zone, coastal waters and sea area. In the coastal waters, a limitation of (a maximum of) two rods with a maximum of three hooks a rod applies.

Coastal waters

These include the Waddenzee, the Dutch part of the Dollard and Eems, the Maasmond, the Nieuwe Waterweg to the line of the eastern jetty of Maassluis and the green leading light no. 14, the Calandkanaal canal and open harbours as far as the outermost dam, the Beerkanaal channel with open harbours, the Zeegat van Goeree tidal inlet, the Brouwerhavensegat, the Oosterschelde and the Westerschelde. NOTE: The sea along the Noord-Holland and Zuid-Holland beaches and above the Frisian Islands are commonly referred to as coast, but, according to the Fisheries Act, this is the fishing zone instead of 'coastal water'.

Sea area

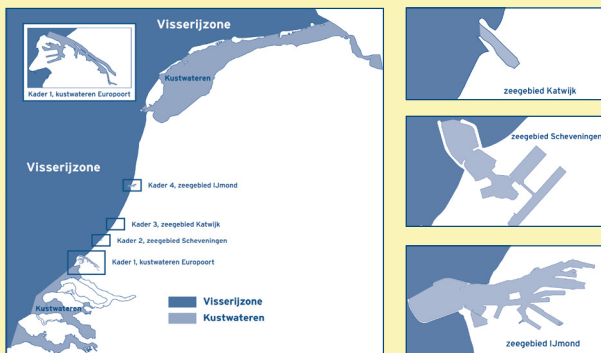
Contrary to what one might think, the sea area only refers to a number of limited water surfaces: the harbours of IJmuiden (including the interior of the jetties) and the access canals to the North Sea Canal, the Uitwateringkanaal canal of Katwijk and the harbours of Scheveningen as far as the outermost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

Fishing zone

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

Fishing zone, coastal waters and sea area

Detailed map of the sea areas



Minimum sizes of fish species

When a fish smaller than the minimum size is caught, it must be immediately put back in the same water; this stipulation applies to fish caught in the sea area, fishing zone and in coastal and inland waters.

Minimum sizes of fish species

Eel*	28 cm	Sardine	11 cm
Anchovy	12 cm	Megrim	20 cm
Ling	70 cm	Haddock	30 cm
Flounder	20 cm	Plaice	27 cm
Herring	20 cm	Sole	24 cm
Hake	27 cm	Whiting	27 cm
Scad	15 cm	Pollack	30 cm
Cod**	35 cm	Sea bass**	42 cm
Ling	63 cm	Saithe	35 cm
Mackerel	30 cm		

* A legal prohibition applies to anglers all year round for possessing eel, salmon, allis shad, twaite shad, sea lamprey and sea trout in the sea area, fishing zone, coastal and inland waters.

** The following applies to anglers:

1. It is forbidden to carry over 25 cod or over 20 kilograms of cod at sea, in the sea area, coastal waters, fishing zone or in the immediate vicinity of these waters.
2. It is forbidden to land sea bass or cod that is filleted or with the head removed.
3. As from 1 January 2016, it is forbidden in the period from 1 January until 1 July to possess sea bass. In the period from 1 Juli until 1 January it is forbidden to possess more than 1 sea bass (minimum size of 42 cm.)



Become a member of a fishing club!

Most fishing clubs are associated with a regional federation as well as Sportvisserij Nederland. Once you become a member of a fishing club, you receive the VISpas. We cannot guarantee a good catch, but these angling organisations do their utmost to ensure pleasant fishing.

Membership usually amounts to 30 to 40 euros per year and includes proof of membership (the VISpas and any accompanying Lists of Fishing Waters). You also support organised angling at a local, regional and national level.

Membership of a fishing club has the following advantages:

- You receive a personal VISpas.
- You avail of the legally required consent to fish.
- This ensures that many waters in your direct vicinity and the rest of the Netherlands become fishable.
- The fishing waters in your direct vicinity are well-maintained, also thanks to your contribution.
- You can participate in all kinds of wonderful club activities concerning angling.
- You receive Hét Visblad filled with tips and information twice a year.





In addition, the clubs, federations and Sportvisserij Nederland ensure:

- Research and improvement of the quality of fishing waters.
- Easy accessibility and maintenance of fishing spots.
- Fishing courses for young people and inexperienced anglers. Inspectors to prevent abuse at the waterside.
- Serving angling interests in your municipality, both regionally and nationally.
- Positive publicity for angling.
- Promotion of angling through TV programmes, such as VIS-TV.

In short: ensure that you and your fishing buddies have a VISpas, to make sure you are doing things the way they should be done and fish with fun!

Go to www.sportvisserijnederland.nl for information about the nearest fishing club or refer to your fishing retailer for information. If you want to know the waters you are allowed to fish in with what VISpas, go to www.visplanner.nl or download the app.

Where can I fish? Go to www.visplanner.nl or download the app.

The screenshot shows the VISplanner.nl website. On the left, there are search filters for location (postcode, name, water type) and fishing permissions (VISpas, sea, small). A central map displays a river network with colored overlays: blue for areas where you can fish with your own VISpas, orange for areas where you can fish with another association's permit, and light blue for areas where you cannot fish. A legend explains these colors. On the right, there are promotional banners for the mobile app and a 'MijnVISmaat.nl' service. The top right corner features the 'Sportvisserij Nederland' logo and links for login and account creation.

The Visplanner (Fishing Planner) indicates where you are permitted to fish with your VISpas, as well as locations of slipways, angling shops, boat hire, trout ponds and a large number of fishing spots.

Plan your fishing day using www.visplanner.nl

Provided by: