



In some Oregon state waters catch and release fishing is required in order to protect valuable fish resources.

In most waters, however, release or harvest is a personal choice. One way Oregon anglers can help maintain and restore native fish populations is to practice voluntary catch and release of all wild fish, particularly where their populations are threatened, and to learn how to do it properly.

Anglers should always consult the Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations before fishing for any harvest restrictions.

Current regulations can be found at: www.MyODFW.com

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Catch and Release



Techniques to reduce fish mortality

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Enjoying angling in Oregon's waters brings with it some responsibilities. To ensure viable fish populations and continued fishing opportunities, all Oregonians are encouraged to make a personal commitment to the care of the state's fish and their habitats.

Catch and release (sometimes referred to as live release) helps to preserve a valuable resource for other anglers to enjoy in the future. Catch and release can also reduce the necessity for future mandatory regulations, and carefully released fish may also be counted on spawning grounds, ensuring adequate escapement for conservation and management of fish populations.



Playing the Fish

A fish on the end of the line is under stress and it is important not to play the fish to utter exhaustion. Severe exhaustion reduces the fish's odds of surviving.



Bringing in the Fish

Support the fish underwater in a natural position, handling it as little as possible. Give it time to recover. Keep the fish in the water, it needs all the oxygen it can get from the water passing over its gills.

Reviving the Fish

In moving water, point the fish in to the current or in standing water, gently move the fish forward until its gills are moving and it maintains its balance on its own. Let the fish swim freely from your hands.

Proper Gear

Use single, barbless hooks so you can easily release your catch. Use pliers to pinch down the barb. Use tackle, including line and rod, that are strong enough to bring your fish in quickly and gently.



Removing the Hook from the Fish

In quiet water, bring the fish quickly within reach. Leaving the fish in the water and without squeezing it, remove the hook carefully with long-nosed pliers or thumb and forefinger. If necessary, cut the leader near the hook, which will dissolve over time.

Photographing the Fish

1. Have help. Reduce handling time by adjusting camera settings before angling.
2. With wet hands, support the fish under the forward part of its body and at the base of its tail, keeping the fish in the water.
3. When ready, cradle the fish at water level and quickly take picture.
4. Let the revived fish swim away from your hands.