FISHING CHEAT SHEET

Explained, not legal advice

Bavarian fishing law, simplified (AVBayFiG, valid from 1 June 2025). Laws can change – what counts is the current text and the conditions on your permit (Erlaubnisschein). The permit can set different close seasons and sizes – when in doubt the stricter rule always applies.

Close seasons & minimum sizes

FISH	CLOSE SEASON	MIN. SIZE
Whitefish (Renke) *Coregonus spp.*	15 Oct – 31 Dec	30 cm
Pike (Hecht) *Esox lucius*	15 Feb – 30 Apr	50 cm
Zander (pikeperch) *Sander lucioperca*	15 Feb – 30 Apr	50 cm
Perch (Flussbarsch) *Perca fluviatilis*	none	none
Lake trout (Seeforelle) *Salmo trutta f. lacustris*	1 Oct – 15 Mar	60 cm
Bream (Brachse) *Abramis brama*	none	none
Roach (Rotauge) *Rutilus rutilus*	none	none
Carp (Karpfen) *Cyprinus carpio*	none	35 cm
Ammersee ruffe *Gymnocephalus ambriaelacus*	**protected all year**	
Ammersee kilch *Coregonus bavaricus*	**protected all year**	

Bavaria, AVBayFiG annex, Danube area (column D). Example: a 46 cm pike bites in June → put it back at once, carefully (minimum size 50 cm).

Measure - keep or put back?

tip of the head → end of the folded tail fin

- A fish may only be kept when it has reached the minimum size. **Undersized** fish or fish caught in the **close season** must be returned at once, with due care, to the same stretch of water if they can survive (§ 11 AVBayFiG).
- A fish you keep must first be stunned with a blunt blow to the head and then killed.
- **Catch & release** – catching on purpose in order to release – is a criminal offence: a reasonable cause for fishing is to get fish as food, or when fishing serves the care of the fish stock. Putting back a fish of legal size is only allowed if it serves the care of the fish stock (§ 11 (8)).

Fishing at the Ammersee

The fishing rights belong to the Free State of Bavaria, managed by the Bavarian Administration of State-Owned Palaces, Gardens and Lakes. Permits are sold at local sales points, e.g. in Utting.

Permit conditions (secondary source, 2023)

Season	1 March – 31 October
Shore only	1 March – 14 April (no boat)
Pike, wels	keep fish of legal size (do not put them back)
Catch limit	whitefish 5 a day · zander 1 a day · lake trout 1 a week

Licence & permit

- **Fishing licence** (Fischereischein): angling exam from age 12, after a compulsory preparation course of at least 30 hours; a lifetime licence can be issued from age 14.
- **Permit** for the water (Erlaubnisschein) – carry it while fishing.
- Since 2025: children and teenagers aged 7 and over may fish without their own licence, supervised by an adult licence holder – the permit is still needed.
- Adult visitors who do not live in Germany: tourist licence (Jahresfischereischein) from the municipality where they want to fish – valid for at most three months of their choice within a year.

Rods & bait

- At most **two rods** at a time, with at most six hook points (hooks) together (§ 15 AVBayFiG); every rod must be watched all the time (§ 16).
- Fishing with **live bait fish** is forbidden (§ 15).

In the game you choose worm, corn / dough, spinner or hegene (nymphs). Which fish bites at which spot, on which bait and how often is made up for the game – not a rule.

Who lives here

Whitefish	open water, filters plankton with its gill rakers; summer 10–20 m deep, winter 55–70 m; the staple catch (“Brotfisch”) of the professional fishermen; spawns November to January
Pike	waits hidden among water plants near the shore; eats fish, frogs, small mammals, young water birds; mostly 50–80 cm; spawns February to May
Zander	young: small crustaceans, insect larvae, worms, later almost only fish; main catching season September to December
Perch	big ones mostly fish; eggs in long ribbons on water plants; caught mostly in August and September
Lake trout	swims up the rivers to spawn – needs rivers without barriers
Bream	soft bottom: insect larvae, worms, snails, small mussels; mostly 30–50 cm; spawns in May and June
Roach	schooling fish; mostly 15–20 cm; spawns in April and May
Carp	weed spawner (eggs on water plants); best caught March to May
Ammersee ruffe	lives only in the Ammersee, about 12 cm

Catching seasons: the lake’s professional fishery.

The lake

- Bavaria’s third-largest lake: 46.6 km² of water, up to 81 m deep, 533 m above sea level; 38 m deep on average and poor in nutrients. The Ammer flows in at Fischen and forms a delta, the Amper flows out.
- Stoneworts on the lake bed; natural reed-lined shore between Eching and Stegen. Reed and great reed warblers and the little bittern breed in the reeds; in winter thousands of tufted ducks and coots rest here. A Ramsar wetland of international importance since 1976.
- Only here: the Ammersee ruffe, the Ammersee kilch (a whitefish on the brink of extinction) and a deep-water char that lives in the deepest water (below 80 m, according to FishBase). New: the quagga mussel – it filters a lot of plankton out of the water and can upset the balance of the lake.

Quick quiz

1. Which fish is protected all year in Bavaria? → **Ammersee ruffe.** Ammersee ruffe and Ammersee kilch: protected all year.
2. You catch a perch and just want a photo before letting it go. Allowed? → **No – release only for the care of the stock; deliberate catch & release is an offence.** Catching fish just to release them is an offence; putting one back is only allowed if it serves the care of the stock.
3. Where does the whitefish live in summer? → **In open water, 10–20 m deep.** Open water, 10–20 m in summer, 55–70 m in winter.

Sources (opened and checked in October 2026): AVBayFiG (annex, §§ 3, 4, 6, 11, 15, 16) · BayFiG · Bavarian Ministry of Agriculture (StMELF: Angelfischerei in Bayern, Merkblatt Fischereirecht) · Landesfischereiverband Bayern (Schonzeiten, Fischlexikon) · Bek. Fischereirechte des Freistaates Bayern · Angelstadl (permit conditions, 2023) · Region StarnbergAmmersee · Fischerei am Ammersee · FishBase · WWF (Ammer) · LRA Roth / LfL · LfL Institut für Fischerei · LRA Landsberg (bathing-water profile) · LfU Natura 2000 · Ramsar · LRA Starnberg (quagga) · BayWG · TierSchG § 17.