

Think SMART

A SMART angler knows that you have to spend time getting ready for a good day of fishing. Make sure your family has a safe and fun day on the water. Each letter in the word SMART will help you to do just that:

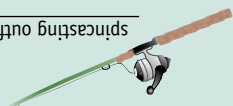
- S - Safety First
- M - Mind Your Manners
- A - Appreciate Clean Water
- R - Respect, Responsibility and Release
- T - Teach Others

S - Safety First

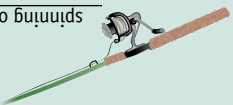
- While you are walking, keep the hook secured to your rod. A swinging hook can get caught on something or someone and ruin the whole day.
- When casting your line, make sure there is enough space around, above and behind you. You should have a full rod's length on both sides of your body, so you don't bump others who are fishing next to you.
- If you are fishing from a boat or on a steep bank, wear a zipped or buckled life jacket.
- Don't fish or boat alone.



spinning outfit



spinning outfit





M - Mind Your Manners

- Always ask permission to fish on a private pond. Thank the landowner when you leave.
- If someone is in your favorite fishing spot, don't bully him or her into leaving. Instead, ask if you may fish nearby.
- Some people may just want to read a book or explore nature. Allow your family to enjoy being outdoors in their own way.

A - Appreciate Clean Water

- Clean water=healthy water. Healthy water=healthy fish. Guess what healthy fish equals? That's right! Healthy people.
- To help keep the water clean, you need to keep the land clean. If you bring snacks, be sure to take home your trash. Never litter.
- Make sure your fishing area is cleaner than when you arrived. Pick up trash that was left behind by others. Be a protector of the resource.



R - Respect, Responsibility and Release

- Respect the land and water.
- Respect adults and others who are fishing with you.
- Be responsible with your equipment, including your bait.
- Know the rules and regulations before you go fishing.
- Release fish quickly and gently. Releasing fish allows fish to grow to trophy-size fish, giving you something to look forward to catching in the future.
- Only keep fish you will eat.



T - Teach Others

- Teach other people to be SMART anglers. The future of fishing is in your hands.
- If someone in your family likes to use technology, encourage them to come along to:
 - Take photos to remember the great day of fishing;
 - Learn information about the fish you caught or the salamander your sister found;
 - Record notes about your day, so you know what baits work best; or
 - Use the FishBoatPA mobile app to find other fishing and boating areas near you. Go to www.pfbc.pa.gov/mobile.htm to download the free mobile app. For PFBC's social media, visit www.fishandboat.com/socialmedia.

