



Tvari
žuvininkystės
regionų
plėtra



EUROPOS SĄJUNGA

**Europos žuvininkystės fondas:
Investavimas į tvarią
žuvininkystę**

Projektą remia Lietuvos Respublika

THE OFFERED WINTER ROUTE

Winter. Long nights and short days. Dawn after few hours turns into darkness. However you will not regret early wake-up. It doesn't matter that it is freezing outside. It doesn't matter that stars still shine high in the sky and yellow moon grins at you. Wake up and go, fish is waiting for you...

Fish doesn't doze in winter, but fishermen do not doze too. Armed with ice drills, boxes and with backpacks on their shoulders they are standing around and waiting for their friends...

Morning mood is simply great! Everybody praises weather, wind, pressure, wife for being so kind for her fisherman husband who decided to go fishing in the early morning. Everything is perfect. And according to their words perch are waiting to be caught by these happy men.

But this is only in the morning... Try to talk to the same fishermen in the evening and they will tell you absolutely different things: east or north wind was blowing for a whole day, pressure drop occurred, weather was simply terrible. And they simply didn't want to muddle along with small fish...

European smelt - burbot fishing:

The path of European smelt migration runs along the boundary of fishing route, i.e. the water areas of Kairiai Polygon, Juodkrante, Dreverna (Dune canal), lighthouse of Preila. Common fish: burbot, European smelt. Conditions required: good cover of ice.

European smelt (*Osmerus eperlanus* (L.))



Smelt (in Latin *Osmerus eperlanus*, in German *Stint*, *Europäischer Stint*, in English *European smelt*) is a fish of a family of smelt fish. European smelt is the most common of all subspecies (in Latin *Osmerus eperlanus eperlanus*). The body is long (15 to 18 cm, in some cases 30 cm) and low. The back is greenish-brown, the sides are silvery blue and the belly is white. The scales are small, thin and opaque. It is very common commercial fish. The fish is characterized by specific smell that is similar to the smell of cucumber.

We recommend you to use ordinary rod system for fishing in the Curonian Lagoon, i.e. the main fishing line of 0,18 mm of thickness and 4 thinner short frenums of 0,14 to 0,15 mm of thickness. These frenums are intended for shiny trolls. A sinker that weights between 25 and 30 grams must be attached to the main fishing line. Due to strong stream we must use stiff lever since weaker levers can be inclined. Do not forget that the maximum number of hooks to be used during European smelt fishing is 12, i.e. if you use 2 rods, the maximum number of hooks to be used on both rods is 12 (e.g. 2 rods and 6 hooks on each rod). At the beginning of fishing you

can use the pieces of smelt with skin as bait. Later the smelt caught shall be used as bait. Roach is perfect for bait, however it is difficult to catch it in the area of fishing (almost impossible, because roach smells the smell of smelt and swims away). Carp's skin is rigid, therefore it perfectly suits as bait. You won't need a lot of carp's meet. You may use only one piece of carp for a whole fishing. You shall hang the pieces of carp on hook piercing the area that contains a skin. Fresh and mildly frozen pieces of fish are seen as the most suitable bite. You can try to use 3 to 4 fly larvae or 5 to 6 Chironomus larvae. You can choose any time for smelt fishing.

Burbot (*Lota lota* (L.))



Burbot and the name versions in other languages: Lota lota, Burbot, Quappe, Mník jednovousý, Luts, Lotte (poisson), Miętus, Налим.

Burbot is the only member of cod family that lives in freshwater. The body of burbot is round, the tail is flattened on the sides, tapering towards the end. The head is wide and flattened at the top. There is a single barbel in the submental part. The mouth is wide, with many small teeth. The lower jaw is a bit shorter. The skin is thick, soft and very slippery. The scales are small, thin and hidden deep in the skin. The back and sides are glaucous or yellowish with brownish-black spots and stripes. The eyes are small.



Burbot are most common in the rivers and lakes of the Northern Europe and Asia. In Lithuania they are most populous in the Curonian Lagoon, also the majority lakes and rivers of our country, however they are sparse in all locations. Young burbot feed on benthic fauna, the adult fish becomes predatory and attacks various fish, frogs, cancers, kills number of other fish species. When burbot swims its entire body weaves. The fish is deft night hunter. The length of one year old burbot is 12 cm. The fish can grow up to 1 m of length and gain a weight of 20 kg and more. The fish mostly weights between 0,2 and 1 to 1,5 kg. Burbot become mature when they are four to five years old and their length is between 35 and 45 cm. The fish spawns under the ice in winter, in December, January and February, in the areas with rocky and pebbly floor. Prolificacy depends on age, usually between 33 000 and 5 000 000 eggs. Burbot meat is white, soft and without bones, liver is large and greasy, it is used for canning and production of fish oil. Cold weather is the most suitable for burbot fishing, i.e. in autumn and winter. Early spring is also suitable for burbot fishing in small clear brooks. Warm weather is absolutely unsuitable for burbot fishing. You can catch burbot in summer only by accident. Burbot is night predator, therefore nights, especially dark and windy, rainy and snowy are the most suitable for its fishing... Burbot begins to bite after a sunset, around midnight the results of bite become even better and this lasts almost until a sunrise. In early spring it can also bite during a daytime. During a daytime burbot usually stays in caves, under the rocks, between snags, tree roots or on the floor. Clayey floor, covered with gravel or small amount of slime is burbot's favourite. The fish also likes the areas near brinks, snags, stone, clay lumps, deep hollows.

Burbot fishing is simple and available to every fisherman. Bottom fishing rod is the most suitable in this case. Burbot usually swallows a bait, therefore it is not easy to take out a hook. Fishermen are advised to attach frenums to the fishing line, in such way they will be able to detach burbot from the fishing line together with the frenum. The most suitable sorts of lure are as follows: gudgeon, roach, a piece of fish, meat, chicken intestine, worm, a neck of cancer, frog, however ruff is the most suitable. Several rods shall be used at once. You can leave them in the water in the evening and take out in the morning. If there is a risk that the lure can be covered with plants, mud, etc., you should take out the rods form the water after some time and check the hooks in the light of torch or bonfire. Since burbot tightly hangs on the hook, there is no need to pull it out slowly. After swallowing a bait burbot often hides in the cave or wraps the fishing line

on underwater objects. In such cases the fishermen are advised to rouse or to pull out burbot from a cave by pulling the fishing line or tapping the rod. It is prohibited to catch burbot during the period between December 15th and January 15th. This is the time of their spawning. Winter nights also are suitable for ice fishing of burbot, especially immediately after spawning when the fish is especially hungry.



We are waiting for the fish bite ...

The story told by the fishermen who were returning from the ice of the Curonian Lagoon to Dreverna: „The best morning bite was until 11.30 AM, in the depth between 7 to 9 meters. Later most of the fishermen moved to more shallow places, approximately 200 m towards the coast with a depth between 3 and 4 meters. At 3:00 PM the fish again became active in the depth between 7 and 9 meters. This time our goal was fishing in permanent place with a depth between 7 and 9 meters, rather than a search for smelt. During the daytime flatfish became active, although smelt bite was poor. Later smelt became more active. Our fishing was over in the afternoon of nice, quite, sunny day with an average catch of smelt (approximately 150 pieces).“



We will provide you with the latest, relevant information concerning the places of smelt clusters, movement of so called smelt „lumps“ and changes in coordinates of dislocation. You should check information about weather in the website of Lithuanian Hydrometeorological Service. Usually its forecasts are correct. Please note that southwest catchy winds with a speed of 12 to 15 meters per second often cause snowstorms in the region of the Curonian Lagoon. Thousands of people who have arrived to the region of the Lagoon should be careful. Snowstorms are very heavy, they make the outlines of the coast indiscernible. People begin to wander around unable to find their way home. The locals say that such lack of skills of guests, their inability to find a way home in accordance with landmarks and walking in what ever direction is similar to „hedgehog wandering in the fog“.

We offer:

The departure time is in the evening or early morning, approximately between 5:00 and 7:00 AM. Travel time to the fishing locations by snowmobile is about 1 hour.

We will offer tents, fishing gear...we will take care of your safety and comfort during the whole trip... You can expect to have a great experience and emotions thanks to this trip...

For perdurable optimists:

A patient fisherman is sitting by ice-hole. Weather is cold, windy and snowy. His ears are red-purple...Another fisherman approaches and asks him:

- Weather is so cold, but you do not wear a hat. Why?

- Yesterday I wore a hat, therefore couldn't hear when other men invited me to drink vodka...

Drevertna in winter



Juodkrante in winter



Pervalka in winter



Preila in winter



Nida in winter



Dunes in winter





When ice covers the Curonian Lagoon it is a perfect time to try sailing in ice sledge. When sailing you will have a chance to feel all natural phenomena: ice-skate slowly glides on ice, wind hums in your ears and you move with your sail forward at high speed.

We will help you to organize a venturesome game fishing on the ice of the Curonian Lagoon! Ice fishing championship in teams is a superb winter entertainment for you, your friends and colleagues.

We will drop the participants to the place of fishing by snowmobiles. The fishing of the competition will take place in the ice-holes marked by the organizers, in teams. You can believe or not, but you will surely have fun...



Spring after long winter....

Ice-drift in the Curonian Lagoon.



