

## **Best Fishing Practises**

Fish safety is imperative for the ongoing success of our club. Fish are expensive, fragile and are likely to be caught many times in their lifetime. It is very important that the experience of being hooked, landed, unhooked, weighed, photographed then returned is of minimal stress to the fish, and done as quickly and efficiently as possible. In short, it is our duty to look after our quarry to the best of our ability and do all we can to avoid damage to our stock.

The following is a list of practises which the committee suggest you follow. The list is not exhaustive but is designed to help make your fishing experience more enjoyable.

Keep all tackle organised and tidy.

Use the correct breaking strain line for your intended quarry and the location.

Use quality knots and check line for nicks and fraying.

Ensure lead release clips are not too tight.

Quality of bait, can the fish digest it?

Have landing nets ready before you start fishing.

Check scales are zeroed and to hand.

Do not leave rods unattended.

Have Forceps/Disgorger ready.

Klin-ik all hook holds or any other visible damage

Always wet the unhooking mat prior to placing fish on it.

Keep a bottle/bucket of water to hand.

Always wet your hands before handling fish.

Support the fish if posing for a photo.

Never stand up when holding a fish, always kneel over the unhooking mat.

Have your camera set up and ready to take photos.

Allow the fish to recover, don't just drop them back in.

### **Rules**

Always read the fishery/club rules prior to fishing. Ignorance is no excuse.

### **Rivers.**

Make sure you have a long enough landing net handle or drop net for when the level drops on tidal rivers.

Ensure you have safe access to the waters edge when returning fish to the water.