



Cast Away Magazine
edition 7

EUROPE

CONTENTS

- 3 WHY EUROPE
- 4 FEELINGS
- 5 NEW IN THIS MAGAZINE
- 6/12 PASI'S PASSION
- 13/17 DUTCH PIKE MASTER
- 18/ 27 IMAGINE RUSSIA
- 28/32 BRAND TALK
- 33/36 JAN & HIS GOISERER TRAUN
- 37/40 THE GOOD OLD BOYS
- 41/46 THE CANARIAN WAY
- 47/50 FISH MIGRATION
- 51 SEATROUTFYN.COM
- 52 SPECIAL THANKS
- 53 EUROPE PART TWO



Art Director
Peter Sikking

Editor:
Dr Henk Verhaar

Published by: WAFF



PHOTO PETER SIKKING



Europe

PART 1

I wanted to make an issue about Europe. There are several reasons for wanting this but let me start with the most important one: promoting Europe as a fly fishing destination.

So I hope that after reading this issue we can agree on one thing, and that is that Europe has a fly angler a lot to offer.

Peter Sikking

The feeling

Fly fishing grabbed me by the balls from day one. The day I saw this middle aged man standing on the bank of the river Semois in Belgium, slowly casting his line in the fading sunlight. The image of, not much more than a silhouette against the sky, became a memory I will never forget and the reason I began with fly fishing.

A week later I visited a pet / fishing tackle store. After explaining what I was looking for, the man behind the counter disappeared behind several racks of merchandise and after a lot of noise, and much opening and closing of cardboard boxes, he appeared with a dust-covered fabric sleeve, only to disappear again, this time behind the counter, to dig up, from somewhere at the back of a drawer, an old English reel and a light blue DT line.

Despite the poor tools I had to work with, I knew from the get-go that I could do this. The moment I felt that cork handle, the light rod bending forward and backward on my first attempts, the dynamic and logic of movement and counter-movement, it instantly felt good.

After the first few weeks as a beginning fly angler the hunger came. In that hunger for more knowledge I devoured books about casting methods, fly fishing in rivers, white water, still water..... and it did not take long before I started fly tying and learning the basics of entomology, as side interests. From that day on I also tried to infect other people with the fly fishing virus. It is the reason I started this magazine in the first place.

In front of you lies Cast Away magazine 7 part one: Europe. I wanted to make this magazine to show you how beautiful Europe is. As pictured and told by the inhabitants of each European country.

Maybe I am a romantic fool for wishing that everybody, at least once in a lifetime, could hold a cork handle, feeling what I felt back then, to become part of the journey we now call fly fishing

Tight lines everybody.

Peter Sikking

N

new in this issue

TEXT ONLY

Because we believe in the old saying: *'a picture says more than a thousand words'*, 80% of the content of this magazine is visual. But sometimes I like to share an article that I think is really worth reading. And maybe you, as I do, prefer reading it without fabulous backgrounds.

When you come across the button **text only**, you can click the button and read the article text only. Or save it for a rainy day ;)

Brand Talk

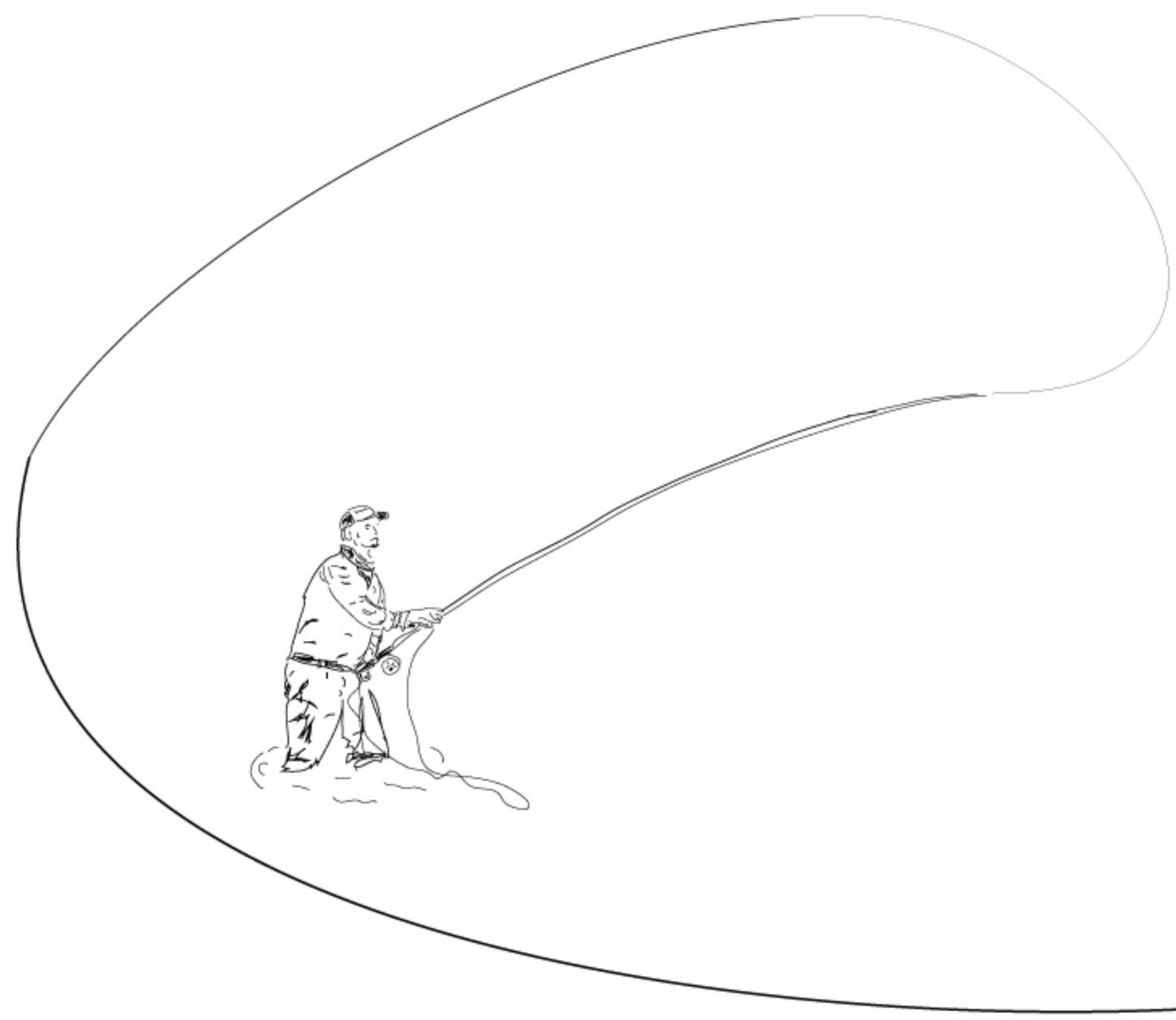
We, at we are fly fishing (of which Cast Away magazine is a part) are not bound to any brand. That means we are free to like what we like and share our opinion with our readers.

Together with a team of international fly tiers and fly anglers, we discuss, just as you all probably do among yourselves, all things concerning fly fishing. From tying thread to rods, from line clippers to clothing, from floatant to license holders.

Sometimes these discussions lead to tests, which (hopefully) lead to results and conclusions. Conclusions that might now and again even be worth sharing with you.



Pasi Visakivi
Finland



photography Pasi Visakivi





Atlantic salmon

My greatest passion in fly fishing is definitely Atlantic salmon. Atlantic salmon are mystified creatures and are not easy to catch, as most of us know. Sometimes they are almost too hard to catch, if you ask me. But when that magical moment occurs when you feel that tug of a big powerful salmon, there is no better feeling in the world, well at least not on the river. I fish for salmon mostly in Norway. It is such a beautiful country, with amazing landscapes.

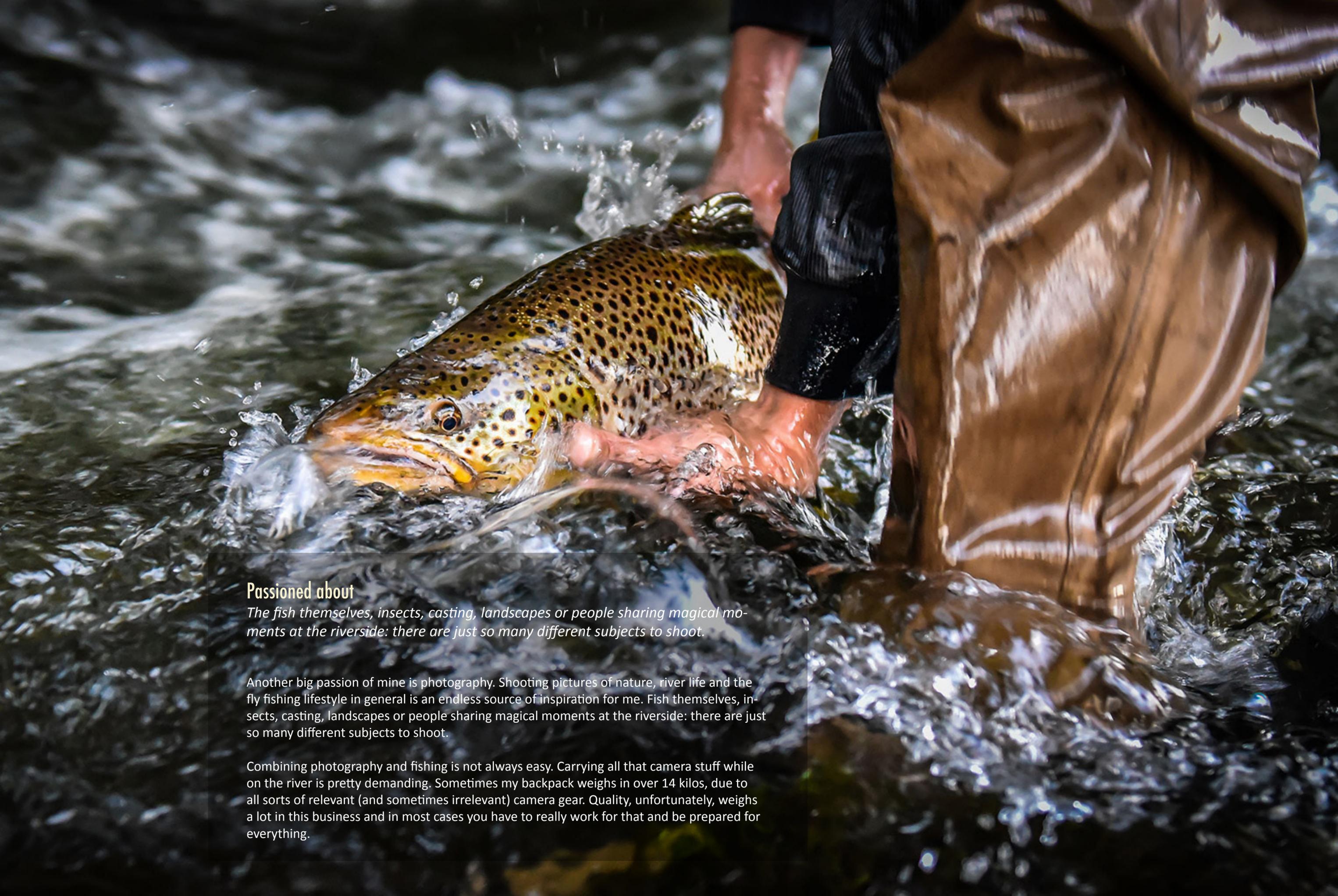


Vihavuosi

I host a very famous river in southern Finland called Vihavuosi. It is well known for its big brown trout. The largest specimens can exceed 80 cm.

20 years of hosting a river gives you an extraordinary view on the life cycle of brown trout. In Finland, trout have been classified as a threatened species.

As a river keeper, I have tried to combine protecting trout as a species with strictly limited fishing, in order to secure sufficient resources for our actual everyday protection work.



Passioned about

The fish themselves, insects, casting, landscapes or people sharing magical moments at the riverside: there are just so many different subjects to shoot.

Another big passion of mine is photography. Shooting pictures of nature, river life and the fly fishing lifestyle in general is an endless source of inspiration for me. Fish themselves, insects, casting, landscapes or people sharing magical moments at the riverside: there are just so many different subjects to shoot.

Combining photography and fishing is not always easy. Carrying all that camera stuff while on the river is pretty demanding. Sometimes my backpack weighs in over 14 kilos, due to all sorts of relevant (and sometimes irrelevant) camera gear. Quality, unfortunately, weighs a lot in this business and in most cases you have to really work for that and be prepared for everything.





I have published many articles in a prominent Finnish fly fishing magazine called Pohjolan Perhokalastaja (The Nordic Fly Fisherman) and provided material, both text and photos, to many other fly fishing and photography related media. For example, I am very proud to have been able to contribute material to Catch Magazine for many years. Now, I am pleased to be able to share some of my photos with the readers of the Cast Away magazine. Tight lines everyone and cheers!

Thomas van Schendel
The Netherlands



The Dutch pike master



As far as the eye can see I am surrounded by water. It makes me feel small and insignificant but at the same time, floating on top of this vast expanse of water in my comfortable float tube, I feel like a king. Sitting on a liquid world that we know so little of. As my thoughts wander off, I feel a jerk - something took my streamer – and in a reflex I set the hook; it feels like a pike. Fly fishing for pike from a floating tube: it is a magical game.

Fly fishing for big-water pike from a belly boat became hugely popular over recent years. And for good reason. It can be an extremely effective way to hunt for predators in open water, especially in autumn and winter. Every drop-off, pit or decaying plant bed can be fished out with extreme precision. An additional advantage is that the streamer, in most waters, is not yet an established lure type. Resulting in less conditioning.





Autumn and winter fishing

In autumn these yellow-green predators frantically build up fat reserves, trying to eat as much as they can. To that end, they follow the schools of prey fish to their winter spots. The perfect period to go after pike with a float tube and a fly rod.

Although it can be bleak on the water, autumn and winter are excellent periods for a day's fly fishing for pike. During this period days with strong winds and cold temperatures alternate with sunny windless days. These last ones are the difficult days, because pike prefer a bit of rough-and-tumble.

In winter results come in definite periods. You can fish for several hours and see no action at all, when suddenly the water comes to life and a true slaughter takes place underwater. If you are lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time, it is quite possible to catch several pikes in a short period of time.



Material

Fly fishing for big water pike requires specialized material. And weather conditions play an important role in choosing that material. A 10-weight rod is a good choice when fishing big water. Such a rod has sufficient power to be able to play a big pike and plenty of oomph to put those long synthetic streamers away in windy conditions. A fast sinking fly line – Di3 to Di7 – ensures that the streamer can be fished in the area where those large winter pike are hiding.

Fish finder

An indispensable attribute if you are planning to fish large water is a depth sounder / fish finder. This will allow you to find drop-offs, holes, shallows, prey fish, or even a large echo that may indicate a large pike. But even only knowing the actual depth can be very important. We want to make sure that we are fishing our streamer in the right zone. The depth sounder and the float tube angler are inextricably linked. Even to the extent that you soon feel lost on big water if you don't have one with you. Even the simplest models are satisfactory, and give you sufficient information about life and structures underwater.

Mikhail Skopets

Russia

WEBSITE



Kola Peninsula

Mikhail Skopets

Excerpts from an upcoming book
"Fly fishing Russia: The Kola Peninsula"



IMAGINE

The possibilities

When I asked Mikhail to write something about fly fishing in Russia he answered: 'Hi Peet, I would love to write something about fly fishing and the area I live in but considering the magazines title 'Europe, you should know, geographically, I do not live in Europe but in Asia!

His words brought me back to school. Geographic class.... Sometimes we, or at least I, tend to forget how big Russia is.

With 17,125,200 square kilometers covering more than one-eighth of the Earth's inhabited land area it is by far the largest country in the world.

With almost 80% of the population living in the western part it is also the ninth most populous country in the world. Just Imagine the undiscovered fly fishing possibilities! Thousands of rivers and lakes where nobody ever fishes.

'But I can write something about The Kola Peninsula if you like? Considering this region is already 'on the (fly fishing) map, and therefor easier to empathize with'. And so the story begins.

The Kola Peninsula

On the northwestern part of Russia, on the border with Norway, there is a bulbous peninsula directly to the east of that border. This is the Kola Peninsula. This vast piece of land is part of the territory of the Murmanskaya Oblast. The Kola Peninsula is washed by two cold seas: The White Sea and Barents Sea. Its area measures about 100 000 square kilometers, which is about the size of South Korea.

Weather

The Kola is located at high latitude; the length of the days and nights varies greatly throughout the year. In summer, the polar day reigns here, with the sun disappearing for only a short time beneath the northern horizon, or not even setting at all.

Terrain

In many places, various forms of relief alternate whimsically and unexpectedly, making the terrain difficult to cross. Sheer cliffs, gorges, canyons, fast rivers and streams, rapids and waterfalls, swamps and lakes are everywhere. In the east, the Kola Peninsula is, in many areas a fairly flat plateau, sloping southward. Along its eastern and southern coasts lie lowlands, and on the northern coast there are many steep shores and cliffs. Lakes cover a total of 8.1% of the entire area of the region.

The mountains of the peninsula are table-shaped (also known as mesas), with steep slopes and flat tops. These mountain plateaus descend to the lowlands surrounding them, and are cut by gorges and deep valleys, their surface covered with rock scree. Many small rivers flow in narrow canyon-shaped valleys where larger rivers, existed before glaciation, in most cases have U-shaped valleys carved out by the glaciers.

Water

The territory of the Murmanskaya Oblast has more than 100 thousand lakes, including 1190 waters larger than 1 km². The largest lake of the region is the Imandra with a surface area of 812 km². In the region there are more than 18.200 rivers or streams over 100 meters wide with a total length of 63.000 kilometers. The most important rivers of the Murmanskaya Oblast are the Ponoy, Iokanga, Voronya, Varzuga, Pechenga, Tuloma, and Kola. The largest of them, the Ponoy, has a length of 426 kilometers

Murmanskian
valtiollinen
tundran
rauhoitusalue
Мурманский
тундровый
государственный

Species

The freshwater fauna of the Murmanskaya Oblast is rather poor in species. As far as we know, the rivers and lakes are home to 37 species of fish belonging to 15 families (apart from the marine and non-native fish in the fresh waters of the region) these are Japanese lamprey, Atlantic salmon, brown trout, char, whitefish, least cisco, grayling, European and Asian smelts, pike, bream, ide, dace, minnow, roach, burbot, three- and nine-spine stickleback, perch, ruffe, and freshwater sculpin.

Main areas

Based on the predominant freshwater fish species, the territory of the Murmanskaya Oblast can be divided into four main areas: East Murman, White Sea coast, central part of the Kola Peninsula, and the north-west of the Murmanskaya Oblast.

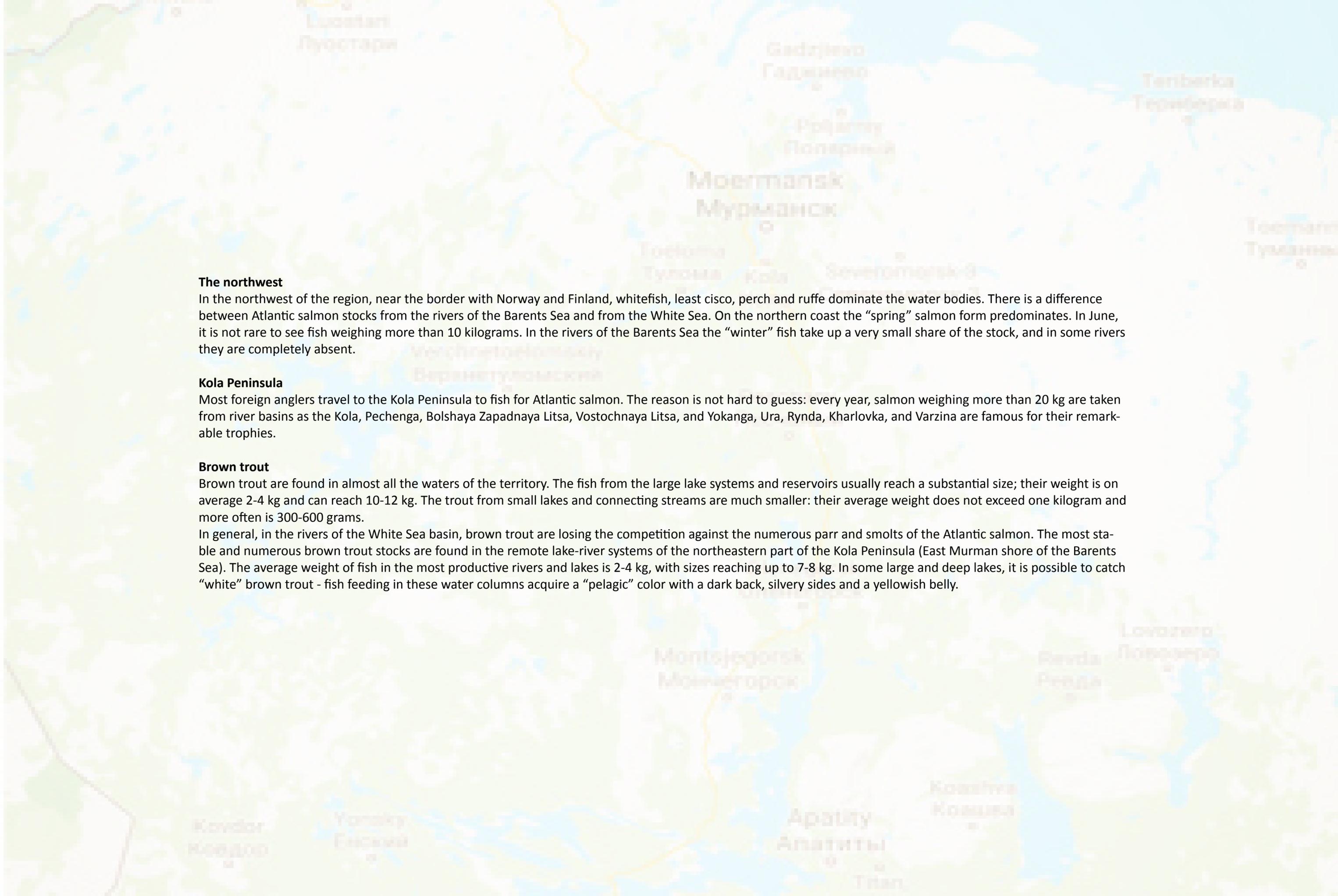
East Murman

In the northeast part of the peninsula (East Murman) salmonids dominate. Atlantic salmon, brown trout and Arctic char in the rivers and brown trout and char in the lakes. The Northern pike is present in many lakes of this area and in some waters also whitefish. The carp family is represented here only by the common minnow. All salmonids of the region are represented by both migratory and resident forms.

White sea coast

Atlantic salmon and brown trout successfully breed in the rivers on the white sea coast. The diversity of freshwater fish here is noticeably larger than at the east murman side. Whitefish (migratory and resident forms), pike, grayling, as well as perch, ruffe and four carp species (roach, ide, dace and minnow) inhabit this area.

Among the rivers belonging to the White Sea basin, the most common form is the “winter” form of salmon. These fish usually enter the river in the second half of summer or in autumn. They spend a full year in fresh water, and spawn the next autumn. The average and maximum sizes of “winter” fish are smaller compared to the “spring” ones, but in these stocks there is a significantly smaller percentage of small fish with only one year of sea feeding (grilse).



The northwest

In the northwest of the region, near the border with Norway and Finland, whitefish, least cisco, perch and ruffe dominate the water bodies. There is a difference between Atlantic salmon stocks from the rivers of the Barents Sea and from the White Sea. On the northern coast the “spring” salmon form predominates. In June, it is not rare to see fish weighing more than 10 kilograms. In the rivers of the Barents Sea the “winter” fish take up a very small share of the stock, and in some rivers they are completely absent.

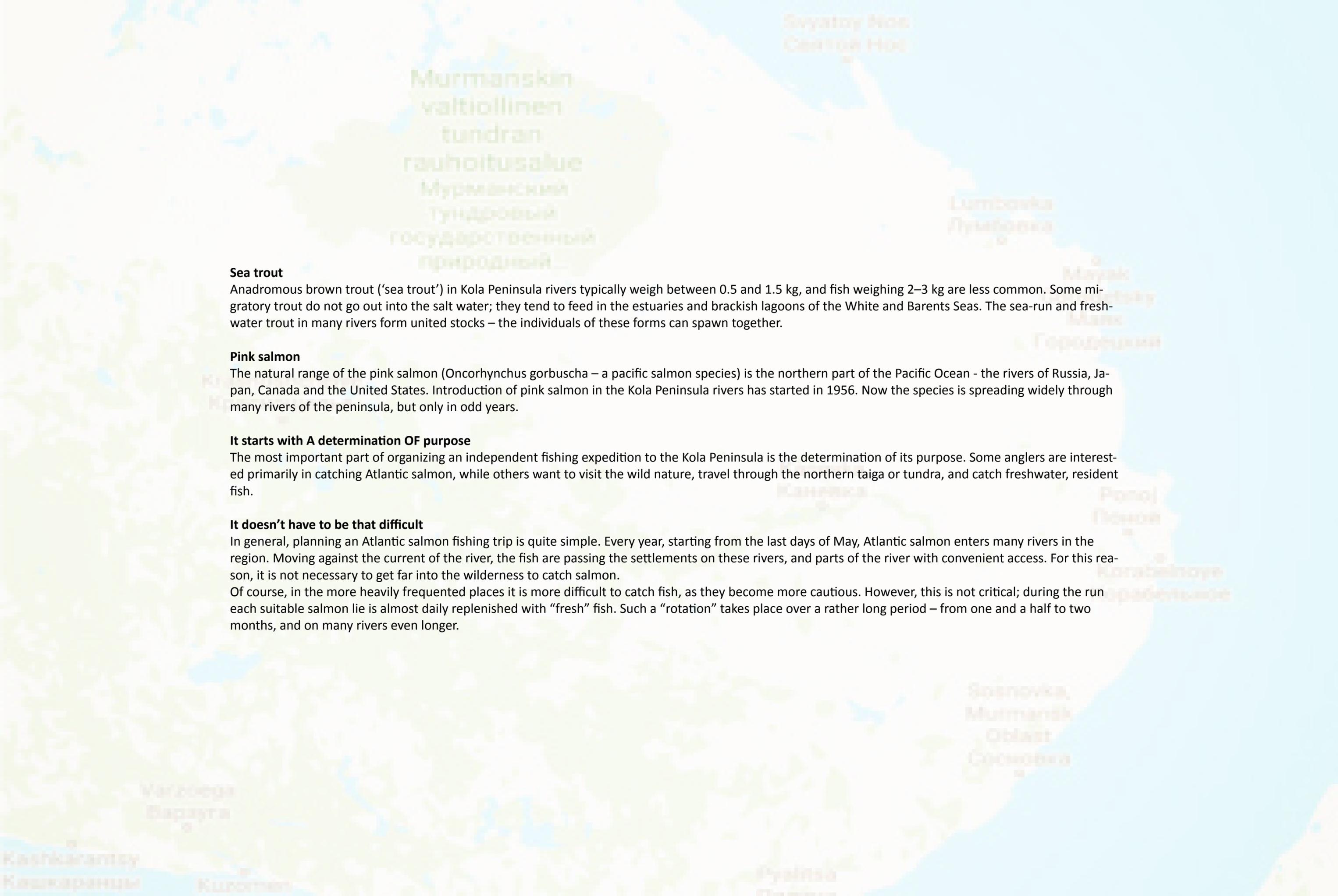
Kola Peninsula

Most foreign anglers travel to the Kola Peninsula to fish for Atlantic salmon. The reason is not hard to guess: every year, salmon weighing more than 20 kg are taken from river basins as the Kola, Pechenga, Bolshaya Zapadnaya Litsa, Vostochnaya Litsa, and Yokanga, Ura, Rynda, Kharlovka, and Varzina are famous for their remarkable trophies.

Brown trout

Brown trout are found in almost all the waters of the territory. The fish from the large lake systems and reservoirs usually reach a substantial size; their weight is on average 2-4 kg and can reach 10-12 kg. The trout from small lakes and connecting streams are much smaller: their average weight does not exceed one kilogram and more often is 300-600 grams.

In general, in the rivers of the White Sea basin, brown trout are losing the competition against the numerous parr and smolts of the Atlantic salmon. The most stable and numerous brown trout stocks are found in the remote lake-river systems of the northeastern part of the Kola Peninsula (East Murman shore of the Barents Sea). The average weight of fish in the most productive rivers and lakes is 2-4 kg, with sizes reaching up to 7-8 kg. In some large and deep lakes, it is possible to catch “white” brown trout - fish feeding in these water columns acquire a “pelagic” color with a dark back, silvery sides and a yellowish belly.

A map of the Kola Peninsula in Russia, showing the Murmansk tundra and surrounding areas. The map is in Russian and includes labels for various locations and regions. The text is overlaid on the map.

Sea trout

Anadromous brown trout ('sea trout') in Kola Peninsula rivers typically weigh between 0.5 and 1.5 kg, and fish weighing 2–3 kg are less common. Some migratory trout do not go out into the salt water; they tend to feed in the estuaries and brackish lagoons of the White and Barents Seas. The sea-run and freshwater trout in many rivers form united stocks – the individuals of these forms can spawn together.

Pink salmon

The natural range of the pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha* – a Pacific salmon species) is the northern part of the Pacific Ocean - the rivers of Russia, Japan, Canada and the United States. Introduction of pink salmon in the Kola Peninsula rivers has started in 1956. Now the species is spreading widely through many rivers of the peninsula, but only in odd years.

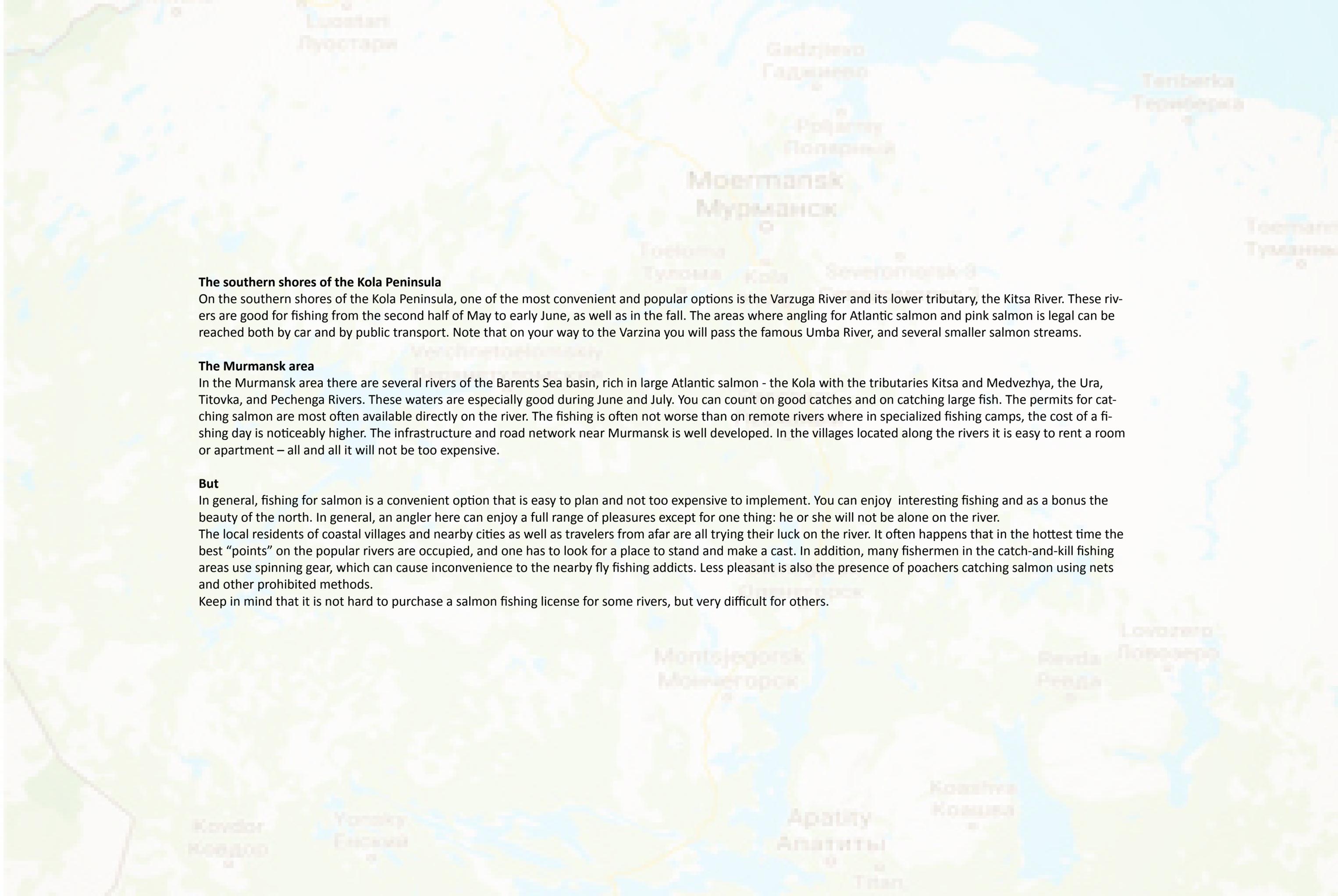
It starts with A determination OF purpose

The most important part of organizing an independent fishing expedition to the Kola Peninsula is the determination of its purpose. Some anglers are interested primarily in catching Atlantic salmon, while others want to visit the wild nature, travel through the northern taiga or tundra, and catch freshwater, resident fish.

It doesn't have to be that difficult

In general, planning an Atlantic salmon fishing trip is quite simple. Every year, starting from the last days of May, Atlantic salmon enters many rivers in the region. Moving against the current of the river, the fish are passing the settlements on these rivers, and parts of the river with convenient access. For this reason, it is not necessary to get far into the wilderness to catch salmon.

Of course, in the more heavily frequented places it is more difficult to catch fish, as they become more cautious. However, this is not critical; during the run each suitable salmon lie is almost daily replenished with "fresh" fish. Such a "rotation" takes place over a rather long period – from one and a half to two months, and on many rivers even longer.

A map of the Kola Peninsula and Murmansk area in Russia. The map shows the coastline of the Barents Sea to the north and the Gulf of Bothnia to the south. Major cities like Murmansk, Severomorsk-3, and Kola are marked. Rivers such as the Varzuga, Kitsa, and Kola are shown flowing into the sea. The map is overlaid with text boxes providing information about salmon fishing in the region.

The southern shores of the Kola Peninsula

On the southern shores of the Kola Peninsula, one of the most convenient and popular options is the Varzuga River and its lower tributary, the Kitsa River. These rivers are good for fishing from the second half of May to early June, as well as in the fall. The areas where angling for Atlantic salmon and pink salmon is legal can be reached both by car and by public transport. Note that on your way to the Varzuga you will pass the famous Uмба River, and several smaller salmon streams.

The Murmansk area

In the Murmansk area there are several rivers of the Barents Sea basin, rich in large Atlantic salmon - the Kola with the tributaries Kitsa and Medvezhya, the Ura, Titovka, and Pechenga Rivers. These waters are especially good during June and July. You can count on good catches and on catching large fish. The permits for catching salmon are most often available directly on the river. The fishing is often not worse than on remote rivers where in specialized fishing camps, the cost of a fishing day is noticeably higher. The infrastructure and road network near Murmansk is well developed. In the villages located along the rivers it is easy to rent a room or apartment – all and all it will not be too expensive.

But

In general, fishing for salmon is a convenient option that is easy to plan and not too expensive to implement. You can enjoy interesting fishing and as a bonus the beauty of the north. In general, an angler here can enjoy a full range of pleasures except for one thing: he or she will not be alone on the river.

The local residents of coastal villages and nearby cities as well as travelers from afar are all trying their luck on the river. It often happens that in the hottest time the best “points” on the popular rivers are occupied, and one has to look for a place to stand and make a cast. In addition, many fishermen in the catch-and-kill fishing areas use spinning gear, which can cause inconvenience to the nearby fly fishing addicts. Less pleasant is also the presence of poachers catching salmon using nets and other prohibited methods.

Keep in mind that it is not hard to purchase a salmon fishing license for some rivers, but very difficult for others.



Arctic char, grayling and trout

A different way to enjoy the far north is visiting uninhabited places and catching resident or freshwater brown trout, char and grayling. In this case it is necessary to carefully plan a trip to lake-river systems isolated from the sea. Many of these rivers and lakes are located in sparsely populated areas, there are no roads here so water bodies are not under strong fishing pressure. The organization of such a trip will require serious planning, good field gear and a good physical and mental health.

The best season for catching brown trout, char and grayling begins with the start of mass insect hatches. The best time to plan such a trip is from mid-June to late August for the southern and western parts of the Kola Peninsula, or from late June to mid-August - for its northern and eastern parts.

DIY

When Peter asked me if there are possibilities for Do It Yourself trips, my answer was; it is doable.

There are people who cross the Kola Peninsula with inflatable kayaks/packrafts going up one river and after a portage float another one.

It is possible to select the route suitable for the level of your fitness.

My advice: contact Andrey (see link) and ask for his recommendations. It might be easier to make part of the trip with a motor boat, and then to hike to some remote lakes-and-rivers system.

Two other options

Option1:

Buy a tour with one of the top operators. The “trout camp” at the Varzina River is well-known for excellent trout fishing.

<http://www.kharlovka.com/fly-fishing-in-the-asr/wild-brown-trout-kola-peninsula/>

This is reliable but very costly (lots of helicopter charter time).

Option 2:

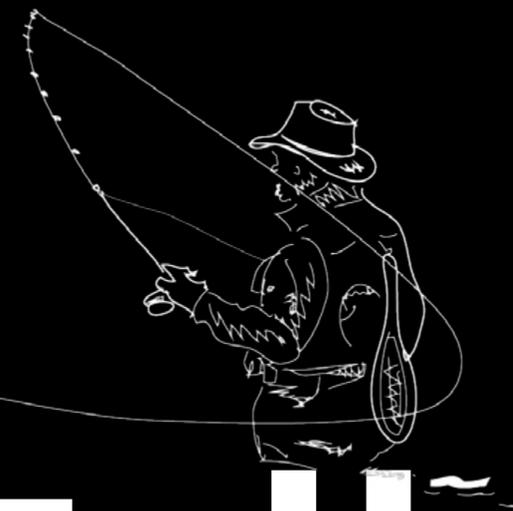
It is possible to organize a trip with motor boats. The best specialist I know is Andrey Sokolov sokol@kola-salmon.ru

Andrey has jet-motor boats and is expert on trout rivers of the peninsula.



Mikhail Skopets

Brand Talk



Brand Talk

About Brand Talk

We, at we are fly fishing (of which Cast Away magazine is a part) are not bound to any brand. That means we are free to like what we like and share our opinion with our readers.

Together with a team of international fly tiers and fly anglers, we discuss, just as you all probably do among yourselves, all things concerning fly fishing. From tying thread to rods, from line clippers to clothing, from floatant to license holders. Sometimes these discussions lead to tests, which (hopefully) lead to results and conclusions. Conclusions that might now and again even be worth sharing with you.

About ads in this magazine

We have very few ads in our Cast Away Magazine. But every now and then you might come across an ad or advertorial. Before we accept an ad, we test the material, trip, accommodation or other item highlighted extensively, and give you our honest opinion.

In this episode of **Brand Talk** we like to introduce the Danish company Geoff Anderson (see interview).

What we tested:

- * Urus pants
- * The new Xera 4 jacket

Test results [CLICK HERE](#)

INTERVIEW MORTEN VIHLMANN FOUNDER AND CEO GEOFF ANDERSON

Why and when did you start GA

M: It all started when I was studying to be an airplane mechanic/engineer. In the spring break a friend told me that he was aware of a job opening as an apprentice in a fishing store. Despite my endless efforts to become an engineer I instantly decided to give this job possibility in retail a chance. I called them, got interviewed - and got the job.

During my years in retail I designed numerous products - everything from waders to carp rods. I got familiar with design processes and the many challenges associated with importing stuff from other parts of the world. During this period I also managed to establish a network of manufacturers.

The big change came when I started making clothing. It was 1998 and breathable clothing for fishing was a rare thing.

I myself was fishing like crazy, which included traveling to remote places where survival was part of the package deal. I realized even back then how bad the design was when it came to highly specialized clothing for fishing. It was so bad that I wanted to fix that problem.

I was very naive, thinking that it would be a “walk in the park”, designing clothing. However, I was soon to find out that clothing and fishing tackle are not at all comparable. I certainly made my mistakes, but I learned from them and was determined to succeed. In late 1998 I finally felt that I nailed it. I was ready to start my own brand. At that time everything coming from the US was deemed fantastic, so I figured that my brand name should sound American, yet with a Scandinavian twist. The name I chose: GEOFF ANDERSON.

The first product I produced was a breathable jacket. A jacket that solved a huge “problem” for our domestic sea fishing in Scandinavia. And it was quite obvious that it solved the problem, as it became an instant success, effectively kick-starting the brand.

The “Made in Europe” label, why make it harder for yourself

M: Well... Made in Europe is only a part of the business. I will put it like this: All development and sample production is done locally - specifically in Gdansk where I have both a pattern maker and a sample production facility under the same roof. And it takes me only 45 minute to fly in.

Some of the designs are simply too costly to make in Europe. Most of our manufacturers in Europe also own factories in Asia. That gives us the flexibility to delegate the time-consuming patterns to the Asian operation. Suppliers for zippers and other accessories are typically also local. So all in all we are very conscious about the “local trade”, as we feel it both makes sense for our future on earth but certainly also ensures that quality standards are as high as possible.

Back to your question: why make it harder... - because we need to. As a “small fish in the ocean” we have to be way ahead in design and quality to beat the “big guys”. But more important for an innovative company is that we need to make our products hard to copy. Unless we have 100% control of every single process going into our clothing - we will be eaten, either by the “big fish” or by copycats. If somebody wants to copy us - and succeed: - I promise them it will not be easy, as we always choose the harder way to obtain our goals.

Looking to the future (what can we expect)

M: To make it short - we will do exactly what we have always done - fixing wrongs. We specifically design everything for fishing – sport fishing is in our DNA.

The code words are: “Warmth and waterproofness”, and to add to that - we do not start producing anything before we are certain that the product indeed fixes a wrong, and has the potential to become the best product in its field.

Looking into the future we have “set sail” for a further boost of becoming “greener”. We know that changing the world overnight is not possible - but we do add new improvements to the environmental side of the business all the time. Just to mention a few improvements over the past two weeks - we have had solar panels installed in our warehouse building, we have railed our latest garments from China instead of shipping them by sea, we have changed all plastic bags to recycle, and we have changed all our packaging to recycled cardboard. Our strongest and most important environmental goal is and will always be: making a long-lasting product that is so well made and functional that it make sense to have it repaired rather than disposed of. We still repair garments manufactured in 1998. And I think that says something.

Morten Vihlmann

VISIT WEBSITE



Xera4™

Stop

talking

weather

Tsuba2™

Made in Europe

Xera4™ and Tsuba2™ represent maximum quality, precisely tailored features and highly sophisticated technology. We like to call it: Simply advanced.

By the way - they are the only two fishing jackets made in Europe and are ofcourse recyclable and non toxic.

Price: 349 EUR

Price: 549 EUR

Jan Kubala

Austria



T he Goiserer Traun: river of big grayling

The Goiserer Traun is a big river, with an average width of 20-35 m. Fast water is interrupted by drop-offs into deep pools. The river holds lake-run brown trout as well as resident brown trout, but is most well-known for its great population of big grayling and wild trout. Trophy size fish of over 50 and 60 cm are caught regularly.





The Goiserer Traun is the out-flow of the Hallstätter See (lake); its fishing is managed by Hurch FlyFishing. It flows for about 4,3 km until it reaches the town Bad Goisern from which it takes its name.



Fishing

There can be difficult days with almost no hatches, but if the fish are active the river starts to boil and the fish go crazy.

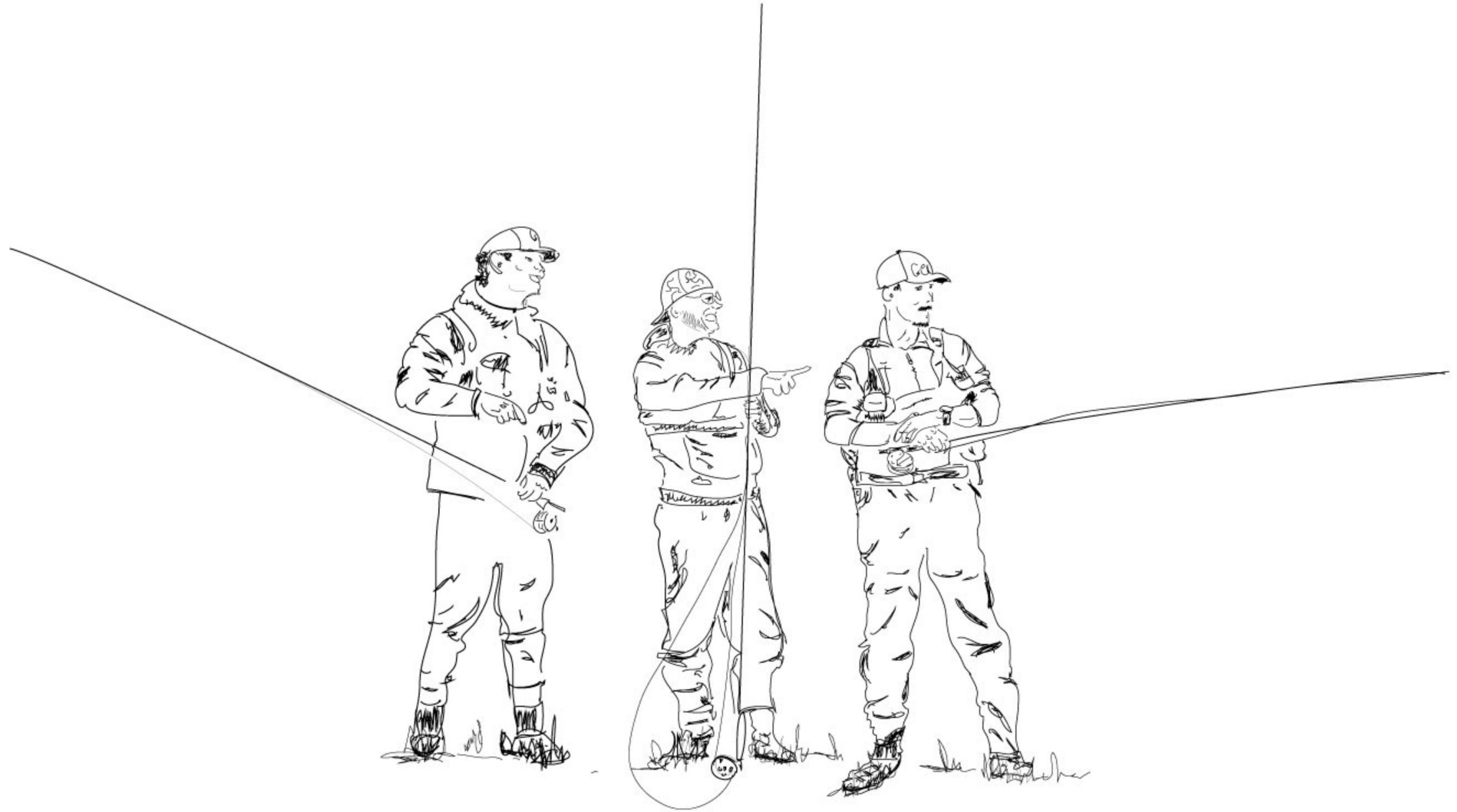
Prime season is from May-November. Most of the time we fish dry flies and nymphs, with different techniques like hopper-dropper, long-line nymphing and short-line nymphing.

Flies

Flies like sedges, large and small upwinged flies, and different types of pheasant tail nymphs work the best; just as on many other rivers in Austria.

Follow me on my journey on Instagram: [jan.kubala.fly.fishing](https://www.instagram.com/jan.kubala.fly.fishing)

Jan Kubala



THE GOOD OLD BOYS



THE GOOD OLD BOYS

Although the average age of this trio is not even forty, they are locally known as the good old boys. And I know now, there are days they actually do feel old. Sucky and old. Especially after a few days of camping out, when the days are getting colder and the nights already are. Those early mornings can be a little rough, even for these hardened souls.

You probably picture them, just as I did, over a fireplace eating beans and dried meat, and chewing tobacco mixed with black coffee. But you couldn't be more wrong. Although one of them has the nasty habit of putting tobacco ('snus') under his lip, which, after a while, turns into a brownish liquid of a rather undefined nature, and most of their coffee is indeed black (because they use the old way of making camp coffee), a cafe latte, would not, if offered, be refused. Rumour has it that one of them even prefers smoothies over beer but that seems a bit far-fetched. Although I did notice one of them eating those light crackers. You know, the ones women turn to to lose weight.

The more information I gathered, the more confused I became. Why 'the good old boys'? The first thing that came to mind is that all three of them are single; might this be one of the reasons they are called the good old boys? Choosing between the desire to remain free and the responsibilities of maintaining a family was in fact the story behind the movie with the same name. Although they themselves call it dodging the bullet, I know for a fact they tried. After all, they are only human. For a couple of days, maybe even for some weeks, everything went fine. But then their minds start drifting. Mainly to salmonids, alternated with big perch and even bigger pike. And when your favourite night out, next to wading knee-deep in trout waters, is an evening tying flies and drinking beer with friends, I personally think you should not start a relationship other than with your fly rod.

When your favourite night out, next to wading knee-deep in trout waters, is an evening tying flies and drinking beer with friends, I personally think you should not start a relationship other than with your fly rod.



The word bum comes to mind.
They look like they wear the same
clothes for weeks, spend all their
money on fly fishing gear and on
top of that probably don't speak
more than two words in a row....

There must be something though after all there is some truth in every nickname. Maybe it is in the way they look. But after taking a closer look, I doubt it. Although some women fancy a characterized 'outdoor look', but with all respect, I don't think the word 'good' is the first thing that pops up, rather than the word 'old'.

The word bum comes to mind. They look like they wear the same clothes for weeks, spend all their money on fly fishing gear and on top of that probably don't speak more than two words in a row except when ordering beer in some local bar.

There were just too many maybes so I decided that I had to meet the guys. This turned out to be easier than I imagined. In short: we met for some beers in their local bar. And I must say, appearances can be deceiving. I know now that this rough looking trio is well educated. They speak more than two words in a row - in fact, one of them occasionally suffers from vocabulary diarrhea - and yes, they do have a collection of fly fishing stuff every upcoming shop owner would be delighted to have.....but after meeting the guys I am convinced that this is not why they are called 'the good old boys'.

I understand now that the good old boys is more a pet name than a nickname. A tribute to those who help young people (and old) with clearing the path to become fly fishermen. Giving fly casting and tying lessons for free, sharing material and fishing spots.

I myself would be honored to be one of them and I happily go to by the name good old boy. I am thinking a global fly fishing club.....or.....well, of course this is not up to me, but who knows in the near future.....I promise to keep you posted.

text & photo: Peter Sikking

BACK TO BASIC

Marek Sidor

Canary Islands



Gran Canaria
hidden treasures





X PLORE

The island of Gran Canaria offers fishing of a surprisingly high quality to fly anglers. Especially to fly anglers who like to do or try something out of the ordinary.

text & photo: Peter Sinking



TOMATO TOMAHTO

On Gran Canaria, there are several landscaped reservoirs – their constriction going back all the way to Spanish dictator Franco - that supply the tomato plantations which, before the rise of tourism, were the island's main export product.

In an attempt to control insects and algae in the reservoirs they were stocked with carp, black bass and tilapia, which have been reproducing for approximately 50-60 years, and – in a natural way - prosper in these waters.

Fishing is possible all year round thanks to the mild climate the Canary Islands experience. Because of this, there is almost no hibernation and fish feed practically without stopping; thanks to which they grow faster and larger than in most of the provinces of the Spanish mainland.

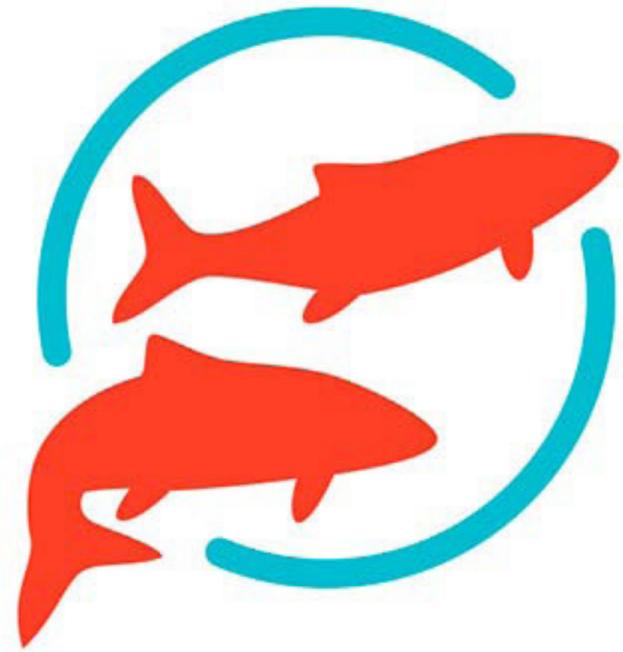




The “reservoirs” or dams in which I fish are distributed all over the island, but the majority can be found in the central zone. At the highest elevations they appear more like open ravines, with a distinct lack of plant life. Descend, and more and more vegetation appears until you reach the level of the Canarian trees.

The size of the fish can be surprising, to say the least! If you are looking for a new personal best, Gran Canaria could be the right destination! The equipment I use ranges between line weights #5 to #8. Depending on the species I decide to target. I would not recommend using anything below a 4-weight and there is no real need to go beyond a 9-weight. I mostly use floating lines. An exception is made when fishing from a float tube. Then I use fast-sinking lines to be able to reach the fish on the bottom. Flies used include streamers, poppers, nymphs and imitations of bread.

Marek Sidor



WORLD FISH
MIGRATION DAY



Fish migrate up and down rivers, some even out into lakes, the sea, or ocean, to complete their lifecycles; some species may swim more than 10,000 km within a single year between breeding and feeding grounds. Some even manage to find the exact river where they were born, after spending years in the open sea. They navigate using ocean currents, magnetic fields, even their sense of taste and smell.

There are more than 1,100 freshwater species that migrate distances of more than 100 km, and millions of people around the world who depend on them for food, sport, research and intrigue. However, increased impacts from instream barriers, such as hydroelectric dams, pollution and other habitat changes have had massive effects on the survival of these fish and the communities that depend on them.

Our story

To make people more aware of these issues, the World Fish Migration Foundation's founder, Herman Wanningen, organised a local Fish Migration Day seventeen years ago. To everyone's surprise, a thousand people turned up that day. People were actually interested in migratory fish! Herman left his government job and expanded this Fish Migration Day from a regional, to a national, to, in 2014, an international event.

Following the success of this event, the World Fish Migration Foundation was founded as a non-profit organization to bring global attention to these topics and give people the tools to understand, promote and restore rivers to an uninterrupted, free-flowing state. The foundation's mission is to support people who are working on opening up rivers for migratory fish, through international outreach and offering support networks and the tools to do the job. This will help protect and conserve migratory fish and the rivers we depend on.

What we do

Wild and free rivers can be protected and even the most polluted and dammed rivers can recover. We start with public engagement, develop smart policies and funding streams, then help implement effective on-the-ground solutions to create healthy rivers filled with migratory fish. Only then will we start to realize our vision of free-flowing rivers full of fish.

WEBSITE

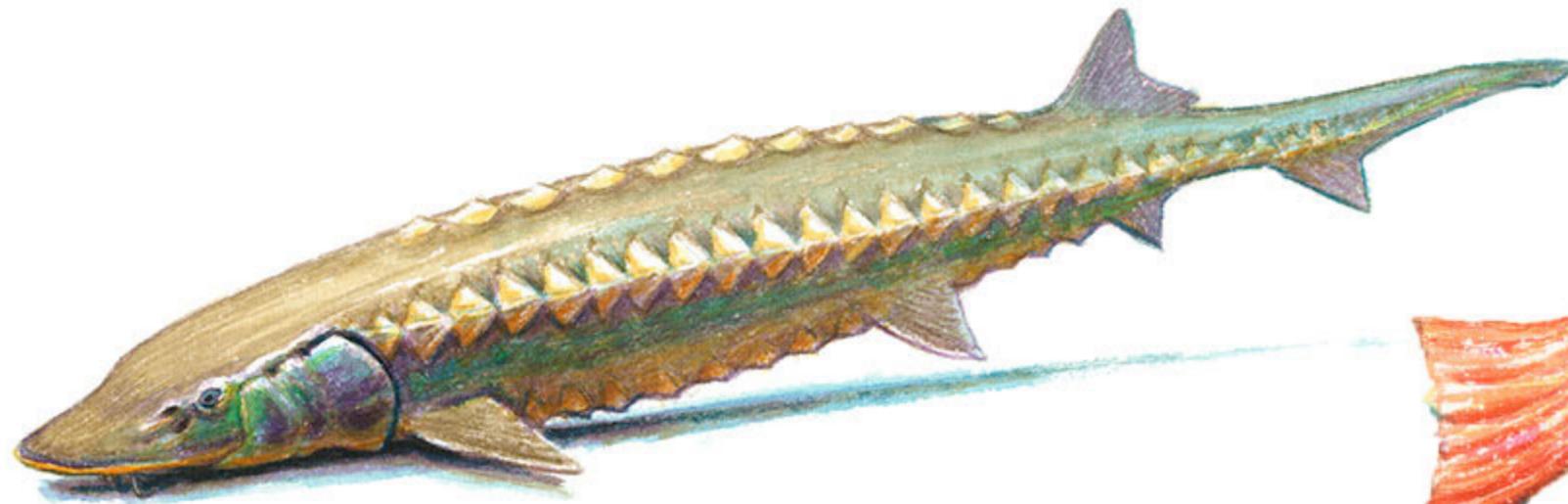


QUIZ

3 fish. All of them endangered!

Question: what are their names and which fish is the most endangered one.

Send your answer to **we are fly fishing** and the first 15 to respond will get an original fish migration cap and t-shirt!



**THINKING OF A SEA TROUT TRIP?
IT ALL STARTS AT SEATROUT.DK**

GO TO THE WEBSITE



special thanks to

Special thanks to my editor. Not only is he sharp as a knife, and not only on grammar, he is, without a doubt, one of the smartest men I ever met. Without him I would be lost. So thank you Henk Verhaar for making this magazine possible!

Peter Sikking



part 2 EUROPE

UPCOMING ISSUE

- * Andre Miegies favorite leisure activity
- * Holger Lachman explains UV resin
- * Joona's legacy
- * Two handed Marita Fjellstad
- * Spanish legend José H. Weigand
- * Fly fishing Portugal with Marco di sao Vicente
- * Rodtrip: made by Belgium friends and much, much more



Magazine



© right...copyright.....

We get a lot of questions concerning authors rights and copyright.

It is very simple: everything you find in the magazine is made under copyright. This protects us (WAFF) as well as the people who work on these issues. So you can not copy anything without permission from the publisher. Please contact us if you need more information.

INFO@WEAREFLYFISHING.COM

ADVERTISING

adv@weareflyfishing.com

BECOME A PARTNER AND MAKE A CHANGE.....OR THE OTHER WAY AROUND

[CONTACT](#)

BE SOCIAL

