

A Stringer of Safety Tips

Fishing with Hip Boots or Waders

Fishing with hip boots or chest waders on can be a fun way to catch fish. Watch your step, though! Felt soles give you more traction on slippery rocks. If you fall down in fast-moving water, never try to stand up. Your foot could become trapped between rocks and the current can push you under. Float feet-first down the stream and back-paddle your way to shallow water.

Fishing from Boats

If you are fishing from a small boat, always keep your weight low and NEVER stand up. If you do tip over or fall in, and the shoreline is very close, work your way back to shallow water before trying to stand up. If you are too far from shore, don't try to swim for it. Get into or on top of the boat. Keep as much of your body out of the water as possible. This will save your body heat until help arrives.

Life Jackets: They Float, You Don't

Wear a life jacket. It floats, you don't. Life jackets on boats are like seatbelts in cars. Neither one of them will work if you are not wearing it. There are some life jackets made just for fishing. Besides keeping you safe and warm, they also have lots of pockets for all your fishing tackle.

Life Jackets: It's the law.
Remember that there must be one wearable life jacket for each person on a boat.

Who must always wear a life jacket:

- * Anyone age 12 or younger if the person is on a boat that is 20 feet long or less, or in any canoe or kayak.
- * Anyone towed behind a boat, including those using water skis, tubes and boards.
- * Anyone on a personal watercraft –like a Jet Ski®, Wave Runner®, Tiger Shark®, Sea Doo® and others.
- * All sailboarders.