



Oh what was I happy.. It was the beginning of June. I was invited for the pilot trip to the always magical Norway. To be exact...for the 69th time!



Just a flashback.....the first sentence I wrote about Norway was during a visit at a fishing location in Farsund in the south.



The article started with..... If Adam and Eva were still alive it must have been in Norway.



You hear the silence here and life is going normal and you do not feel the stress here.

The host of our few days would be Geir Sivertzen (known by the nickname “Dr. Hook”)....



Unfortunately nothing is left of that. Everything is moved to Asia, including the production of the hooks...

Geir submerged himself as a fantastic host. We saw in those few days some incredible good fishingspots where my blood got almost boiling.

For the little bit elderly among us..... He was for years part of Mustad, the giant fishhook manufacturer from Norway....



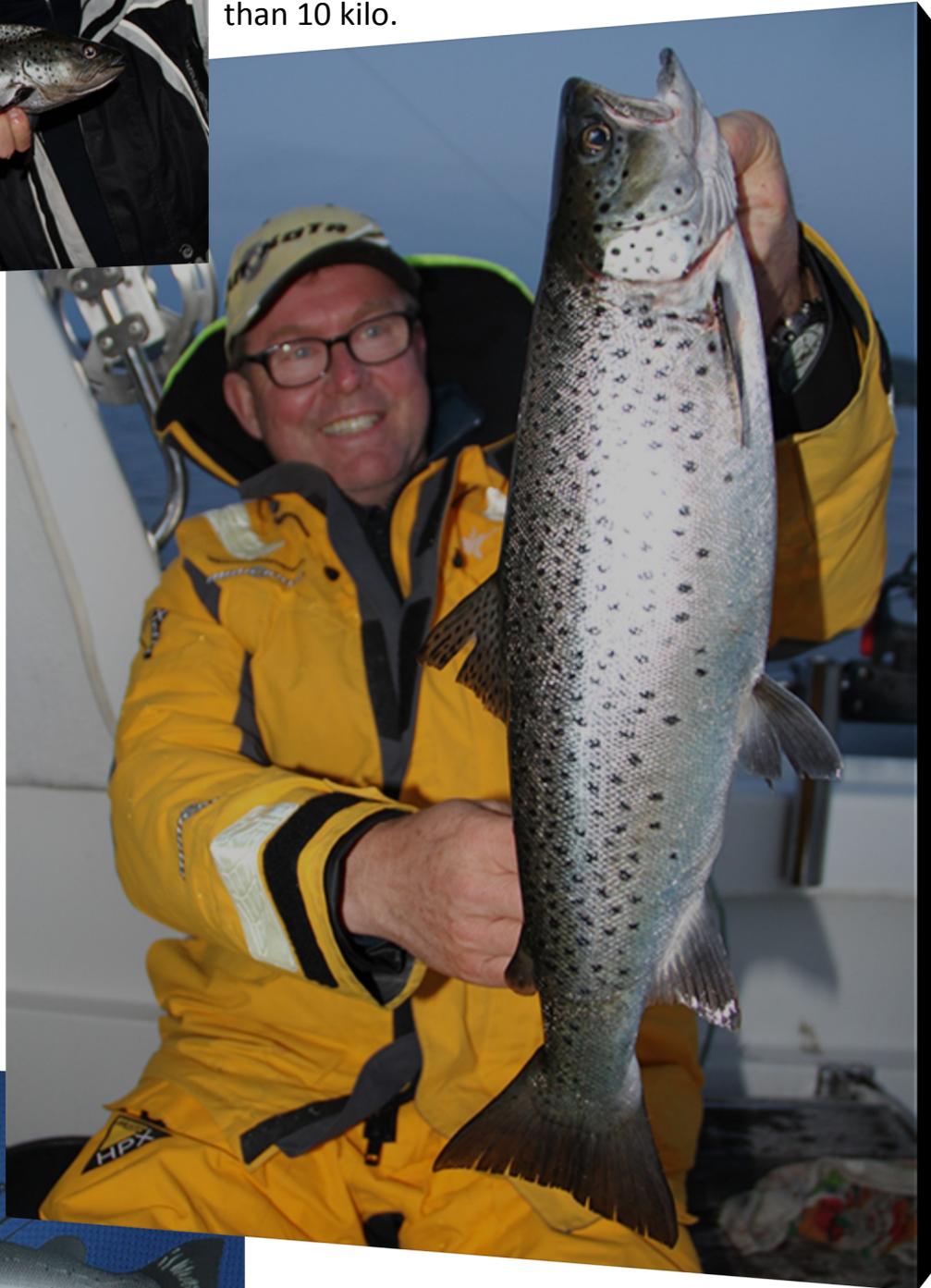
Lake Mjøsa
When I arrived in Oslo, I took the bus to Gjøvik... The living place of Geir. First a drink at his house with his sympathetic wife and than directly to the hotel. A very quick shower and changing clothes. In half an hour we should visit the local fishing club.





We should have dinner there and then immediately onto the water....Not just a fishing location but the huge (lake Mjøsa) from, I am not lying...110 kilometer long. More than 20 fishing species and the most exciting thing was ...there is a fantastic stock of beautiful and also very big trout (ferox-trout) in the lake which can be more than 10 kilo.

We saw in the fishing club a preserved trophy... that was a really mega fish. Also a lake for really big pike. Norway has from early days till now an incredible culture with mixed in fish. A tourist board lady in the lofoten said it very simple.... Norway is built on fish.



For that reason the older generation is very sceptical about the presence of our beloved friend *Esox Lucius*...."Pike"
During my journey through this fantastic area my company was Julian Lewis Jones... A incredible sympathetic bloke with an really welsch accent. When he spoke in his native language... It was really hokus pokus for me... I did not understand a word.

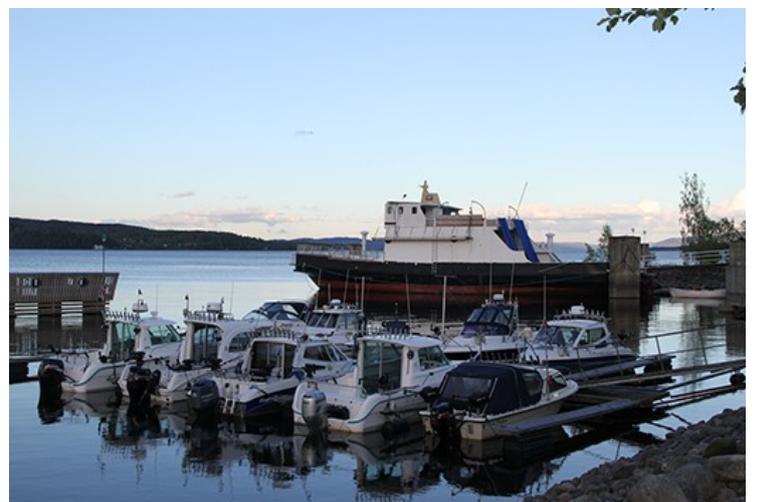
It sounded it bit like the Irish Gaillic. There also was Dominic Garnett from England. Super kind young man and I had the honour of fishing with him in the boat the last day. One of the few anglers who knew how to fish with rubber baits.



The people of the fishing club had really made a great show. So good...and such a great dinner we have had....Lightly smoked Mjøsa trout out of the oven with a original white Norwegian sauce.



Together with puffed potatoes and several roasted vegetables.All together with a great local beer....The evening was allready succeeded and we ha yet not started fishing ... What a very nice people.....



After a fantastic discussion with a few members of the fishingclub about the value of a good fishstock and the role of pike in this, we all left to our trolling boats.



Because there is a huge amount of little fish baitfish for the trout in the lake (smelt) so you can imagine you have nothing to do with real big lures. Large boxes full with beautiful slim lures in a lot of tiny color variations.



Also a great dead bait system for a little smelt specially ment for trolling. We have fished from 22.00 in the night till 05.00 in the morning.



It was absolutely a great experience to see the day coming and going. We caught great fish. They looked a lot like salmon...strong like horse.



We took straws who should be the first to land a fish. To take a trout home, the fish had to be 52 cm!

A great evening in great company and a life time experience.

The next day we went with four of us heavily armed direction mighty Tyrifjorden and Steinsfjorden....



Our basis was Utvika Camping and lodges. These incredible friendly people have had a terrible time because of one real lunatic who did some horrible things on the island nearby. A super camping with great and clean facilities and both for fishermen or tourists it is a relief to be here. A great restaurant just at the camping. You can rent boats and in one minute you are on your hot spot...

We have fished there a few times. Both times you almost smell the fish here. So many great spots for pike. Specially on Steinfjord the water is less deep and there is a lot of fish at these shallows.

I was in the boat with Julian Lewis Jones and soon we went for the place where I had fished before with the great name...Pike Alley.... You can troll here of cast with rubber. Unfortunately it had been very cold, windy with a lot of rain the day before so the fish stood a little deeper and was not very aggressive on our lures...





Happily we caught fish, beautiful coloured fish which looked like leopards in this very clear water..

In the afternoon th Norwegian Television also stopped by in the person of Annette Skafjeld and she made an interview with Julian and myself about the pikefishing in Norway through the eyes of two foreigners. A clever, very nice and super kind journalist with a great sense of humour.



During the interview with Julian I got a bite and caught probably the smallest pike I ever caught in Norway. After this - back to our cabins and the next day to Kroderen. An huge water where the conditions were totally different than in Tyrifjord and Steinfjord. Here was a lot of fantastic deep water with fish over 40 pounds. We have seen pictures so they were really caught here.

Dominic and myself fished here in a few sidearms of the river between the southern and the northern part of the lake. There were a lot of deep pits and also there was the fish. Happily we had a depthsounder on our boat otherwise it would have been a lot more difficult to find the fish. We stayed in Bjertnes Lodges (www.bjertnes.com)



Great wooden bungalows with everything you need.

The view was great , directly over the lake. In the evening I went out with Dominic in a very very small boat unfortunately without depthsounder, but also here because of the cold, the fish was in the deep parts.

The next morning we got a much better boat with a much faster engine. Now we could fish much more water in that day and also try out some different bait. Finally we found also here the fish. Great looking big pike which really shined of health. Huge heads and a powerful body.



The whole day we just saw two fishingboats and both boats were trolling. We threw the rubber in the deep pits and that delivered much more fish and also much bigger fish.



Unfortunately also this pike trip comes to an end and I only can say... I felt again in paradise.... So beautiful, fished in so many great fishingspots. Not only the pike makes Norway the paradise the it is the "totalpicture". The water, the food, the people, the nature, the beautiful coloured pike..... Oh...why was my cradle not in Norway... Geir many many thanks for these incredible few days.



Your hospitality Is just like your smile...

Handy addresses

Bjertnes Farm House at the Krøderen lake

www.bjertnes.com

Utvika Camping and lodges: Tyrifjorden and Steinfjorden reachable with the bus from the airport in a little more than half an hour, boats for hire. www.utvika.no

You also can take a look at

www.visitnorway.com and www.gjovik.com

Just one thing to say...Innovation Norway thanks a lot for your great help.

