

# MARY SALMON





# M



My name is Harpa Hlin Thordardottir. I live in Kopavogur, on the outskirts of Reykjavik, in Iceland. I am 39 years old, married with 3 children. My hobbies are fishing, hunting, African dancing and of course being with my family.







When you catch  
your first salmon ...

you must bite and  
swallow the back  
fin of the fish.

I caught my first fish when I was 5 years old and had big expectations of feeding my family for that night. My plan was to invite my closest relatives and friends to celebrate. You can imagine my disappointment when my mother turned up with a small bowl of mayo salat with my trout mashed in it, served with biscuits for the afternoon tea. As a child,

I fished in lakes, but was not a big fan of fishing. Then, 15 years ago I started fly fishing. When I caught my first salmon on the fly, there was no turning back.

It was on one of our first dates that we went fly fishing together, me and my husband to be. I was fishing one place and he another. It is a custom in Iceland that when you catch your first salmon, which we call "Mary Salmon," you must bite and swallow the back fin of the fish.













## It was MY "Mary Salmon."

I was fishing and the fish were jumping. I was getting so excited that I almost dove in after them. Luckily, I did not have to wait too long until one bit and I managed to land the smallest and darkest salmon I have seen. In my eyes, it was beautiful and it was MY "Mary Salmon." In the adrenalin rush, I had already bit half the back of the fish off as soon as I landed it. When my date got around to checking on me, I was already back in the river trying to catch another one with "My Salmon" lying on the bank looking like it just met a bear.















I always get excited when I am going out fishing. The night before, I can hardly eat or sleep. Today, I am a bit more sophisticated angler than I was with my first salmon.

My husband is a great angler and hunter. Together we run a hunting and fishing agency where we plan tours in Iceland for international travelers. It is fair to say that our lives are all about the outdoor life, fishing and hunting.

I found myself in fly fishing and have not even considered a different method for river fishing. When fishing with the children in lakes or the sea, we do use spinners, although my eldest son, who is 12, is getting to be quite a good fly fisher.





# Dun Fact

## Geothermal Energy

*Approximately 26.2% of Iceland's energy is produced in 5 geothermal plants.*

*and*

*87% of Icelandic homes and businesses generate hot water and heat with geothermal energy.*











Since my first encounter, my interest in learning new fly skills has continued. It is my quest to fish for species I have never fished for such as Steelhead, Tarpon, Marlin, Bass and more. I have always wanted to take the family to fish in Belize and hopefully that dream will come true soon. Until then, I will continue to travel for work and sport, knowing that everything has its time. ☺



# H

Harpa was born in Reykjavik, Iceland. Married to Stefan Sigurdsson, together they have three children. In 2014, they followed their dream and founded Iceland Outfitters. Built out a passion for fishing and hunting, together they have over 30 years of experience in planning fishing and hunting tours for travelers to Iceland from all over the world.

