



CARE OF THE CATCH

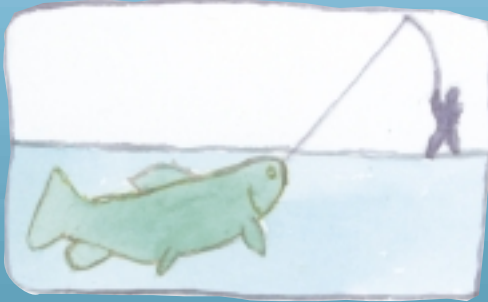
You must make an important decision if you are lucky enough to hook and land a trout. That question is, what will you do with the fish? What you do with the trout you land depends on the season, the size of the fish and you. You have two options: Release the fish

or keep the fish. Don't wait until you've hooked a fish to ask and answer this question. You should know what you will do with the trout you catch before you cast a line.

Releasing Your Trout

In some areas, you may be required to release your trout. It can help our natural resources to release fish. If you plan to release your catch, here are some tips:

* Play the trout quickly.



* Keep it in the water.



* Release it as soon as possible.



Keeping Your Trout

If it is legal and you are prepared, you may choose to keep your trout. To do this properly, you need to dress it. An adult should assist you. Use a blow to the fish's head to stun it, making it easier to handle. Cut the "belly" of the fish from the anal vent to the throat, removing the entrails and gills. Rinse the fish with clean water and keep it cold, or it will spoil.

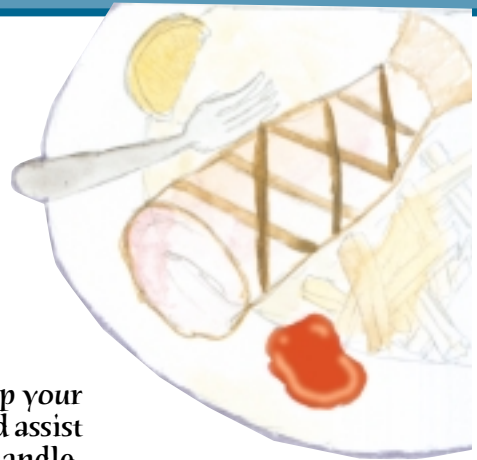


illustration-Ron Kuhn

It's the Law

Be sure to consult the *Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws* before deciding what to do with your catch.