

General information

# ANGLING IN THE STATE OF BRANDENBURG



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# Contents

Angling in the State of Brandenburg - General information.....	4
Documents .....	4
Characteristics of a coarse fish fishing rod .....	6
Treatment of caught fish .....	6
Other important rules.....	8
The fisheries inspectorate checks compliance with the rules....	10
Holidays and short stays .....	10
Entering bank areas.....	10
Boat use .....	12
Paths to waterways and forest driving permits.....	13
Weather protection devices .....	16
Fishing in protected areas.....	17
Behaviour at the fishing spot.....	18

# Angling in the State of Brandenburg - General information

The federal state of Brandenburg is known for its numerous bodies of water and many fishing opportunities. Around 3,000 lakes and more than 30,000 kilometres of flowing waters in the midst of impressive nature are ideal areas for recreation and nature experiences. However, there are a few things to bear in mind if you want to fish here. The following information should help.

## Documents

Fishing is permitted in the state of Brandenburg from the age of 8. Only persons who have a **proof card** with a valid **fishing permit** sticker and a fishing permit for their fishing waters are permitted to fish. Both documents together authorise angling with a hand-held fishing rod. The basic knowledge required for coarse fish fishing is summarised in an information booklet, which is available from tourist information offices, among other places.

**Proof cards** and **fishing levy stamps** are available from the lower fisheries authorities of the districts and independent towns, in fishing businesses and in angling shops. The **fishing tax** is valid for one calendar year, i.e. from 1 January to 31 December. It amounts to 2.50 euros for children and young people aged 8 to 18 and 12.00 euros for adults.

**Fishing permits** for fishing waters are issued by fishing companies, fishing clubs, fishing shops, tourist information offices, campsite operators and other organisations. There are daily permits, weekly permits, monthly permits and annual permits. Fishing permits may contain fishing restrictions, water-specific closed seasons or other information that anglers must adhere to.

If you want to fish with a predator fishing rod, you must also have a valid **fishing licence**. This can be obtained after passing a fishing permit test. Information on how and where to take the angling test and obtain a fishing permit can be obtained from the lower fishing authorities.

The following documents are therefore required for angling in Brandenburg:

- the completed proof card with fishing tax stamp,
- a fishing permit (permit under private law),
- the fishing licence (only for predator fishing).

**All documents must always be carried when fishing and presented on request. Fishing without the required documents is illegal (administrative offence/criminal offence) and will be punished by the regulatory authorities. This can lead to severe penalties.**



## WEB LINKS

### Information booklet

#### „Coarse fish fishing without a fishing licence“

<https://mluk.brandenburg.de/sixcms/media.php/9/Friedfischangeln6Auflage2020.pdf>

### Lower fisheries authorities of the state of Brandenburg

<https://service.brandenburg.de/service/de/adressen/weitere-verzeichnisse/verzeichnisliste/~fischereibehoerden-untere#>

## Characteristics of a coarse fish fishing rod

A coarse fish fishing rod consists of a rod with or without a reel and a single-shank hook tipped with plant or animal bait. Imitations of these baits may also be used. Bait such as dough, grain, maggot and worm are characteristic features of a coarse fish fishing rod. However, bait fish, other vertebrate baits, parts thereof or artificial imitations of these baits are not permitted for coarse fish fishing. Rules must be observed when fishing, in particular to protect the flora and fauna living in and around the water.

## Treatment of caught fish

Fish must be treated in accordance with animal welfare standards. Pain, suffering or damage must be avoided. Fish that are hooked after a bite must be pulled ashore as quickly as possible and with care. If necessary, a landing net should be used. Hooks must not be pulled out. In addition, caught fish should be handled with wet hands to avoid damaging the mucous membrane of the fish.

After the catch, a decision must be made immediately as to whether a fish should be utilised or released. Reasons for discarding may be fish that are too small, do not meet the minimum size requirements or fish that are subject to a closed season. The caught fish must then be gently removed from the hook and immediately and carefully released back into the water.

Fish that are to be utilised must be killed immediately after landing or placed in a suitable holding device (landing net or other) after unhooking.



The following must be observed when keeping fish:

- The duration of caging should be as short as possible and is permitted until the end of the fishing day at the latest.
- The use of landing nets is only permitted in calm current zones and from a stationary boat.
- Once the fish have been stocked, they may not be released back into the water.

Before killing, caught fish must be stunned with a strong blow to the head. The fish is then killed, for example by stabbing it in the heart. The heart is stabbed on the ventral side in the throat area in front of the pectoral fins.

The offal produced when gutting the fish must be disposed of properly (see section „Behaviour at the fishing spot“).

Fish are highly perishable foodstuffs. To keep killed or slaughtered fish fresh for as long as possible, especially at high temperatures, they should be refrigerated, for example in a cool bag.

### Other important rules

Closed seasons and minimum sizes are prescribed by law and must be adhered to. Measuring tapes or folding rules to determine the length of the fish are part of the fishing equipment.

When angling, a maximum of two hand-held fishing rods may be used at the same time; when spinning or fly fishing, only one hand-held fishing rod may be used at a time. The fishing rods set out must be supervised at all times. A distance of at least 50 metres must be maintained from professional fishing gear.

It is not permitted to fish with

- exploding, poisonous, anaesthetising agents or injurious fishing gear,
- artificial lures with fixed multiple hooks,
- Fishing hooks with more than three legs,
- more than three hooks per handline,
- live fish and other live vertebrates as bait. When using dead vertebrate or crustacean bait, only one bait per handline is permitted.

Further details are regulated in the Fisheries Act for the State of Brandenburg (BbgFischG) and in the Fisheries Regulations of the State of Brandenburg (BbgFischO).





## **WEB-LINKS**

### **Closed seasons and minimum sizes of fish species according to the Brandenburg fishing regulations**

<https://mluk.brandenburg.de/sixcms/media.php/9/Schonzeiten-Fischarten-en.pdf>

### **Fisheries Act for the State of Brandenburg (BbgFischG)**

<https://bravors.brandenburg.de/gesetze/bbgfischg>

### **Fishing regulations of the state of Brandenburg (BbgFischO)**

<https://bravors.brandenburg.de/de/verordnungen-212446>

## The fisheries inspectorate checks compliance with the rules

Compliance with the legal provisions for angling in the state of Brandenburg is monitored by fisheries inspectors and police officers. Fishing inspectors identify themselves with a badge. They are authorised to inspect fishing documents, fishing rods and catches and to report offences. Anglers should support the work of the fisheries inspectors and follow the instructions of the authorised inspectors.

## Holidays and short stays

The **general information** on fishing in Brandenburg also applies to angling guests.

There is an exception for anglers who are not resident in the Federal Republic of Germany and are only staying in the state of Brandenburg for a short time: during this time, they can also fish in Brandenburg waters without a fishing licence.

In order to be authorised to fish, the following documents must nevertheless be carried when fishing and presented on request:

- a completed proof card with fishing tax stamp,
- a fishing permit (permit under private law),
- a valid passport or identity card.

## Entering bank areas

In principle, anglers are permitted to access banks, islands, navigation facilities, bridges, weirs and locks adjacent to watercourses. However, public law regulations may restrict or prohibit this right to access the banks. This may be the case for water management reasons in landscape or nature conservation areas (see section „Fishing

in protected areas“) or in areas used for military purposes. In such cases, access is only permitted with official authorisation.

Commercial facilities (business premises) and areas that are directly part of the private house, yard and residential area, as well as private jetties and boat moorings, may only be entered with the prior express consent of the owner. It is irrelevant whether these areas or facilities are fenced in or not.

The extent or width of the bank strip to be entered is not regulated in metres. It depends on how much space is absolutely necessary for fishing. Moderate and considerate behaviour should be a matter of course.

The right to enter the shore is exercised at your own risk. The person responsible is liable for any damage caused. It is recommended that you enquire carefully at the fishing permit offices and pay close attention to the signs.



## Boat use

It is very common to fish from a boat. Sometimes this is the only way to fish in a water authorised for fishing. When travelling on waters, you must always observe the following:

On waters that are not authorised for shipping, the **boat size** is limited to a displacement of 1,500 kilograms. On these waters, an electric motor with an engine output of up to one kilowatt may be used as an additional source of propulsion. Waters from which water is taken for drinking water supply may not be navigated. This also applies to areas of water belonging to courtyards, gardens, car parks and business premises.

Areas with aquatic plants such as reeds, bulrushes, rushes and water lilies may not be travelled on. A minimum distance of one



metre must be maintained from overgrown areas. Watercraft may not be launched or towed out of the water here.

The distance regulation of 50 metres from standing fishing gear and permanent fishing equipment used for commercial fishing applies to fishing from the shore as well as from a boat.

Fishing in waters may be restricted or prohibited by public law, for example in landscape or nature conservation areas (see section „Fishing in protected areas“). Here too, it is recommended that you enquire in detail at the local fishing permit issuing offices

### **Paths to waterways and forest driving permits**

Public paths and roads must always be used to access bodies of water. Approaches and access via non-public paths and roads may require permits or authorisations under public or private law. Anglers must obtain these independently.

Water bodies are often located in the forest or are only accessible via a forest path. In these cases, the **regulations of the Brandenburg Forest Act** (LWaldG) must be observed.

Forest areas may be entered for recreational purposes, including access to fishing waters. Exceptions are closed or fenced areas, logging areas and forestry facilities, provided this does not conflict with the interests of the general public. Entering and using the forest is at your own risk. The forest must not be endangered, damaged or polluted. Animals and plants should also be affected as little as possible.



Driving and parking motor vehicles in the forest is only permitted for the purposes of management, hunting and for those carrying out official duties, e.g., fishing supervision. Exceptions for driving in the forest can be granted upon application by the respective forest owner for a fee (**forest driving permits**). Detailed information has been published on the Internet by the Brandenburg Forestry Authority (LFB).

Forest fishing permits can be applied for online for association waters and the association contract waters of the Landesanglerverband Brandenburg e.V., which can be reached in whole or in part via paths in the state forest.

For other bodies of water that can be reached via forest roads, forest driving permits can be applied for from the locally responsible chief foresters or, in the case of state forests, from the locally responsible state forest chief foresters.

On request, private forest owners can also issue forest driving permits for the paths in their forest property.

## **WEB LINKS**

### **Forest Act of the State of Brandenburg (LWaldG)**

<https://bravors.brandenburg.de/gesetze/lwaldg>

### **Forest driving permits - Information from the Brandenburg Forestry Office (LFB)**

<https://forst.brandenburg.de/lfb/de/themen/angelgwaesser-gestattungen>

### **Applying for forest fishing permits - Information from the Brandenburg Angling Association (LAVB)**

<https://www.lavb.de/waldfahrgenehmigung>

## Weather protection devices

When fishing, the use of a fishing tent, umbrella tent or similar weather protection device is permitted if it fulfils the following criteria:

- It is primarily used for protection against storms and not for overnight accommodation,
- it offers space for a maximum of two people and has no waterproof floor (tent floor),
- It is kept in muted colours and does not detract from the landscape,
- it must not stand in the same place for more than 12 hours without interruption.

These devices may only be set up and used if there are no protective regulations to the contrary (see section „Fishing in protected areas“).

In particular, no weather protection devices may be used in legally protected biotopes. This restriction applies to

- Near-natural, unobstructed sections of streams and rivers as well as small bodies of water,
- Damp and wet meadows,
- spring areas, moors and marshes and
- Quarry, moor and riparian forests.

**The erection and use of tents** that do not fulfil the above requirements is **not permitted** outside of tent, camping or designated bivouac sites. This also applies to other mobile accommodation, such as caravans.



## Fishing in protected areas

When fishing in **landscape or nature conservation areas**, the restrictions on use laid down in the regulations governing the protected areas must be observed. These may be restrictions on angling or even bans. If fishing in the protected area is not prohibited, weather protection devices can also be used, considering the above-mentioned criteria.

Before fishing, information should be obtained on the locally applicable regulations. Questions can be answered by the Lower Nature Conservation Authorities or the Lower Fisheries Authorities.



### WEB-LINKS

#### Lower environmental authorities

<https://service.brandenburg.de/service/de/adressen/weitere-verzeichnisse/verzeichnisliste/~umweltbehoerden-untere#>

#### Lower fisheries authorities of the state of Brandenburg

<https://service.brandenburg.de/service/de/adressen/weitere-verzeichnisse/verzeichnisliste/~fischereibehoerden-untere#>

## Behaviour at the fishing spot

For animal welfare reasons, hand-held fishing rods must be constantly supervised so that the hook can be set immediately after a bite and the hook is not swallowed too deeply by the fish.

Feed should only be used in small quantities to attract fish to the fishing spot. Excessive **feeding** means that the food cannot be absorbed by the fish and the water is unnecessarily polluted. In extreme cases, unabsorbed food can lead to acute oxygen deficiency and the associated fish mortality.

**Rubbish** and **litter** at the fishing spot not only disturb other people, but above all harm nature and the environment. The fishing spot should therefore always be left clean. A rubbish bag should therefore always be part of your equipment. Leftover line, hooks and other rubbish should be disposed of with household rubbish. Leftover food and offal from fish should be disposed of appropriately, for example by burying them. Carcass waste must not be left on the water or thrown back into the water.



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