

Care of the Catch: Getting Fish Home

If you are planning on taking your catch home, make sure you have the correct tools, a game plan and knowledge of the regulations.

Equipment to keep and transport your fish:

- Pliers/forceps – for removing hooks
- Measuring tape – to measure fish for legal length
- **Stringer**, fish basket or **live well** – to store fish
- Cooler/bucket with ice – to keep fish chilled for the ride home

The *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary* outlines the regulations on seasons, sizes and creel limits, so you can make sure it is legal to keep your catch. The summary book is available online at www.fishinpa.com.

Fish Consumption Advisory:

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration recommends cooking fish to 145-degrees F, which will kill any **parasites** that may be present. Visit the Fish Consumption Advisory pages in the *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary*. It includes fish consumption recommendations for different waterways due to contaminants that can be present in fish such as PCB organic compounds or mercury. This information will help you make decisions on eating fish from certain waterways. The summary book also provides tips on cleaning and cooking fish, which can limit exposure to contaminants. General advice is to eat no more than one meal (½ pound) per week of sport fish caught from Pennsylvania's waterways.

