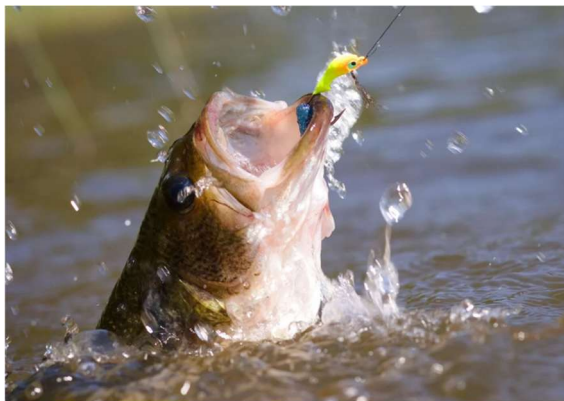


Catch & Release



- Of the 1.1 billion fishes caught non-commercially in the U.S. each year, 60% are released. Contrary to popular notion, catch-and-release fishing is extremely harmful.
- As with humans and other animals, fishes have nerves throughout their body, including in their mouth. Science has shown that they can suffer fear and pain. This happens, for example, when they are impaled with a fishing hook and fight for their life as they are dragged through the water.
- After being pulled from the water fishes start to suffocate, and their gills can collapse.
- Fish have a protective coating on their bodies. It can be removed when handled by humans, which, along with other injuries, makes them vulnerable to infection.
- Many fishes obtain food through oral suction. A hole in their mouth from a hook impedes this ability.
- It is not uncommon for a fish to swallow a hook. When the hook is retrieved, the fish's guts or throat may also be pulled out.
- Studies have also shown that, depending on the species, up to 89% of released fishes die from the trauma and injury, minutes, hours or days later.
- In addition to fishes, millions of other animals are injured/killed by hooks, line and other recreational fishing gear, including poisoning from lead weights.

- Fishing is even crueler than hunting: with hunting the intent is to kill an animal quickly whereas with fishing the victim is tortured, often for hours.
 "[F]inding gratification in the suffering of another isn't sport. It's sadism."
 - Jeff Jacoby, "Hooked on a Cruel Sport."
- Catch-and-release fishing is restricted in Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, and Switzerland, and in some U.S. states and national parks. In Canada, it is banned by the Gitksan First Nation.

"I fought it at first, and even tried to block it out, but eventually I had to face it. I knew what I was doing was wrong ... I was having fun, which is a poor excuse for torturing a living creature." - Steve Cope: former fisherman

http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/elist/eListRead/catch_and_release_is_no_fun_for_the_fish

"Take sportfishing — catch and release. Doesn't that hurt your psyche somehow, to see an animal struggling for its life? And then you break its jaw getting the hook out, and you throw it back in the ocean. You release it, so you feel good about yourself, but you tortured that animal. Boy, where did that come from: going out and causing something pain and calling it a good time? I have never quite understood that, even when I was a kid."
 - Sylvia Earle: founder of Mission Blue (and the first female Chief Scientist of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration): <https://www.thesunmagazine.org/issues/511/sunken-treasures>

Catch-and-release, that's like running down pedestrians in your car and then, when they get up and limp away, saying -- Off you go! That's fine. I just wanted to see if I could hit you. - Ellen DeGeneres: comedian, television host, and actress

References are available at <https://fishfeel.org/resources/facts>