

TENO

English



info



Information about Teno for Fishing Enthusiasts

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment/Fisheries Division

LUKE/Natural Resources institute Finland

/River Tenojoki Fisheries Research

2015

I Overview of the area

The Teno (Tenojoki in Finnish) is a 250 kilometres long subarctic river marking the border between Finland and Norway. The break-up of ice in the Teno River occurs at the end of May and is followed by great flooding since the water system lacks large lake basins to level out the peak of the flood. Rapid changes in water level are characteristic of the Teno River; they delay the start of salmon fishing in the spring and inconvenience locals as they fish with weirs during the summer.

The salmon populations of the Teno River reproduce naturally, and fishing restrictions are used as a means of preserving and developing the salmon stocks. The Teno is the biggest and the most productive of northern Europe's salmon rivers, and it still allows important river and coastal fishing. In recent years, the annual catch of salmon from the Teno has made up 15–20 percent of the salmon caught from European rivers. The best catches from the Teno water system (250 tonnes) were caught in 1975 and 2001. There is natural variation in the salmon population of the Teno, similar to the other northern salmon rivers. The variation is regular, giving a good catch every 8–9 years. Since 2003, the amount of salmon caught annually has been lower than the long term average (127 tonnes) and no clear peak year has been identified. A significant share of the salmon of the Teno is caught from the river because of restrictions in fishing on the sea and a decrease in salmon fishing. Teno River salmon migrate over a vast area in the North Atlantic. Most of the salmon, which spend several years in the ocean, grow in the waters of the Norwegian Sea, some in the area of the Faroe Islands and few populations as far away as the eastern coast of Greenland.

Teno River salmon are highly valued fish used for various purposes. They have adapted to these waters over thousands of years. The salmon spend about 4 years in the river environment as juvenile fish and migrate to the ocean as smolts weighing

Front page photo: Suvi Pekki

30 g and measuring 17 cm in length. They grow fast in the ocean, reaching a “tidy” weight of 1–2 kilos in one year, a “luossajuolgi” weight of 3–7 kilos in two years and the “luossa” salmon weight of about ten kilos in three years, when they measure one metre in length. They stay in the ocean for 1–5 years. In the 2000s, the percentage of salmon that have previously spawned has increased considerably, reaching 7 percent in 2011. Despite the heavy fishing, some individuals in the salmon stock are more than 10 years old. Several salmon that tip the scales at 20 kilos or more are caught in the Teno River every year.

The valley of the Teno River is an ancient stronghold of Sámi culture. Its economy was originally based on fishing and reindeer herding. Over the centuries, the Sámi people of the valley have developed various complementary ways of making a living that fit in with their natural environment and the seasons. Even today, people in the Teno Valley earn their living from several sources. However, service occupations are gaining ground: locals are selling salmon fishing instead of salmon, and grouse hunting as well as grouse breast.

Recreational fishing became more important to the area in the 1950s when road access to the Teno Valley improved considerably. Salmon is still a significant source of income for the local population although no one is able to make a living just by selling salmon meat any longer. All the same, the salmon is a very important staple in many local households and salmon fishing represents intangible values to which no price tag can be attached. For many recreational fishermen, the Teno River has become a tradition, almost an addiction, and they need a “fix” at least once every summer. The recreational fisherman dreams of catching a salmon, but many are happy with just the possibility of landing “the big one”. More and more often, mental relaxation in a different environment and the physical exercise provided by rowing are the reasons that time and again entice people to return to the Teno River to fish.

II General fishing management fee

The general fishing management fee is 24 € for the calendar year and it is valid everywhere in Finland (with the exception of the Åland Islands). A fishing management fee valid for seven days costing 7 € may also be purchased. The fishing management fee is personal, and payable by individuals between 18 and 64 years of age.

The general fishing management fee must be paid at the individual's own initiative before fishing is started. The easiest way to pay the fishing management fee is using a web shop or through the web site of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (www.mmm.fi)

In addition to the general fishing management fee, all fishermen fishing on the Teno River (= the river and everyone taking part in the fishing) must also purchase a separate Teno River fishing licence.

Those fishing on the Norwegian side of the Teno River are required to pay a general fishing management fee to the Norwegian government.

Fishing bailiffs in the Teno River

Jorma Harlin	+358 (0)40 843 9093
Juha Valle	+358 (0)40 180 1588
Niilo Aikio	+358 (0)40 861 9052
Niilo Rasmus	+358 (0)40 843 9094

The Teno Info can also be found from the following website: www.ely-keskus.fi/lappi

III Regulations of the Teno River Fishing District for Non-resident Persons

The Teno River fishing district is subject to the agreement made in 1989 by Finland and Norway on common fishing regulations for the Teno River fishing district and related fishing regulations (Treaty series 94/89). Some of its provisions have been confirmed by law (1197/89).

Fishing

The regulations apply to the Finnish sections of the Teno River, Inari River and Skietsham River where they form part of the national border.

Fishing is permitted from 1 June to midnight on 20 August.

The fishing day starts at 7 p.m.

Fishing is closed each week from 7 p.m. on Sunday to 7 p.m. on Monday.

Fishing is permitted only with a rod and lure.

Use of shrimp, bait strap or artificial lures resembling them, or use of baitfish or worm bait is prohibited.

The minimum permissible size of salmon, trout or char is 25 cm. The minimum permissible size for grayling is 30 cm. Undersized fish must be returned to the water immediately. Please instruct younger fishermen in particular to release undersized fish.

Kelts are salmon that have spawned the previous autumn and migrate to the sea in the early summer. They are thin and in poor condition. Kelts are protected by law and must be returned to the water immediately.

Fishing licences

Every individual fishing or participating in fishing in the Teno River fishing district (including rowers) must have a fishing licence.

The Finnish and Norwegian citizens must purchase the Teno River fishing licence in their respective homelands.

1. Fishing on the Inari River above Matinköngäs, and on the Skietsham River, **from a boat or the bank**, 10 €/day (including Matinköngäs).
2. Fishing on the Teno River and the Inari River (below Matinköngäs), **from a boat or the bank**, 40 €/day.
3. Fishing on the Teno River or the Inari River (below Matinköngäs), **from the bank only**, 25 €/day.
4. **Spouse's licence** (the spouse of a person who has purchased one of the licences described in sections 1–3 may participate in the same fishing session), 5 €/day.
5. **Youth licence** Persons under 18 years of age, 5 €/week.

Fishing in the Boratbokca fly-fishing area. See section B on the following page.

For locations selling fishing licences see the last page.

It is prohibited for non-residents to fish in the tributary rivers and streams running into the Teno River unless the statutory local fishery associations sell licences to them separately.

A: Fly-fishing from the bank

Fly-fishing from the bank is permitted within the common border area along the entire length of the Teno River, except those tributary river mouths (within a distance of 50 metres) into which salmon rise. These rivers are:

Finnish side

In Tenojoki: Vetsikkojoki, Utsjoki, Kuoppilasjoki, Niljoki, Akujoki

In Inarinjoki: Karigasjoki, Vuomajoki

Norwegian side

In Tenojoki: Laksjoki, Levajoki, Baisjoki, Valjoki, Karasjoki

In Inarinjoki: Iskurasjoki, Gorzejoki

Fishing is prohibited in the area starting 50 metres above the Karigasniemi bridge and continuing 150 metres below it.

Fly-fishing from the bank using a fly without a casting weight is permitted (see also sections B

and C). Persons under 18 years of age using fly and float are allowed to fish from the bank, except in the Boratbokca area.

B. Fly-fishing in the Boratbokca area

Below Alaköngäs, in the Boratbokca area, which starts from the Ala-Jalve cottages and ends at the mouth of the Galdujokka River running to the Norwegian side, fishing from the bank is only allowed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. between 20 June and 19 July. The area is signposted.

The Boratbokca fishing licence quota still applies on the Norwegian side of the border, and Finnish fishermen cannot purchase fishing licences there during the quota period.

C. Rod and reel fishing from the bank

Rod and reel fishing from the bank is permitted on the Inari River from Matinköngäs upriver, along the entire length of the Skietsham River, in Matinköngäs, Yläköngäs and Alaköngäs. The Alaköngäs bank fishing area is divided into two parts: the area from the lower part of the rapids 600 metres upstream may only be fished using a fly without a casting weight. The areas are marked out with signposts.

In areas for rod and reel fishing, it is allowed to fish with fly from the bank using float and casting weight.

Outside these areas, fishing from the bank is permitted only using a fly without a casting weight (fly and float are allowed for those under 18 years of age).

D. Fishing from a boat

Fishing from a boat is permitted along the entire length of the river. However, at Alaköngäs in the area from Bildam to below Boratbokca, the rower must always be a local resident over 16 years of age.

When fishing from a boat, you may use no more than three rods at any one time. Only one fishing line and one lure per rod is allowed. This rule also applies to recreational fishermen who are using a local rower.

Fishing from a boat at a distance of less than 50 metres from those tributary river mouths into which salmon rise (see section A on the previous page) is prohibited.

E. Fishing from a boat in the Boratbokca area

Non-residents are not allowed to fish from a boat in the Boratbokca from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the entire fishing season in the area that starts above Vauhtikari and continues for about 600 metres downstream to the Storfossen holiday village in Norway and the corresponding location on the Finnish side of the border. The area is signposted.

Using a local rower

Fishing from a boat without a local rower is allowed from Monday to Sunday between 9 p.m. and 2 p.m. At all other times, fishing from a boat is forbidden without a rower who is a permanent resident in the Teno fishing district and over 16 years of age.

Fishing is also prohibited:

1. From a boat with the motor running or anchored in midstream.
2. Inside leader nets and in the area less than 50 metres from the inlet of the dam or closer than 10 metres to its side nets.
3. Less than 10 metres from a standing net.
4. Fishing from the bridge is prohibited.
5. Fishing from a boat or river bank at a distance of less than 50 metres from those tributary river mouths into which salmon swims to spawn.

Allowed times for fishing from a boat on Tenojoki River (salmon / other fish)																														
TIME	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
Monday															1r	1r								1r	1r					
Tuesday															1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r						
Wednesday															1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r						
Thursday															1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r						
Friday															1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r						
Saturday															1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r						
Sunday															1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r	1r						
	Closed for fishing (weekly)/all salmon fishing forbidden																													
	Daily own salmon fishing from a boat																													
1r=	Daily fishing from a boat with a local rower																													

Fishing times at the Boratbokca fly-fishing area from 20 June to 19 July the end of the day.

TIME	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
Monday																												
Tuesday																												
Wednesday																												
Thursday																												
Friday																												
Saturday																												
Sunday																												
	Area closed for fishing (weekly)/all salmon fishing forbidden																											
	Area closed for fishing (daily)																											

Illustration. In the upper part, the weekly and daily hours when fishing from a boat by recreational fishermen is permitted on the Teno River during the fishing season. In the lower part, the weekly and daily hours when fly-fishing is permitted in the Boratbokca area from 20 June to 19 July.

IV Catch INFO

The Teno Rives annually receives 9,000 fishing tourists.

During the fishing season 2014, the Teno-Inari River received about 7,800 fishing tourists and approximately 900 persons under the age of 18 with a youth licence. In total 32,850 fishing days were purchased, of which approximately half were for fishing from a boat. The average fishing time for a fishing tourist in the Teno Valley was 4,2 days, as it was the previous year, too.

In Finland, the locals purchased 750 fishing licences for fishing in the Teno River about 800. The locals have a right to use traditional fishing methods: gill nets, drift nets and weir.

The average salmon catch in the Teno River is 127 tons.

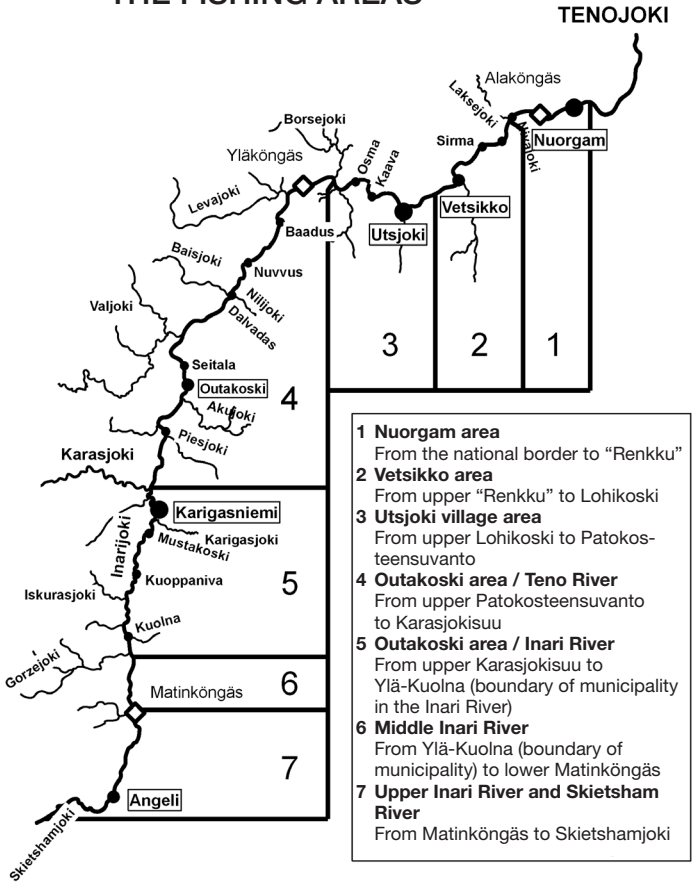
In summer 2014, the salmon catch in the Teno River was 80 tonnes, which was much lower than the average salmon catch during the statistical period (1974-2014). According to the statistics, 46 % of the salmon catch in the entire water system was caught by traditional, local methods, 29 % by rod by Finnish and Norwegian fishing tourists and 25 % by rod by the locals.

In Finland, the salmon catch in the Teno River was 54,7 tonnes in total. It was divided by fishing tourists (26,1 tonnes), locals (26,1 tonnes) and other non-resident fishermen, for instance those, who fished in the affluent of the statutory local fishery associations (approx. 2.5 tonnes).

The natural salmon populations in the Teno River are preserved through the fishing restrictions.

The international agreements, the fishing agreements between Finland and Norway and The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization oblige to collect follow-up data. In Finland, the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute is responsible for collecting this data. The fishing statistics are an important part of the research on salmon populations. The research collects valuable information not only about the catch but also about the changes in salmon fishing.

THE FISHING AREAS




Please remember to return your catch report!

At the bottom of every fishing licence, there is a catch report to be returned

- The catch and fishing report is returned to, and stored in, the Teno and Inari River licence selling locations before purchasing an extended licence or at the end of fishing.
- The report is licence-specific and anonymous, and only the barcode index links it to the licence purchased by the fisherman at issue.
- The report may be returned to any of the Teno River licence selling locations.
- The report may also be returned to the feedback box, if one is leaving in a rush or very early in the morning.
- **NOTE! Please remember to fill in a report for EACH LICENCE – even if you didn't catch any fish!**

An example of a catch report in a licence for fishing from a boat

The licence number, licence type (Boat-Bank-Spouse-Youth-Inari/Skietsham River) and the licence validity are registered automatically in the report section of the fishing licence.

CATCH REPORT – Return to the fishing licence seller See reverse side for filling instructions and a map.																																							
FX0000XXX Licence for fishing from a boat for 2 days from 10 June 2011 at 19:00 to 12 June 2011 at 18:59																																							
Main fishing area <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Nuorgam <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Vetsikko <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Utsjoki village <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Outakoski Teno River <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Lower Inari River <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Middle Inari River <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Inari River, Skietsham River			<input type="checkbox"/> I did not catch any salmon Individual salmon weights (kg), for example 2.4 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Alone from a boat</td> <td>2,4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Together with a friend, a spouse or a family member from a boat</td> <td>3,2</td> <td>1,6</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rowing service or a local friend, the catch was DIVIDED</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rowing service or a local friend, the catch was NOT DIVIDED</td> <td>4,7</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fishing from the bank</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Alone from a boat	2,4						Together with a friend, a spouse or a family member from a boat	3,2	1,6					Rowing service or a local friend, the catch was DIVIDED							Rowing service or a local friend, the catch was NOT DIVIDED	4,7						Fishing from the bank						
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Fishing from the bank																																							
Other catch, total (kg) Grayling <input type="text"/> Sea trout <input type="text"/> Pink salmon <input type="text"/>			Released spawning salmon (number) <input type="text"/>																																				
Grayling <input type="text"/> Sea trout <input type="text"/> Pink salmon <input type="text"/>																																							

- **The fisherman reports the individual weights of salmon caught**

The individual weight is reported as the total weight of the salmon, preferably to a precision of 0.1 kilos.

- **The fisherman reports whether the caught salmon are “own” or caught “together”**

The caught salmon are always reported licence-specifically and personally.

Although the catch from fishing from a boat is often caught “together” with another fisherman, both fishermen report the catch. In the statistics, the catch will not duplicate, since in calculating the total catch we use the personal share of the reported total salmon catch. Thus, it is important to use the right line in the catch report in reporting the catch caught “together”:

---Caught together with a friend, a spouse or a family member

---Caught together with a rowing service or a local friend

---Fishing tourist’s own catch included in the rowing service

- **Other catch (grayling, sea trout, etc.) will be reported in total weight by species**

- **The released salmon are reported in number**

Releasing the caught salmon in the Teno River is a new culture which is being observed. Here, you must not report for instance the kelts, spawned fish individuals, caught in the early summer which under the fishing regulations are to be released to the water immediately.

The Teno River salmon catch statistics are a valuable study on natural resources. In 2014, we hope to further decrease the share of estimating the salmon catch of the fishing tourists and to reduce the related inaccuracies. Thus, we hope that the majority of fishermen will report their catch or non-catch when visiting the Teno Valley. Our goal is that 99 % of the fishermen return the report. We guarantee the confidentiality and hope to get reliable information about the salmon catch caught by the fishing tourists.

V Fishing etiquette

Fishing from boats on the Teno River has become divided over the years into a number of rowing places known as ‘pools’. These are not specially marked out; the locus consists of a given still water area, a deep place, rapids or an area of running water. Traditionally people gather upstream from the ‘pool’ and each boat sets out in turn to fish. Taking turns is the only way to allow everyone to fish, especially at busy times. The first to arrive at the starting place is the first to go on the river. There are other unwritten “gentlemen’s rules” associated with fishing from a boat on the Teno River and it is best to ask about them before fishing is started.

Lures of almost every imaginable design are used to fish from boats. The most common types are flies and wobblers. You should pay attention to the length of line paid out. About 15 metres is sufficient. This makes it possible to float the lure as precisely as possible over likely-looking spots. When fishing from a boat, it is a good practice to take a few moments to see what those with more experience on the river are doing. A novice rower arriving on the Teno River for the first time can also turn to his lodge keeper for advice.

The most popular place for fly-fishing is the sandbanks below Alaköngäs, but Alaköngäs is by no means the only good place for fly-fishing.

The same rules of conduct for fishing from the bank as for fishing from a boat are in force during busy periods. Each takes a turn at a casting place, usually about 15 minutes at a time.

- Respect the rights and traditions of other fishermen and local people. Remember that you alone can have an impact on the pleasant atmosphere for yourself and the others by your own behaviour. Forget haste and stress and enjoy the unique landscape of the Teno River Valley, the ancient Sami culture and salmon fishing.
- One of the many traditions on fishing on the Teno River is that those fishing from the bank give way to those fishing from boats. Unnecessary wading,

particularly in popular rowing routes when fishing from the bank must be avoided. Salmon is often caught close to the river bank. Those fishing from the boats must also take the rights of those fishing from the bank into consideration and avoid unnecessary disturbing when rowing upstream.

- The shores of the Teno River are mainly owned by private people and general rules restricting access must be taken into account. Because of this, trespassing in gardens, for example, is forbidden without separate permission.
- **The fishermen are requested to fish within moderation and take responsibility in protecting natural salmon stocks. Large female salmon should, in particular, be released.**

VI Crossing the Finnish-Norwegian border

A recreational fisherman may land his boat on the Norwegian bank and stretch his legs while awaiting his turn to row. However, he is not permitted to camp there without a permit.

Those wanting to fish from the Norwegian bank must first pay the general fishing management fee and licence payable to the Norwegian State. A Teno fishing district licence purchased from Finland is valid for both the Finnish and the Norwegian side along the common section of the river, with the exception of the Boratbocka fly fishing area in Norway.

Disinfection requirements in Norway

Fishing gear or other equipment that might spread fish diseases (boats, waders/wading trousers etc.) used in some country other than Norway or in some other river or water system proven to have or suspected of having a fish disease, absolutely must be disinfected or they must be completely dry. A certificate of disinfection of the gear must be shown. Disinfection certificates are available, e.g., at all the locations selling Teno River fishing licences on the Finnish side. The certificate is personal. You need the disinfection certificate even when landing the boat on the Norwegian bank to wait for your turn to row.

VII Stop the spreading of *Gyrodactylus salaris* salmon parasite

The *Gyrodactylus salaris* salmon parasite does not bother the Baltic salmon but is a great threat to the salmon stocks of the Atlantic rivers. It is capable of wiping out natural salmon reproduction within a few years. The parasite was first encountered in Norway in 1975 and salmon stocks have been exterminated in about 40 rivers since then. The salmon parasite is an external fish parasite only half a millimetre in length, too small to be seen with the naked eye. The parasite mainly attacks salmon fry in rivers, and young migratory salmon. It damages the skin of the young fish, exposing them to bacterial and fungal infections. The parasite spreads as contact infection directly from fish to fish but also by the medium of water or fishing gear.

It is of the greatest importance that the spreading of the salmon parasite be stopped. For this, the help of every salmon fisher is needed (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry/regulation 1376/2004).

In Finland, it is obligatory to disinfect all the fishing gear and equipment, unless the gear is totally dry.

- A. Do not bring dead or live fish from other water systems into this region.*
- B. Using baitfish in angling, ice fishing and lure fishing is forbidden in the water systems in the northern Lapland area (Ylä-Lappi).*
- C. Use only clean fishing gear. Make sure your gear is totally dry or disinfected before using them.*

Disinfection stations:

All locations selling Teno River fishing licences (see back cover).

Inari Fishing Harbour

Inari Neste petrol station

Ivalo SEO petrol station (Kerttuojä)

Sevetti Bar in Sevettijärvi

Rajamotelli (Näätämö)

- D. Gut the fish in the same water system where you caught it. Don't throw gutted fish remains into the river or onto the bank.*

VIII Teno River fishing licences in

Seller	Location	Phone number
• Arvi Torikka	Angeli	+358 (0)400 413 061
• Kalastajan Majatalo	Karigasniemi	+358 (0)40 484 8171
• Juha Lohi	Seitala	+358 (0)16 676 405 +358 (0)400 894 114
• Tenon Tunturituvat ky	Tanssijoki	+358 (0)40 753 3818 +358 (0)400 167 521
• Tenon Kalastus- ja Eräpalvelu	Yläköngäs	+358 (0)400 998 150
• Lomakylä Valle	Utsjoki	+358 (0)400 948 210
• Uulan Säästö	Utsjoki	+358 (0)16 677 105
• Tenon Lohituvat	Niemelä	+358 (0)16 677 138 +358 (0)40 587 9097
• Pub Restaurant Rastigaisa	Utsjoki	+358 (0)40 700 8154
• Vetsituvat	Vetsikko	+358 (0)440 678 805
• Vetsikon leirintämökit	Vetsikko	+358 (0)400 617 016
• Tenon Lohiranta	Niittyrauta	+358 (0)40 671 5800
• Tenon luonnontuote/ Tenon lohikellari	Borabokca	+358 (0)400 396 318
• Nuorgamin Lomakeskus	Nuorgam	+358 (0)400 294 669

IX Respect for nature and the environment

Under the right of public access, hiking is permitted but vegetation and the trees regenerate slowly in the northern areas. About 90 percent of the Teno River bank area is privately owned. Landowner's permission is thus needed for camping and making a camp fire.

- *Don't dump trash in nature.*
- *Be polite and take other people into consideration both in waters and on land.*
- *Remember everyman's rights and responsibilities.*

Enjoy your visit to Teno!