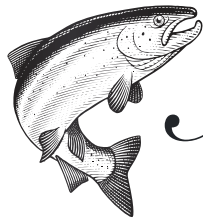


FISHING GUIDE



Austnes
SALMON LODGE

VERDAL - NORWAY

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Many maps and signs still say Østnes,
but our name now is Austnes.

Øst and Aust both mean east. Nes = headland.





Austnes is Waiting

Austnes Farm

In the attic at Austnes there is a chest from the 1700s. It belonged to the people who came moving and bought the farm many generations ago. At the time, Austnes was a ford with a ferryman. Since then, several bridges have been built. Time and again they have been destroyed by floods. Today's bridge is from 1952.

In those days, Austnes was run in the traditional manner, with cows, two or three pigs and grain. At times of spring farming and haymaking, everybody had their hands full. The labourers demanded breakfast, coffee at ten and dinner at noon. This was followed by three-o-clock coffee and "nonsmat". The latter had its name from latin nona, nine, meaning the ninth hour after starting work. With all the extra people to feed, salmon from the river was a welcome resource.



The Hosts

Today, Sabreein and Ola are the hosts at Austnes. Ola grew up on the farm and was introduced to fishing very early on. The joy of hooking a fish has followed him ever since. Few have spent as many hours in the mountains and by the river chasing trout, capercaillie, grouse and salmon.

With the appreciation of nature came the interest in biology and ecology. He knows what conditions trigger fish to go for the fly and when it is time to let it rest. Expertise he gladly shares. He also works actively to improve living conditions for sea trout and salmon in the river.

Sabreein sees to it that you settle in comfortably at Austnes. This includes cooking and serving according to your wishes. Together, the couple look forward to develop Austnes further.



Verdal River

When the fish ladder at Granfossen was completed in 1990, it was the largest in Northern Europe, giving the salmon another 20 kilometres / 12 miles to spawn. The total salmon carrying distance of the Verdal River with tributaries is close to 50 kilometres / 31 miles.

The river is well suited for fly fishing and is easily accessible at many locations



The First Foreigners

For more than a century, the image of foreigners coming to Norway to fish has first and foremost been associated with the English so-called salmon lords. From the midst of the 1800s many a lord, and indeed royalty, were regular visitors. Many came with a grand entourage, including family and servants. The income for boat owners and local communities was substantial.

Austnes has a somewhat different history. Here, the first foreign fishermen came in the early 1960s. A group of Swedish friends decided to pass by Vuku on their return from a frustrating fishing visit to Namdalen, further north. From the bridge they saw salmon jumping. They tried their luck, with success! Already the next weekend they were back. The rumour spread. More Swedes arrived. At first they slept in tents. Then they moved into the loft of the "stabbur", the storehouse on pillars typical of Norwegian farms. Then cabins were built.

Over the years, more nationalities arrived from many parts of Europe. Many return year after year. The Lelou family from France came back for over 20 years and frequently invited Liv and Ivar, the hosts at Austnes, to come visit them in France. In 2015 they did indeed go.



Austnes

The Austnes Beat is long and varied. Here are big rocks, deep pools, quiet parts and streams. The beat is very well suited for fly fishing.

If you rent the beat for a week or two, you and your companions have exclusive access to two kilometres of shore. All of the 1 200 metre long stretch on the farm side belongs to Austnes, from the lower end of zone 1 below Austnes Waterfall all the way up to the top of Marka Pool.

On the southern shore everyone may buy a fishing licence for zone 1, Austnes Waterfall. You and your company who rent Austnes Beat can also fish there; it is part of the package. The only stretch not included as of today, is the eastern shore of zone 3, Austnes Stream, which is hired by the local hunters and anglers association.





The Austnes Waterfall

Zone 1

No spot in the Verdal River has larger fame than Austnes waterfall. This is where the first foreign fishermen arrived with their 5-6 metre long bamboo rods without reels.

When fishing is allowed from 1 June, there is often a considerable amount of salmon on their way to jump up the waterfall. Not too long ago, 26 salmon were taken during the first day of fishing, all between 7 and 15 kilos. Zone 1 is also favourable later in the season when water levels increase after periods of low levels.

At medium flow of water or more, the river constitutes two courses with a separate little pool in the southern course. Here you find the Tora Cliff, named after Swedish Tora Sjødin. She was an able fisherwoman and her "own" cliff was her favourite spot.

On the southern shore by the camping ground you will also find places to sit down and a "gapahuk", a shelter, were you and your friends and/or family may discuss the day's catch or plan the next attack.

PS. The first 50 metres downstream from the waterfall is not open to fishing.





The Ivar Bend

Zone 2

This bend is a natural resting place for the salmon after negotiating the waterfall. It has its name after today's grandfather at Austnes. Ivar has landed innumerable salmon in this zone and knows it better than anyone.

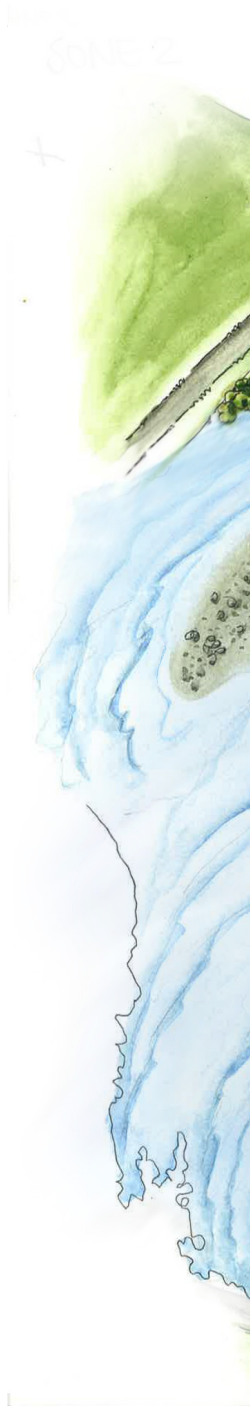
The pebble shore on the eastern side of the bend is perfectly suited for beginners in fly fishing. On the farm side, vegetation is dense close to the river, so spey casting is preferable.

It was in this zone Ivar hooked the biggest salmon he has ever seen. He had gone down to the river to try his luck for a little while before receiving guests at the house. After having played the salmon for an hour, the guests started arriving. Liv came down to the river to fetch him. He had to tighten the line. The salmon went out the waterfall and was gone.

At the top of Ivar Bend is the Sereanna Rock. Sereanna was the great great grandmother of today's youngest at Austnes. She was a wizard at angling, and always from this rock. Sereanna also had a reputation for being enormously strong. At one time she is said to have killed an ox calf with her bare hands. Not many dared tease her.

Ivar Bend has a brand new gapahuk.

"A natural resting place for the salmon after negotiating the waterfall"





Stuart
Landscape
Architecture

The Austnes Stream

Zone 3

In this zone you don't have access to both sides of the river. The eastern shore is rented by the local hunters and anglers association.

The upper part is calm. Further down the water gains speed. Here, there are a number of large rocks where salmon fancy resting. This zone is best fished at medium and high water flows.

Austnes Stream is not the easiest to wade. Luckily, fish mostly lie on the farm side, so you don't need to cast so far. If you hook a big one here, chances are you will have an exciting journey along the river.

"If you hook a big one here, chances are you will have an exciting journey along the river"





The Blåmel Pool

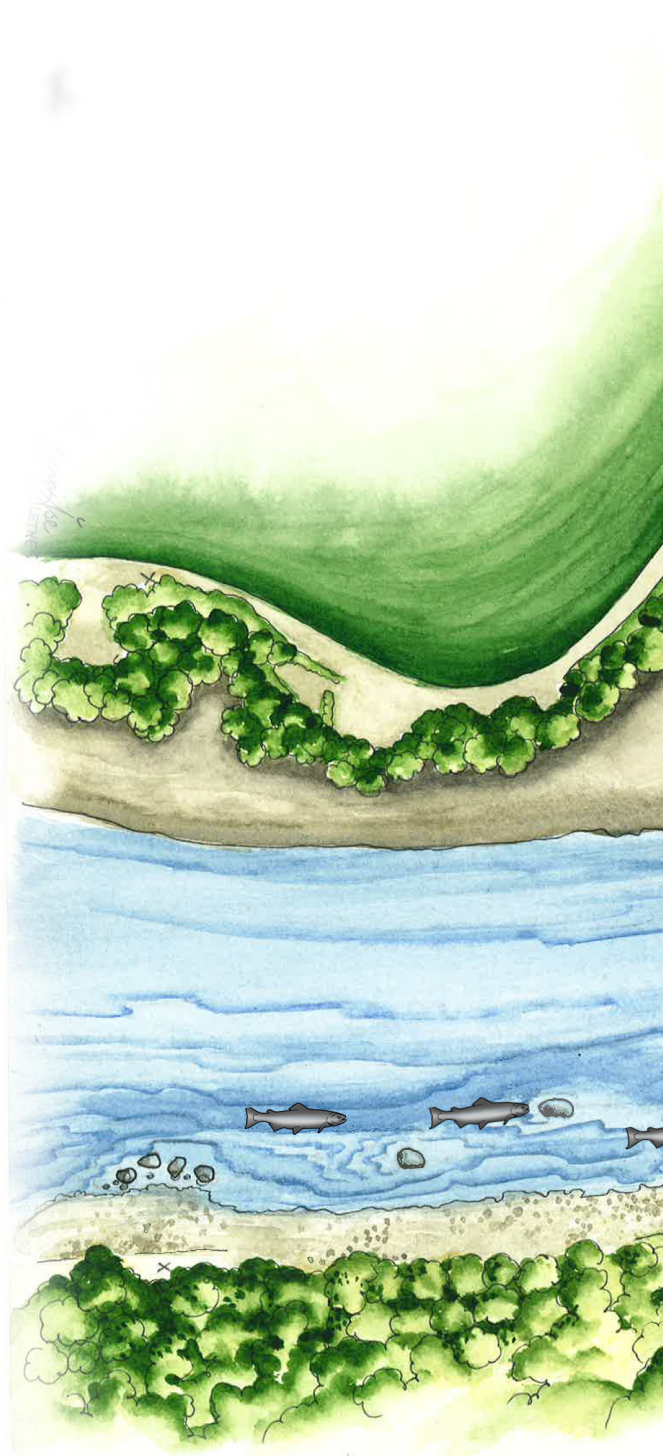
Zone 4

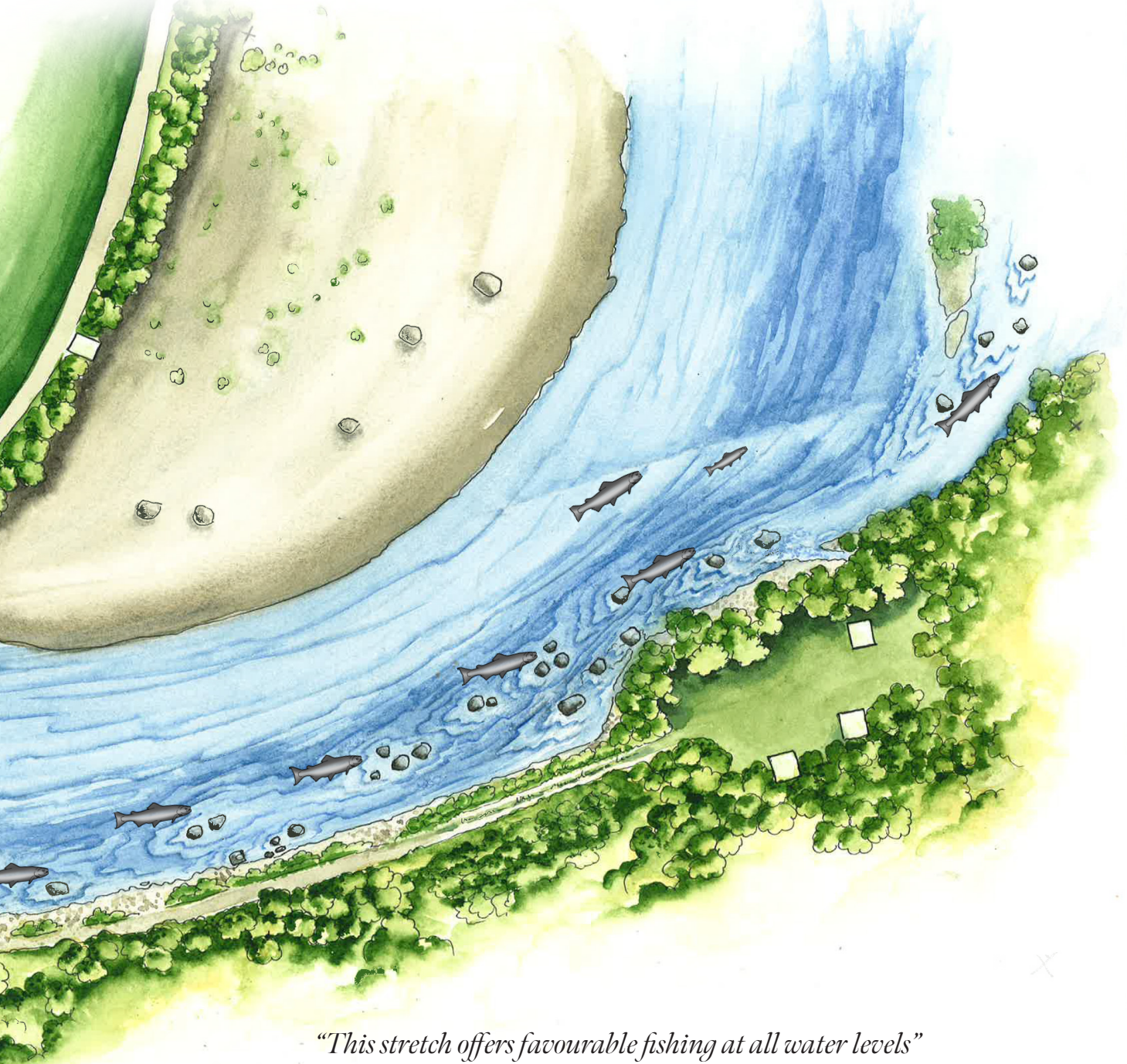
The mention of Blåmel Pool leaves many an angler misty-eyed. A good number of the largest salmon in Verdalen River have been caught here. From year to year, several specimens in the 20 kilo class may be seen. However, getting them on shore is another story.

If you want to see the really big salmon roll over at sunrise, Blåmel Pool is the place to be. You may also spend the night in the timber cabin by the shore or light an evening fire by the gapahuk.

This stretch offers favourable fishing at all water levels. The salmon finds natural resting spots at both high and low river.

Ivar relates about a Swede who came to Austnes for the first time. He was a keen fisherman, but had never caught a salmon. "Come with me," Ivar said. They went down to Blåmel Pool. The fisherman was instructed to begin where the road from the farm flattens by the shore and continue downstream. "When you come to that rock in the river, you should pay extra attention," Ivar said. "That's where it lies." Indeed. When he came to the rock, the salmon took the fly. Ivar is happy to show you this rock any time.





"This stretch offers favourable fishing at all water levels"

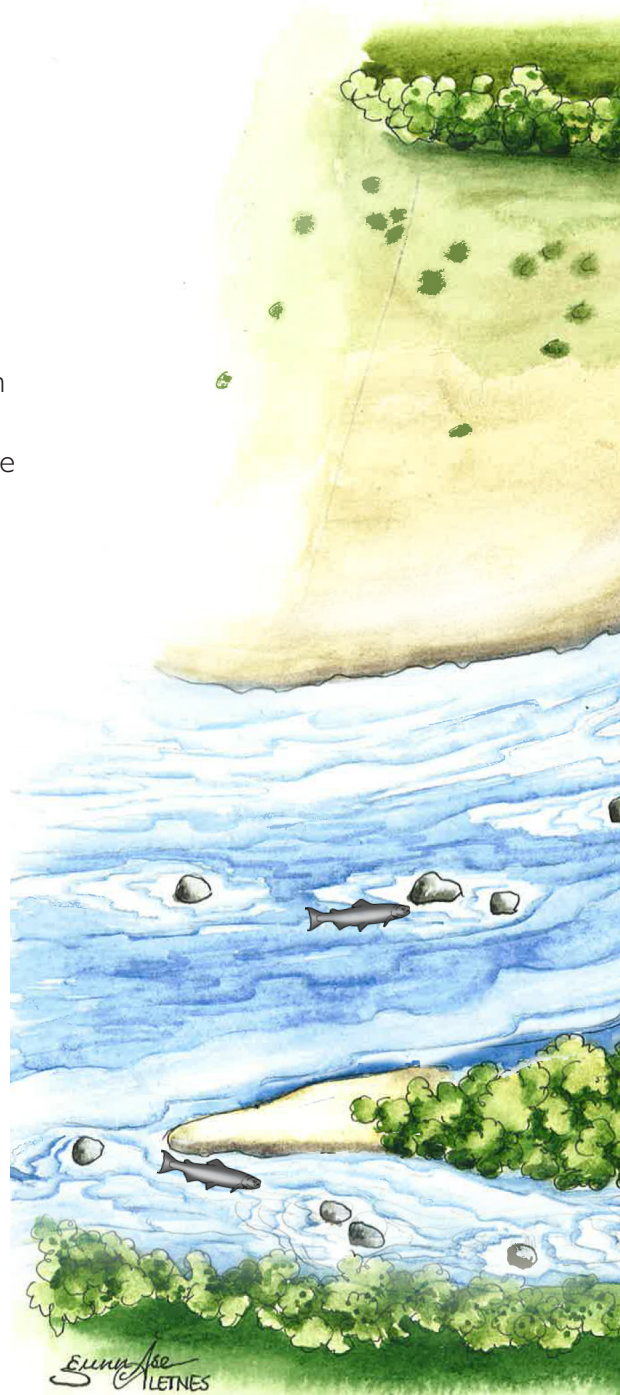
The Marka Pool and Marka Stream

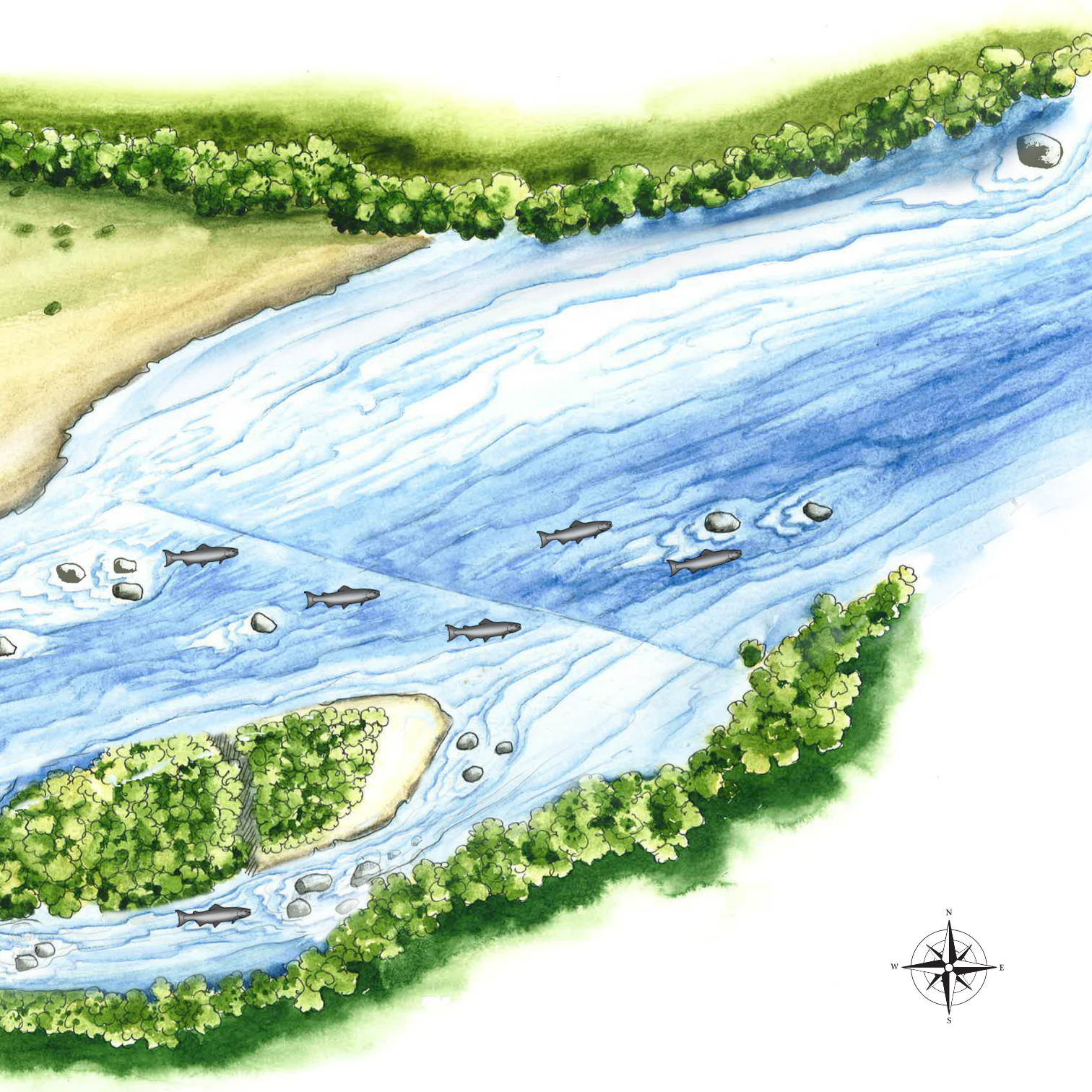
Zone 5

Marka Pool is broad and quiet-flowing, with vegetation on both sides. On this stretch there is a deep channel near the southern shore. Here is salmon, but this is one of the more demanding stretches to fish and one has to be careful. At dusk, fish move downstream towards the lower end of the pool.

Marka Stream has two runs at medium and high water levels. Then an island is formed in the river. In the largest run the stream is lively, with several big rocks where salmon lie to rest. The smaller run towards the forest on the southern shore is calmer. Fish go here when the river is high. And here you may have company: from the forest above you, roars from the numerous red deer may be heard.

*“this is one of the more demanding stretches
to fish and one has to be careful»*





Vest Grunnan zone 6

The Vest Grunnan beat ZONE 6 is single bank. The upper part starts after some fast water and is a long stretch with stones and pockets that's holds salmon. There are lots of stones where fish can stop, but also a bit more demanding to fish. The lower part is a big deep holding pool. The pool has lots of stones and holding places where you can hook your fish of your lifetime. The pool has a long bend that ends in some fast water. Grunnan beat A is a 600-meter beat Fishable on all water levels.

Vest Grunnan zone 7

Vest Grunnan beat is located 23 km from the estuary. The Vest Grunnan beat B is partly double bank, and you can fish it from both sides. The upper pool is fishable from the south side. The pool starts after some fast water and runs in curve with a channel on the other side of the river. When the salmon has passed the fast water, they stop here. There are lots of big stones where the salmon stops. This is a lovely pool that's holds salmon on low and medium water level.

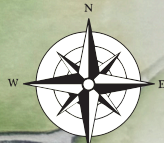
The lower pool starts on top of a neck after some fast water. The faster water after the neck ends in a deep holding pool with a deeper channel on the other side of the river. When the salmon has passed the fast water on their way up, they stop here. There are lots of big stones where the salmon stops. Grunnan beat B is a 900-meter beat





ZONE 7

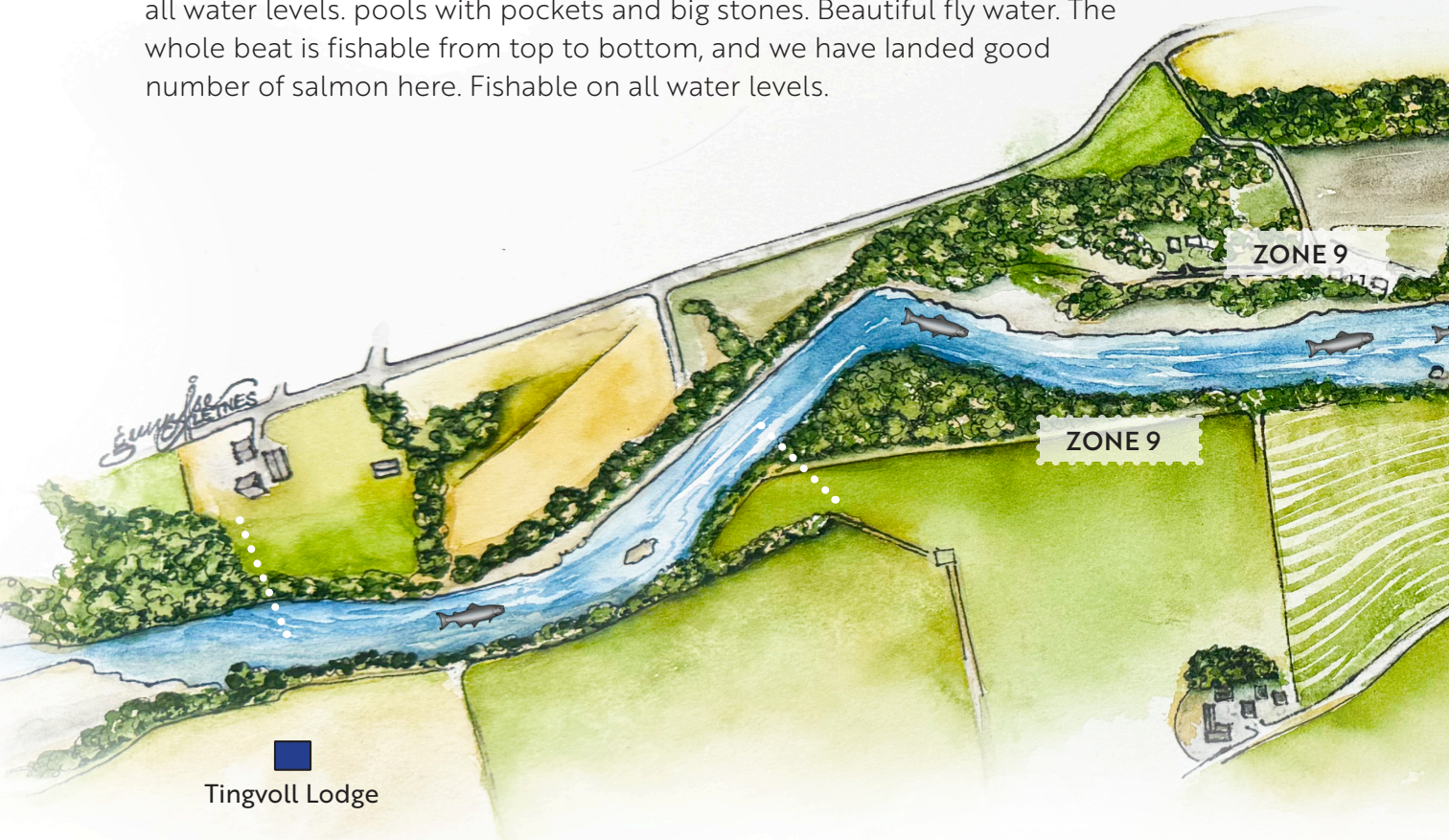
ZONE 6



Auskin Zone 9

Auskin beat is located 16 km miles from the estuary.

The Auskin beat is the first beat the salmon meet on their way up the river. It's partly double bank, and you can fish it from both sides. Auskin has beautiful fly water in 3 pools. The top part of the Auskin beat is only fishable from the north side of the river. The middle part of the beat is double bank, and you can fish it from both sides. We mostly fish from the north side of the river and there is beautiful fly water in the whole pool. The top part of the Auskin beat is only fishable from the north side of the river. The lower part has a very nice pool after some fast water. The whole beat is fishable from top to bottom. Auskin beat is a 1700-meter beat. Fishable on all water levels. pools with pockets and big stones. Beautiful fly water. The whole beat is fishable from top to bottom, and we have landed good number of salmon here. Fishable on all water levels.



Breeding Zone 8

Breeding beat is located 18 km from the estuary Breeding is our second beat the salmon meet on their way up the river. Breeding beat is on the north side of the river and from the top and down you have three nice pools that are all fishable on all water levels. Many holding pools and rocks are natural stopping places for the salmon. Breeding is a 600-meter beat. Breeding is located opposite the camp and is within walking distance.



Popular Flies

Sunray Shadow

Efficient salmon fly thanks to the long wing which gives it a nice silhouette and good visibility even in darkness and turbid water. Sunray Shadow works best in fast running water, where it is often used with a floating line near the surface. At high water levels, good results are often obtained with a sinking line near the bottom.



Nasty Banana

Very efficient in sunshine around noon. The Banana Fly concept has been popular ever since Micke Andersson showed the world how good the dirty yellow fly could be.



Pahtakorva

A fly that has taken tens of thousands of salmon. A standard fly which works everywhere, it might be best in tea coloured river. Voted as the world's best fly.



Blue Charm

One of the most popular salmon flies ever. This fly came as a result of requests for making salmon flies less complicated. A lot of fishermen were tired of the typical posh Victorian patterns with feathers from 50+ birds where most were endangered.



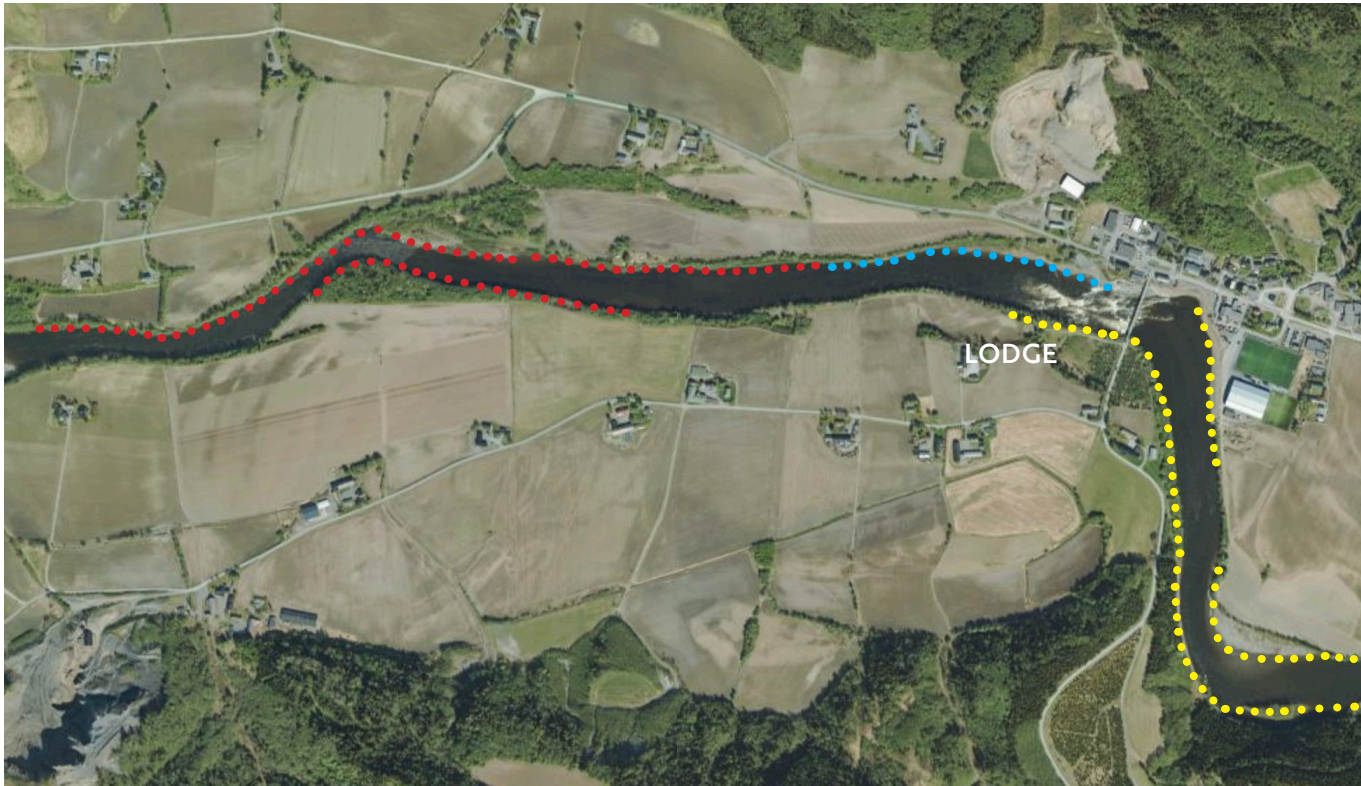


Austnes in the late 60's. Ivar Lerfald and Ola Østnes holding a 44 lbs salmon. Both former landlords at Austnes Salmon Lodge.



Austnes Salmon Lodge beats

Auskin: Red zone 9
Breiding: Blue zone 8
Austnes: Yellow zone 1 -5
Vest Grunnan: Green zone 6-7







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Lodge



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