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Fishing with the Crowd

Idaho's rivers are popular fishing destinations, offering some of the best salmon and steelhead fishing in the West. Great fishing can also draw a crowd, sometimes causing conflicts between anglers. Some anglers are asking for new rules to reduce conflicts, but more rules could also restrict fishing opportunities.

We need your help to retain fishing opportunities for all types of anglers, by reducing conflicts on the river.

By doing **3** simple things when fishing, you can help minimize the conflict and maximize the fun!

Angler Etiquette

when Fishing Rivers with Others

- 1** Treat others the way you want to be treated.
- 2** Talk to one another about how to best fish together.
- 3** Be tolerant of people's mistakes and not knowing generally accepted fishing practices.



Additional Tips

When you don't have the river to yourself, it's good to know commonly accepted practices for fishing around others.



Someone fishing a spot first has priority.

If you come to a spot and someone is already fishing there, respect their space and ask how the two of you can best fish together.



Demand will dictate how close anglers fish together.

Anglers can expect to have space when they are fishing. However, in high use areas, anglers should expect less space. It may be appropriate for someone to fish right next to you, even if you are at a fishing hole first.



Fish the same way as others around you.

One person using a different fishing method than those around them can foul up fishing for everyone else.



Avoid low holing another angler.

On rivers anglers often fish in a downstream manner. When someone is fishing a hole first—from shore or in a boat—don't fish downstream of the angler without asking first. It's called low holing and is widely frowned upon. The right thing to do is to start fishing upstream of them. If you are unsure, ask!



When boat anglers encounter bank anglers

give the angler on shore room to make their cast. Ask them how far down they are fishing and don't cast until you pass downstream of it.



Boat anglers—don't repeatedly fish past a shore angler who was in a spot first without asking.



Experienced anglers need to help educate less experienced anglers.

Take a moment to share your knowledge on how to best fish together in crowded areas. Everyone wins!



Boat Wakes

Boat wakes are a source of conflict, but an even greater safety concern. The bottom line is:

Every boater needs to be aware of their wakes. Every angler needs to know how to be safe around boat wakes.

Boaters—*Know Your Wake*

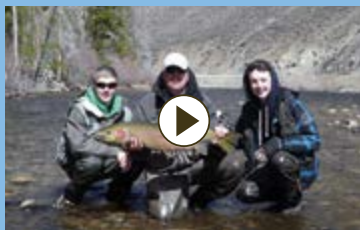
- If your boat wake can put somebody in danger, disrupt someone's fishing, or cause damage to a boat or fishing gear—don't leave a wake.
- Know how to leave the least amount of wake when passing others. A boat traveling faster 'up on step' leaves a smaller wake than a boat traveling slower, plowing through the water.
- Know how to throw your wake away from other anglers. Do this by turning the stern away from another angler.

Shore Anglers—*Be Aware*

- Be aware when fishing in shallow areas where boats can't slow down because of river conditions. They may need to 'stay on step'. If you fish these areas, you will need to be more tolerant of wakes from boats
- Be aware of where the boating lane is and stand clear of the water when you hear boats coming.



Watch our video to learn more about reducing conflict on Idaho's rivers.



fishandgame.idaho.gov/fishing/etiquette

Keep our Rivers Clean

Salmon and steelhead anglers have been labeled as messy. When you're on the river, make the choice not to leave fishing line, bait containers and trash on our river banks. If you see someone else's trash, it's easy to pick it up. Be one who helps keep our rivers clean.

Thank you!



Photo: © Scott Putnam

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