

N° 1286.

ESTONIE ET LETTONIE

Convention pour la protection des
poissons et le règlement de la
pêche, avec protocole de clôture.
Signés à Riga, le 28 octobre 1925.

ESTONIA AND LATVIA

Convention for the Protection of Fish
and the Regulation of Fishing, with
Final Protocol. Signed at Riga,
October 28, 1925.

1 TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 1286. — CONVENTION ² BETWEEN ESTONIA AND LATVIA FOR
THE PROTECTION OF FISH AND THE REGULATION OF FISHING.
SIGNED AT RIGA, OCTOBER 28, 1925.

French official text communicated by the Estonian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The registration
of this Convention took place August 30, 1926.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ESTONIAN REPUBLIC and THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LATVIAN REPUBLIC, considering it desirable to regulate the development of fishing and of pisciculture upon agreed principles, have decided to conclude a Convention regarding the protection of fish and the regulation of fishing, and for this purpose have appointed as their Representatives :

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ESTONIAN REPUBLIC :

M. Julius SELJAMAA, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Estonia at Riga ;

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LATVIAN REPUBLIC :

M. M. GAILITS, Minister of Agriculture ;

Who, after communicating their full powers found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions :

Article I.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to prohibit within their territories the taking, curing, preparation, transportation of and trade in the following kinds of fish, if the length of the fish measured from the extremity of the head to the tip of the caudal fin is below the following measurements :

Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i> L.)	50 cm
Sea trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i> L.)	35 cm.
Vendace (<i>Coregonus lavaretus</i> L. and (<i>Coregonus maraena maraenoides</i> Poljakow)	30 cm.
Perchpike (<i>Lucioperca sandra</i> L.)	35 cm.
" Vimba " (<i>Vimba vimba</i> L.)	20 cm.
Black-spotted ide (<i>Leuciscus idus</i> L.)	20 cm.
Flounder (<i>Pleuronectidae</i>)	15 cm.

The same conditions shall apply to crayfish (*Astacus fluviatilis*) if the length of the crayfish measured from the extremity of the head to the tip of the central lobe of the tail is under 10 cm.

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations.

² The exchange of ratifications took place at Riga, August 17, 1926.

Article 2.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to determine by agreement the minimum duration of the close seasons for the taking, curing, preparation, transportation of and trade in salmon and sea-trout, such close season to extend at least from October 25th to December 15th. In the case of crayfish, this close season shall extend at least from October 1st to May 31st.

Article 3.

During the close seasons the curing, preparation, transportation of and trade in salmon, trout and crayfish, caught during the open season shall only be allowed under supervision, for which purpose detailed and uniform regulations shall be drawn up by the Permanent Fisheries Commission provided for in Article 7 of the present Convention.

Until the above-mentioned rules have been drawn up, this supervision shall be exercised in conformity with the regulations in force in the territories of the respective High Contracting Parties

Article 4.

For scientific purposes and research regarding pisciculture, each of the High Contracting Parties shall be entitled to allow exceptions to the stipulations of Articles 1 and 2 of the present Convention.

The High Contracting Parties further undertake, for the above-mentioned purposes to facilitate by every means the exchange of artificially fertilised spawn and of fry and fish intended for the propagation of the species.

Article 5.

The High Contracting Parties undertake to prohibit the use in fishing of poisons, drugs and explosives, and also of firearms and harpooning instruments (fish spears, etc.), likely to inflict external wounds on the fish.

In regard to closed waters, exceptions to the provisions of this Article may be permitted in particular cases, with the authorisation of the Government, for purposes of pisciculture and science.

Article 6.

The High Contracting Parties agree to take steps to prevent injury to fish by deleterious substances, and for this purpose to prohibit the steeping of flax, hemp and hides in all open waters of economic importance to fisheries and also in the waters communicating with the former, and they agree further to adopt the necessary measures for preventing the discharge of noxious sewage into these waters.

Article 7.

For purposes of mutual information concerning the regulation of fishing and the protection of fish and with a view to the preparation of more detailed rules to give effect to the present Convention, a permanent Fisheries Commission shall be established, composed of an equal number of representatives of the two States.

This Commission may be convened at the instance of the Government of either High Contracting Party, but it shall meet alternately in the territory of either State.

The decisions of the Commission shall be confirmed by the Governments of the High Contracting Parties and shall come into force immediately after their confirmation.

Article 8.

The present Convention shall be ratified. The exchange of ratifications shall take place at Riga. The Convention shall come into force as from the date of the exchange of ratifications and shall remain in force for an indefinite period.

The Convention may be denounced at the desire of either of the High Contracting Parties at one year's notice.

In faith whereof the above-mentioned Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Convention.

Done at Riga, in duplicate, on October 28, 1925.

Jul. SELJAMAA.

M. GAILITS.

FINAL PROTOCOL.

Upon proceeding to the signature of the Convention between Estonia and Latvia for the protection of fish and the regulation of fishing, the Plenipotentiaries of the two States have agreed upon the following provisions :

Ad Articles 1, 2, 3 and 5.

It is understood that the provisions of the above-mentioned Articles will not limit the right of either of the High Contracting Parties to issue stricter and more detailed regulations than those contained in the present Convention.

Ad Articles 5 and 6.

The term 'closed waters' is held to mean those waters which have no communication with other waters and which are the property of an individual or private party, or a corporate body. All other waters within the meaning of the present Convention are held to be open waters.

Ad Article 7.

The duties of the Commission mentioned in this Article include the following :

- (1) Preparation of rules to ensure the access of the fish to their spawning grounds ;
- (2) Determination of the prohibited areas in waters used for general purposes ;
- (3) Preparation of conservancy measures to regulate the curing, preparation, trading and transportation during the close season of salmon and crayfish caught in the open season ;
- (4) Preparation of rules to prohibit the construction of an excessive number of dams preventing the passage of fish to their spawning grounds ;
- (5) Preparation of rules for the protection of fish in the spawning grounds ;
- (6) Co-ordination of measures for the release of the fry of salmon, sea-trout and vendace and for the determination of the number of fry to be released each year ;
- (7) Preparation of measures for preventing the pollution of waters ;
- (8) Working out of arrangements for fish-breeding on rational and scientific bases in co-terminous waters ;
- (9) Co-ordination of measures for scientific research ;
- (10) Co-ordination of work for the compilation of fishery statistics.

In faith whereof the Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Protocol.

Done in duplicate at Riga, October 28, 1925.

Jul. SELJAMAA.

M. GAILITS.