

To ensure the future of quality salmon and trout fisheries, anglers must work cooperatively to MINIMIZE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF HOOK WOUNDING! Consider the following:

•Use extreme care when unhooking and releasing fish!

- Prepare and organize tools (pliers, hemostats) to minimize release time.
- NEVER shake a fish off the hook.
- NEVER unhook a fish suspended in the air.
- NEVER sharply pull hooks out while the fish is moving and twisting.

•Use rubber or other “fish friendly” landing nets!

- Rubber nets minimize stress, decrease unhooking/exposure time, prevent loss of slime coat and scales, fin splitting, and other damage caused by traditional nets. Tackle is also much more easily removed, allowing quicker return to fishing!
- Tip: Turn the fish upside-down in the rubber net to help calm while unhooking.

•All hook styles and sizes can cause damage!

- Fish size, hooking location, and angler experience in executing proper release techniques are key variables – exercise caution to ensure quality fisheries!

•Selectively harvest severely wounded fish!

- Including fish with previous wounds. Healthy, lightly hooked, and properly released salmon and trout, with no prior hooking injuries, have much greater growth potential and a realistic chance of becoming tomorrow’s trophy!