

A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RECREATIONAL BOAT, SHORE, RIVER, STREAM AND JETTY ANGLERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Recreational anglers have a responsibility to look after the fisheries resources for the benefit of the environment and future generations of anglers.

Recreational anglers should also show respect for other users of the aquatic environment.

This Code of Conduct provides guidelines to minimise conflicts on the water, and should be adopted by all anglers in the interests of responsible angling.

We Fish for the Future



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PIRSA Fisheries web site: www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RECREATIONAL ANGLERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



RECREATIONAL ANGLING CODE OF CONDUCT

1. AWARENESS AND ADOPTION OF FISHING REGULATIONS.

- Anglers must acquaint themselves with all fisheries regulations, size and bag limits.
- Adherence to the regulations will benefit fishing for the future.

2. RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHER ANGLERS.

- Avoid crowding fellow anglers. Either on the shore or on the water.
- Crowding and “hogging” jetty space detracts from the recreational fishing experience. The rights of all users of the fisheries resource should always be respected.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and the impact you may have when fishing.

3. PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.

The health of our fisheries resources depends upon the health of our environment. Damage to our environment can inadvertently harm the fish you are trying to catch.

- Dispose of rubbish, unwanted fishing gear and bait scraps in appropriate refuse receptacles or take it home when you leave.
- Only leave footprints wherever you go.
- Take care when anchoring to minimise damage to the aquatic environment.
- Be aware of other plants and animals you may encounter when fishing.

4. CAREFULLY RETURN UNDERSIZED, PROTECTED OR UNWANTED CATCH BACK TO THE WATER.

Catching undersized or unwanted species is inevitable. But should be returned to the water immediately.

Using a wet cloth when handling fish improves the survival rate, and their contribution to future catches.

Learn and practice the best methods of releasing live fish.

5. FISH SPECIES AND OTHER ORGANISMS MUST NOT BE RELOCATED/TRANSFERRED INTO OTHER WATER BODIES.

Many problems, such as the establishment of feral populations like European carp and the saltwater invasive weed *Caulerpa taxifolia* can result from such activities.

Unnatural interactions may result in depletion of fish populations.

6. ALWAYS SEEK PERMISSION WHEN ENTERING PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Having access to fishing waters within private property is a privilege, not a right. Respect the rights of property holders by:

- Gaining permission prior to entering property belonging to others.
- Do not interfere with live stock or crops in any way.
- Leave all gates as they were found.

7. USE ESTABLISHED ROADS AND TRACKS.

We all like to get away from it all, but this must be done responsibly.

Off-road driving or “bush bashing” causes erosion and vegetation loss; likewise tramping across sand dunes, reef beds and other fragile areas can cause damage.

- Use established walking tracks and avoid driving on beaches. Protecting sand dunes and vegetation will help minimise beach and bankside erosion.
- Treat all natural areas with care.

8. ATTEND YOUR FISHING GEAR AND VALUE YOUR CATCH.

Treat fish humanely and avoid waste by:

- Attending your gear to ensure that fish are retrieved as soon as possible.
- Despatch fish humanely immediately after capture.
- Ice is a good medium to despatch fish.

9. EDUCATION - PASS ON YOUR KNOWLEDGE.

Educating other anglers, particularly children to understand and observe fishery regulations will lead to a better-informed recreational angling community. This will encourage awareness of the environment and responsible angling.

