

NB: Unofficial Translation

Legally binding texts are those in Finnish and Swedish

Hunting Decree

(666/1993; amendments up to 412/2014 included)

Section 1 – Hunting licence for game other than cervids
(412/2014)

- (1) A hunting licence referred to in section 10(1) of the Hunting Act (615/1993) shall be obtained for:
- 1) the hunting of European beaver;
 - 2) the hunting of Baltic ringed seal; and
 - 3) the hunting of partridge in areas outside the regions of Ostrobothnia, South Ostrobothnia, Central Ostrobothnia and North Ostrobothnia.

Section 2 – Granting of a hunting licence
(170/2011)

- (1) If required for the appropriate management of the population of the game animal species and equitable and appropriate organisation of hunting, the number of animals to be hunted may be reduced from the number applied for. In granting a hunting licence it shall be ensured that the damage caused in the area by the game animal species in question remains at a reasonable level. A hunting licence is granted for no more than the number of specimens of the game animals stated in the application.

Section 3 – Information to be attached to a hunting licence application
(170/2011)

- (1) Information on the area and time period in which the game animal species concerned in the hunting licence application is to be hunted shall be attached to the application for a hunting licence referred to in section 1 above. In addition, if required by the Finnish Wildlife Agency, the applicant shall provide an account of the size of the game animal population concerned in the application in the area to the Finnish Wildlife Agency. If required by the Finnish Wildlife Agency, the applicant shall present evidence of his or her hunting right in the area concerned in the application.

Section 4 – Regulations to be included in a hunting licence
(170/2011)

- (1) A hunting licence referred to in section 1 above shall specify the area covered by the licence as well as the number of animals to be hunted. For special reasons, restrictions concerning hunting methods or the hunting area may be laid down and regulations concerning the age and sex of the animals to be hunted included in the licence.
- (2) A hunting licence granted is valid for a maximum period of one year from the date of granting.

Section 5 – Hunting quota for grey seal
(412/2014)

- (1) In the following areas there is a quota for the hunting of grey seal in the Baltic Sea:
- 1) the population management area of the Bothnian Bay–Quarken including the marine areas belonging to the regions of Ostrobothnia, Central Ostrobothnia, North Ostrobothnia and Lapland;

- 2) the population management area of south-western Finland including the marine areas belonging to the regions of Satakunta and Southwest Finland; and
 - 3) the population management area of the Gulf of Finland including the marine areas belonging to the regions of Uusimaa and Kymenlaakso.
- (2) A grey seal specimen bagged as quarry shall be reported to the Finnish Wildlife Agency within three weekdays from the time when the grey seal was bagged. The report shall state:
 - 1) the hunter number and contact information of the hunter;
 - 2) the sex and weight of the grey seal bagged;
 - 3) time when it was bagged; and
 - 4) coordination of the location where it was bagged, population management area, operating area of the territory of the Finnish Wildlife Agency and game management association.
 - (3) When the quota has been fulfilled the Finnish Wildlife Agency shall order grey seal hunting in the population management area to be terminated. The order of the Finnish Wildlife Agency shall be communicated with sufficient efficiency. The termination of hunting is considered to have come to the knowledge of hunters after three days from the issue of the order.
 - (4) The Finnish Wildlife Agency shall deliver information on the hunting of grey seal to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry at the end of each calendar year.

Section 6 – Application for a cervid hunting licence

(170/2011)

- (1) A map of the area referred to in the licence application and an account of its surface area shall be attached to a hunting licence application concerning the hunting of cervids.
- (2) If required by the Finnish Wildlife Agency, an applicant shall attach to the application a list of the cadastral register or land register units or parts of these in the areas in which cervid hunting takes place, or documents necessary for the substantiation of the hunting right.
- (3) If a hunting licence application concerns the hunting of cervids in the area referred to in section 8 of the Hunting Act and the area of State-owned land included in the hunting area is over 1 000 hectares, a preliminary notification of those who participate in the hunt as shooters, their permanent places of residence and any other opportunities they have to hunt the cervid concerned shall be attached to the application.

Section 7 – Regulations to be included in a cervid hunting licence

(170/2011)

- (1) A hunting licence for one cervid entitles to bag one adult animal or two calves. Further regulations on the age or sex of the cervids which can be bagged may be included in the hunting licence if this is considered necessary for appropriate management of the cervid population.
- (2) Calf means a cervid less than one year old.

Section 8 – Application for and processing of a cervid hunting licence

(170/2011)

- (1) An application for a cervid hunting licence shall be lodged by 30 April at the latest to the game management association to whose jurisdiction the main part of the hunting area referred to in the application belongs.
- (2) The game management association shall forward the application documents and its own statement on them to the Finnish Wildlife Agency on 15 May at the latest.
- (3) The Finnish Wildlife Agency shall decide upon the applications by 10 August at the latest and deliver the decisions to the applicants without delay.
- (4) A cervid hunting licence is valid for one hunting year at a time.

Section 9 – *Reporting obligation relating to a hunting licence and cervid hunting licence*
(170/2011)

- (1) A licence holder shall report the quarry bagged by virtue of a hunting licence referred to in section 10 of the Hunting Act or cervid hunting licence referred to in section 26 of the Hunting Act to the game management association. The report shall be given within seven days of the hunting of the animals mentioned in the hunting licence or, if not all of the animals have been bagged, within seven days of the beginning of the closed season.
- (2) The report shall state the number of animals bagged, their sex, time when they were bagged and information on the location where they were bagged. In the case of cervid species referred to in section 26 of the Hunting Act the report shall also state the number of adult cervids and calves bagged, and proof of the payment of the game management fee shall be attached to the report.
- (3) The game management association shall forward the information delivered to it to the Finnish Wildlife Agency within 14 days of the beginning of the closed season concerning the game animal species in question.
- (4) The Finnish Wildlife Agency shall submit a summary report of the number of hunting licences granted and the number of animals bagged by virtue of these to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on an annual basis.

Section 10 – *Use of iron traps*
(270/2013)

- (1) Only iron traps which, when striking, cause the immediate death of the animal may be used in hunting game animals. The traps shall be serviced on a regular basis. The traps shall be placed in a way that they cause no danger to humans or animals other than those that are being hunted.
- (2) Iron traps may be used on land in the hunting of polecat, ermine, mink, pine marten and red squirrel as well as unprotected mammals. The diameter of the trap may not exceed 20 centimetres.
- (3) Iron traps may be used under water in the hunting of European beaver, Canadian beaver, mink and muskrat as well as unprotected mammals. The diameter of the trap may not exceed 30 centimetres.

Section 10 a – *Use of snares or traps*
(270/2013)

- (1) Snares or traps may be used in the hunting of willow grouse and ptarmigan in the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki.

Section 11 – *Use of restraining traps and foot snares*
(170/2011)

- (1) A trap for the capture of animals live or other similar hunting device may be used in the hunting of lynx, European beaver, Canadian beaver, muskrat, farmed arctic fox, red fox, raccoon dog, ermine, mink, polecat, pine marten, badger, otter, rabbit, red squirrel, Baltic ringed seal and grey seal as well as unprotected mammals. A restraining trap or other hunting device must allow the animal to stand or lie in a natural position without harming itself.
- (2) A foot snare may be used in the hunting of red fox when the ground is covered with snow. The loop of the foot snare must be at least 30 millimetres in diameter when released.
- (3) The use of a hunting device referred to in subsections 1 and 2 above shall be arranged so that it may be checked on at least a daily basis whether an animal has been caught in the device.

Section 12 – *Use of a dog in cervid hunting*

- (1) A hound whose height at the withers is over 28 centimetres may not be used in the hunting of cervids unless it is kept on a leash.
- (2) A hound allowed under subsection 1 may be used in the hunting of roe deer only from the last Saturday of September to 31 January.

Section 13 – *Restrictions associated with bear hunting*

- (1) A bear may not be driven from its den nor shot near its den or carrion or on a field from which the crop has not been harvested. A lure involving feed may also not be used as aid in bear hunting.

Section 14 – *Use of a light source*

(270/2013)

- (1) An artificial source of light may be used in tracking and putting down a wounded animal or an animal caught in a foot snare and putting down an animal which is in a cave, restraining trap, rock pile, building, under a building or woodpile or otherwise in a helpless state.

Section 14a – *Use of a leaf blower*

(270/2013)

- (1) A leaf blower for the capturing or chasing of a farmed arctic fox, red fox, raccoon dog, mink, ermine, red squirrel, badger, raccoon as well as unprotected mammals may only be used in a cave, rock pile, building, under a building or woodpile or in similar circumstances.

Section 15 – *Use of poison in the hunting of unprotected animals*

(270/2013)

- (1) Poison or poisoned bait for the killing of rats, mice, and voles may only be used in a building, yard, garden, fur farm, landfill, and aquaculture establishment. Poison and poisoned baits shall be set up so that they cause no danger to humans or animals other than those referred to in this section.

Section 15 a – *Use of electricity in the hunting of unprotected mammals*

(270/2013)

- (1) Electricity may be used only for killing a rat, mouse or vole captured by means of a closed trap. Such a trap may only be used in a building, yard, garden, fur farm, landfill and aquaculture establishment. The traps shall be set up so that they cause no danger to humans or animals other than those referred to in this section. A trap that kills by means of electricity shall be serviced on a regular basis.

Section 16 – *General requirements for firearms*

(346/2013)

- (1) A self-loading weapon whose magazine is capable of holding three rounds of ammunition may not be used for shooting birds referred to in section 5 of the Hunting Act or mountain hare, European beaver, wolf, bear, polecat, otter, pine marten, lynx, Baltic ringed seal, harbour seal and grey seal. The prohibition on the use of a self-loading weapon whose magazine is capable of holding three rounds of ammunition is laid down in section 33 of the Hunting Act.
- (2) Only a firearm referred to in paragraphs 1–3 and 8 of section 6(2) and paragraphs 11 and 12 of section 6(2) of the Firearms Act which is at least 600 mm long and whose barrel is at least 300 mm long may be used in hunting.

Section 16 a – *General requirements for a bullet firearm*
(270/2013)

- (1) The bullet scoring energy of a rifled bullet firearm to be used for the shooting of a game animal measured from the muzzle must be at least 100 joules ($E_{100} > 100 \text{ J}$).
- (2) In addition to the provision of subsection 1:
 - 1) if a weapon is used for the shooting of red fox, farmed arctic fox, badger, otter, raccoon dog, raccoon, nutria, mountain hare, brown hare, capercaillie, black grouse, or goose, the cartridge bullet must weigh at least 2.5 grams and the scoring energy when measured 100 metres from the muzzle must be at least 200 joules ($E_{100} > 200 \text{ J}$);
 - 2) if a weapon is used for the shooting of roe deer, Baltic ringed seal, grey seal, harbour seal, wolf, lynx, wolverine, European beaver, Canadian beaver, or mouflon, the cartridge bullet must weigh at least 3.2 grams and the scoring energy measured 100 metres from the muzzle must be at least 800 joules ($E_{100} > 800 \text{ J}$);
 - 3) if a weapon is used for the shooting of white-tailed deer, red deer, forest reindeer, fallow deer, sika deer, or wild boar, the cartridge bullet must weigh at least 6.0 grams and the scoring energy measured 100 metres from the muzzle must be at least 2,000 joules ($E_{100} > 2,000 \text{ J}$) or, when a bullet weighs at least 8 grams, the scoring energy measured in a similar manner must be at least 1,700 joules ($E_{100} > 1,700 \text{ J}$); and
 - 4) if a weapon is used for the shooting of moose or bear, the cartridge bullet must weigh at least 9 grams and the scoring energy measured 100 metres from the muzzle must be at least 2,700 joules ($E_{100} > 2,700$) or, when a bullet weighs at least 10 grams, the scoring energy measured in a similar manner must be at least 2,000 joules ($E_{100} > 2,000 \text{ J}$).
- (3) A full jacket bullet may not be used for shooting animals mentioned in subsections 2(3) and 2(4) above.

Section 17 – *The gauge of a shotgun*

- (1) The gauge of a shotgun to be used for shooting a game animal must be 10–20. However, a smaller gauge shotgun may be used for shooting rabbit, muskrat, red squirrel, ermine, willow grouse, ptarmigan, hazel grouse, partridge, woodcock, and wood pigeon, but not a shotgun with a gauge smaller than 36.

Section 18 – *Restrictions concerning a shotgun*

- (1) A shotgun loaded with pellets may not be used for shooting moose, white-tailed deer, red deer, forest reindeer, fallow deer, sika deer, bear, wild boar, seal, or mouflon.
- (2) A bullet prepared for a shotgun may not be used for shooting moose or bear.

Section 19 – *Derogation from prohibitions concerning weapons*
(270/2013)

- (1) An appropriate firearm may be used for putting down a wounded animal or an animal in a foot snare, cave, restraining trap, rock pile, building, under a building or woodpile or otherwise in a helpless state.

Section 20 – *General requirements for bows*

- (1) A bow may only be used for shooting rabbit, mountain hare, brown hare, red squirrel, European beaver, Canadian beaver, muskrat, nutria, farmed arctic fox, red fox, raccoon dog, raccoon, badger, ermine, polecat, pine marten, mink and roe deer and birds belonging to game animals as well as unprotected animals.
- (2) Only a bow for which the pulling strength is at least 180 newtons (180 N) may be used for shooting a game animal.

- (3) The tip of an arrow to be used for shooting an animal must be such that an accurate hit is fatal on impact. If a bow is used for shooting European beaver, Canadian beaver, or roe deer, the arrow must have a cutting tip with a minimum diameter of 22 millimetres. If a bow is used for shooting European beaver or Canadian beaver the arrow must also be attached to the bow with a fishing line.

Section 20 a – *Use of an air weapon*
(270/2013)

- (1) An air weapon may only be used inside a building and there for killing an unprotected mammal other than a cat which has run wild.
- (2) An air weapon may be used for shooting a game animal or unprotected animal with a projectile containing anaesthetic substance for the purpose of research, reintroducing or repopulating.

Section 21 – *Provisions concerning the shooting of unprotected animals*
(557/2013)

- (1) A firearm fulfilling the requirements laid down in section 16 a(1) or section 17 may be used for shooting a cat or unprotected birds.

Section 22 – *Gear to be used in the hunting of cervids*
(270/2013)

- (1) When hunting fallow deer, red deer, sika deer, moose, white-tailed deer and forest reindeer, persons participating in a hunt shall wear orange-red or orange headgear or headgear covering as well as a piece of clothing covering the upper part of the body. At least two-thirds of the visible surface area of the piece of clothing and headgear shall be orange or orange-red in colour.
- (2) However, the provision in subsection 1 above does not apply to a hunter who hunts from the cover of a construction.

Section 23 – *The tasks of a hunting master*

- (1) The hunting master of a hunt for fallow deer, red deer, sika deer, moose, white-tailed deer and forest reindeer shall:
- 1) plan the hunting events in practice;
 - 2) give the participants to the hunt the necessary orders concerning hunting and the safety measures to be complied with; and
 - 3) ensure that the terms of the hunting licence and provisions concerning hunting are complied with.
- (2) Before starting a hunt, the holder of the hunting licence shall notify the relevant game management association in writing of the hunting master and deputy hunting master.

Section 24 – *General closed seasons*
(170/2011)

- (1) The closed seasons for game animals are as follows:
- 1) rabbit 1 April – 31 August, mountain hare and brown hare 1 March – 31 August;
 - 2) red squirrel 1 February – 30 November;
 - 3) European beaver and Canadian beaver 1 May – 19 August;
 - 4) muskrat 20 May – 30 September;
 - 5) ermine and pine marten 1 April – 31 October;
 - 6) Baltic ringed seal 16 October – 15 April and 1 June – 31 August, and grey seal 1 January – 15 April;

- 7) wild boar 1 March – 31 May;
- 8) moose from 1 December to 31 August and 21 September to 10 October in the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari, Muonio and Utsjoki and from 1 January to the day preceding the last Saturday of September in the other parts of the country;
- 9) fallow deer, red deer, sika deer, forest reindeer, and white-tailed deer from 1 February to the day preceding the last Saturday of September;
- 10) roe deer male 16 June – 31 August and 1 February – 15 May as well as roe deer female and a calf of the same year 1 February – 31 August;
- 11) mouflon 1 December – 31 August;
- 12) Canadian goose, greylag goose, bean goose, mallard, teal, wigeon, pintail, garganey, shoveler, pochard, tufted duck, goldeneye, coot, woodcock as well as a female common eider and its young of the same year from 1 January to 12.00 noon of 20 August;
- 13) male common eider 1 January – 31 May;
- 14) long-tailed duck, red-breasted merganser and goosander 1 January – 31 August;
- 15) willow grouse in the regions of North Savo, North Karelia, South Ostrobothnia, Central Ostrobothnia, Ostrobothnia, Central Finland, North Ostrobothnia, Kainuu and Lapland excluding the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki 1 November – 9 September, in the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari and Utsjoki 1 April 1 – 9 September, and for the whole year in the other parts of the country;
- 16) ptarmigan in the municipalities of Enontekiö, Inari, and Utsjoki 1 April – 9 September and for the whole year in the other parts of the country ;
- 17) black grouse and hazel grouse 1 November – 9 September;
- 18) capercaillie 1 November – 9 September;
- 19) partridge 1 November – 9 September;
- 20) pheasant 1 March – 31 August; and
- 21) wood pigeon 1 November – 9 August.

Section 25 – *Special closed seasons*

(170/2011)

- (1) The closed season for the females of farmed arctic fox, red fox, raccoon dog, raccoon, badger, polecat, mink and nutria accompanied by offspring of the same year is 1 May – 31 July.
- (2) The game season is always closed for the females of wild boar, fallow deer, red deer, sika deer, roe deer, moose, white-tailed deer, forest reindeer and mouflon accompanied by offspring less than a year old.

Section 25a – *Closed seasons in respect of unprotected birds*

(170/2011)

- (1) The closed seasons for unprotected birds are the following:
 - 1) hooded crow, herring gull, great black-backed gull, domestic pigeon and field fare in the regions of North Ostrobothnia, Kainuu and Lapland 1 May – 31 July, in the regions of North Savo and North Karelia 1 April – 31 July and in the other parts of the country 10 March – 31 July;
 - 2) magpie in the regions of North Savo, North Karelia, North Ostrobothnia, Kainuu and Lapland 10 April – 31 July and in the other parts of the country 1 April – 31 July;
 - 3) raven in the reindeer husbandry area 10 April – 31 July; and
 - 4) herring gull colonies throughout the year.

Section 26 – *Protection of the lodge of European beaver, Canadian beaver and muskrat*

(270/2013)

- (1) An inhabited lodge of a muskrat or beaver may not be broken. A dam or other structure connected to an inhabited lodge may nevertheless be broken to prevent damage:
- 1) between 15 June and 15 September in the region of Lapland;
 - 2) between 15 June and 30 September in the regions of North Ostrobothnia and Kainuu;
 - 3) between 15 June and 15 October in the regions of Ostrobothnia, Central Ostrobothnia and South Ostrobothnia, Central Finland, North Savo, South Savo and North Karelia; and
 - 4) between 15 June and October 31 in the other parts of the country.

Section 31 – Trade in game animals

- (1) The trade of Canadian goose, bean goose, garganey, long-tailed duck, goldeneye, red-breasted merganser, goosander, hazel grouse, black grouse and capercaillie hunted in Finland as well as their recognizable parts or products made of them is prohibited.
- (2) Provisions concerning the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) 338/1997 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein are laid down in section 44 of the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996).

Section 32 – Compensation for impounding a dog

- (1) Compensation for taking care of a dog referred to in section 55(3) of the Hunting Act is determined so that it fully covers the expenses which arise from the care of an impounded dog. The expenses which are taken into account comprise the work used for the care, the supplies and equipment acquired for the care, and an appropriate portion of the expenses associated with the facilities used in providing the care.

Section 38 – Hunting permit to a foreigner

- (1) A permit referred to in section 46(3) of the Hunting Act may be granted to a foreigner who hunts in an area referred to in the said subsection accompanied by a Finnish hunter. A further precondition is that the person concerned fulfils the conditions laid down in section 2 of the Act on the Game Management Fee and Hunting Licence Fee (616/1993).

Section 39 – Notification to a hunting right holder

(170/2011)

- (1) The notification referred to in section 83 c(2) of the Hunting Act shall be made orally, by telephone, or by some other means no later than the first weekday following the day when the game animal was found. If the holder of the hunting right is not reached within 48 hours, the hunter may keep the animal.
- (2) If the holder of the hunting right takes an animal in a case referred to in section 83(2) of the Hunting Act, the holder of the hunting right is regarded as having used, in lieu of the hunter, the hunting licence in respect of the animal.

Section 40 – Reporting of wounding an animal

- (1) A wounded wild boar, wolf, bear, wolverine or lynx left in a forest shall be reported to the nearest police without delay.

Section 41 – Permit for certain game management measures

(170/2011)

- (1) A permit referred to in section 40 of the Hunting Act shall be applied for in writing from the Finnish Wildlife Agency. The application shall state the reasons for applying for the permit and the hunting methods to be used. A condition for granting the permit is that the measures referred to in the permit do not cause significant harm to wild game animal populations.
- (2) The permit application shall state:

- 1) the hunting methods allowed by virtue of the permit;
 - 2) the number of animals the applicant is allowed to capture or take ; and
 - 3) how the impacts of the game management measures are to be reported to the Finnish Wildlife Agency by the holder of the permit.
- (3) A permit granted is valid for a year at a time unless a shorter validity period is specified in the permit decision.

Section 42 – *Handling of an illegal hunting device*

- (1) If the owner of a hunting device referred to in section 81(2) of the Hunting Act is known and if the hunting device can be converted with minor repairs into a hunting device which fulfils the requirements or if its parts have use value, the hunting device is returned to the owner. In other cases, the hunting device is disposed of.
- (2) If a hunting device which has been returned in accordance with subsection 1 is again confiscated by virtue of section 81 of the Hunting Act, the hunting device is disposed of.

Section 44 – *Reporting of roe deer quarry*

(170/2011)

- (1) A hunter shall report the outcome of roe deer hunt to the Finnish Wildlife Agency. The report shall be given within seven days of the day when the roe deer was hunted.
- (2) The report shall mention the following information on roe deer bagged as quarry according to roe deer specimens:
 - 1) age (adult or calf);
 - 2) sex;
 - 3) time when the animal was bagged; and
 - 4) information on the location where the animal was bagged.
- (3) The location where the animal was bagged shall be reported as register units in the Real Estate Register. Information shall also be given whether the register unit concerned belongs to the roe deer hunting area of a hunting club or hunting party or whether the register unit concerned is distinct from these. The surface area of the hunting area of the hunting club or hunting party shall also be given. If the quarry was obtained in a register unit which is not included in the hunting area of a hunting club or hunting party, the surface area of the register unit shall also be given.
- (4) The Finnish Wildlife Agency shall forward a summary of the information referred to above reported to it to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry within 30 days of the beginning of the closed season.

Section 45 – *The right of a reindeer herdsman to transport a hunting weapon*

(270/2013)

- (1) The provision of section 35(3) of the Hunting Act notwithstanding, the police may grant, on the submission of the chairman of the herding cooperative, a permission for off-road transportation in a motor vehicle of a hunting rifle which fulfils the requirements laid down in paragraph 2 of section 16 a (2) of this Decree in respect of bullet scoring energy to a reindeer herdsman who carries out reindeer herding tasks.

Section 46 – *Entry into force*

- (1) This Decree enters into force on 1 August 1993.