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Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:00:10] I just remember from, from the first beginning, I was, started work, I was fishing in my the little hometown, in the east coast of Iceland. Started fishing with the, in the sea, with the cod and saithe, and then shortly after that, I start to fish in the river for arctic char, mostly.

James Thull [00:00:29] Was this something that was part of your family tradition did your parents or grandparents fish?

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:00:45] No. No. Just something just in my blood? I think. So. I just found it up myself.

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:01:07] Not seeing so much changes in the fishing of the char. At least in my area. It's a really similar quantity. And the same quantity coming to the rivers. it goes up and downs. Maybe in 5, 10 years. But since I started fishing salmon, it's more, I see more changes there. Especially in, in, in the...Less quantity come back to the rivers, often, and, and at the time when, when the people was fishing and killed every, all the fish. Then it was much less productions in the river. Hopefully it's coming back now. Because now, people more or more, just catch and release all of the salmon, more or less.

James Thull [00:02:14] So you still have pretty good runs of salmon here, now?

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:02:17] Yeah. We still have it. But we are really afraid about that, will change. Could change dramatically in the next years, coming years, because that's now there, it's a lot of farming. Salmon farming. Starting in Iceland. All the fishermens and anglers, are really afraid about, worry about this, going to the same direction as in Norway and Canada, and other places in the world where the farming has take over all the rivers, and kill.

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:03:01] It's a little bit like the planting of the stocks. We have really pure stocks in Iceland. And many stocks, in most of the rivers. It's not the same stocks in the east, and the north, and south. So we're really afraid that with the big farming in Iceland, it will blend the stocks into. One of the big problem is also, has been shown in Norway, and the other area. It's close to the good rivers that the sea lice are killing, more or less, all of the smolts coming from the rivers. If they've got sea lice from the cage around, and they're not living for a long time. So, yeah, that's a big worry for us in Iceland.

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:04:15] It's, uh, good question. It's, it just has been in my blood. And I like to stay out in the nature, and feel it, too. This casts for fish, cast for fish, and catch some fishes. It's really good. Relaxes. Yeah, I don't know why. It's just in my blood. So usually before, when I was younger, I was then, the fishing was, more or less, about to catch fish for the home. To get the mhome to, to to my mom, to eat. But now it's, more or less, all my fishing is catch and release. So. Yeah. I love it. Just fishing.

James Thull [00:05:11] Is a part of it about being out there in nature, and connecting with that?

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:05:17] Yeah, of course, also. And to the friendship, like if my friends are fishing a lot with living here in Reykjavik, I live in the east, and we meet in some rivers and fish together. And so it's many parts. Many things in it.

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:05:44] Yes, of course, it's probably a concern of everybody in the world, that love fishing and love hunting. It's a, it's a big change. And it has been a big change in Iceland, the global warming. It's... Usually when I was growing up, it was winter when it was winter. Snow and storms, and everything. But now, it's more or less, it's winter, but not as we used to be, before. It's much, much lower, uh, higher temperature than it was at the time I was growing up. In the north we feel it a lot. You can find, feel a lot about it here.

James Thull [00:06:30] So milder winters, earlier runoffs, things like that?

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:06:45] Not necessarily earlier, but milder winters, is definitely.

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:06:58] Yeah, that's probably, that's worry us, at least in Iceland, with the farming, for example. Try trying to make a more and more stocks out of the farming here. But for the natural stocks, it's, it's also. We're trying to build it up like a sustainable fishing, around Iceland.

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:07:43] I would love to try them for the big salmons in Russia, in Kola area. Maybe I'll go there, someday.

James Thull [00:07:58] The places where you have to, like, helicopter in, and?

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:08:01] Yeah. That's. And Canada's probably, also really interested. I would love to go there. There is many good rivers there.

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:08:10] The clean nature. And the wild nature. Unspoiled areas. Around Iceland. It's a big thing, in fishing. Being out in the nature, where you can be alone. With your friends, or with the river, and fishing there. That's special

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:08:44] Yeah, I think so, and I hope so. It's like that.

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:09:01] No, I don't think so. It's, I think it's a lot of young people fishing in Iceland. Depends on what kind of fish you are fishing. It's really expensive to go to fishing salmon. But for artic char or trout, I think young people love it. And could just go to the creeks around Iceland to fish Cod, or Saithe, or whatever. It's. Kids love it. And we have lot of that, everywhere, all around Iceland, you can fish cod and Saithe and other big fish. Two, three, four, five kilos.

James Thull [00:09:46] It's a great fish.

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:09:55] I think it, more or less, all rivers in Iceland are in, what you call it? In some clubs. Where you have to be a member, and buy a license from the clubs? Not, it's not the public area. I think that's, I think that's what this in, more or less, all the rivers.

James Thull [00:10:22] But there are places where kids can go, or it's pretty inexpensive to go, as well?

Sigfinnur Mikaelsson [00:10:29] Not to fish for char or trout. You can find that in many, many places for a decent price. It's mainly the salmon, the fishing gets really high. And expensive. And if you want to fish in the coastline, or from the sea, in Iceland, for cod and Saithe, then it doesn't cost anything.

James Thull [00:10:59] You can just go.