



Leave No Trace Tips for Fishing

Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the local fishing and boating regulations for the area where you'll fish. Obtain licenses and stamps and have them with you.
- Learn to identify the different species of fish you are allowed to keep. Abide by regulations concerning types of bait and tackle permitted where you are fishing.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Avoid trampling aquatic vegetation when wading. Refrain from wading in spawning areas when possible.
- Enter and leave water sources where the banks are low or there are gravel bars.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams

Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack out all monofilament fishing line, leftover live bait and bait cups.
- Avoid using lead sinkers and jigs. If lead sinkers are found, pack out for proper disposal.
- Check with local land managers for regulations on disposal of fish entrails.

Leave What You Find

- When practicing "catch and release" use barbless hooks and be sure not to injure the fish. Do not fight fish to exhaustion, use rod and line of sufficient strength, avoid suspending fish out of water by the fishing line. Keep fish in water when handling for release and do not touch gills.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Where fires are permitted use established fire rings, mound fires or fire pans and consider bringing your own firewood. Keep fires small.
- Trash does not belong in the fire pit and usually doesn't burn completely.

Respect Wildlife

- Respect fish by humanely dispatching catches you are keeping with a quick blow to the back of the head with a rock or solid object.
- Use caution when cooking fish in bear country.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Non-motorized crafts usually have the right-of-way over powerboats: slower boats should keep to the right.

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