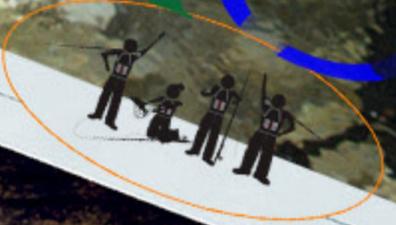




Cast Away Magazine

EUROPE
part 3



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Published by: WAFF

PHOTO PETER SIKKING



Europe part 3

Europe parts 1 and 2 took you from the northwest of Russia to the Austrian capital – Vienna – and further south to Portugal.

From there we went north again, to Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

In this issue we'd like to take you to the beautiful Scottish highlands, and from there to Slovenia, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Bulgaria and The Netherlands.

Enjoy

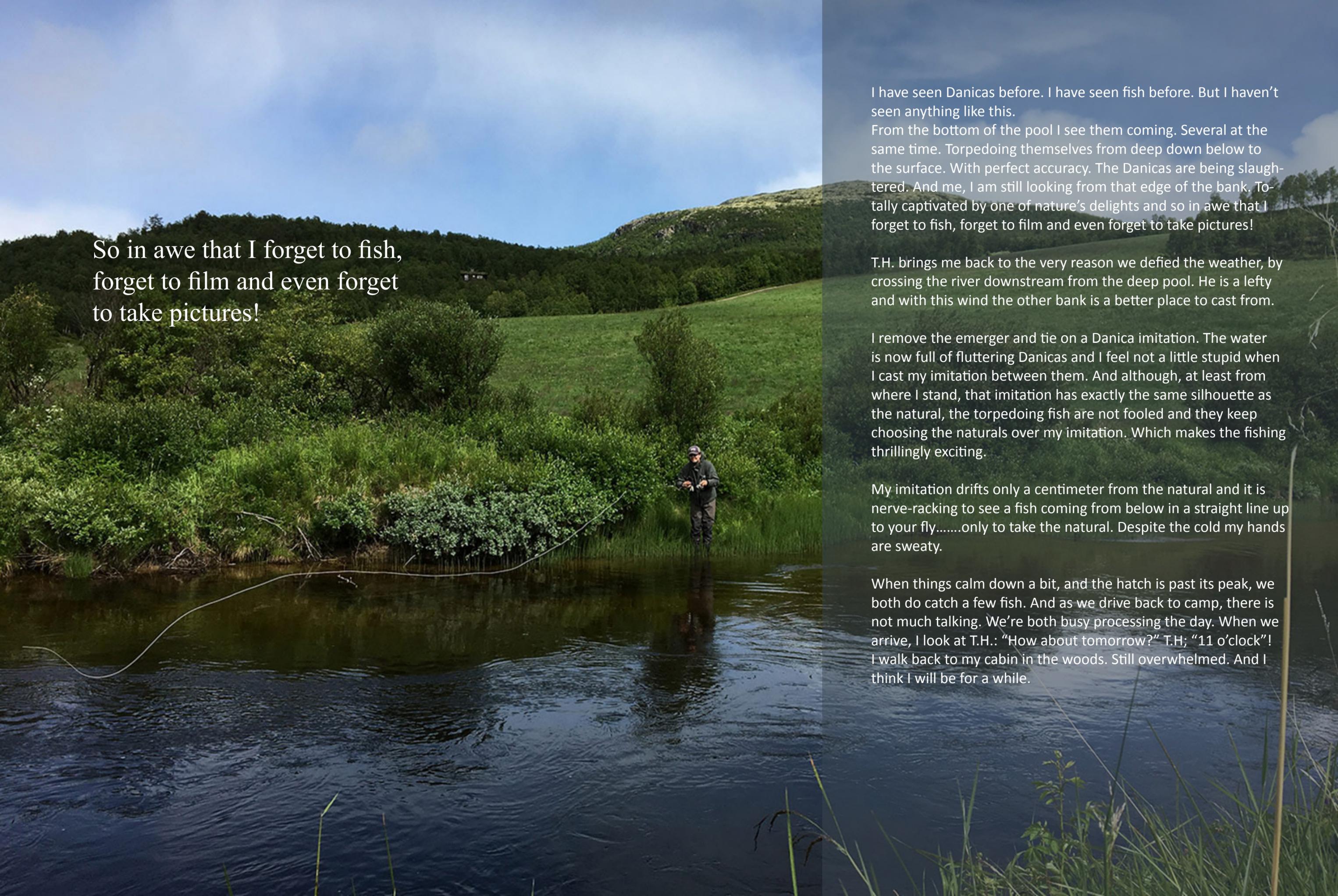
Peter Sikking



‘Rise of the danica’

TEXT & PHOTOS PETER SIKKING

Part 2

A fly fisherman is standing in a river, surrounded by lush greenery and hills under a blue sky. The fisherman is wearing a dark jacket and a cap, and is holding a fishing rod. The river is dark and reflects the sky. The background shows rolling green hills and a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

So in awe that I forget to fish,
forget to film and even forget
to take pictures!

I have seen Danicas before. I have seen fish before. But I haven't seen anything like this.

From the bottom of the pool I see them coming. Several at the same time. Torpedoing themselves from deep down below to the surface. With perfect accuracy. The Danicas are being slaughtered. And me, I am still looking from that edge of the bank. Totally captivated by one of nature's delights and so in awe that I forget to fish, forget to film and even forget to take pictures!

T.H. brings me back to the very reason we defied the weather, by crossing the river downstream from the deep pool. He is a lefty and with this wind the other bank is a better place to cast from.

I remove the emerger and tie on a Danica imitation. The water is now full of fluttering Danicas and I feel not a little stupid when I cast my imitation between them. And although, at least from where I stand, that imitation has exactly the same silhouette as the natural, the torpedoing fish are not fooled and they keep choosing the naturals over my imitation. Which makes the fishing thrillingly exciting.

My imitation drifts only a centimeter from the natural and it is nerve-racking to see a fish coming from below in a straight line up to your fly.....only to take the natural. Despite the cold my hands are sweaty.

When things calm down a bit, and the hatch is past its peak, we both do catch a few fish. And as we drive back to camp, there is not much talking. We're both busy processing the day. When we arrive, I look at T.H.: "How about tomorrow?" T.H.; "11 o'clock"! I walk back to my cabin in the woods. Still overwhelmed. And I think I will be for a while.

Norway

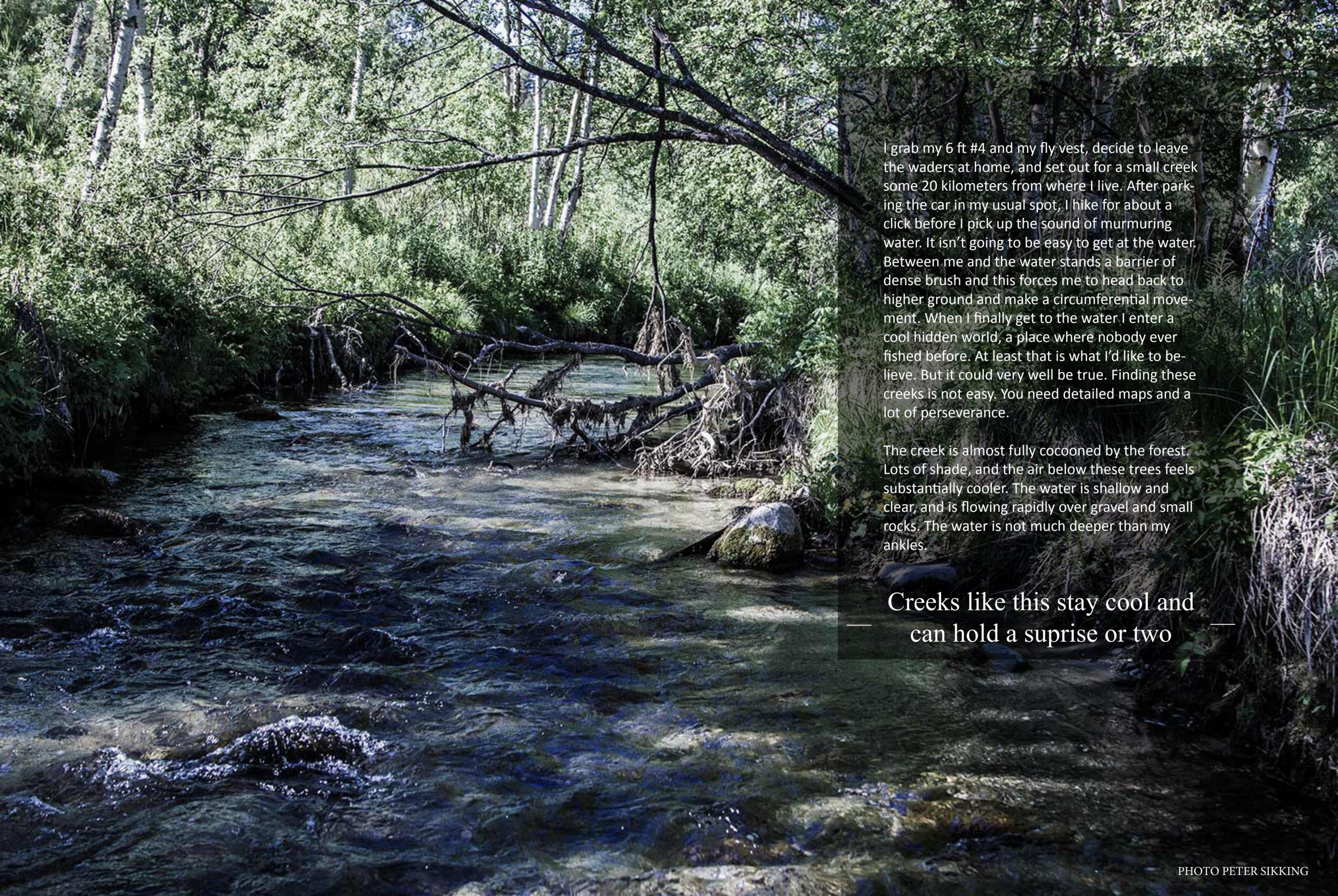
Marius Tollan

Small creek surprises

According to the weather forecast there is a good possibility there will be a heat wave, starting tomorrow. The second of this month. Which is exceptional for a country that is rightly famous for its cool summers and cold winters.

For us in the north of Europe warm water by default means bad fishing conditions. And although there are many big rivers where I live, rivers that do not heat up too quickly, two heat waves after another will overwhelm these big rivers too. Lucky for me, these big rivers have tributaries, which in turn are fed by small creeks flowing into them. These small creeks, the ones I have in mind, are mostly covered by trees, and that should ensure lower water temperatures. Maybe, just maybe, some fish will go up into one of these cooler creeks to get a break from the summer heat and enjoy the more oxygenated water.





I grab my 6 ft #4 and my fly vest, decide to leave the waders at home, and set out for a small creek some 20 kilometers from where I live. After parking the car in my usual spot, I hike for about a click before I pick up the sound of murmuring water. It isn't going to be easy to get at the water. Between me and the water stands a barrier of dense brush and this forces me to head back to higher ground and make a circumferential movement. When I finally get to the water I enter a cool hidden world, a place where nobody ever fished before. At least that is what I'd like to believe. But it could very well be true. Finding these creeks is not easy. You need detailed maps and a lot of perseverance.

The creek is almost fully cocooned by the forest. Lots of shade, and the air below these trees feels substantially cooler. The water is shallow and clear, and is flowing rapidly over gravel and small rocks. The water is not much deeper than my ankles.

— Creeks like this stay cool and
— can hold a surprise or two —

Peace

I walk upstream to a part of the creek where it is somewhat deeper, and continue up about 150 meters. There I sit down on a rock to observe the adjacent pool. It sure is a beautiful little pool. About 7 meters in length and no more than 2 meters across. I notice some caddisflies that are active in the vegetation, as well as some mayfly spinners high up in the air. Birds are singing in the background and I have not seen a fish yet but am already completely at peace with the world.



Patience

After sitting on that rock for about ten minutes – I have managed to become more patient over the years - I suddenly see a tail breaking the water surface at the end of the pool. It's a trout and it is taking something just under the surface. The fish looks quite big, but of course that could be just an optical illusion; small creeks tend to make fish look bigger. Regardless, this could well be a decent size fish.

Caddis

I tie on a caddis emerger pattern in a size 16. The trees and bushes around me are all conspiring to try and grab my fly but I somehow manage to get it, more or less decently, in the right spot on the water, where the fish takes the fly without any hesitation. I didn't expect it to go this well and almost forget to set the hook. In a reflex I manage to hook the fish, which answers by jumping clean out of the water. It is a nice fish indeed!

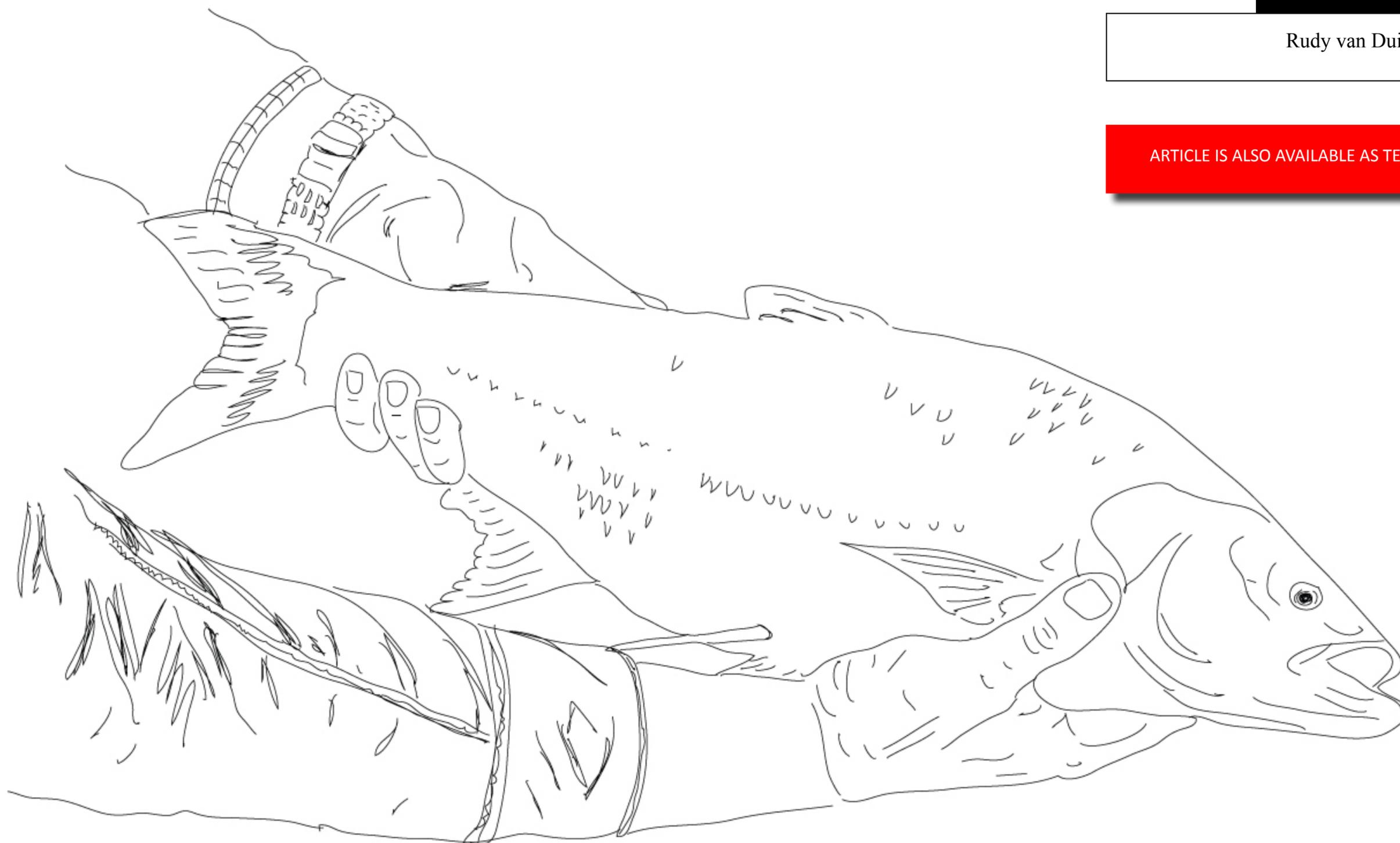
After a short fight I net it. A golden brown trout in perfect condition. I admire the fish for a few seconds before I let it swim away. I take my place on the rock again and look at the small pool. I wonder if there is a another pool just like this one further upstream.....



The Netherlands

Rudy van Duijnhoven

ARTICLE IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS TEXT ONLY

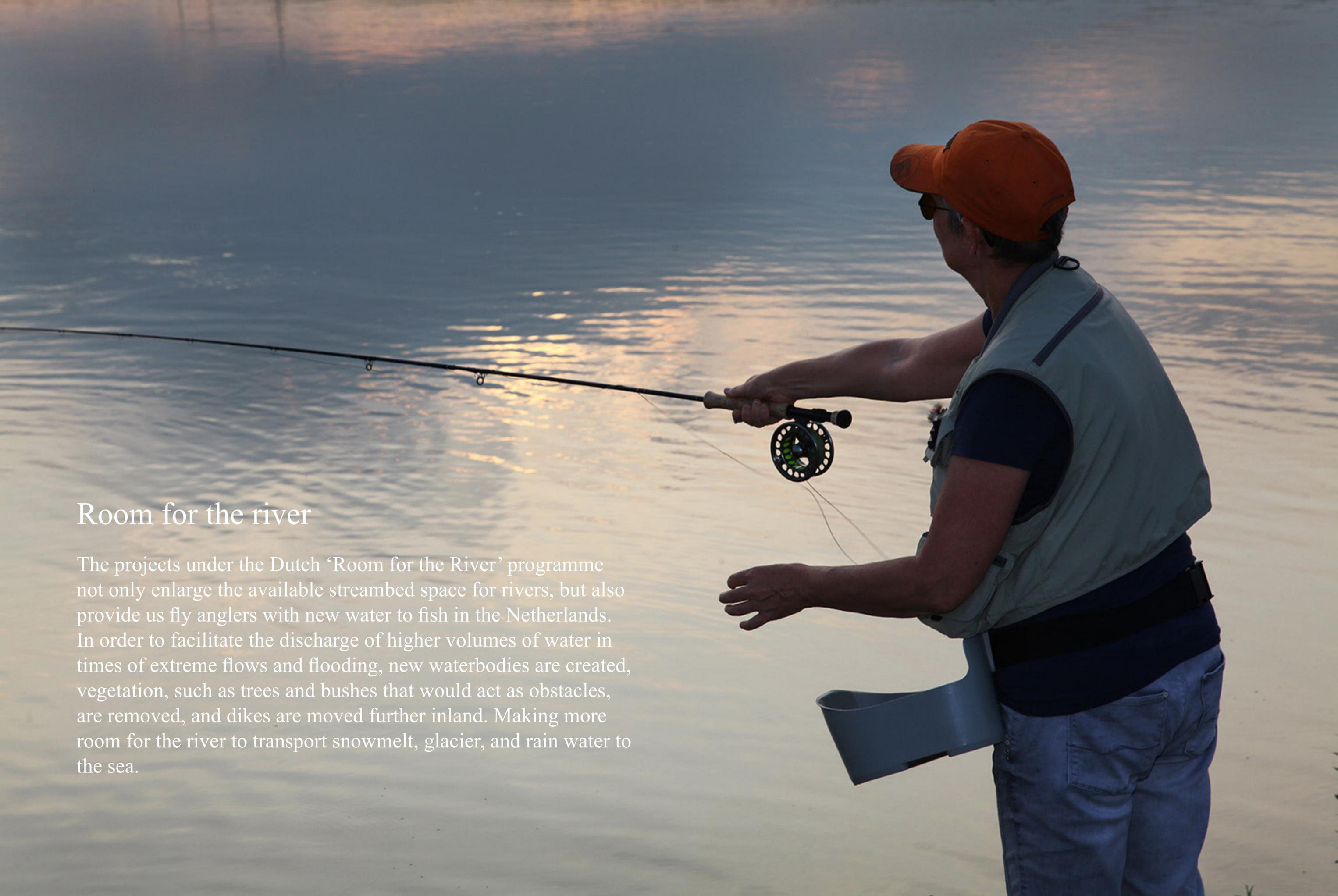


A fly fisherman wearing a waders and an orange cap is kneeling on a boat, holding a large fish. The fish is silver with a white belly and orange fins. The background is a body of water with a soft, golden light, suggesting sunset or sunrise.

Creating room for fly fishing

Near Nijmegen, the “Spiegelwaal” flood channel was created a few years ago, a new channel parallel to the main river, with a length of some four kilometres, which completely fills up in times of high run-off. Excavating this channel also resulted in the creation of a new island, dubbed Veur-Lent. There are a total of five bridges across the Spiegelwaal, including a railway bridge and one for pedestrians and cyclists.

During normal flows water enters the Spiegelwaal through a number of large pipes in a low levee; in times of drought this flow stops altogether. In times of high water, the river will flow across this levee. Other types of watersports are then possible, such as surf-kayaking, but the water will be too murky for fly fishing.

A fly angler is shown in profile, fishing in a river. The angler is wearing an orange cap, sunglasses, a light-colored vest over a dark shirt, and light-colored pants. He is holding a fly fishing rod with a reel, and the line is cast into the water. The background is a wide river with a sunset sky reflected on the water's surface. The overall mood is peaceful and scenic.

Room for the river

The projects under the Dutch 'Room for the River' programme not only enlarge the available streambed space for rivers, but also provide us fly anglers with new water to fish in the Netherlands. In order to facilitate the discharge of higher volumes of water in times of extreme flows and flooding, new waterbodies are created, vegetation, such as trees and bushes that would act as obstacles, are removed, and dikes are moved further inland. Making more room for the river to transport snowmelt, glacier, and rain water to the sea.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large, silvery fish, likely a zander, against a background of dark, rippling water. The fish is held horizontally, with its head to the right and tail to the left. The person's hands are visible, with one hand supporting the fish from underneath and the other from the side. A fishing rod is partially visible in the background, extending from the top right towards the center. The lighting is natural, highlighting the scales of the fish and the texture of the water.

Under normal conditions the water flow from the pipes can be quite strong. Small fry get confused by that current and are easy prey for birds and fish! It is not just perch and zander that await the flyfisher here, asp also love a strong current and will actively hunt for small fish here. Violent splashes and swirls are a good indication that asp are trying to fill their stomach. Apparently scuba divers have even seen some Atlantic salmon here, waiting for a chance to pass the pipes.

From shore you can fly fish with floating and sinktip fly-lines, if necessary with sinking Poly-leaders. As asp can grow quite big (from 70 to over 80 cm), a 7-weight outfit generally is a good choice. I like to use ten foot rods here, but a nine footer will do just as well. Streamers from five to eight centimeters in length are a good bet for perch and asp, for zander they should be a bit larger.

From shore it is difficult to use full sinking lines, as you will sacrifice a lot of flies to the stones and branches on the bottom of the water. Especially near the bank. From a float tube using fast sinking fly-lines is less of a problem, as you can move across the spot where your streamer got caught up on the bottom. With the float tube it is also easier to scout different parts of the water – I have hooked nice sized zander even from the deeper parts of the water, fishing from my belly boat.

The Spiegelwaal is included in the VISpas national fishing license and can be found on the Visplanner after you have downloaded and installed this app on your smartphone. The VISpas is the national fishing document of the Netherlands, which you will receive when you become a member of any fishing association that is part of Sportvisserij Nederland (which is most of them). The Vispas will cost you between 30 and 50 euros a year, depending on the association that you join.

Website:

<https://www.sportvisserij nederland.nl/vispas/vispas-english/>



Hardangervidda

Text and photography Peter Sikking

WEBSITE

A view to kill for

It is around 9 o'clock on a cold October morning as I open my tent. With a cup of hot coffee in one hand while the other is still in my sleeping bag with the rest of my body, I enjoy the view outside. Today is my birthday but I don't expect a lot of visitors. I am in the southern part of Hardangervidda Norway. Checking out the local fishing opportunities.

A blue backpack with a large silver air pump and a fishing rod leaning against it, set against a backdrop of a lake and forest. The backpack has "Appalachian 60+15" printed on it. The air pump has instructions like "WITH AIR PUMP UP AND DOWN STAIRS" and "RELEASE". The fishing rod is a Powell brand. The scene is outdoors near a lake with reeds and a forest in the background.

When I arrived here yesterday morning I spent the day searching along the banks of several small lakes for rising fish. At one of the lakes I noticed a jumping fish. From where I stood it looked like a decent fish. I tried to store its exact location on my "wet hard drive" and saved the location until the next morning.

It was a decent fish ;) Almost 2 kilos of gold!

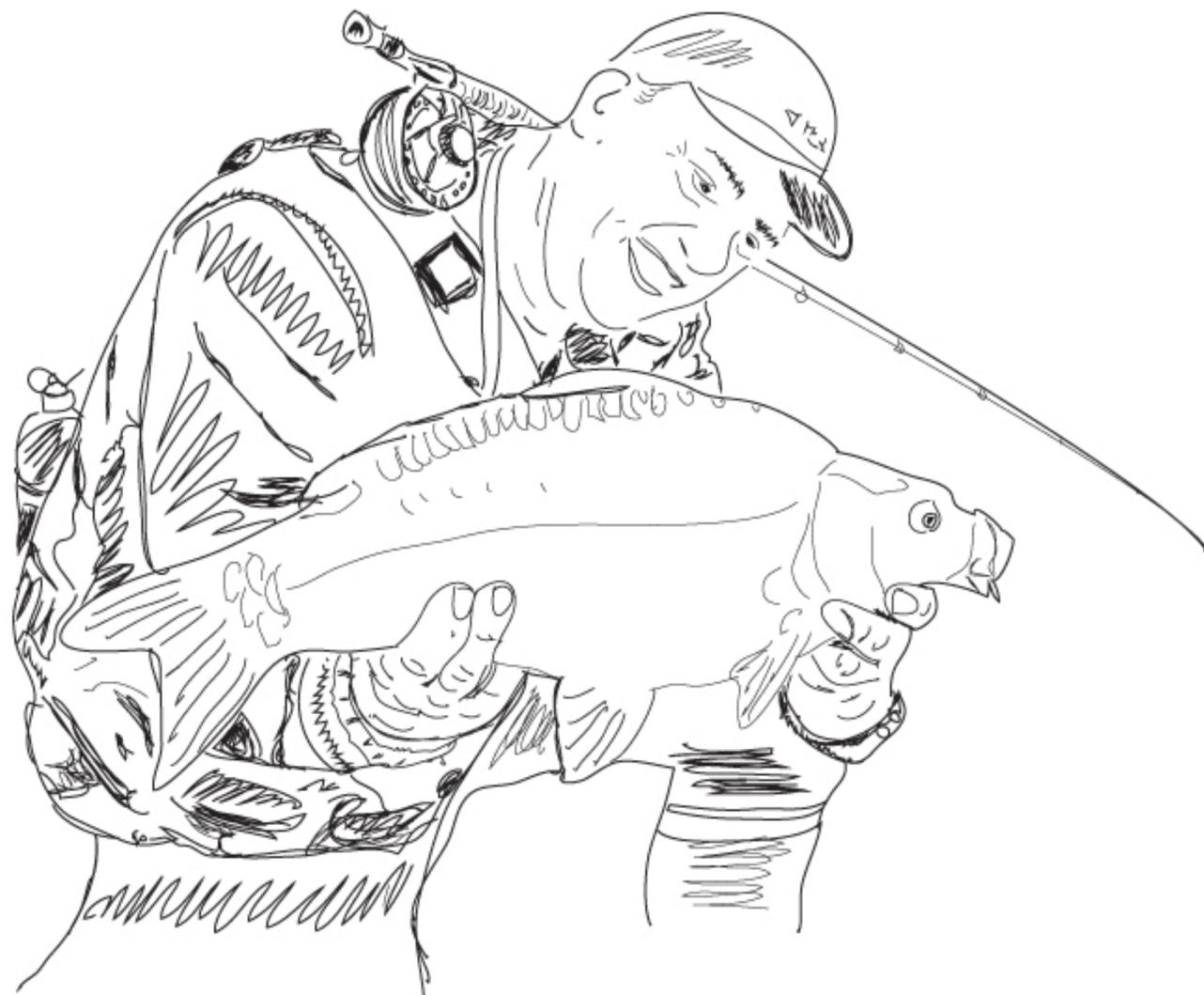


Typical Hardangervidda scenery

Rough terrain and difficult water (when fishing from the bank) can turn out to be perfect fly fishing water if you bring your own floating device.



a small mountain lake
almost impossible not to scare the fish



The Netherlands

André Miegies



Fishing Dutch waters

If you do not hail from our country of windmills, wide horizons and stagnant shallow water, you could easily make the mistake of thinking this flat country doesn't offer much in the way of fly fishing opportunities. But you couldn't be more wrong. We don't have streams with trout, grayling and salmon but apart from that, we do have a lot of water.

Over the years, starting with the second half of the 20th century, Dutch fly fishermen took up fly fishing at home, adapting it to our stillwaters and the fish occupying them. We have lots of roach and rudd, bream, carp, and predator fish like zander, perch and pike. And we catch them all with a fly rod and adapted flies.



Summertime

Besides going abroad to visit salmonid waters, summertime for me is all about carp fishing. I especially like sight fishing for carp with topwater flies, and summertime is the best season to do just that.

Casting sharp and gentle is key. Carp are easily spooked. But if your cast is good and your fly lands in the correct spot, with a soft plop on the water, the thrill begins. Often I will be standing on the bankside with sweat in my hands. Carp are experts at building up tension: 'he is coming...easy now...almost there.... no what %&*^#, he turns...no... coming back now, coming back...yes, yes ...no...yes, BINGO: fish on!

A decent sized carp will give you a good fight, and your material should be up to it. A 7- or 8-weight rod will be sufficient, coupled with a matching floating line and some surface and slowly sinking flies. Add a pair of sunglasses and you are ready to go!

The Netherlands offers a lot of carp water. You can fish for carp in small ponds, manmade city canals, 'polder' waters and lakes. They all contain carp.



Autumn and winter

From the beginning of October I switch to fishing for big perch. Perch are also a big passion of mine. I think perch are the best-looking fish we have in The Netherlands. It is a big reward to catch a real big perch on a fly, and they tend to grow big. Some of them measure over 50 cm and can weigh up to 3 kg!





Belgium

Rodtrip

Rodtrip is a team of anglers who found one other through an internet fly fishing forum, and became friends for life : Mathias (the founder), Jeremy (photographer), Romain (good in every kind of fly fishing), and Johan (writer, and caretaker of this bunch on their trips).





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VISION



Belgium

Belgium has the advantage of being a small country (in a three hour drive you can get from one border to another), meaning that you can reach many good waters in less than two hours driving. We regularly visit the Netherlands in search of pike in the polders or big lakes with the belly boat. We're also close to French reservoirs and rivers, like Sommedieue and Coyolles (trout heaven for sight fishing).

The west

In the centre of Belgium, you've got still waters and canals, where carp grow big, and where in summer you can catch some 20+ pound fish purely by sight fishing. It's a real blast seeing your backing leave your spool every time. These waters are also full of roach, and some hold quite some pike too.



The east

In the east, you have very good trout streams. You can of course target the specimens (Romain catches dozens of 60 cm+ fario trout every year, and there are monsters of more than 80cm taken every year), but there are also real gems like the Amblève, Lesse and Lomme, Viroin, and other small streams full of trout, grayling, chub and barbel. Think about French nymphing, dry fly and streamer fishing.



Contact

If you're looking for information on these waters, or if you would like to see pictures of our beloved sport, do check and like our digital pages : www.rodtrip.com, [@rodtrip](https://www.instagram.com/rodtrip).

Feel free to contact us if you're looking for a trip to Belgium; we'd love to help you with practical information.



The Rodtrip team

Together they created a website where they post adventures from fly fishing trips in Belgium and other countries.

On their website, instagram, and facebook page, they post their best pictures regarding fly fishing, friendship, and the positive influence fly fishing has had on their lives.

Their photos are mostly about the beauty of nature, the fish and environment they fish in.

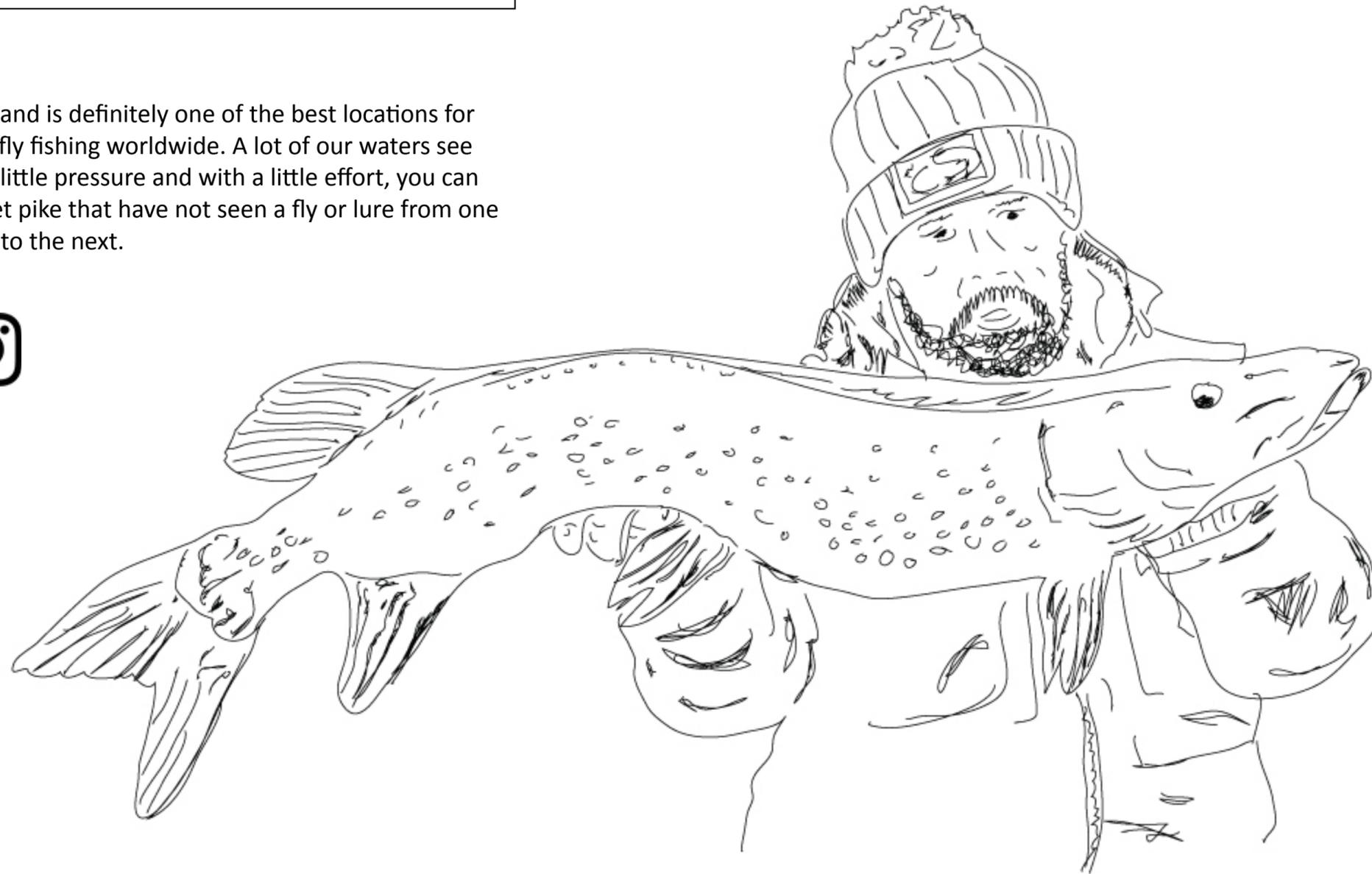
January 25/26 you can meet the crew at the Charleroi fly fair in Belgium



Scotland

Stuart Sutherland

Scotland is definitely one of the best locations for pike fly fishing worldwide. A lot of our waters see very little pressure and with a little effort, you can target pike that have not seen a fly or lure from one year to the next.





Change

Fly fishing is changing, not only in Europe but across the world and here in Scotland it is no different! We are starting to look away from our traditional game fish species such as salmon, trout and grayling in search of new challenges. This is especially true with the brigade of young fly fishermen and women coming through!

As we look towards new and exciting challenges, we are drawn towards our predatory species, especially the pike! **Once seen as a nuisance fish and persecuted by game fishery management**, the tables have turned and nowadays it is common place to arrive at a one of our premier trout waters such as the beautiful *lake of Menteith* or the world famous *Loch Leven* and see both trout fly fishermen and pike fly fishermen heading out together for a day of great sport. Killing pike is very much now frowned upon and catch and release is widely practised.

Scotland is a great destination for targeting pike on the fly and is one of the most scenic destinations worldwide. Fishing on one of our big glacier carved lochs, you can be fishing prime locations, with castles and mountains in the backdrop.

For me, when I die and get to Valhalla, I know where I'll end up! Right back here, chasing pike with a fly rod! You only have to look at the bible (Fred Buller's doomsday book of mammoth pike) to see the amount of big pike that's been recorded to have come from Scottish waters.

I believe these mammoth pike turned up in the past due to the large numbers of salmonoids running our lochs and river systems and being extremely vulnerable to predation, especially after they had finished their spawning process.



Along with our big wild lochs we have an abundance of stocked trout fisheries, which are well stocked, predominately with rainbow trout for trout fly anglers. The pike in these waters take full advantage of the plentiful supply of trout and although they can be harder to tempt due to not having to work as hard for their food, the effort can be worth it, as these fish can grow to huge proportions. A lot of this is down to the insurgence in practicing catch and release, as a lot of the trout do not cope well with poor handling and provide an easy meal for Mr Pike.



Although pike fly fishing is growing fast it's not something new to myself, having targeted pike with the fly for going on twenty-five years. To me there has always just been something savage about a pike hitting a fly! I try to explain it to my guiding clients as such: a pike hits a fly to kill it!

I introduce many new anglers from a game fishing background to pike fly fishing. I take salmon fly fishermen who struggle to set the hook at all, waiting for the pike to run and set the hook itself, this is never going to be the case.

Or trout fishermen who gently lift the rod into the fish, again seldom will this set a hook through the pike's bony mouth full of teeth. I always explain that when a pike hits your fly, it hits it like a bulldog biting a postman! It hangs on but does not travel far, so any touch, anything you feel, you need to rip that hook home!

You can find me through my website at www.fishx.co.uk
@team_fishx on instagram and Fish X on facebook



Slovenia

Rok

www.lustrik.com
www.huchenfishing.com



Slovenia, land of Marble trout and Huchen

Slovenia is a small, Slavic Central European country bordered by Austria, Italy, Hungary and Croatia. In recent history it was part of the Austro–Hungarian empire, then part of (former) Yugoslavia, from which it separated in 1991; it joined the European Union a few years later. A good decade ago Slovenia also adopted the Euro as their currency.

Slovenia, land of marble trout and huchen

Rok Lustrik



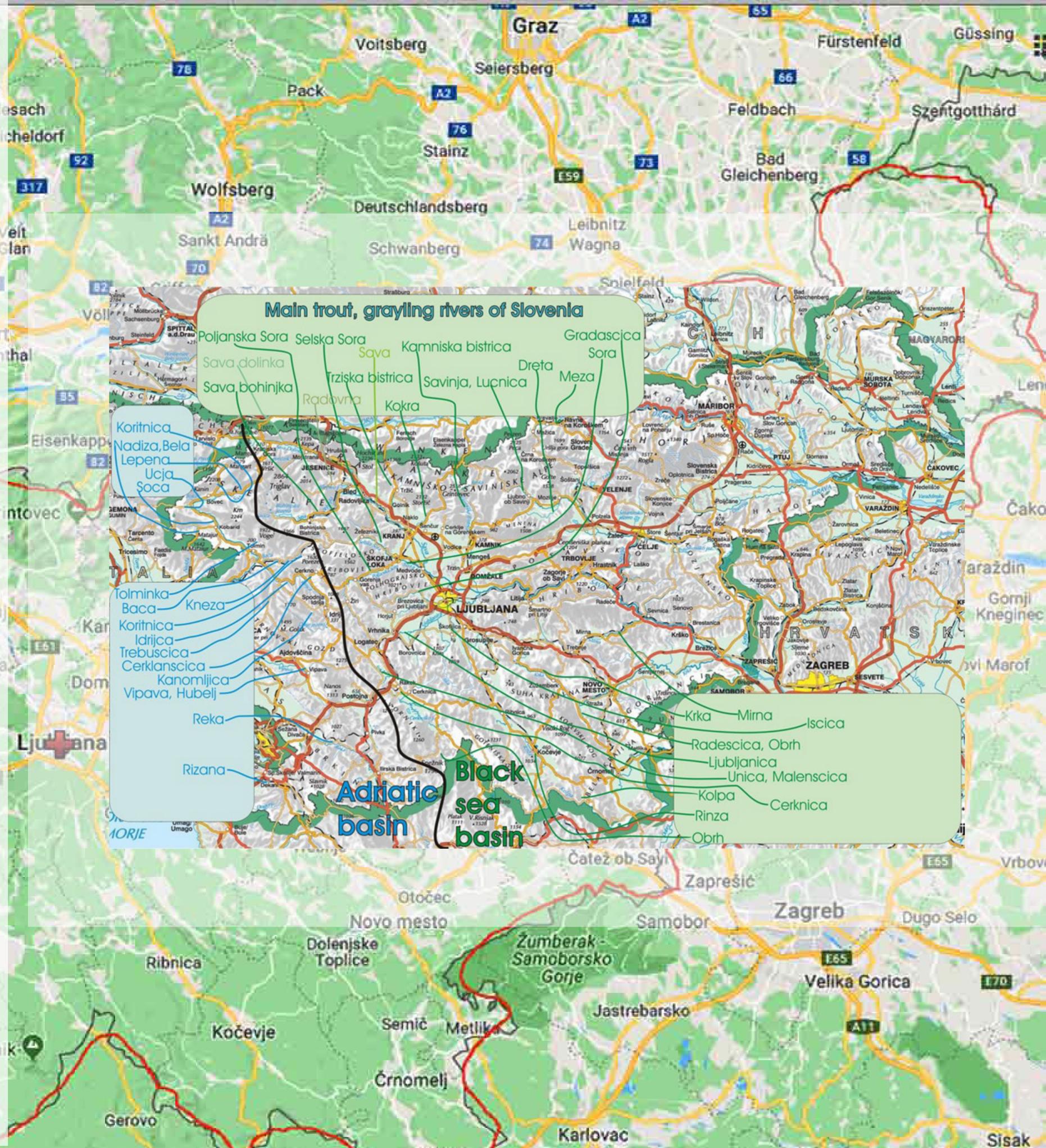
Water

Rivers in the Mediterranean catchment drain into the Adriatic sea; they are home to the world's biggest river resident trout species, the marble trout (*Salmo marmoratus*).

Fishing for this species is allowed from April to November. In addition to marble trout you are likely to catch Adriatic grayling and (introduced) rainbow trout. The main catchment in the Adriatic basin is formed by the rivers Soca and Idrijca with their tributaries.

The Black sea basin is located in Northern, Central and Southern Slovenia. Its main rivers are the Sava Bohinjka, Sava Dolinjka, Sava, Kolpa, Sora and Savinja with their tributaries; these are all Alpine freestone rivers.

In the Southern part there are numerous chalk streams like the Unica, Krka and Radescica. In the Black sea catchment fishing for brown trout, grayling and rainbow trout also starts in April and lasts until November. Most of these rivers are also inhabited by native huchen, also known as as Danube taimen or Danube salmon; its taxonomic name is *Hucho hucho*, it being a cousin species to the taimen (*Hucho taimen*), which can be found in Russia and Mongolia. Fishing for huchen is allowed from November to mid-February.





Numbers

People often ask me about 'numbers – the number of fish one can catch in a day - this question is not easy to answer. It depends a lot on daily conditions and personal preferences. In some rivers it is possible to catch more than 20 fish per day, but you would probably catch the smaller ones. Stalking for fewer, but bigger trout or grayling takes more time and acquired fly fishing skills.

Marble trout (*Salmo marmoratus*) are probably the world's biggest river resident trout. The largest specimen in Slovenia - caught on fly - was 22,5 kg. Of course that means their diet, when they exceed the size of ca. 60 cm, changes, consisting mostly of fish. This also means that they will feed less, as infrequently as once a week, and then only in perfect conditions.

Ideal conditions are just after rainfall, when the river rises and gets a bit colored. This is the perfect time to swing big streamers, hoping for a trophy trout to attack. It is possible to catch fish up to ca. 50 cm on nymphs or even on dry flies (if there is a hatch).

Big

Huchen, Danube taimen (*Hucho hucho*) are carnivorous almost from the start and feed on other fish, mostly grayling, nase (RED: *Chondrostoma nasus*), barbel and other smaller species of fish in the Cyprinid family. Nowadays we fish for huchen with a fly, but spinning is also allowed. Flies need to be from 15 to 20 cm long, imitating their natural food. Best setup is a 400–750 grain sinking head with a smooth running line and a leader of about 150 cm, fishing mostly down and across.



Material

Brown trout, grayling and rainbows are, between April and October, the main species you will catch when fishing in Slovenia. Dry flies need to be in the range from sizes 16 to 18, when fishing sedges. If there are mayfly hatches you can use up to hook size 10. However, about 70% of the time you should be nymphing. Using European style tungsten bead nymphs with 0,10–0,16 leaders to about 3m in length. The rod setup is quite basic: 8-9ft 3-5 wt rod with a floating line.

For huchen and (bigger) marble trout 9-12 weight 9 foot rods, up to doublehanded 14 ft rods with heavy sink tip lines are required.

Weather

In Slovenia weather can be quite localized, meaning it can rain in one valley and be sunny in the next. My advice would be to be based in central Slovenia: towns like Kranj, Ljubljana or even Bled. As an angler, you are not that dependent on weather and water level and you can fish all rivers within a 1,5 h drive radius.

Family destination

Slovenia is also a perfect family destination. The Alps offer plenty of other sporting recreation, such as rafting, hiking, or kayaking. For the more relaxing part of your holiday there are numerous spa resorts. especially in the southern part of the country.

Most convenient would be to fly to Ljubljana, but Zagreb, Trieste or Venice would also work.





Hatches

Generally there are fine hatches of blue-winged olives as early as April, during daytime; when they slowly 'fade away' they get replaced by caddisflies (sedges) and on freestone rivers by stoneflies. Chalk streams also have dune hatches in May and the beginning of June.

In summertime, after the mayflies have gone, the main artificial fly to use is a midge imitation and in cold Alpine rivers fishing remains good throughout the summer. In chalk streams hatches fade away in late June only to pick up again in late fall. In the Alpine rivers, October brings back the blue-winged olives and sedges. All rivers have good visibility and on most occasions it is possible to sight fish.

Spain

Text and Photographs: José H. Weigand
Additional Photos: Tapani Mikola

After having fly fished, photographed and filmed in over 35 countries, I have come to realize what a real treasure chest we have in Spain. Having fished for all the species available on the fly in our Spanish freshwaters, I probably prefer those that you can sight fish for, mainly barbel, carp, and bass.



A close-up photograph of a carp's head, showing its large eye, whiskers, and a fishing hook in its mouth. The fish has a yellowish-brown body with a prominent orange-red patch on its lower jaw. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

CARP

Widely distributed in the country, carp can be found all year around. Bring 7-9 weight rods because carp can grow to large sizes. Sight casting to 10-20 pound carp is one of the most intense experiences in freshwater fly fishing. Bring your fly reels loaded with 100 yards of backing, because you will see it all ripped off your reel more than once!



BASS

Largemouth Bass are my first love on the fly. I was 14 when I caught my first fish on the fly, a beautiful 3 pound bass. I love to catch them with poppers and divers; it's like dry fly fishing for trout – traditional sight fishing. Since that first bass, I have always fished with a fly rod.

PIKE

There's nothing more explosive than northern pike fly fishing in crystal clear rivers; this is my number one option when catching pike. Even the smaller fish can make your heart pump like crazy.



BARBEL

Also known as the “golden bonefish”, it really is like a bronze “freshwater relative” to the grey ghost. Barbel are one of the most abundant fish in Spain and every single member of this species is really attractive. Fishing for them means sight fishing, stalking, walking the shores in search of these fish patrolling the shallows and feeding on the surface or “tailing” like bonefish. It is one of the few fish species that often allow us to suddenly see the backing on the reel. Foam flies that imitate terrestrials and nymphs, crayfish and prey fish imitations are the best options.





About José:

Fly fishing guide Spain – José H. Weigand (Madrid, Spain)

Started fishing at age 6 and fly fishing at 14.

TV fishing editor and host at Caza y Pesca channel on Digital+ for 14 years, writing, producing and presenting over 600 fishing TV shows.

Avid traveler, have fished over 35 countries. Fly fishing guide and instructor.

José has been guiding and traveling with groups around the world for over 20 years.

Flymage Fly Fishing Magazine editor and photographer.

His goal with Spain on the Fly, is that fly anglers may know firsthand the excellent quality of fly fishing in Spain, designing custom trips for every situation and being your host and guide. José speaks English and a little French.

Spain on the Fly is a specialised company dedicated to organizing custom fly fishing trips to Spain.

www.flyfishinginspain.com



Italy

Luca Barosselli

I have been fishing from a young age, and I've fished using many different techniques and approaches but it wasn't until 2010 that I discovered fly fishing, and I fell in love with it. It quickly became my only passion. The following year, with the help of friends, I progressed to tying my first flies: both classics and moderns.

Ever since, with the help and support of noted tiers from Italy and Europe, I've strived to improve myself, refining my tying techniques and employing all the tips I could get. I totally immersed myself in this new magic world, with a lot of blood, sweat and tears, focusing mostly on the Italian style, of which Francesco Palù was a pioneer.





Tied by Luca Barosselli

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FLY FISHING ADDICTION AND LIFESTYLE



LA VALLATA
Fly Shop



In 2015 Luca tied at the Forlì Fly Fair for his friend Diego Riggi, founder of Dressing Italiano; and in 2016 he attended the Vicenza Fly Fair at “Fly Fishing 360” corner, an organization that he is still associated with.

In 2017 Luca attended again at the Vicenza Fly Fair, tying at the desks of “Fly Tying Experience”, a tying group organized by Fabio Federighi: 'one of my best teachers and a friend'. At this Fly Fair I won the Stonfo prize for a tying competition organized by the magazine La Pesca a Mosca e Spinning.

Luca is also a pro team member of Gulff Resins, Textreme , Swiss CDC, and Dohiku hooks, and a Fulling Mill ambassador.

He is still associated to the Bereguardo Greygoose Club where he shares his passion with friends. In 2018 he took part in the Vicenza fair at the “Pescare Show”, and the “Danish Fly Festival”. 'I go fishing in rivers both in Italy and abroad, plenty of challenges to try my flies and push my limits'.

Luca Barosselli

Tied by Luca Barosselli



Style

This innovative style from the 1970s, still contemporary in synthesis, considers the construction of a fly as a whole, striving for harmony between assembly and verisimilitude to the natural, and giving priority to movement of the artificial on or in the water over static resemblance. Thanks to the a mix of materials with different properties and appearance it is possible to obtain an optimal artificial in all these peculiarities.

Luca cooperated with the famous teacher Massimo Magliocco, where he took care of his tying articles published in some important specialized magazines.



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Bulgaria

Stanislav Mankov

WEBSITE



Pirin Mountains

There are numerous lakes in the Pirin Mountain National park in Bulgaria, fishing is only allowed on weekends and national holidays. If you want to go, leaving on a Friday and camping near one of the lakes is the smart thing to do. We usually do either that or stay at one of the huts

Season

Many of the Pirin mountain lakes are situated at elevations in excess of 2000 meters above sea level and in some of the most pristine nature in the country. They are iced over for at least six months of the year so the fly fishing season is short, starting early June and lasting until the end of September. July and September are the two best months to be out here.



There are more than 170 glacially formed high mountain lakes in the Pirin mountains. Some of them are closed to fishing but many others are open. A 2-3 hour hike is required to reach most of them.

Gin clear

I would recommend using 4 to 6 wt - 9 to 10 ft rods for fishing here. For dry fly fishing I use my good old 9 ft Sage TCX #4 and a matching triangle taper fly line. My leader is a hand tied tapered leader made from JMC Camoufil line and is about 4,50 meters long + 1,5 to 2 meters fluorocarbon tippet! It helps to keep the fly away from the end of the fly line. This is really important, the lakes are gin clear and fish are easily spooked.

From my observations the fish can see your fly if it is in range of ca. 10 meters. If a trout sees your fly and likes it, it may strike it in the first 30 seconds. I've seen trout going for my fly really slowly and taking it from an almost vertical position. It is an amazing experience to be able to see that take from one of the rocks surrounding the lake. Pure joy!





One way or the other

However, there is another way to catch them. We call it cast and wait. Trout are usually cruising near the bank or close where the depth line is. It is important to be really concentrated and resist the temptation to go picking and eating the abundant blueberries, as a take can come out of nowhere and if you are half a second too late you **will** miss it. Very slowly retrieving your dry fly with little strips can sometimes induce a take.

Surely these fish can be caught on streamers or nymph but in my opinion, on a nice sunny day if the fish are happy to rise, there is no better way than on a dry fly.

Flies:

I use mainly caddisfly, or sedge, patterns, in size 10 to 16. When it is slightly windy there are no better flies. Fish take the fly whenever the wind stops and the water clears. When I see those ``mirrors`` on the water I know a fish is soon going to rise.

The fish, the clean air and the stunning views.....the Pirin Mountains are by far my favorite place in Bulgaria to fish.

Stanislav Mankov



From this issue forward, every issue of Cast Away Magazine will include a selection of videos matching the issue's theme. Just click the banner!



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We are fly-fishing is a global non-profit organization with the purpose of promoting fly-fishing worldwide.

We work together with several partners on promotion campaigns and projects to inspire young people to get out of the house and pick up a fly rod.



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For 2020 we start in Denmark, Norway and The Netherlands. [Read more..](#)



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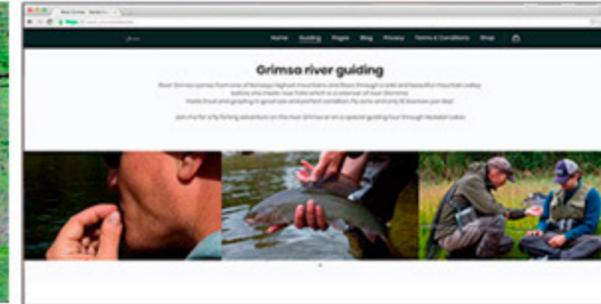
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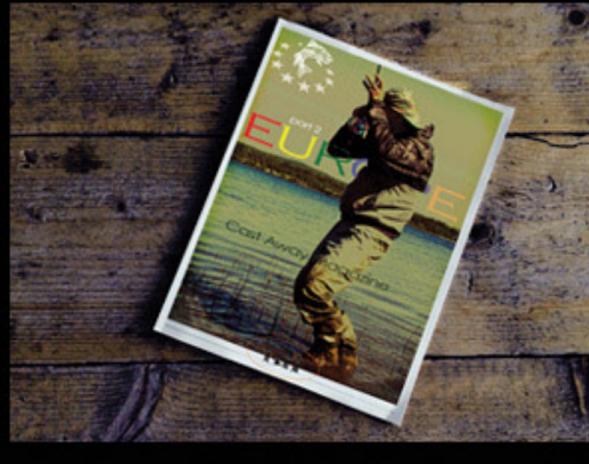
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