



**FOREST AND NATURE CONSERVATION  
(AMENDMENT) RULES AND REGULATIONS OF  
BHUTAN, 2022**



**Royal Government of Bhutan  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
Department of Forests and Park Services**



**CHAPTER VII**  
**NATURE CONSERVATION**

**Protection of Other Species**

238(4) for fishing, captive breeding, and scientific research as permitted under this Rules.

**Captive breeding**

241. No wildlife shall be taken from the wild for the purpose of either private, commercial or conservation breeding, except where the taking occurs with a permit from the Department under this regulation.

242. The Department shall certify and issue permits for captive breeding of any wildlife.

**Special Provision Regarding Wildlife**

252. Deleted.

**Nature Recreation and Ecotourism**

264(6). Recreational fishing and fishing for personal consumption in designated waterbody.

**Fishing**

272. The Department in consultation with relevant agency shall delineate all waterbody into Mahseer water or Trout water, which shall be classified into Prohibited Fishing Site, High-end Recreational Fishing Site or Normal Fishing Site; and the High-end Recreational Fishing sites shall be further classified into different zones.

273. Recreational fishing and fishing for personal consumption in all waterbody except in prohibited fishing sites, shall be allowed through issuance of permit under this Rules which shall not be transferable.

274. A separate permit shall be required for fishing in Mahseer water and Trout water. The applicant shall apply for issuance of fishing permit to the designated authority as prescribed in Annexure XXII. Permittee shall carry the fishing permit at all times while fishing and produce it on demand by any Forest Officer.

275. The permit obtained for recreational fishing in High-end recreational fishing sites shall remain valid for fishing in Normal fishing sites and not vice versa. Permit obtained for the higher zone shall remain valid for the lower zones in High-end recreational fishing sites.

276. Recreational fishing shall be restricted to catch and immediate release of all fish caught with the exception of the daily harvest limit of two adult fish belonging to fish species other than Golden Mahseer and a maximum possession limit of six fish per week.

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277. Fishing for recreational purposes shall be restricted to the use of rod and reel angling using fly fishing and spin fishing techniques and artificial flies with a single barbless hook or artificial lures with one single barbless hook.
278. Fishing for personal consumption shall be allowed for Bhutanese nationals in the Normal Fishing Site with a daily harvest limit of three adult fish belonging to fish species other than Golden Mahseer and maximum possession limit of eight fish per week.
279. Fishing for personal consumption shall be allowed for Bhutanese nationals through use of rod and reel angling using fly fishing and spin fishing techniques with artificial flies or handlining with artificial lures with one single, double, or triple hook.
280. Any non-Bhutanese national fishing in Mahseer water or Trout water shall be accompanied by a Bhutanese fishing guide and use of raft from a registered national company may be allowed for fishing.
281. The Ministry shall revise the fishing permit fees from time to time to ensure sustainable fishing.

#### **Fishing in Mahseer Water**

282. Fishing in normal fishing sites in Mahseer waters shall require a fishing permit, which shall be issued by designated issuing authority upon payment of following fee:

Duration	Permit Fee per individual (Nu.)		Issuing Authority	Fishing Jurisdiction
	National	Non-Bhutanese		
1 Day	350	2,000	Beat Office, Range Office or Field Division/Park	Within Field Division/Park
1 Week	1,500	8,000		
1 Month	4,500	34,000		
6 Months	10,000	N.A		
1 Week	3,000	10,000	Designated Functional Division	Whole of Bhutan
1 Month	7,500	40,000		
6 Months	15,000	100,000		
1 Year	30,000	200,000		

- 282A. Fishing Permit with maximum validity of one month for recreational fishing in High-end recreational fishing sites in Mahseer water shall be issued either by the designated functional Division or the nearest Forest Office upon payment of following fee which is inclusive of a conservation levy, community levy and a normal fishing fee:

Fishing Zone/ Major River	Permit Fee per individual (Nu.)					
	1 Day		1 Week		1 Month	
	National	Non-Bhutanese	National	Non-Bhutanese	National	Non-Bhutanese
<b>Zone 1:</b>	3500	9,000	14,000	45,000	55,000	140,000



Manas Chhu						
<b>Zone 2:</b> Mangde Chhu Drangme Chhu Punatshang Chhu Wang Chhu	3000	7,000	12,000	35,000	45,000	110,000
<b>Zone 3:</b> Amo Chhu Nyera Ama Chhu Jomo Chhu Mao Chhu	2500	5,000	10,000	25,000	40,000	80,000

### Fishing in Trout Water

283. Fishing in normal fishing sites in Trout water shall require a fishing permit which shall be issued by the designated authority upon payment of the following fee:

Duration	Permit Fee per individual (Nu.)		Issuing Authority	Fishing Jurisdiction
	National	Non-Bhutanese		
1 Day	250	1,500	Beat Office, Range Office or Field Division/Park	Within Field Division/Park
1 Week	1,000	6,000		
1 Month	3,500	20,000		
6 Months	8,000	NA		
1 Week	2,000	7,500	Designated Functional Division	Whole Bhutan
1 Month	6,000	22,500		
6 Months	13,000	65,000		
1 Year	20,000	130,000		

283A. Fishing Permit with maximum validity of one month for recreational fishing in High-end recreational fishing sites in Trout water shall be issued by the designated functional Division or the nearest Forest Office upon payment of following fee, which is inclusive of community levy, conservation levy and normal fishing fee:

Permit Fee per individual (Nu.)					
1 Day		1 Week		1 Month	
National	Non-Bhutanese	National	Non-Bhutanese	National	Non-Bhutanese
2,000.00	5,000	8,000	25,000	30,000	85,000

### Community Based Capture Fishery

284. The local community may form community-based capture fishery groups with prior approval from the Ministry and practice sustainable fishing from the waterbody in their vicinity for consumption and sale.



vicinity for consumption and sale.

- 284A. A local community so designated as a community-based capture fishery group shall be allowed to harvest fish in accordance with the management plan developed in collaboration with the relevant Departments within the Ministry.
- 284B. The development of a management plan for community-based capture fishery shall be guided by a Guideline for Capture Fishery.
- 284C. Development of community-based capture fishery areas shall be prohibited in High-end recreational fishing sites.

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Annexure XXII-A: Application form for Availing Fishing Permit

ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS  
Department of Forests and Park Services

Office of the .....

To be filled by the Applicant

I. Personal Information (National)

- a) Name of the applicant: b) Citizenship I.D. No.  
c) Permanent Address (Village, Gewog/Thromde, Dungkhag/Dzongkhag).

- Thram No. House No.  
c) Present Address (Village, Gewog/Thromde, Dungkhag/Dzongkhag).

Agency/Organization:

Contact No:

II. Personal Information (International)

- a) Name of Applicant: b) Passport No:  
c) Nationality:  
d) Name of Travel Agent: e) Travel Agent Licence No:  
f) Contact No. of Travel Agent:

III. Recreational Fishing Information

- a) Type of Water: Mahseer Water: Trout Water:  
b) Sub-type: Normal Fishing Site: High-end Recreational Fishing Site:  
c) High-end Recreational Fishing Zones  
Zone 1: Zone 2: Zone 3:  
d) Proposed Location:  
e) Duration of Fishing: 1 Day: 1 Week: 1 Month:  
6 Months: 1 Year:  
f) Fishing equipment used:  
g) Use of Rafts for Fishing: Yes: No:  
If Yes, Name of the Company:  
h) Details of Fishing Guides Name: License No:

IV. Fishing for Personal Consumption (Bhutanese Nationals Only)

- a) Normal fishing sites: Mahseer Water Trout Water  
c) Duration of Fishing: 1 Day: 1 Week: 1 Month:  
6 Months: 1 Year:

Declaration:

I hereby declare that the details given above are true to the best of my knowledge. In case of any false or wrong information, I am liable to be penalized under the Forests and Nature Conservation Act 1995 and the Rules and Regulations made there under.

Date:

Name and Signature of the applicant with legal stamp affixed:



Annexure XXIII-A: Recreational Fishing Permit

Book No.....

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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS  
Department of Forests and Park Services

Office of the .....

Reference No.....

Dated:.....

(Fishing Permit for recreational  
fishing)

1. Details of permit holder:

a) Name

b) CID No/Passport No.

c) Full address

d) Type of waterbody

Mahseer water

Trout water

e) Sub-type

High-end recreational fishing  
site

Normal fishing  
site

f) Zones for High-end recreational fishing site

g) Name of area permitted for fishing

h) Fishing Guide Name:

i) Guide License No:

j) Permit validity:

k) Revenue Receipt No.:

Date on receipt:

Sd/-

Name of Issuing Authority

Range:

Division/Park:

*NOTE: Fishing should be abided by the Fishing Rules and Regulations issued by the Royal Government of Bhutan. This is an important legal document required to be carried during permitted fishing.*

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**Annexure XXIII-B: Fishing permit for personal consumption**

*Book* ..... *Original:.....* *Page.....*  
*No.....*

**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS  
Department of Forests and Park Services**

Office of the: .....

Reference No:.....

Dated:.....

**(Fishing Permit for Personal  
Consumption)**

1. Details of the permit  
holder:

a) Name:

b) CID No.

c) Full address

2. Name of area permitted for fishing in Normal fishing sites:

3. Permit  
validity:

4. Fee paid (Nu):

Revenue Receipt  
No.:

Date on receipt

Sd/-

Name of Issuing Authority

Range:

Division/Park:

*NOTE: Fishing should be abided by the Fishing Rules and Regulations issued by the Royal Government of Bhutan. This is an important legal document required to be carried during permitted fishing.*

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## CHAPTER XII

### PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED ACTIVITY IN STATE RESERVED FOREST LAND

#### Prohibited Activity

393(6) Fishing shall be strictly prohibited:

- (a) during the months of November and December every year in all Trout Waters and during the months of June, July and August every year in all Mahseer Waters;
  - (b) on 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> day of each Bhutanese calendar month;
  - (c) on First Sermon and Descending Day of Lord Buddha;
  - (h) during night from sunset to sunrise.
  - (i) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 393(6)(f) and (g), non-Bhutanese anglers shall be allowed for recreational fishing during *Chhogthhruel Dawa* and *Saga Dawa* in the High-end recreational fishing sites and it shall be restricted to catch and immediate release of all fish caught.
- (7)(f) snagging the fish with large treble hooks and spearing.
- (11) The following area shall constitute prohibited fishing sites and fishing shall be prohibited:
- (a) within 500 meters on either side of a Monastery or a Dzong or other culturally significant sites;
  - (b) within 500 meters of major public infrastructures as deemed important in the locality such as an Airport, School, Stadium and institution;
  - (c) within a municipal boundary of *Thromde* or *Yenlag Thromde*; and
  - (d) within any waterbody designated as an important conservation area by the Department.
  - (e) in culturally significant lakes.
- (12) Release or introduction of any non-native or exotic fish species into the waterbody shall be prohibited.
- (13) Release of any hatchery-bred native fish species into the waterbody shall be prohibited.
- (14) Taking of fish alive under the Daily Harvest Limit shall be prohibited.
- (15) Possession of Golden Mahseer *Tor putitora* shall be prohibited.
- (16) Fishing shall be strictly prohibited without a valid fishing permit.



## Restricted Activity

394(21) Harvesting of NWFP from and fishing in the core zone of the Protected Area;

(24) Fishing from any waterbody for the purpose of rearing, stocking, and production.

## CHAPTER XIII OFFENCE AND PENALTY

### Prohibited Activity

410(vii) Fishing without valid fishing permit shall be liable for fine and compensation per person as follows:

Sl. No.	Offence	Fine (Nu.)		Compensation (Nu.)
		National	Non-Bhutanese	National/Non-Bhutanese
a.	Fishing without a valid permit in High-end Trout Water	2000	5000	Amount payable as compensation is three times the Daily Recreational Fishing Permit Fee.
b.	Fishing without a valid permit in normal Trout Water	1500	3000	Amount payable as compensation is three times the Daily Permit Fee.
c.	Fishing without a valid permit in High-end Mahseer Water	3000	8000	Amount payable as compensation is three times the Daily Recreational Fishing Permit Fee for the respective zone.
d.	Fishing without a valid permit in normal Mahseer Water	2000	5000	Amount payable as compensation is three times the Daily Permit Fee.

410(ix) Any violation of the provisions under this Rules shall be liable for fine and compensation as follows:

Sl. No.	Offence	Fine (Nu.)	Compensation (Nu.) and Confiscation or restoration
a.	Fishing in prohibited fishing sites.	5,000	10,000
b.	Fishing beyond the permitted sites.	2,000	5,000
c.	Fishing during prohibited times, months and auspicious days.	2,000	5,000
d.	Fishing using live baits, closed/drag nets, snares, and nets, and other non-permitted methods.	5,000	5,000 & confiscation of fishing gear
e.	Fishing through river diversion resulting change in river flow and dam building	5,000	10,000 & restore the waterbody

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f.	Release of non-native or exotic fish into the waterbody.	5,000	35,000
g.	Stocking, rearing and production of fish illegally.	5,000	10,000 & clearing of the illegally stocked/ reared fish.
h.	Fishing without Fishing guides (Applicable to Non-Bhutanese)	5000	Confiscation of fishing gears

### Offence Related to Other Species

425(1). Animal

Sl. No.	Species	Fines (Nu.)	Compensation (Nu.)
16	Taking of Golden Mahseer	5000 per incident	5000 per fish in addition to fine and compensation prescribed in Rule 410 if applicable, and confiscation of fishing gear.
17	Trout and other fish beyond the daily harvest limit.	1000 per incident	Compensation at fair market value.

## CHAPTER XIV MISCELLANEOUS

### Definition

436(75) "*Wildlife*" shall mean all the wild animal including fish and the wild flora.

436(78) "*Bait*" shall mean any organism or part thereof, alive or dead or any chemical substance that attracts fish by scent or flavor, used on the hook by itself or in conjunction with any artificial lure, or used as chum in the water to help attract fish.

436(79) "*Daily Harvest Limit*" shall mean the maximum number of fish permitted for harvest of a given species or combination of species that a person may retain during each day of fishing.

436(80) "*Fly Fishing*" shall mean fishing using only fly-fishing gear, which includes fly rods, reels, and floating or sinking lines, as well as "Tenkara" outfits, with up to two flies floating or sinking, each with only a barbless single-point hook.

436(81) "*High-end recreational fishing sites*" shall mean stretch of Bhutan's major river or waterbody delineated exclusively for recreational fishing and they are being managed to produce and maintain robust populations of Mahseer and Trout species for providing excellent fishing opportunities.

436(82) "*Hook*" shall mean the terminal object at the end of the fishing line that keeps the line attached to the fish and may come in three forms; single-point hook, double point hook, and triple point hook on a common shank.

436(83) "*Lures*" shall mean any bright artificial object consisting of plastic or metal mounted with hooks and/or trimmed with feathers designed to attract and catch fish.

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- 436(84) "Normal recreational fishing sites" shall mean waterbody not delineated as High-end recreational fishing sites.
- 436(85) "Mahseer" shall mean *Tor putitora*, commonly referred to as Golden Mahseer or *Sernya* and *Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*, commonly referred to Chocolate (or Copper) Mahseer or *Katla*, unless otherwise specified.
- 436(86) "Mahseer waters" shall mean all so delineated waterbodies in Bhutan, that is, where Mahseer are believed to be present for at least part of the year.
- 436(87) "Maximum possession limit" shall mean the maximum amount of fish permitted for harvest of a permitted species that at any single point in time a person may have in his possession whether in person or housed in another location.
- 436(88) "Personal consumption or personal use" shall mean harvest of forest produce for exclusive household use and not for sale.
- 436(89) "Recreational fishing" shall mean fishing with a rod and reel for sport or recreation practiced ideally through catch and immediate release with minimal handling, and those fishes harvested under daily harvest limit doesn't constitute the individual's primary resource to meet basic nutrition needs and are not generally sold or otherwise traded on export, domestic or black markets.
- 436(90) "Trout" shall mean *Salmo trutta*, commonly referred to as Brown Trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, commonly referred to as Rainbow Trout and *Schizothorax* species (*Schizothorax molesworthi*, *S. progastus* and *S. richardsonii*) commonly known as Snow trout.
- 436(91) "Trout water" shall mean all other waterbody not delineated as Mahseer water.
- 436(92) "Waterbody" shall mean all rivers, streams, lakes, natural ponds, and impoundments on natural rivers and streams in the state reserved forest land and shall exclude impoundments in private registered lands.

