



Take Family and Friends Fishing!

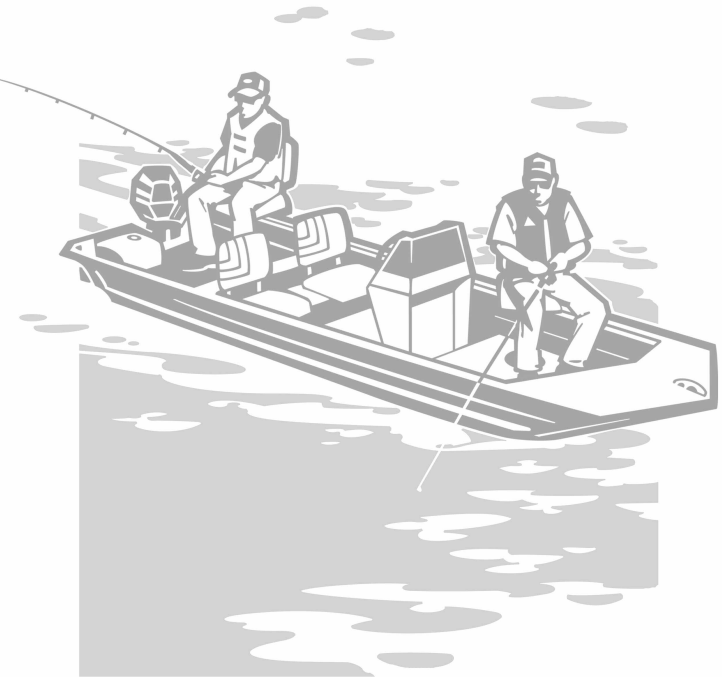
Fishing with family and friends makes twice the fishing fun while also making for a safer trip.



State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Fishing Safety

- Carry and know how to properly use rescue devices.
- Stay seated as much as possible while in a boat.
- Never overload a boat. Know how much weight your boat can safely carry and always evenly distribute your load.
- Do not use drugs or drink alcohol when boating. More than half of all drowning victims were using alcohol or drugs.
- Remain a safe distance from low water dams and other restricted areas.
- Keep your eyes on the weather. Leave the water before a storm arrives. If on the water and caught in a storm, make sure your PFD is on then cautiously travel to shore and beach the boat.
- Travel slowly in shallow areas and areas of flooded trees.
- When traveling at night, be sure your running lights are on so others can see you.



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Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois
DNR 23 - 2M-07/14 • IOCI 15-0283



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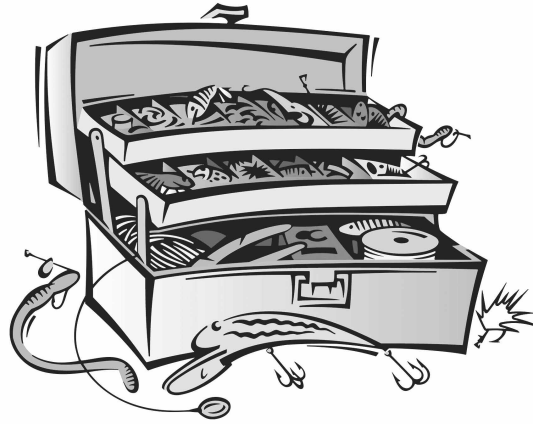
Fishing is relaxing, family and friend oriented fun and something that everyone can learn to do. Fishing also is a great way to experience the outdoors—by itself or in combination with boating, picnicking, camping, hiking or viewing wildlife.

Fishing isn't a dangerous sport, but strong consideration for safety must be given when undertaking any activity, especially activities held in the ever-changing outdoors.



Using Tackle Safely

- Always handle fishing tackle responsibly.
- Make sure to look behind you before casting so that your hook will not catch a power line, tree or another person.
- Don't leave your tackle laying on the ground. Doing so means someone may trip and fall on it, step on a hook or even break your equipment. Put used fishing line in



recycling receptacles or garbage cans. Fishing line can be hazardous to wildlife.

- Don't put your hand inside a fish's mouth to remove a deeply set hook. Instead, use a hook remover to carefully remove the hook. If this doesn't work, cut the line as close to the mouth as you safely can, then release the fish or, if a legal size, add it to your creel.
- When moving your equipment, remove hooks and lures from your line and store them in your tackle box.

Safe Dressing

- Whenever around water, small children should wear a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device (PFD) that fits properly.
- Regardless of the amount of sun, wear sunscreen on exposed areas, such as your face, neck and hands.
- Wear a hat. Hats keep your head cool in the summer and warm in the winter. They also help keep the sun out of your eyes and protect your head from hooks during a stray cast.



- Protect the only eyes you have by wearing some kind of glasses. Sunglasses protect your eyes from hooks and the sun's harmful rays. Polarized sunglasses also help you view beneath the surface of the water to see fish and other objects.
- Shoes should be worn whether fishing on shore, in a boat or wading in the water. Stray hooks, glass, sharp rocks and other objects on shore and in the water could cut your bare feet. In a boat, shoes designed to keep your feet from slipping in wet conditions could help protect you from an unexpected dip into the water.
- Always dress for the weather and be prepared for sudden changes.

Basic Boating Safety

- Make sure all required equipment and a first aid box are in the boat before going fishing. When an emergency happens, you don't want to have to go back to shore to get what you forgot.