



The Ethical Angler

- Promotes ethical behavior in the use of aquatic resources.
- Values and respects the aquatic environment and all living things in it.
- Avoids spilling, and never dumps any pollutants on land or in the water.
- Disposes of all trash, including worn-out lines, leaders, and hooks and helps to keep fishing sites litter-free.
- Takes all precautionary measures necessary to prevent the spread of exotic plants and animals, including live baitfish, into non-native habitats.
- Learns and obeys angling and boating regulations treating other anglers, boaters, and property owners with courtesy and respect.
- Respects property rights, and never trespasses on private lands or waters.
- Keeps no more fish than needed for consumption, and never wastefully discards fish that are retained.
- Carefully handles and releases all fish that are unwanted or prohibited by regulation, as well as other animals that are accidentally hooked.
- Uses tackle and techniques which minimize harm to fish when engaging in catch-and-release angling.

NOAA Fisheries Service
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