

Recreational Fishing in British Columbia

IMPROVING THE SURVIVAL OF FISH RELEASED IN TIDAL WATERS

Fish can be harmed by fishing gear and handling.
Be prepared and take actions to reduce the risks.

Gear Selection



- Choose fishing gear for the target species and size.
- Barbless hooks are a legal requirement when fishing for salmon. They allow for faster, easier removal.
- Single hooks smaller than 3/0 reduce eye injuries in salmon.

Preparing to Fish



- Choose locations and methods that help you avoid contact with non-target species or sizes of fish.
- Know the regulations and how to quickly identify fish species to determine if a fish can be kept.
- Have a descending device (for Rockfish), measuring device and de-hooking tools such as pliers or gaff ready.

Handling Fish for Release



- Bring fish to the boat as quickly as possible to reduce fatigue and improve recovery.
- It is a legal requirement to release fish in a manner that causes the least possible harm.
- Avoid contact with the slime coat or scales; these serve as protection against disease.
- A fast release at the water line is the best chance for fish survival.
- Never lift a fish by tail or gills.
- Contact with nets, the boat deck, or other surfaces will damage fish.
- Prolonged air exposure can impact fish recovery.
- It is a legal requirement to release Rockfish with a descending device.



**British Columbia
Sport Fishing Guide**

www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/index-eng.html



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