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Nature - Fishing - Lodging - Services



The Magical SWEDEN

Jämtland - AFCS

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Magic and Spectacle !

It was the year 1992 when, invited to the Stockholm fair for a casting demonstration, I landed in Sweden for the first time. More events followed, such as Elmia Show, Lundgreans, Sportinge Krokomb, Team Sportia Strömsund, Fiskekryssningen, and so on throughout the country. Friendships with local fly fishing experts were born, from whom I gained valuable information about unknown and exclusive fishing spots. Over the years, I discovered many of these spots with my increasingly dedicated exploration based on research. This allowed



me to make comparisons within the country and abroad, confirming the actual quality of fishing in Sweden, earning it the nickname "Magical." Additionally, it became a convenient European destination for the sport angler! After several more years of research, in 1999, having outlined the target area, I finally identified the ideal location to establish the permanent headquarters of the Advanced Fly Casting School (AFCS), known as the Fly Casting School and Fishing Lodge in Sweden. Twenty-four years have passed since then, during which I have received appreciation from clients, industry professionals,

and local media, both in terms of quality and professionalism offered. This extensive successful experience allows me not only to continue providing a high-level service but also to offer valuable information and suggestions for organizing an unforgettable and successful fishing vacation independently!

Overview

The Sweden is a country approximately one and a half times the size of Italy, with a territory of indescribable beauty, closely resembling the Canadian landscapes. It is characterized by vast forests, mainly composed of pine, spruce, and birch trees, as well as tundra to the

north, and a diverse wildlife, predominantly inhabited by charming moose and reindeer. Among the birds, the famous and widely spread 'capercaillie' is notable. To this natural



spectacle, we add breathtaking phenomena such as the 'Midnight Sun,' visible from late May to mid-July, and the 'Northern Lights,' concentrated mainly in autumn and winter, although sometimes visible even in August and September. Another phenomenon, of interest to fishing, is represented by the brackish waters of the Baltic Sea washing the eastern coasts of the country. This phenomenon allows fishing not only for classic salmon and sea trout but also for freshwater fish like pike, perch, whitefish, and grayling. All of this, together with the 'grand silences' and 'intense

lights' of an uncontaminated atmosphere, unquestionably makes Sweden a magical place to visit, especially for fishing enthusiasts who, in this vast territory, find their reference point:

- 100,000 lakes
- 40,000 watercourses (estimated), including 8 rivers flowing transversely across the country with an average length of 400-500 km
- 10 main fish species, distributed differently between north and south, including: Brown Trout, Grayling, Arctic Char, Salmon, Perch, Pike, Whitefish, Grayling, and Zander
- In all waters, fishing is allowed with any technique, except for specific exceptions.



Lastly, it is important to highlight the 'quantity' and 'quality' of specimens for each specific species. As of today, Sweden boasts European records for Grayling at 73 cm and Brown Trout at 14.4 kg, for reference.

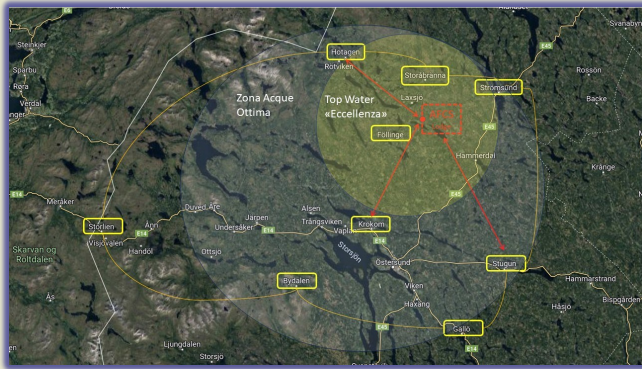
The Waters-The Pursuit of Excellence

Considering this extensive scenario, it was crucial to conduct a weighted analysis of the information to identify the most fascinating fishing areas in line with the personal preferences of each angler. To this end, I have prepared three slides. The first one correlates the main elements of the 'fishery scenario' with the 'macro

Lo SCENARIO ITTICO				
	Pesce Prevalenti	Quantità	Taglie	Periodo
A	Trota Temolo Salmerino	Elevata	Medie Piccole	Giugno Agosto
B	Trota Temolo Salmerino Luccio Riale Coregone	Elevata	Grandi Medie	Maggio Settembre
C	Trota di Mare Salmerino Luccio Pernisco Sandra	Elevata	Grandi Medie	Aprile Ottobre

La pesca della Trota e Temolo è consentita normalmente dal 1° Giugno al 31 di Agosto

areas' (north-central-south) of the national territory, highlighting Area B as the zone with the highest added value. The second slide, primarily based on research and tests conducted over the years, highlights a narrower scope within Area B, where we have identified three additional 'target' micro-areas, namely:



1. Reference Area - Yellow Line
2. Excellent Water Zone
3. Top Water Excellence Waters

All in the 'Jämtland' Region. In red, the three directions indicating the movement areas within the Top Water area. At their intersection is the 'location' of the Lodge. Today marks 31 years, including 23 years of guiding activities, which have confirmed the accuracy of the analyses and choices made. The third slide summarizes the geographical position with information on how to reach it. The sign with the fish on top and the inscription 'Fiskevägen' (the fishing road) marks the beginning of provincial road 339, then 340, which along their approximately 200 km route, run alongside waters of great importance to fish at least once in a lifetime!

Location AFCS

Regione - Jämtland
Città - Östersund
Villaggio Lodge - Ottjön

Distanze dal Lodge
➤ Stoccolma km 600
➤ Aeroporto di arrivo ARE km 73

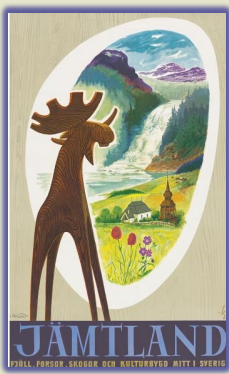
Come Arrivare

Tratta 1 - Da città di riferimento a Stoccolma (ARN)
Tratta 2 - Da Stoccolma (ARN) a Östersund (OSD)
Auto AFCS per andata e ritorno Lodge - Aeroporto

Tratta 3 - Da città di riferimento a Stoccolma (ARN)
Tratta 4 - Da Stoccolma (ARN) a Östersund (OSD)
Auto in Affitto da Aeroporto a Lodge (Km 520 - media ore 5-6)

Tratta 5 - Da città di riferimento a Stoccolma (ARN)
Tratta 6 - Da Stoccolma (ARN) a Östersund
Auto AFCS da Stazione Östersund a Lodge

Jämtland - The Magnificent 7



In this regional scenario, where approximately 17,000 lakes and 2,800 rivers are estimated, the following rivers should be highlighted, in my opinion and in order of importance:

Hårkan - Edsforsen - Lövsjöströmmen - Toskströmmen - Långan - Ammerån - Kvissleströmmen

The first four listed are essentially different sections of the same river Hårkan, which originates in Norway and flows mostly through Swedish territory before joining the majestic Indalsälven, one of the eight major rivers that cut across the country. The different names identify specific stretches and their respective managements, in order to acquire the correct fishing permit. Almost all permits can be purchased online on the iFISKE website <https://www.ifiske.se/index.php/en/>. If not available online, fishing permits can be purchased at gas stations, supermarkets, campsites, and locations displaying the fish-shaped sign with 'Fiskekort' written on it. The cost of permits is almost negligible, ranging between 50 and 100 crowns, equivalent to approximately 5-10 euros, for the entire day. This detail is significant since, from late May to late July, it is possible to fish even at night thanks to the midnight sun (24 hours of daylight).



In the photo, characterized by the classic fire along the river for warmth or cooking, the shot refers to the second week of July, at 11:30 PM. From this moment, the



light will gradually increase, transforming the landscape into a splendid full-day scene! To provide additional essential information, it's important to mention that, with a few exceptions, the salmonid fishing season in rivers is typically permitted from June 1st to August 31st. In lakes, on the other hand, fishing is allowed year-round, taking into account limitations associated with winter weather conditions and icing. For pike and perch fishing, the optimal period is usually early in the season, right after the melting, which commonly takes place in early/mid-May.



River HÅRKAN the “Number One”

Why the number one? To fully understand it, one would have to fish this spot and compare it with your favorites of course, but I'll attempt to provide some reasons based on my extensive experience. Certainly on the podium for:

- ⇒ ***Its unique beauty*** - illuminated by the midnight sun, allowing fishing even during the nighttime, practically an endless "Coup Du Soir"!
- ⇒ ***The water quality*** - pristine, drinkable, and rich in various fish species, all exceeding the standard sizes of the most renowned European waters and beyond.
- ⇒ ***The complexities of fishing - Sportiveness***
 - Difficulty in identifying fishing spots, which vary depending on the water level and temperature
 - “Endless and Obvious Dragging” caused by the intricate structure of the large and rocky rivers, requiring a suitable technical fishing knowledge.
- ⇒ ***Variety of Practicable Fishing Techniques*** - Virtually all, including major ones such as Fly-Fishing also with a two-handed rod, Tenkara, and Spinning. If we add to all this the possibility of making significant catches by fishing with dry flies, even in conditions of low surface activity, then we should be in the right place, the *N°1!*



The stretch of the **River Hårkan** is about 1.5 km long, and the fishing permit can be purchased on the "iFISKE" website, which is available in English. Look for it under the name Laxvikens FVO at the following link: <https://rb.gy/pbcvf0>



It flows from the dam of Lake Hotagen (straight-line length 34 km) to 200 meters after the end of the islet that divides it into two branches. The average width ranges from 90 to 125 meters, with a significant water flow, especially at the beginning of the season after the ice melt. These dimensions and the complex structure of its bed make the presence of an "experienced" guide necessary, especially if it's your first time

fishing this stretch! This advice remains valid, given the structure of most Swedish watercourses, for all the other waters you will encounter in this or other areas of the country. Since it would be complex to describe the choice of spots, let's try to simplify the selection of basic fishing gear.



Essential Equipment - Recommendations

Rods - For these sizable waters, refer to familiar gear commonly used in our rivers. Check the table below for a quick overview of the essentials, in my view

Fish	Technique	Lunghezza	Coda
Trout & Grayling	Dry	9' - 9' 6"	FW 5 - 6
	Wet		FW 7 - 8 ST III
Pike - Perch	Dry		FW 5 - 6
	Wet		FW 8 - 9 ST II + 300grains
The Two-Handed rod can be used in most of the reported rivers			

Flies and Fly Patterns of Reference

It's essential to keep in mind that prevalent insects are few, including:

MAYFLIES

- "May Flies" to be used especially in the "emergent" stage. They can be found in almost all rivers from "May to June" and in some waters even until mid-July!
- "Eptagenia Sulphurea" (yellow body) and "Ephemerella Inermis" (PMD) are very common and prevalent throughout most of the season.

CADDISFLIES - perhaps the most important order - various types and colors

HYMENOPTERA

- *Bees* - very common, especially in the later season
- *Ants* - present everywhere on rivers and lakes, they are the main surface diet!

Important Suggested Patterns



The dressings can be found at the link <https://rb.gy/6q7mq7>

Additional patterns for nymphs, submerged flies, and streamers, including those for pike, are available at the link <https://rb.gy/mjh3tg>

Of course, classic imitations used in Italy work in Swedish waters, but the difference with the recommended patterns is vast.

Leaders

Given that the Hårkan and most watercourses are often wider than those in Italy and generally wadeable without obstacles related to bank vegetation, it is advisable to prefer longer leader models. I would suggest using tapered leaders with lengths of 9' and 10', thicknesses ranging from 0X to 3X, gradually extending with tippet to lengths of at least 15' and 18', avoiding reducing the thickness too much at the tip. This will help prevent unnecessary breakages while fishing for large fish

Curiosities

The water of the River Hårkan, as well as the other mentioned watercourses and all the rivers in the central-northern region of Sweden, can be safely consumed, as it is naturally free from pollution. For this reason, it is common to see anglers equipped with the classic birchwood cup, known as 'kuksa' or 'Kåsa' in Swedish. This cup originates from the Sami people, the indigenous population mainly residing in the arctic regions of northern Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia (Siberia). For further information, I recommend visiting the web-



site <https://www.kuksa.shop/it/>.

Another essential item in every angler's gear is the knife. In this context, the quality reaches excellent levels, with high-quality blades and craftsmanship featuring handles made of precious wood, alternated with reindeer or moose bone. Moreover, beautifully crafted inlays, including personalized ones, can be found, adding a distinctive touch to these knives. In the image, a personalized knife crafted by one of the artisans in my area. Therefore, in your travel budget, don't forget to allocate a portion for the purchase of these items, which, if not entirely practical, will undoubtedly be part of an unforgettable memory!



The Magnificent 6 and More

Discussing in detail each of the mentioned waters and the many adjacent ones, such as streams, lowland waters, and lakes, would require extensive work, but it is certainly worth sharing some images and individual peculiarities. After covering a large river, I propose exploring a watercourse closer to our common experiences. The **Secret Creek** connects two lakes of medium to large size. In some stretches chalkstream-like, in others more torrential, it is fishable from June 1st to mid-July when the



growth of algae and the lowering of the water level will influence the movement of fish into the two lakes. Rich in sizable grayling, like the one in the photo caught with my irresistible 'Peter Ant!' As in many watercourses in Sweden, here we can also find trout, pike, perch, and 'Ido,' the latter being an aggressive cyprinid, the same photographed here in the **River Ammerån**, another important watercourse that originates from Lake Hammerdal and then flows into the Indalsälven River after about 80 km. Its course, very diverse, alternates long stretches with slow water and sections of fast-flowing water and some waterfalls. Fishing in this river is often more productive during the night hours. The area is very rich in mosquitoes, so be prepared with appropriate lotions! The **River Lövsjöströmmen**, downstream of the Hårkan, unlike almost all rivers populated by trout and grayling, remains open for fishing throughout the year, of course, with restrictions regard-

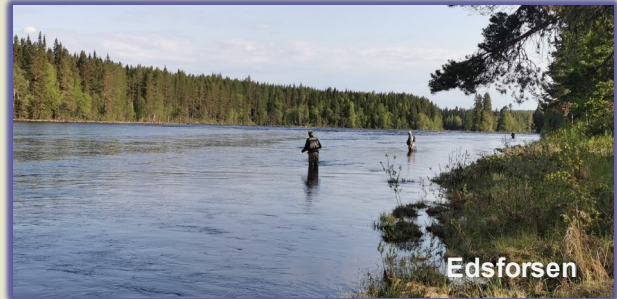


ing fish harvest and the influences of the harsh winter. The stretch that follows further downstream is called the **Edsforsen**. This part of the river is characterized by many islands that generate various branches, accessible and fishable when the water level drops. Unlike other, under normal conditions, it is possible to observe surface activity throughout the day, with frenetic activity, especially during the night hours illuminated by the midnight sun. Pierpaolo proud-





ly shows another beautiful catch achieved using the Tenkara technique, demonstrating that this method works perfectly even in these vast water realities. Success, he says, is achieved through a proper reading of the river, allowing for catches of fish just a few meters from the angler.



Alongside Marica, another interesting catch was made in a stretch of flat and slow water on the **Långan River**. Its medium-sized river configuration alternates, depending on the section, long pools with medium and fast currents, some gentle waterfalls, all in a breathtaking natural setting. It's not uncommon to see an elk crossing! Here, Marica and Alberto, just a few meters apart, both caught two sizable graylings. Alberto also used the Tenkara technique. It is here in Sweden that enthusiasts of this



technique can feel the adrenaline surge for the thrill of a great catch! Yves, on the other hand, is in a valley stream area fighting with a trout of interesting size and extremely feisty. It's not uncommon to see an elk crossing! On the other hand, Yves is a fishing downstream where the water is a bit faster and waving, dealing with a trout of interesting! Along its course, the Långan forms many meanders surrounded by reeds, ideal environments to host pikes, even of significant size, considering that the water depth is always very low. An ideal setting, therefore, also for a day of streamer fishing dedicated to pike and some large trout, fishing downstream with a float tube and/or pontoons. The pike population in Swedish waters is impressive, to the point that they are caught even

in fast waters where they venture to prey on grayling and trout! In the photos with fast-flowing water, Michele, using a trout streamer, caught this interesting pike, and within 1

hour, he released three more of roughly the same size! Meanwhile, a bit downstream, Luca, engaged in specific pike fishing with a more suitable streamer, surpassed the meter mark, to be precise, 105 cm. Two more pictures concerning the last rivers from my selection, **Kvissleströmmen - Toskströmmen.**



Långan



Kvissleströmmen



Toskströmmen



Conclusions

For a more comprehensive understanding of Sweden's 'prized' waters and the potential they offer, I recommend exploring our website or contacting us directly. Even if you are not our guests, we will be happy to provide you with all the useful information to help you organize a

MAGICAL FISHING HOLIDAY!



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Professional Guiding
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