

# SMART

## Angler's Notebook

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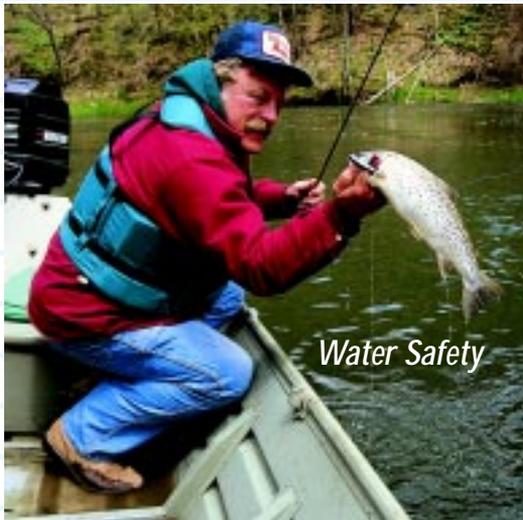
### Safe Fishing Checklist

**Fishing is not a dangerous sport.** However, it does involve some hazards. Anglers who understand protective gear, outdoor clothing, weather, water, and ice safety, and some basic first aid, can avoid most emergencies. If an emergency should arise, they will be prepared to handle it in a safe and effective manner.

**PROTECTIVE GEAR**, like sunglasses, sunscreen, and insect repellent, helps make a great day of fishing even more enjoyable.

**OUTDOOR CLOTHING** keeps anglers warm and dry in bad weather and cool in hot weather. Layering in cold weather is the best protection. Layers can be added or taken off as needed. A hat in the cold keeps heat in. During the summer, a hat keeps the glaring sun off your head. In summer, lightweight clothing that covers the arms and legs is the best protection against insects, poison ivy, wild rose bushes, and other thorny plants. Light colors are best because they reflect heat. Rain gear is a must, not only to keep you dry but because it's an excellent wind breaker.

**WEATHER.** The most dangerous type of weather to anglers is lightning. Flash floods and dam releases can cause problems for anglers fishing in rivers. Storms and dam releases can cause waters to rise rapidly, flooding, and swift currents.



**WATER SAFETY.** The key is to avoid hazardous conditions and to prevent accidents before they happen. Always fish with a friend. A good idea, even if not in a boat, is to wear a life jacket. Slipping and/or falling into the water can happen anytime. If you are wading, remember that there may be holes or steep dropoffs. Use a stick or wading staff to feel the bottom ahead of you. Become familiar with basic rescue techniques that can be done from shore and that don't require you to get in the water. If you are using a boat as a fishing platform, take a safe boating course from the Commission, USCG Auxiliary, or the US Power Squadrons.

**ICE SAFETY.** The key to ice safety is that there is no safe ice. If you fish on ice, be sure you always wear a life jacket, and always let someone know where you are going. Obey posted signs that indicate unsafe ice, and remember that not all ice is the same thickness.

**FIRST AID.** A good idea is to take a basic first aid course and become familiar with CPR, bandaging, and splinting. Hooks are an ever-present hazard for anglers. Hypothermia is a serious threat to all outdoor enthusiasts. Falling can result in a broken bone. Keep a well-equipped first-aid kit in a waterproof container close at hand. Check with your local Red Cross or American Heart Association for a first-aid class. ☐