

FISH RELEASE

THE COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RELIES ON ANGLERS TO FOLLOW BAG LIMITS AND TO LIMIT HOOKING MORTALITY IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF ALL FISHERIES.

THERE ARE SEVERAL STEPS ANGLERS CAN TAKE WHEN PLAN ON RELEASING A FISH THAT WILL HELP INSURE THAT THE FISH SURVIVES BEING CAUGHT AND THEREFORE LIMITING THEIR IMPACT ON THE FISHERY.

WHEN FIGHTING A FISH, TRY TO LAND IT QUICKLY. LARGER FISH PLAYED TO EXHAUSTION ARE EXTREMELY HARD TO REVIVE AND MUCH MORE LIKELY TO DIE AFTER BEING RELEASED.

MAKE SURE THAT YOUR FISHING TACKLE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO HANDLE THE JOB OF LANDING THE FISH. THIS MEANS A MEDIUM TO HEAVY FISHING ROD, A STURDY REEL AND A GOOD STRONG LINE.

THE LESS A FISH IS HANDLED...THE BETTER ITS CHANCES OF SURVIVAL.

HOOKS CAN OFTEN BE REMOVED WHILE THE FISH REMAINS IN THE WATER. MANY ANGLERS BELIEVE THAT THIS IS EASIER WHEN THE BARBS HAVE BEEN MASHED DOWN, ESPECIALLY ON TREBLE HOOKS.

IF A FISH MUST BE HANDLED, USE A LANDING NET WITH RUBBER COATED NETTING. THE NET WILL HELP SECURE THE FISH WITH A MINIMUM OF HANDLING. THE FISH CAN REMAIN IN THE WATER WHILE THE HOOK IS REMOVED.

HOLD THE FISH UPRIGHT IN THE WATER UNTIL IT SWIMS AWAY UNDER ITS OWN POWER. FISH PUSHED AWAY TOO

QUICKLY CAN ROLL ON THEIR SIDE OUR OF AN ANGLERS
REACH.

IF A FISH IS HOOKED DEEPLY IN THE THROAT OR GILLS
CUT THE LINE AS CLOSE TO THE HOOKS AS POSSIBLE WITH
OUT PULLING OR YANKING ON THE LINE.

FOLLOWING THESE STEPS WILL GREATLY INCREASE THE
CHANCE THAT Y OUR FISH WILL SURVIVE TO FIGHT
ANOTHER DAY.