



ENGLISH

# FISHING

## /IN ARAGÓN

DISCOVER ANGLING, WHICH IN ARAGON FINDS A UNIQUE AND PRIVILEGED AREA. THE DIVERSITY OF LANDSCAPES AND HABITATS MAKE ARAGON A UNIQUE POTENTIAL DESTINATION IN THE WORLD.



**turismo**  
sostenible





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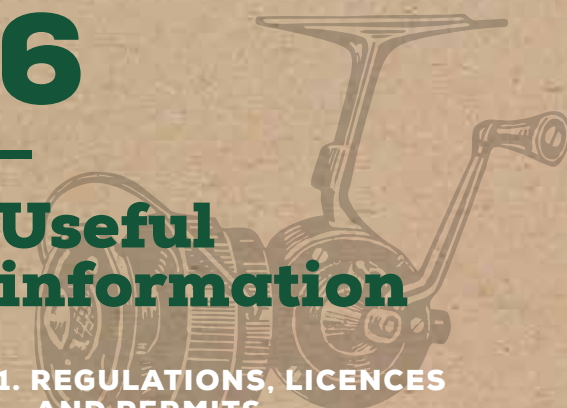
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# 1

## Aragon: a privileged territory



**Aragon, land of fishing, land of landscapes, culture, tourist opportunities, tastes and experiences. Green mountains and blue waters.**

**In them, the angler can pursue his favourite sport and choose from a wide range of species: Trout, barbel and char in the rivers or black bass, zander, carp, and catfish in the reservoirs.**

## Fishing as a tourist option

**Fishing is much more than an exciting sporting activity. Fishing is also a tourist product of great importance. Aragon wants to take advantage of this and offer its enormous natural wealth to visitors, always taking care to minimise the impact on the environment.**

Since it is the quality of Aragon's waters, landscapes and fish that gives this leisure activity its value, the leisure activity of angling itself becomes a guarantee of optimal conservation of the environment.

Sport fishing has also become a point of attraction for family and couples, attracted by trout or catfish, but who also enjoy all the rich

heritage of the region, nature, culture, and leisure activities that Aragon always offers the traveller.

The geographical diversity is such that there are numerous opportunities for all types of anglers, from those who love the wild waters of the high mountains to those who prefer calm and patient fishing on the shores of one of the many reservoirs.

*Fishing adventures*

**Your exciting fishing adventure in Aragon will be compatible with a relaxing holiday with your family or life partner in a natural, rural, and healthy environment.**



1. Angling, adventure, and water sports. / 2. wild and natural angling. / 3. Angling for all. / 4. eco-friendly fishing.



# Attractions of the area

**Aragon is an area of infinite possibilities, where art, history, nature, and landscape coexist in incomparable harmony with sport, adventure, and countless leisure activities throughout the area.**

Zaragoza is a large city with more than 2000 years of history and has much to offer the visitor. In its surroundings you can see diverse landscapes such as the **Moncayo** mountains, the **Monasterio de Piedra** monastery, the **Ribera del Ebro** and also many picturesque towns and cities.

In **Huesca**, the natural richness of the **Pyrenees** and their high peaks comes into its own, with thousands of kilometres of **mountain bike** and **hiking routes**. A paradise for **winter sports** enthusiasts with the largest ski area in Spain. You can lose yourself in **idyllic valleys** such as the **Ordesa** and **Monte Perdido** National Parks, or marvel at the **Romanesque treasures** with their **churches and monasteries** of great transcendence and artistic richness. **San Juan de la Peña**, the churches of the **Serrablo** region, historic towns like **Alquézar** or **Ainsa** and monumental castles like **Loarre**.

The **Aragonese Mudejar art** (UNESCO World Heritage Site), shows all its splendour in **Teruel**. The regions of **Maestrazgo** and **Matarranya** offer you magnificent landscapes and historic sites, true **jewels of the Middle Ages**.

**Aragon** shows you its culture in the **Ruta del Tambor y el Bombo** (Route of the Drums and the Timpani) at **Easter**, in the carnival festivities of **Bielsa** or the **ancient traditions** of its villages and people. The offer is varied with the **Dinópolis** parks or the **Alcañiz** motorbike circuit.

Surprising dishes with the flavour of **traditional cuisine** are part of **Aragon's impressive gastronomy**. Local and **high-quality** ingredients such as **veal, mushrooms, borage, saffron** and **truffles** are just a small selection.

Aragon also wants to invite you to **relax** and has among its great attractions, **splendid spas** where **health and wellness** await you in **beautiful and peaceful places**.



Lanuza reservoir (Tena Valley).



Bujaruelo Valley (Huesca).



Mirambel (Teruel).



Footbridges of Montfalcó (Huesca).

# Aragon in Europe

Aragon occupies a vast territory of almost 48,000 km<sup>2</sup>, strategically located in the centre of Spain's most developed quadrant. Equidistant from Madrid and Barcelona, it is also a border and gateway to the rest of Europe. It has **excellent communications** by road, air, and rail, which makes it easily accessible to travellers from all over the world who want to know all the geographical and cultural diversity of this historic territory.

This infrastructure is greatly appreciated by the anglers who already visit us, either by land from surrounding European countries or by air to **Zaragoza airport** from other, more distant destinations.

Once in Aragon, its **central location and short distances** allow visitors to be at any destination in just two hours after arrival.

**Aragon is the area in the world where there are more dams and reservoirs in proportion to its extent. This results in enormous potential and diverse opportunities in terms of freshwater fishing.**



River Ebro and Basilica del Pilar (Zaragoza).



Horse riding, River Ara (Huesca).



Gastronomy. Benasque.



# 2

## Fishing in Aragon

**Aragon awaits you with all the services you need for the unforgettable fishing session you dream of, without forgetting its exceptional climate.**

When fishing in Aragon you will experience unique and very varied enclaves.

## Choose Aragon

**We can say without a doubt that Aragon is a top holiday destination for anglers. More and more licences and tickets are issued every year to anglers from all over the world.**

One of Aragon's greatest advantages is our **Mediterranean climate**. The mild and temperate winters, with many sunny days, favour the activity of the fish. Species such as carp, perch, catfish, and pikeperch can be fished in Aragon **all year round**. This invites the angler to visit Aragon, unlike other destinations where this would not be possible.

The **adventure and nature** sports enthusiasts will find very good offers in Aragon. For angling tourism, the coverage and safety is also excellent, both in the Pyrenees with all the services and in the rivers and lakes (mountain lakes of glacial origin), as in any body of water. Whether alone or with the family, the angler well-being is taken care of.

You will feel emotions reserved only for remote places, and also with the certainty that you can recharge your batteries with the comfort of good accommodation if you wish, in many cases right on the shore.



The best fishing guides.

Take advantage of all this. Discover and explore the surroundings while fishing at your own pace. **Feel like a true pioneer** and enjoy exploring these enclaves and corners with a semi-wild nature and with almost endless possibilities for fishing. Because you can enjoy and feel relaxed at the same time, knowing that you are very close to civilisation and therefore safe.

Petrol stations, supermarkets, pharmacies, bars and restaurants geared towards the angler; tackle shops, boat hire, workshops, shops; and everything you could need we have, and also, close to the water.

This is a land of deep contrasts. The visitor who approaches our shores to fish has the choice between tempting salmon species that live in

clean and wild mountainous areas, or they can set their fishing sights on the warmer and richer lowlands of the Ebro River in the province of Zaragoza. Aragon is so diverse.

**Choose your own way of getting to know Aragon** while fishing and make your trip a completely different experience. Because in less than 100 km you can go from fishing for trout to tempting the big specimens in the form of carp, catfish or zander that also await you in the Ebro and its huge reservoirs.

1. Large specimens. / 2. mythical fishing grounds.
3. You can fish your own way.



## The “Fishing in Aragón” brand

**The Government of Aragon, in cooperation with the Aragon Fishing Association, has created the “Fishing in Aragon” brand.**

This brand was born from the need to regulate and promote the value Aragon offers as a fishing destination open to the whole world.

The Angling and Casting Association of Aragon (FAPYC) is the only body recognised by the Government of Aragon, always based on respect and conservation of the environment. With an average of 5,000 affiliated anglers in 56 clubs, the association manages 38 sport fishing areas and districts that aim to offer excellence to the angler.

One of the generalities of angling in Spain is that almost all the waters where fishing is possible are publicly and state owned. This distinguishes us from other European destinations where the water domain is private, and where you must pay to fish. In Aragon you do not pay for fishing because the waters are public.

With the minimal amount of a fishing licence, you can enjoy your favourite pastime in high quality protected areas that are clean, well-maintained and offer a similar service to other lakes or private reservoirs that are much more expensive.

**It is the quality seal of a tourist activity in which all stakeholders are involved to guarantee that the parameters of quality and service are met, thus offering a tourist-sport product at the highest international level.**



In Aragon, fishing and release.



The biggest catfish in Europe.

### Did you know that ...?

In Aragon there are guides and companies specialising in fishing that offer the possibility of guided, customized, and sustainable fishing trips where you can discover the world of angling. They all make it possible to get to know the world of fishing in a different and more varied way, which enhances the rewarding experience of fishing in the rivers and reservoirs of Aragon.



## The most visible fish species in Aragon

The barbel is one of the autochthonous and endemic jewels that can be fished, but with respect for its conservation.

**Aragon has very diverse ecosystems, and the list of freshwater fish found in them is very extensive. In the most natural and best preserved, live indigenous fish whose value and endemic importance is inestimable.**

These are usually rare populations of endangered carp fish such as the culirroyo barb (*Barbus haasi*), blennies such as the fraile f (*Salaria fluviatilis*) and many other small fish that are respected by anglers, thus supporting their preservation and flourishing in our waters.

On the other hand, in more human-influenced ecosystems such as reservoirs, other autochthonous species that are also threatened or in open retreat coexist in minority with new invasive species. This is the case with the madrilla (*Chondrostoma toxostoma*), the Mediterranean barbel (*Barbus bocagei*) or the common barbel of the Ebro basin (*Barbus graellsii*), which can occasionally be caught. In this case, the immediate return of these specimens to the water is the best measure that the angler can take.



The madrilla, an autochthonous and endemic fish from Aragon.



Gardón, an alien species introduced from outside and present in our waters.

We exclude these species to really focus on those that offer greater fishing opportunities and better sporting qualities for the fishery.

# Salmon fish species



Beautiful specimen of common trout with high mountain colouration.

**Aragon is a privileged area for salmon fishing anglers. The brown trout, the rainbow trout and the char are present in more than 2000 km of waters, including almost 400 lakes and high mountain lakes.**

## Trout

The Fario Trout (*Salmo Trutta Fario*) or Common Trout, is the undisputed queen of all fast and well oxygenated watercourses. These trout have **endemic genetics that have been preserved** over thousands of years, giving them a wild behaviour and a very good adaptation to the environment. This is the real incentive for fishing. In Aragon we find two well-differentiated genotypes. The Fario trout of the **Atlantic slope** and that of the **Mediterranean slope (known as zebra trout)**. Both reach good sizes when they find enough food in their habitat and conditions are favourable, easily exceeding 30 centimetres. In low sections of fast-flowing rivers they can reach up to 5 kg, and in large reservoirs they double this weight. They are strong, nervous and muscular trout. They are accustomed to floods and strong currents and are equipped with powerful and oversized fins that make them very fast.

## Where can they be found?

Exceptional places for their quality and abundance of specimens are the **Jacetania and Sobrarbe regions, Benasque, the Sierra de Albarracín mountains and other sections of the Jiloca and Jalón rivers**. There are numerous fishing and adventure companies with specialised local guides offering the best fishing opportunities.



The common trout has a **distinctive but varied colouration** with oval spots scattered over the flanks. The back is generally darker than the sides, and in some rivers they have distinct longitudinal stripes. They show different shades, such as yellowish-brown, silvery, greenish, etc. This colouration depends on the type of food available and even on the necessary mimicry with the environment.

The diet of this predator is based on **all kinds of insects** offered by the environment. As it grows, the trout takes larger prey such as **amphibians, crustaceans, and small fish**.

Given their **fast and selective behaviour**, fly fishing for them will make for **memorable casts**.

They are a **strong-bodied species of salmon**. Their colouration is distinctive, with an olive green back and white belly. The characteristic **pink or iridescent flanks** give it its name and the black spots all along the back and fins are characteristic

It is much **less demanding than the common trout**. It tolerates less oxygenated waters and therefore inhabits more modified ecosystems, such as reservoirs and lower river sections.

Its feeding is occasional, opportunistic, and much less selective than that of the common trout. **This species is fished with various techniques:** Fly fishing, casting, lures and even bait. It is a species that is particularly suitable for introducing children to fishing,

## Rainbow trout

The rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is allochthonous and **native to North America**. It was legally introduced decades ago. It is now in the minority and the work of angling associations is focused on reducing pressure on native trout populations, which is the real goal of conservation plans. For this reason, this species is only reintroduced in places that the Angling Act allows, usually in **closed hunting grounds and in an extractive regime**. As these are translocated specimens, the catches are usually of medium size. But in some reservoirs there are **large trout weighing up to 8 kg** that surprise those who try to fish for them.

## Where can it be found?

**The Arguis, Maidevera, La Tranquera, Calanda and Santa Ana** reservoirs in Tarazona, among others, are the best places to fish for rainbow trout.



*The queen of the rivers*

# Predatory fish



## Char

The **char** (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) was **legally introduced** in many high-altitude areas of the **Pyrenees** in the 1950s.

It is extremely sensitive to water pollution. It requires environments above 2000 metres altitude, **with very cold, pristine, and oxygen-rich water**, where it lives almost exclusively. Char can be found in high **mountain streams** and even in **glacial lakes** that remain frozen for most of the year.

It is a salmon fish of **beautiful appearance and distinctive greenish colouring**, with yellowish-white spots on the flanks. The belly is **reddish orange, very striking and more intense** the closer its breeding season is. Its eyes and mouth are slightly larger than those of the trout, and its fins have a white edge.

Their feeding habits are similar to those of the trout, but their habitat is so harsh that they are even more **voracious and opportunistic** than the trout. They even prey on specimens of the same species, thus regulating their populations.

Of very variable size and always in proportion to the opportunities offered by their environment, we will find few and large specimens, or many of them but younger. **Specimens of 35/40 centimetres** are caught in rivers and even larger ones in lakes.

The main conditioning factor for **fishing** is the few months in which it can be practised: usually only **in summer**, and the need to go to the places where these fish can be found. Therefore, light **fly fishing** is the most suitable technique.

Char fishing is demanding and requires a good physical condition, but it is always rewarded by **very intense casts** in the most remote and **idyllic setting** of the Aragonese Pyrenees.

## Where can it be found?

There are **numerous fishing and adventure companies with specialised local guides** offering the best opportunities to **fish successfully for char and trout in the Pyrenees**.



## Black Bass

The *black bass* (*Micropterus salmoides*) may not be the biggest fish in Aragon, but it is still **the most sought-after of all predatory fish** and the veteran among the species that are mainly found in Aragon today. Originally from North America, this fish was **legally introduced into the Mequinzenza reservoir in 1955** and simultaneously into other waters of the Iberian Peninsula.

Chars are almost always fished **from boats**. They prefer calm, clear waters with aquatic plants. It inhabits inaccessible areas of reservoirs. This fishery is very sporty due to its **combative character**, with strong bites, and spectacular jumps. Most fishing competitions in Aragon are dedicated to this species.

It reaches a weight of around 4 kg, with the **average weight usually being around 2 kg**. Its weight is greatly influenced by the prevailing weather, the conditions of the environment and the time of year. Although large catches are made at certain times, the char Aragon s are characterised by their wariness and difficulty and are a challenge to the best anglers. Japanese and especially Americans, the true discoverers of this fishery here, still enjoy these waters as a constant testing ground for their techniques and lures.

## Where can it be found?

It is mainly found in the sporting areas of **Ribarroja and Mequinzenza** in Zaragoza, in the **Santolea and Calanda** reservoirs in Teruel and in the **Santa Ana, Canelles, Mediano and Escales** reservoirs in Huesca. To a lesser extent, it also inhabits small lakes and ponds.



*The most sought-after predator*

Large specimens inhabit the large reservoirs.

The Black Bass is a fierce and very sporty fish.





# Predatory fish

*A very grateful angling*

## Where can it be found?

It lives almost exclusively in the **Mequinenza and Ribarroja** reservoirs, where it already enjoys great popularity and invites great angling adventures.



1. It is a very well acclimatised and sporty predatory fish.
2. Very entertaining and suitable for all anglers.



## Perch

The European perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) has revolutionised bait angling in these waters in a very short time. It is a **medium-sized predator** with a typical morphology. It has vertical orange bands along its flanks that clearly distinguish it from other perch species. It is characterised by their **mobility, voracity, and adaptability to the environment**, as it coexists perfectly among other predatory fish.

The perch was the last alien species to appear in Aragon's waters more than 15 years ago and has acclimatised perfectly. It occupies different places in the reservoir depending on the prevailing conditions. It is almost always grouped in shallows and stays in calm waters at considerable depths. It reaches higher weights (up to **3 kg**) than in the European waters of its origin. It is still in full expansion.

Although it is not easy to find perch, once found the bites are numerous and perch fishing is one of the most appreciated because of its eagerness to bite and its willingness to fight when caught.



The pleasure of angling for zander from a boat.



Large specimens come from these waters.

## Zander

From Central European origins, the zander was illegally introduced to Catalonia in the 1980s, where it suddenly appeared in many waters.

The zander (*Sander lucioperca*) is a strong fish with an elongated body and crowned by a double spiny dorsal fin of good size. It has a powerful head, with strong jaws and four fangs that are its distinguishing feature. It is a **predatory fish with nocturnal habits** with its large eyes with exceptionally good vision that allow it to see even at **great depths**.

It is **currently the largest perch in our waters**. In the Ribarroja reservoir, catches of about 12 kg and a length of over 1 metre have been recorded. **The average size is 2 or 3 kg and the catches can be very numerous.**

Foreign anglers already familiar with this species say that the largest specimens can be found here compared to the rest of Europe and that is why they are visiting us more and more often. It is considered a fish with a **very tender and powerful bite**.

## Where can it be found?

At present its occurrence is very localised, but almost exclusively in **large reservoirs** with stony bottoms. **The Ribarroja** reservoir is probably where the largest specimens are caught, but it has also acclimatised perfectly to cold waters, or at least to deep and gently flowing ones, which are its most favourable habitats. It is very common in the **Mequinenza reservoir** and also in reservoirs in the province of Huesca such as **Mediano, La Sotonera or Santa Ana**.



*The silver goblin*



# — Predatory fish

## Catfish

**To define the catfish's current role in this region, we must recognise it as the great star and true ambassador of our angling abroad. Most anglers, eager for strong emotions, who visit us do so in pursuit of this species. Around its angling, a strong infrastructure has developed in the fishing grounds of Ribarroja and Mequinenza**

The catfish (*Silurus glanis*) is a species native to the great rivers of Central Europe that has spread outside its natural range. Spain is one of the countries where acclimatisation is the fastest and strongest. Since its **deliberate and illegal introduction into the Segre River and the Ribarroja reservoir in 1974**, it has gradually spread along the Ebro River and colonised its tributaries and reservoirs. Its **rapid adaptation** is due to its own nature, so hardy and well adapted to the environment, and above all to the fact that the warm waters and milder winters favour its **rapid development**.

It reaches **considerable dimensions** not found in Northern Europe, as shown by the record in Ribarroja with a specimen of **2.63 m long** and weighing over **120 Kg**. Angling is a very exciting and attractive activity, as fish are very abundant in certain parts of the Ebro River, especially in the Ribarroja and Mequinenza reservoirs. The average size of the catch is about 2 m long.



The catfish is a great attraction for visiting anglers.

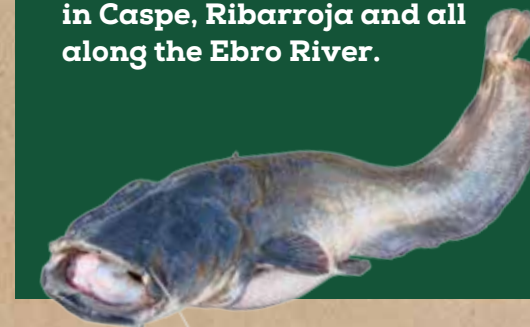
It is a very **stealthy fish**, with **slow movements** and even long moments of inactivity, but at the same time **its strokes are fast and very powerful**. Its body is elongated, serpentine, muscular and scaleless, with a broad and rather flattened head. Its tiny eyes are of little use to it, for with its long whiskers and lateral line it registers every vibration, however slight. This helps it to hunt in murky or muddy water, alternating the greatest depths with other very shallow areas where it characteristically and even audibly ambushes prey of all kinds with its oversized mouth.



To measure its strength and dexterity with a specimen of more than 2 metres is an extraordinary experience for the angler.

## Where can it be found?

The main places to fish for catfish, the **"Sea of Aragon"**, in Caspe, Ribarroja and all along the Ebro River.



Over the years, these first population explosions that populated so many waters have given way to a smaller population of small catfish. **They are also well adapted in certain areas and coexist in harmony with other species**. Their development in Aragon has proved to be the largest and fastest of all, surpassing the sizes they reach in the great European rivers such as the Rhine, Po and Danube, where this species has its cradle.

**Absolutely all specialists dedicated to catfish angling have visited and know this privileged enclave and are eager to match wits once again with these giants in Aragon.**



Its morphological features are unmistakable. Mouth, eyes and whiskers.

# Carp fish

In Aragon there are several species of carp fish; some of them are autochthonous, such as barbel, chub or tench (doctor fish - *Tinca tinca*); others come from crossbreeding, such as crucian carp (*Carassius carassius*), and others that have been introduced, such as the gardón.

## Carpa

The common carp or European carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) is the king of carp fish in Aragonese waters, as it inhabits Usefully all waters. Although it is currently considered an allochthonous and invasive species, it has been with us for a whopping 2000 years, as it was the Romans who brought it here. Throughout history, the carp has been praised and cultivated as a food source by all cultures, farmed in ponds as an ornamental fish and, more recently, considered one of the most sporting and sought-after fish by modern anglers.

In Aragon, the carp that populate the rivers are generally of wild genetics and very well adapted to the currents. They can be recognised by their darker, almost black colour. They are usually of the common variety or completely scaled, with beautiful copper, golden, and orange tones. In the reservoirs they are more varied, and common carp are also very common. These carps are characterised by being plump, firm, and greedy, reaching very considerable weights. Only a few years ago, the number of carps in these waters was considered excessive, almost a plague.

A carp is always a wonderful trophy.



Huge specimens of wild carp await you in Aragon.

The philosophy of carp fishing



Enjoy carp fishing.



The Ebro River and its reservoirs are privileged destinations where carp of astonishing size live.

In the past, they did not increase in size when competing for food, and they kept multiplying because there were no natural enemies. This changed with the arrival of catfish, as they prey on them and clean up their populations, causing natural selection and improving the balance of the ecosystem.

Nowadays, the number of carp in the reservoirs of the Ebro River is lower, but they are populated by healthy specimens that grow neatly to previously unimaginable sizes and whose growth rate equals that of the best European lakes. We pay close attention to the carp in the Mequinenza and Ribarroja reservoirs, because their size makes them attractive to anglers. The average size of the catches is around 16 kg, although catches of more than 20 kg are very common. The official record was achieved in Mequinenza and Ribarroja with a carp of 32 kg.

They are highly migratory fish, moving around different areas of the reservoir depending on the season. These carp are highly valued in the rest of Europe, as they have a reputation as fighters thanks to their large fins and greater length. The specialised technique to fish for them is carp fishing, where respect for the catch and its subsequent return to the water are the cornerstones.

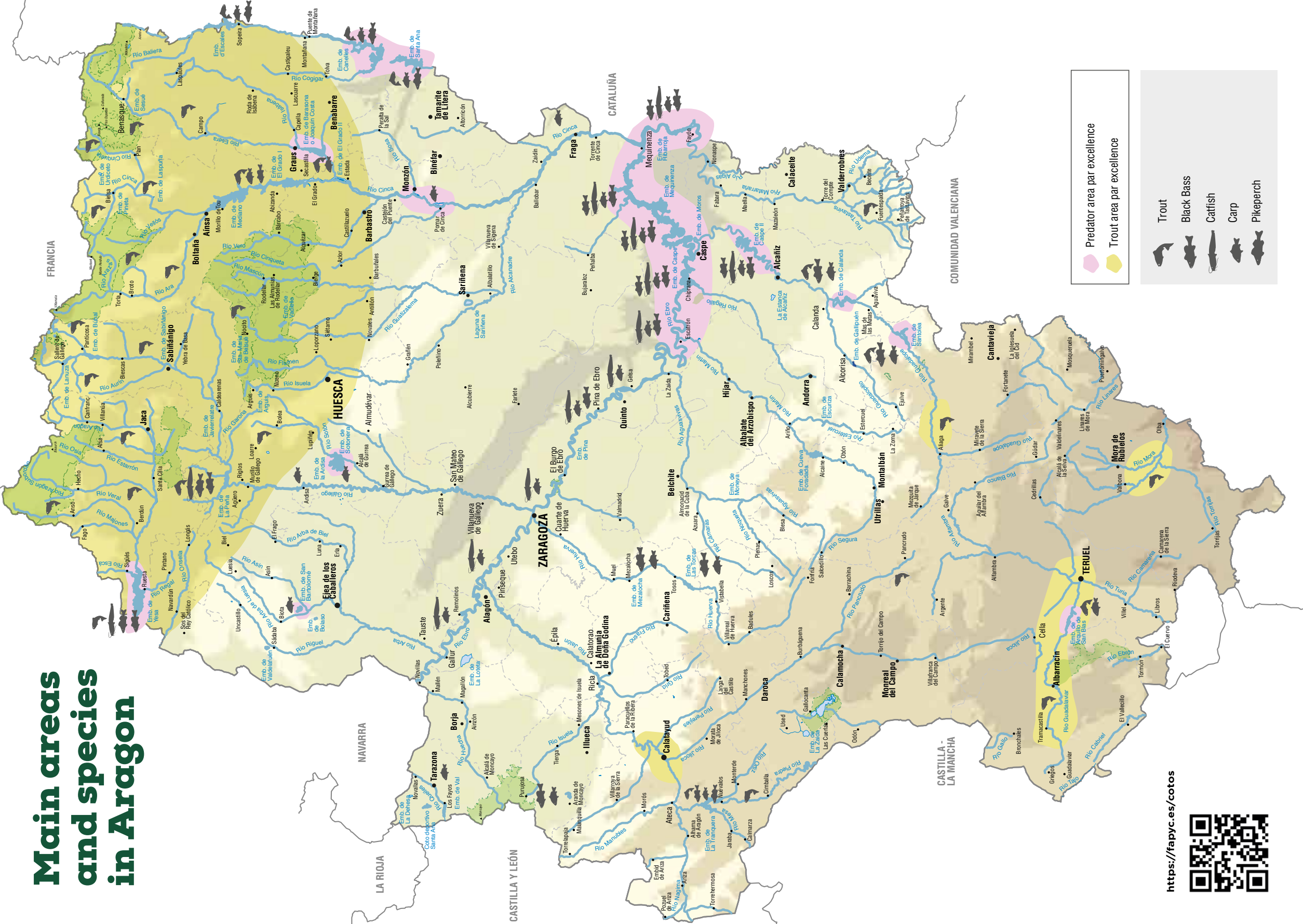
It is a technique much used in Europe by anglers who go in search of the big carp in many different lakes.

## Where can it be found?

Mequinenza and Ribarroja have become one of the best destinations in the county for big carp fishing. Many competitions are held here, and the 2015 World Championship was held here.



# Main areas and species in Aragon



Predator area par excellence

Trout area par excellence

Trout

Black Bass

Catfish

Carp

Pikeperch

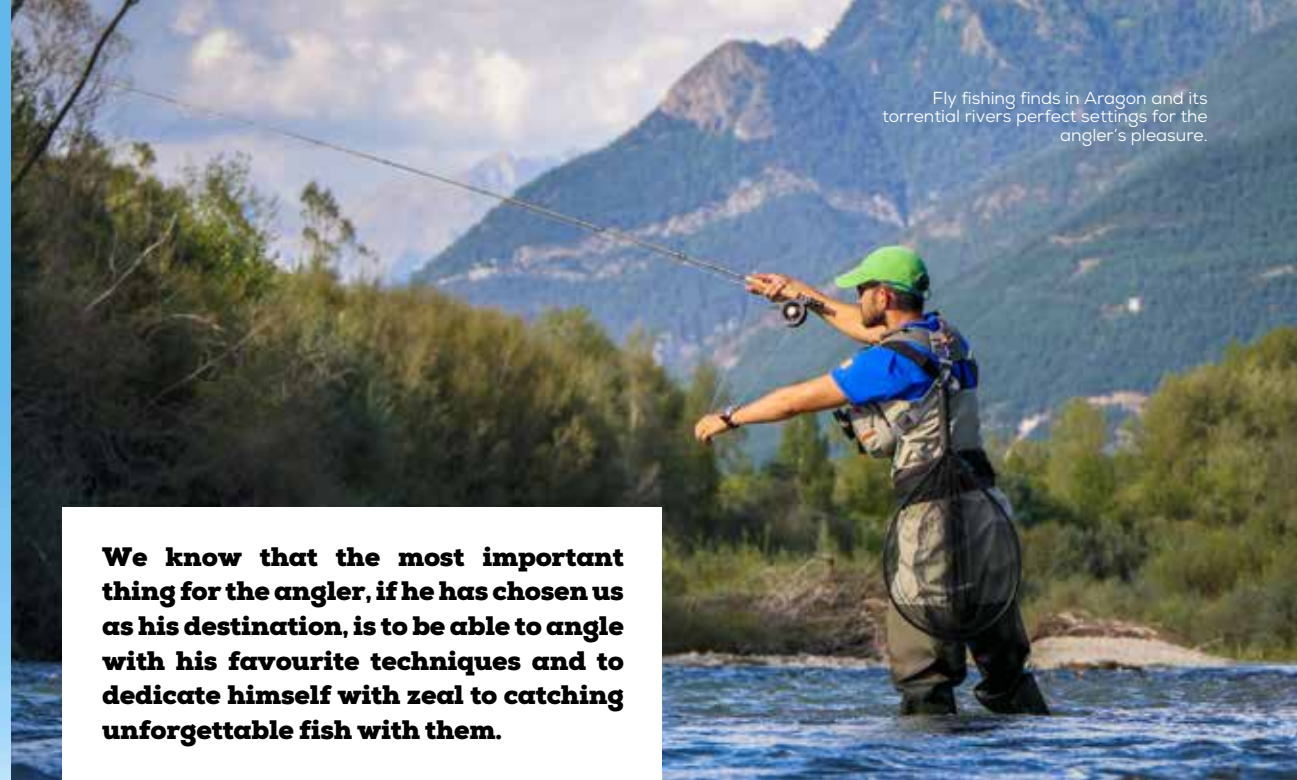
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# 4

## Angling techniques and modalities

FISHING IN  
**Aragón**



Fly fishing finds in Aragón and its torrential rivers perfect settings for the angler's pleasure.

**We know that the most important thing for the angler, if he has chosen us as his destination, is to be able to angle with his favourite techniques and to dedicate himself with zeal to catching unforgettable fish with them.**

We do not want to go into the techniques that every experienced angler knows, but we do want to give the assurance that the most important types of fishing are allowed in our waters and that you can practise them. We merely note and clarify some generalities about each of them.

### Fly fishing

**This technique, generally intended for salmon fishing, is the most effective, subtle, and practised in the trout rivers of Aragón. Given the strength of many rivers, it is necessary to master "nymph fishing", although we can also enjoy memorable moments "dry fly fishing".**

Other specialised anglers enjoy fly fishing for almost any kind of fish. For them, there are rivers and banks of many waters where you can practice angling for carp fish and predatory fish with good results. **Carp, barbel, black bass and pike are all receptive to our flies.** Even catfish can be fished in the river with fly tackle designed for big sea fish.

**Ernest Hemingway praised the advantages of the Pyrenees for fly fishing for trout as early as the 1930s. He was a regular in these rivers and fished with this technique as much as his work as a writer and correspondent during the Civil War allowed him.**



A subtle fly, the best bait for fast and crystal-clear waters.

# Spin Fishing

**Have you ever dreamed of catching 4 different species of predatory fish on the same day and in the same water while spinning?**

**Here it is relatively easy, as reservoirs such as Ribarroja or Mequinenza host many species such as black bass, catfish, perch and zander.**

Probably the technique that attracts more anglers to Aragon every year is spin fishing. The possibilities for its practice are enormous, considering how many waters and species are available. Besides fishing from the shore, it can also be practised in other ways, either from a boat, kayak, catamaran, or float tube.

We are visited by real Japanese and American specialists and experts. It was the latter who opened the way for this type of angling in the Mequinenza reservoir in the 70s. In our waters, competitions of great tradition and worldwide importance are held, such as the recent "Caspe Bass" and World Championships.

**All lovers of strong sensations with catfish and real record hunters in spinning fishing have focused on the river Ebro and some of them have achieved catches of more than 2.5m. Can you imagine something like this at the end of your line?**

Perch and zander fishing attracts many Europeans because it is easier to fish for these two species than in their countries of origin and because of the much larger sizes that can be caught here.

1. Prestigious competitions are held in Aragon.
2. The novel and silent fishing from the kayak.
3. This technique is suitable for all predatory fish.



/1



/2



/3

# Fishing from the shore. Cat&Carp fishing

**Carp and catfish angling have now been combined and facilitated in our waters in such a way that they are fished in the same way, with the same baits, in the same places and fished with the same equipment and technique. Depending on the season or even by chance, only catfish bite, only carp bite, or sometimes we catch them alternately and by chance.**

Along the banks of the big reservoirs and the Ebro River there are countless places where you can practice static fishing. We will see many friends, couples and even families spending many days fishing for carp and catfish, especially in the Mequinenza and Ribarroja reservoirs.

The network of paths and accesses, perfectly signposted, and the ease of getting to the fishing spots in the different areas, together with the rubbish collection and the cleanliness and spaciousness of the spots, make it easy to spend a few days fishing on the shore.

It is advisable to use a support boat to take advantage of all the opportunities these waters offer the carp or catfish angler. Its waters also host countless "match fishing" and "feeder fishing" competitions, and have hosted world championships of all modalities, such as the Carp fishing World Championship 2016 or the Catfish World Cup in Chiprana.



Sunsets and sunrises waiting for the bite of a big fish. That is carp fishing.



Magical moments at the Canelles Reservoir.

Fishing areas in Aragon: vast, clean, and natural, with lots of life in them.

# 5

## Fishing areas in Aragon

### Types of waters

Despite the variety of Aragon's landscapes suitable for fishing, we can divide them all into two clearly defined and differentiated geographical areas.

One corresponds to the **salmon area**, where mainly trout are fished. They are in mountainous areas, **in the north in Huesca and in the south in Teruel**. They are clean spots, high mountain rivers, gorges, lakes, and different stretches of rivers that are catalogued as **trout waters**. Especially noteworthy are the rivers of the Pyrenean slope, such as the **Aragón, Cinca, Esera, Gállego and Segre**, as well as the rivers found in Teruel, such as the **Guadalupe, Guadalaviar, Huerva or Jiloca**.

The other block of precincts corresponds to the **area of carp fish and predatory fish** with catfish, perch, perch, carp and barbel. It includes the waters in the **province of Zaragoza and the**

**central part of Aragon**. These are areas inhabited by **predatory fish** species in coexistence with the carp fish that occupies the most turbid or calm and dammed waters. Among many of these places, the **Ribarroja and Mequinenza** reservoirs stand out, and even the river Ebro itself throughout its course. In this area there are large inland lakes with good fishing opportunities and low stretches of the tributaries of the **Ebro River**.

**Aragon is not only a neuralgic transport hub for Europe, but also a favourite fishing destination for many big fish anglers.**



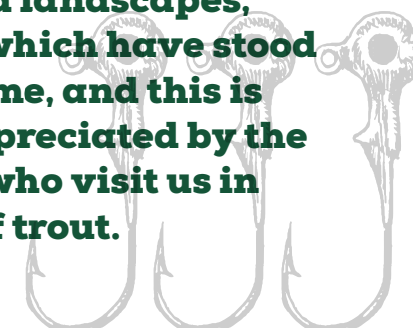
### Salmon waters

As an example, the angler will find in the **Pyrenees** many productive rivers of glacial origin, such as the river **Ara**, which are still unregulated and in a pristine state. **Rivers** of all kinds and **high mountain lakes** where you can fish for **char (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)** or **real trout (*Salmo trutta fario*)** with completely natural behaviour. As a rule, these trout of Aragon belong to their own genetic strain, which is very well cared for and differentiated, offering surprising fishing moments on banks and dreamy corners.

**In the mountains of the north and in the highlands of the south you will find native trout, and in the Somontanos region large populations of the other fish.**

If the angler prefers even more variety, intimacy and an alternative and quality salmon fishing, the province of **Teruel and its trout** will satisfy his desires. Rivers such as the **Jiloca**, the **Guadalupe** or the **Guadalaviar** are worth spending a few days fishing to lose yourself in their natural environment, different from the Pyrenees but with the same fishing excellence.

**Aragon presents some well-preserved and protected landscapes, some of which have stood still in time, and this is much appreciated by the anglers who visit us in search of trout.**



1. Fly fishing in the waters of the Ara River.
2. The fishing season runs from March to October.
3. Angling is an enriching activity that requires knowledge of the waters.

[www.fishinginaron.com](http://www.fishinginaron.com)



## Waters of carp and predatory fish

**The Ebro River system, the true backbone of this central area, crosses a rugged semi-desert from west to east, forming, almost like an oasis, one of the main valleys or green corridors of the country. This river animates numerous and historic cities, industries and cultures that characterise the highly developed centre of Aragon.**

In these increasingly treated and clean waters live **giant carp** (*Cyprinus carpio*), already introduced by the Romans, whose behaviour and habits are unchanged.

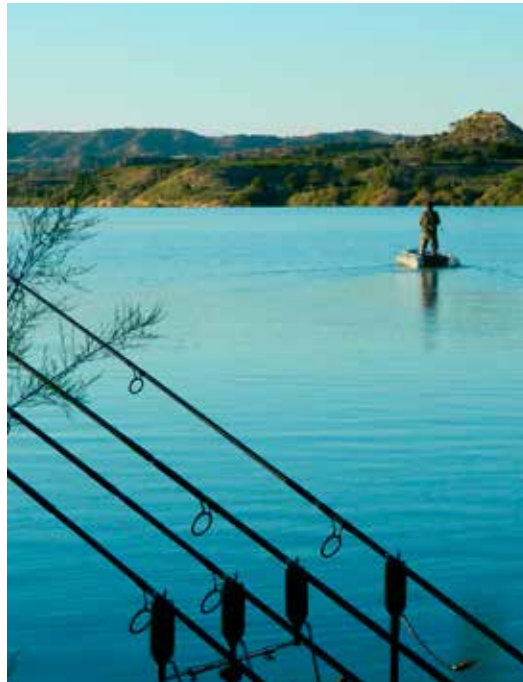
The same habitat is home to **giant catfish** (*Silurus glanis*), which, once caught, are photographed, and returned to the water, astonishing the whole world. All this happens because there are **certain endemic and very favourable environmental conditions** here that benefit the fish and allow it to grow at a high and progressive rate, which is already well known.

Every year the size of the **Aragonese catfish and carp increases**. The same happens with the other species of the **Ebro River**, as their size and populations increase.

In some very special waters, the list of smaller but also fishable fish grows. Sometimes you can catch **pike, barbel, etc.**, but to a lesser extent.



The pike is also present, although in a minority.



Fishing from the shore with the help of the boat.



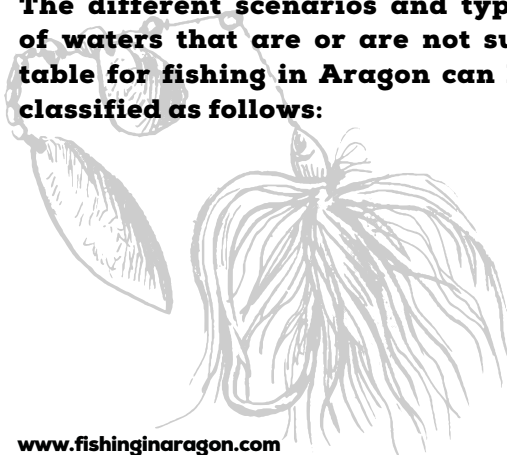
Unprecedented opportunities for predator fishing.



Aragon offers the angler an incomparable range of leisure activities and landscapes around its fishing grounds.

## Landscapes and fishing grounds

**Scattered throughout the territory we find waters with very different characteristics, environmental problems, or different types of ecosystems. These waters conditions angling, as these scenarios need to be regulated differently. The different scenarios and types of waters that are or are not suitable for fishing in Aragon can be classified as follows:**



## Cotos sociales

These are waters managed directly by the administration of the **Aragon Autonomous Community**, where the exploitation of the species to be fished is carried out in an orderly manner according to a specific regulation. They are regulated by the angling law, the general angling plan and the "technical plan" of the districts themselves. To fish in a coto social, a personal and non-transferable fishing permit is required, and a quota of catches is set, for which a fixed amount must be paid.

The cotos sociales in Aragon are regulated as fishing and release areas.

The Cotos sociales in Aragon are subject to fishing and release regulations. In them, fishing is only bound to the **General Fishing Plan**. In particular, regarding the **return of the species caught to the waters immediately after capture and with the least possible damage while preserving their integrity**. The season is longer, as the removal of trout from the ecosystem is not allowed.

### Useful info

- **Zander (Sander lucioperca) up to 10 kg.**
- **Black bass (Micropterus salmoides) up to 4 kg.**
- **Perch (Perca fluviatilis) up to 4.5 kg.**
- **Gardón (Rutilus rutilus) up to 4 kg.**





The Mallos de Riglos, give their name to this protected area of the Gállego River.

In general, they correspond to some sections of the main trout rivers located on the Pyrenean slopes of Aragon, either in Huesca or some mountain ranges in Teruel. As the best examples of fish management in Aragon, more precisely in the province of Huesca, where they are most natural, we offer anglers the cotos sociales enumerated in the table on the following page.

*Aragon, where history and nature come together.*

**In the Kingdom of the Mallos, where the Gállego River flows, we find the Loarre Castle, a Romanesque fortress, scene of several film shootings and the best preserved in Europe. Characteristic of the landscape are the rock formations called Mallos de Riglos and Agüero.**



Loarre Castle, a fortress of the Kingdom of Aragon.

**The Albarracín Nature Reserve, very close to the spectacular architectural nucleus and on the way through the historic town from which it takes its name, is another example, this time in the Guadalaviar River, which combines quality fishing with the enjoyment and tourist opportunities of this area.**



Coto de Albarracín. Fishing of the best quality in the town of Tourism.

## Huesca

- Coto de Oliván, at the Gállego River
- Cotos de Bujaruelo, Broto, Boltaña and Fiscal on the Ara River.
- Cotos de Bielsa, Pineta, Labuerda and Lafortunada, on the Cinca River.
- Cotos de Benasque, Baños de Benasque, Campo, Garganta de Ventamillo on the Ésera River.
- Cotos de Embún and Oza, on the Aragón-Subordán, in the Echo and Ansó valleys.

## Teruel

- El Estrechillo, Malburgo and Montoro are three angling areas on the Guadalope River.
- Cotos de Albarracín, Albarracín Superior, Ampliación, Tramacastilla and San Blas, on the Guadalaviar River.
- Coto de la Escaleruela, on the Mijares River.



Coto de Pineta. Ordesa National Park

**In a single area, such as the Mequinenza reservoir, you already have 500 km of shoreline. Moreover, all the species that anglers long for are present in it.**

## **Cotos deportivos** (angling grounds for sport fishing)

**These are waters that are wholly or partially managed by the Angling and Casting Association of Aragon, the only association recognised by the Government of Aragon in the field of angling.**

Its objectives include the promotion of sport fishing, the organisation of competitions, the conservation of the environment, the care of the same and the preservation of the species that inhabit it, ensuring that the exploitation of the species fished is carried out in an orderly manner and in accordance with a **specific regime** that considers dimensions, quotas, fishing gear and permitted times and days. They are regulated by "exploitation plans" and there is one for each protected area.

To fish in the sport reserves, it is necessary to have a **fishing permit** issued by the association itself, in addition to the official documents.

Often alternating with the cotos sociales, and in the same rivers as these, we find the cotos deportivos. These sport fishing areas attract amateurs to fish for trout, but also anglers of other species, because in these areas managed by the federation, the variety of species we can catch is greater. We will find salmon fish species, but also predatory fish, carp fish, etc. Most of the fishing competitions take place here because they are adapted to sport fishing, the "catch and release" system and respect for the environment in which they are found.



Areas where important competitions take place.

**Among the enormous variety of rivers and reservoirs distributed in this area, we would like to highlight the following:**

### **Zaragoza**

In the province of Zaragoza, we find the Mequinenza and the Ribarroja reservoirs, both in the lower part of the Ebro River. They are home to the European catfish or river catfish, perch, carp

and many other species. They are characterised by their large extension, fishing possibilities and parallel tourism. Both embrace and bathe two emblematic towns such as **Caspe**, the historic multicultural town, welcoming and transcendent for Aragon; and **Mequinenza**, a historic town whose remains can still be visited as it was flooded by the waters of the reservoir. Here we find a town faithful and affectionate to the anglers who visit it. Both are by far the most visited sport fishing areas by anglers from all over the world due to their imposing size and the quantity and especially the size of the catches (catfish, carp, zander, etc.).

If we go to the upper limit of these districts, we can visit places like **Sástago** or **Escatrón** and, above all, the **Cistercian monastery of Rueda**. In the lower part, **Fayón** and **Ribarroja de Ebro** are worth a visit for their waters, customs and gastronomy.

Also in this province, the **Jalón River**, which flows through the town of Calatayud, gives its name to another charming and well-maintained trout reserve.

**The Noguera Ribagorzana River is the natural border between Aragon and Catalonia. The rugged landscape is characterised by stunning gorges such as the Montrebei, with walls over 500 metres high. You can visit the Alaón Monastery in Sopeira and the medieval complex of Montaña.**



Coto de Mequinenza and its castle.



Mequinenza is a paradise for carp anglers.



Coto de Canelles and its "Chinese Wall".

Cotos de Mequinenza and Ribarroja. Shore kilometres in inland seas.



"Nymph fishing" in the Ésera.



## Useful info

If you want to know where there are many sport sanctuaries in Aragon, you can check at the end of this guide in the "Useful info" section where they are located and how to get the necessary permits. You can also find these on the website of the "Federación Aragonesa de Pesca" (Anglers' Federation).



Cotos with excellent fishing opportunities.

## Teruel

The coto del Arquillo, on the Guadalaviar River, together with those of the Badina, the Estanca de Alcañiz, Santolea and Calanda on the Guadalupe River, are three examples in the province of Teruel of transparent waters of great quality where we can fish for trout, perch, barbel and carp, among others.



The purity of the high mountains.

## Huesca

In the province of Huesca, the angler is offered the greatest variety and, above all, quantity of cotos deportivos. There are magnificent, closed reservoirs, such as Arguis, with trout at the foot of the Pyrenees; or Santa Ana and Canelles on the Noguera Ribagorzana River, true paradises for predatory fish and carp. In the same river are the Sopeira, Escales and Piñana trout reserves. You can see that there are countless fishing opportunities in just one river.

And there are many more spots to visit, such as those on the Ésera, with cotos de Santa Liestra and El Grado-Enate on the Cinca River standing out, both for salmon, and the coto Monzón, also on the Cinca River, one of the best for carp in Aragon. In the western part of the Pyrenees, the majestic Aragón-Subordán River offers us the trout areas of La Canal de Berdún and, on the Gállego, the areas of Santa Quiteria and Mallos de Riglos.

## Free waters

All waters that are not subject to any special regulation are considered free waters, with no restrictions other than those established in the laws that regulate them. They are free fishing areas, although a regional fishing licence is also required.

**In these sections there is an obligation to return the species caught to the river and they are regulated by the laws of the General Fishing Plan of Aragon in force.**

Basically, if we disregard the cotos deportivos and cotos sociales and the closed sections of rivers and reservoirs, the rest of the Aragonese waters that we find are free waters.

*Most important free waters*

To guide the angler-traveller, we will list the most famous ones and encourage him to visit every other water. From east to west and starting in the north, in the Pyrenees, we can fish freely throughout the province of Huesca.



Bridge in San Nicolás de Bujaruelo.

## Huesca

In the Yesa reservoir, on the Aragón River and all its tributaries. The Mediano and El Grado reservoirs on the Cinca River, the tributaries of its headwaters and along the entire river. Lanuza, Escarra, Bubal, La Peña and Ardisa are free reservoirs, as is most of the Gállego River. The Ésera River, from its source in the high mountains and along its course, where the Barasona reservoir stands out. The Escales reservoir and many sections of the Noguera Ribagorzana. Notable for its quality fishing, although from other basins, the rich and beautiful La Sotonera reservoir is also worth mentioning.

## Zaragoza

In the province of Zaragoza there are open waters such as the lower sections of all the rivers that flow into the Ebro and some reservoirs such as Maidevera, at the foot of the Moncayo Mountains, La Tranquera, next to the Monasterio de Piedra, Cíván or Caspe II, the reservoir of Las Torcas, in Cariñena, El Bolaso and San Bartolomé, in the Cinco Villas.

But the star of open water fishing is the Ebro River itself, which crosses the capital and flows through the whole province. It is the most water-rich river in the country, with marked low tides and floods, and is mainly inhabited by catfish and carp. It is a very popular tourist destination thanks to its variety of landscapes and the wild environment it still preserves.

## Teruel

Throughout the southern part of Aragon, we can highlight many stretches of open water in the Alfambra, Matarraña and Mijares Rivers, where salmon farming is generally practised.



Mediano reservoir in the province of Huesca.

# 6

## Useful info



**In addition to the desire to fish and the determination to respect the environment, to angle in Aragon there are some requirements that we will explain below.**

## Regulations

It is important to know the laws and regulations that apply in our area, as there are a number of rules that should be taken into account.

On the website of the Government of Aragon, you will find a document entitled "General Information on Fishing in Aragon", in which everything to do with licences, fishing gear and means, bait, fishing times and days, as well as information on protected areas, is presented clearly and concisely. This brochure can be downloaded via the link on the following page.

This document is purely informative; for legal purposes, the General Fishing Plan of Aragon for the current year applies.

However, as these regulations may change each year, updated information can be found in the BOA (Official Gazette of Aragon) as this is published regularly.

## Licences / Fishing permits

To fish in the inland waters of Aragon, you must be in possession of a fishing licence issued by the Instituto Aragonés de Gestión Ambiental - INAGA (Regional Environment Agency) and valid in Aragon, or an interregional licence issued by another Spanish community. It is a personal, non-transferable, and mandatory document that certifies the holder's right to fish in Aragon. It is issued annually or every five years and is free for pensioners and children under 14. Online fishing licence service provided by the Aragon government.

If you want to fish in the cotos sociales, you also need an administrative permit, which you can obtain in person from the Aragon government, in its provincial rural development and sustainability services as well as in the regional agri-environmental offices (OCAs).

For fishing in the cotos deportivos, fishing licences are issued by the Aragon Angling Federation (FAPYC) and can be purchased online on their website.

## Fishing licences

The FAPYC website also provides a list of all existing cotos deportivos and their location.

This document is for information purposes only. For legal purposes, the Aragon General Fishing Plan for the current year applies.

## Addresses of interest

### GOBIERNO DE ARAGÓN (GOVERNMENT OF ARAGON)

**Citizens' telephone:**

Tfno: +34 976 714 000  
e-mail: ma@aragon.es

### GOBIERNO DE ARAGÓN Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment

Plaza San Pedro Nolasco, 7,  
50001 Zaragoza  
Tfno: +34 976 715 120

### ANGLING AND CASTING ASSOCIATION OF ARAGON (FAPYC)

Semisótano edificio Expo,  
José Atares 101 50018 Zaragoza  
Tfno: +34 976 730 827  
fapyc@fapyc.es

### INSTITUTO ARAGONÉS DE GESTIÓN AMBIENTAL (INAGA) (Regional Environmental Agency)

licencias.inaga@aragon.es

HUESCA: Avenida La Paz, 5, bajos  
Tfno: +34 974 293 393 • +34 974 293 394

TERUEL: C/ San Francisco,  
Tfno: +34 978 641 142 • +34 978 641 425

ZARAGOZA: Ed. "Dinamiza" 2-c. Av. Ranillas,  
3C - 3ª planta.  
Tfno: +34 976 715 181 • +34 976 716 630

## Interesting links

### "GENERAL INFO. ANGLING IN ARAGON" (technical document):



[http://www.aragon.es/DepartamentosOrganismosPublicos/Departamentos/DesarrolloRuralSostenibilidad/AreasTematicas/MA\\_Pesca?channelSelect-ed=493890292fb3a210VgnVCM100000450a15acRCRD](http://www.aragon.es/DepartamentosOrganismosPublicos/Departamentos/DesarrolloRuralSostenibilidad/AreasTematicas/MA_Pesca?channelSelect-ed=493890292fb3a210VgnVCM100000450a15acRCRD)

### OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF ARAGON (BOA). Regulations:



[http://www.aragon.es/DepartamentosOrganismosPublicos/Departamentos/DesarrolloRuralSostenibilidad/AreasTematicas/MA\\_Pesca/ci.NORMATIVA\\_PESCA\\_detalleDepartamento](http://www.aragon.es/DepartamentosOrganismosPublicos/Departamentos/DesarrolloRuralSostenibilidad/AreasTematicas/MA_Pesca/ci.NORMATIVA_PESCA_detalleDepartamento)

### SALE OF ONLINE FISHING LICENCES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ARAGON:



[http://www.aragon.es/DepartamentosOrganismosPublicos/Organismos/InstitutoAragonésGestionAmbiental/AreasTematicas/Caza-y-Pesca/ci.Licencias\\_Nuevas\\_detalleDepartamento?channelSelected=fceec15d4ed80310VgnVCM2000002f551bacRCRD](http://www.aragon.es/DepartamentosOrganismosPublicos/Organismos/InstitutoAragonésGestionAmbiental/AreasTematicas/Caza-y-Pesca/ci.Licencias_Nuevas_detalleDepartamento?channelSelected=fceec15d4ed80310VgnVCM2000002f551bacRCRD)

### ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT TO FISH IN COTOS SOCIALES:



[http://www.aragon.es/DepartamentosOrganismosPublicos/Departamentos/DesarrolloRuralSostenibilidad/AreasTematicas/MA\\_Pesca/ci.11\\_PERMISOS\\_PESCA\\_detalleDepartamento?channelSelected=49380292fb3a210VgnVCM100000450a15acRCRD](http://www.aragon.es/DepartamentosOrganismosPublicos/Departamentos/DesarrolloRuralSostenibilidad/AreasTematicas/MA_Pesca/ci.11_PERMISOS_PESCA_detalleDepartamento?channelSelected=49380292fb3a210VgnVCM100000450a15acRCRD)

### ONLINE FISHING LICENCES TO FISH IN COTOS DEPORTIVOS:



FAPYC  
<https://fapyc.es/permisos-online>

### FISHING IN ARAGÓN:



<https://www.fishinginaragon.com>



[www.turismodearagon.com](http://www.turismodearagon.com)



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[www.fishinginaragon.com](http://www.fishinginaragon.com)

