

Have Fun!

- Alaska has many great fishing opportunities.
- Respecting our resources ensures continued fishing for years to come.
- Following fishing regulations and a code of ethics ensures that everyone can have an enjoyable fishing experience.



Alaska Department of Fish & Game Division of Sport Fish Sport Fishing & Aquatic Education Program



The Alaska Department of Fish and Game administers all programs and activities in compliance with state and federal civil rights and equal opportunity laws. Obtain the full ADF&G and Americans with Disabilities Act and Office of Equal Opportunity statement online at www.adfg.alaska.gov or from the ADF&G Public Communications Section at 907-465-6166.

How To Be An Ethical Angler



For more information on angling in Alaska, contact the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Division of Sport Fish: www.adfg.alaska.gov

Going Fishing?

- Know the rules for where you are fishing – Read and understand the regulations.
- Respect private property – Ask for permission before going onto someone's property.
- Be respectful to other fishers and help them if they need it.
- Use strong fishing line to land fish quickly.
- Use hooks that can rust out, in case a hook is lost in a fish.
- Use barbless hooks if you intend to release your fish.
- Be respectful of wildlife—Give wildlife the right of way.
- Do not walk behind fishers who are trying to cast. For safety it is recommended to wear protective glasses and a hat.
- Do not destroy plants along the water – They provide cover and help keep the water cool.
- Do not litter – Keep your fishing area clean. Pick up trash and leave the area cleaner than you found it.
- Always wear your life jacket!



Catching Fish

- Do not crowd other fishers.
- Do not take someone else's spot.
- If you catch a fish, bring it in quickly so you do not exhaust the fish.
- Keep your fish in the water until you know it's a "keeper."
- Avoid bruising—Don't let fish flop around.
- If you intend to harvest your fish, kill it quickly with a sharp blow to the top of the head, and break a gill so it bleeds quickly.
- Know the bag limit, keep only the fish you will use. Release the rest unharmed.
- Keep injured fish unless it is prohibited by size or bag limit regulations.
- **Do not snag** – unless you know for certain it is allowed in an area.
- Clean your fish at the river or lake.

Releasing a Fish

- Always:
 - If possible, leave the fish in the water and unhook it without touching it.
 - If landing a fish using a net, use a soft knotless net to surround the fish in the water.
 - Leave the fish in the net and without touching the fish, remove the hook using a hook remover or pliers.
 - Gently remove the hook from the same hole it came through.
 - If you must handle the fish, wet your hands first.
- Reviving Your Catch:
 - Support the fish gently upright in the water, cradling its midsection.
 - Face the fish into the current.
 - Gently move it back and forth.
 - As the fish recovers let it swim freely from your hands.
- Never:
 - Squeeze a fish or rip the hook out.
 - Throw a fish.
 - Put your fingers in the gills or eyes.
 - Pick the fish up by the tail.
 - Let the fish thrash around on the ground.

