

INTRODUCING

# The Rivers of the Kola Reserve

*The Lumbovka & Kachkovka Rivers are the two most exciting additions to the Atlantic Salmon fishing scene since the Ponoï*

THE FLY SHOP® RECENTLY joined a cadre of professional fly fishing pioneers led by Stephan Dombaj of Fly Fishing Nation on a mission to determine whether rumors of the existence of two phenomenal, untouched and completely private Atlantic Salmon fisheries on the northern coast of the Kola Peninsula were true. Adding to the intrigue and speculation was the fact that both rivers flow north into the Barents Sea at a point only slightly southeast of the trophy-laden Yokanga and to the northwest of the prolific Ponoï. They are dead-center in the heart of a region famous for trophy-sized Atlantic salmon, remarkable numbers of grilse, and huge Osenka (fall run) Atlantics.

The Lumbovka and Kachkovka are the nucleus of the newly-minted Kola Reserve. They are completely private and have been designated catch-and-release, fly fishing only fisheries that will forever remain shielded from poaching, commercial harvest, and exploitation.

Minutes after the helicopter arrival from Murmansk at the recently completed Lumbovka River Camp, the talented reconnaissance team were dressed for the occasion, had their rods rigged, and were busy launching spey casts toward the far bank of the home pool.

The first to connect was team member, Justin Miller. He had two fine fish on the beach before the rest of the crew could get their rhythm. Everyone else in the group soon followed suit with trophies of their own and, by the end of the first day, it was evident that the Lumbovka River harbors a healthy number of large Atlantic salmon.



The exploratory angling team focused on the two rivers for the remainder of the summer and were joined occasionally by the owners of the Kola Reserve. They continued filing detailed, daily reports on their angling success, the water and weather conditions, and recorded every moment of their thrilling fishing experience on film.

Simply expressed, what they found left little need for exaggeration! Both the Lumbovka and its sister-river, the slightly smaller Kachkovka, are definitely cut from the same cloth as the other magnificent Atlantic salmon fisheries in the northern Kola. It's now been documented that they share the same large fish and that each cast has the potential to sink steel into fish well in excess of twenty and possibly even thirty pounds as well as substantial numbers of smaller Atlantics and grilse.

A lengthy Autumn intel-gathering expedition has been planned in 2019 which will include some of the most notable anglers in the sport, and by the publication date of this magazine the few remaining questions regarding the Kola Reserve rivers will have been answered. A more accurate measure of the strength of both fisheries, will be defined, the length of their seasons will be determined, the Kola Reserve will have a better grasp of the numbers of fall run Osenka present in both rivers and they'll be able to put finishing touches on their angling program in advance of the next (2020) season.

Feel free to contact The Fly Shop® to subscribe to up-to-the-minute Kola Reserve angling reports.

Paolo Hoffmann with a dime-bright Lumbovka Atlantic salmon buck that tipped the scales at exactly 30 pounds!

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## the kola reserve & its fish

The trinity of rivers that form The Kola Reserve (Lumbovka, Kachkovka, and Olenka) were purchased in 2018. They were largely beyond human impact for centuries and had not been tested by a single angler in more than a decade. Now, all three drainages and fisheries have been set aside in perpetuity with the goal of preserving and protecting this part of Russia's pristine wilderness while simultaneously establishing a premier Atlantic salmon fishing destination on the Lumbovka and Kachkovka. The Olenka remains undeveloped.

The rivers of the Kola Reserve flow north into the Barents Sea. They, like the Varzina, Kharlovka, Yokanga, and other regional fisheries, are natal harbors to Europe's most substantial runs of native Atlantic salmon. The salmon indigenous to the northern Kola face the most rugged obstacles and conditions imaginable on their annual spawning pilgrimage and have evolved into a strain of fish experts feel are among the very largest and strongest of their species.

The Lumbovka and Kachkovka appear to be designed by Mother Nature to test both fish and fly fishermen. They flow steep and fast with classic holding pools, shallow tail-outs, and picture-perfect angling between white water.



fishing the lumbovka & kachkovka is not for everyone. Both of these breathtaking, picturesque rivers flow through steep canyons carved from stone before entering the sea. Part of what makes them unique and separates them from most other Atlantic salmon fisheries on the north coast of the Kola is their size. Neither are navigable, and virtually all of the angling is done while wading, not from boats. Small dories have been positioned on some pools to allow safe and easy crossing of the rivers..

The Lumbovka and Kachkovka are not massive and the salmon holding areas are obvious to veteran anglers. Competent spey casters will appreciate the size and intimate character of the rivers, the ability to successfully wade, cast, systematically cover the 3 or 4 large pools in each beat on foot, and to be able to battle their fish from the shoreline.



What distinguishes both the Lumbovka and Kachkovka rivers from others on the north coast of the Kola is their size. Competent spey rodders are able to reach the most distant lies and successfully cover each of the pools of these scenic rivers.

Photos courtesy of Matt Harris and Fly Fishing Nation



THE 2020 INAUGURAL SEASON on the Lumbovka and Kachkovka will incorporate what are expected to be the eleven most productive weeks of the Atlantic salmon run and only eight anglers will be hosted at the Lumbovka Camp (far fewer than the number of expansive beats on the two rivers). Guests at Lumbovka Camp will be surrounded by a deluxe property with accommodations that will challenge the most well-established camps on the Kola for supremacy.

No expense has been spared to ensure the most successful experience possible. The Kola Reserve, working hand-in-hand with Matt Harris (legendary angling photographer), Fly Fishing Nation (Europe's notable team of fly fishing trailblazers), and The Fly Shop® (40 years of lodge experience from Kamchatka to Tierra del Fuego) has selected one of the most skilled first-year guide staffs ever assembled.



While there may be some wrinkles to be ironed out in the first season, no excuses will have to be made for the already completed, top-tier lodge, warm, spacious, single-occupancy duplex cabins with en suite baths, queen beds, superb cuisine, an open bar, and other first-class amenities that contradict the remote, arctic environment.

Some guests will be transported each day by helicopter to the most distant beats on the Lumbovka. Others will fly to the Kachkovka and the remaining anglers will be driven by 4WD ATVs to a series of the many productive pools and tail-outs that separate camp from the sea.

Lumbovka Camp pricing for the first (2020) season only will be reduced as an incentive. Those subscribing anglers will be given priority in the allocation of space in subsequent seasons.

This is a terrific opportunity to get in on the ground floor of what promises to be one of the top echelon Atlantic salmon destinations!



To learn more about the Lumbovka and Kachkovka rivers or to inquire about 2020 introductory pricing and dates contact the Kola Reserve's exclusive North American agent:



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