

Angling Etiquette

In order to enjoy our fishing as much as possible, it helps to follow a few simple rules where our fellow anglers are concerned. Always be considerate of your fellow fishermen and everyone will be happier in the end. Although there are some "gray areas", there are a few simple do's and don'ts that apply to fishing most anywhere.

Don't...

Wade into another pool where someone else is already fishing. This is especially true on small streams where any fish that are spooked will likely affect other parts of the pool or other fish in the pool. If someone is already fishing your "favorite" pool, try to get there a bit earlier next time or go a distance above or below and then come back later. Never encroach upon another angler.

There will be exceptions, such as large rivers and streams, ponds/lakes, and saltwater. Still, use a little common sense. If you are wading, use care to not to "push" a wake into the pool where others are also fishing. Some large streams can accommodate more than one angler per pool, but the rule of thumb is to give others the same amount of room you'd like to have. If you are boat fishing and getting tangled with someone in another boat, you're too close.

Do..

Make plans to get on the water earlier if the weather forecast is for nice weather. With good weather you can expect more people on the water. The best way to get on the best water is to be the first one there. *The early bird gets the worm!*

Avoid wading whenever possible, and always give "fishy" looking stretches a wide berth. Never walk through productive water that you or someone else may want to fish later.

When proceeding upstream or downstream past another angler, take care to stay well away from the bank so as not to cast shadows on the water and spook fish. Also, walk lightly so as not to spook fish that another angler might be casting to.

If you see someone else fishing and are in doubt as to whether or not getting into the pool is a good idea, always ask for permission to get into the pool first. You'd be surprised how many times just being considerate enough to ask will give you access to a pool where others are also fishing. *Always stop and ask yourself how your strategy will impact the fishing of your fellow anglers. Your fun for theirs just isn't a fair swap.*

When you're fishing near others, and especially if someone else has a really nice fish on, always reel in and allow your fellow anglers enough room to play a large fish. A good number of trophy fish are lost simply because someone else was trying to fish and got tangled up with the person who had the good fish on.



"Fishing luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity."

-Ed Zern