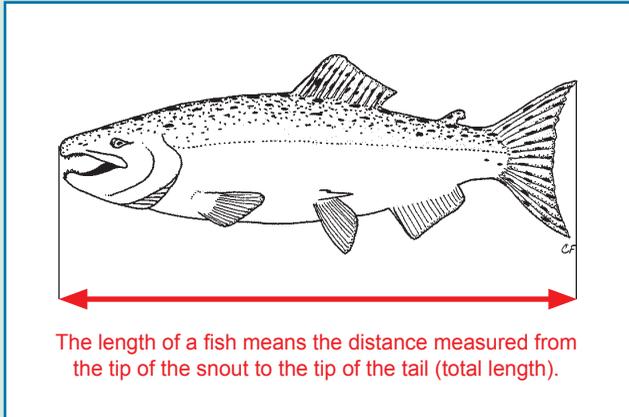


HOW TO MEASURE YOUR FISH



CARING FOR YOUR CATCH

Landing your catch is only half the battle when it comes to putting good tasting fish on the dinner table. How you handle your catch afield will determine how much your family and friends appreciate it.

The flesh of a fish that is not quickly killed, cleaned, and chilled will rapidly deteriorate. Do not try to keep your catch alive on a stringer—prolonged stress can cause fish to produce chemicals that alter flavor. A blow to its head usually kills the fish quickly, and breaking a gill will cause the heart to pump much of the blood from the flesh. Blood breaks down very fast and shortens the time preserved fish will last.

Avoid storing your dead fish in water. Clean and ice your fish in the field, so you can remove the kidneys and additional blood from the backbone and rib cage. Packing the body cavity with ice will speed chilling of the flesh and retard spoilage. Distribute your catch in the ice chest or refrigerator so that fish touch the ice or are packed in it. Fish should not touch one another or rest in melted ice water. Last, never carry or store fish in plastic bags—the slime produced can ruin your catch. □

THE FISH & WILDLIFE SAFEGUARD PROGRAM



Report Violations

1-800-478-3377

If you witness or suspect that a fish or wildlife violation has occurred, please call our toll-free number. You will not have to reveal your name, testify in court, or sign a deposition. You will remain anonymous, and you may receive a reward.

Local Alaska Wildlife Troopers' office phone numbers are as follows: Ketchikan (907) 225-5111, and Juneau (907) 465-4000.



Fishing in Bear Country: NEVER let bears associate people with food

- “Stop, Chop & Throw”—To prevent fish carcasses from collecting along the river banks and attracting bears, take a few extra seconds to chop the fish carcass into small pieces and throw them into deep, fast-moving water. Do not place fish waste into the Dumpsters.
- To prevent bears from learning that stringers, coolers, and backpacks are an easy food source, keep all your belongings closely attended at all times, wear your backpack while fishing, and keep your stringers and coolers close by, within sight.
- If a bear approaches you, be willing to give up your fishing spot. Splashing fish may attract bears. If your splashing fish attracts a bear, give your fish a lot of slack, or cut your line. Always be prepared to throw your stringer into the water as a last resort.