

A Little Fishing Etiquette – “Please”

Fishing can and should be a fairly relaxing and fun sport. A quiet day on the water with a good fishing bud, enjoying all that nature has to offer, and even catching a few fish along the way. What a great concept! Imagine you find a nice quiet spot with fish busting bait. You ease your way in, get set and make that perfect cast. You immediately get hooked up, you hear your friend excitedly yelling fish on. You land both fish and release them back into the water. High fives. What a great start to a great day!

A few moments later both of you are again hooked into a pair of nice fish. This continues for awhile and you are catching fish after fish. A day you have dreamt about for a long time. Then a boat comes noisily roaring up, throwing a wake causing you to lose your balance, and worst of all scattering the fish from the honey hole you've found. The idiot at the helm asks how's it going? You bite your tongue as you wonder why he asks when he's been lurking and watching you for the last half hour.

Sound familiar? Sadly it happens all too often. The point is to respect others space, and operate your boat safely. Keep an eye out for anchored or drifting boats. You are responsible for your wake and any damages it may cause! Slow down and minimize your wake. Where are you going in such a hurry that you cannot take a few of your precious seconds to be courteous?

The point of all of this is to follow some simple basic fishing rules:

Watch your speed and wake. Keep a safe distance from shore based anglers and other boats. A good rule of thumb is twice as far as you think.

Respect other angler's space. A piece of water belongs to the person who fishes there first. Don't ruin their day. On big water 100' to 150' of separation is good.

Don't cut off another anglers drift. Fall in behind them (110' – 150' away) and drift with them.

If you know the other angler, don't just move in, ask if you can share their space.

Slow down for boats, kayaks, canoes, etc. that are anchored or drifting along. Your wake could cause personal injury or loss of equipment. Always remember you are responsible for the outcome of your wake.

Last but not least, common sense always rules, so treat others with the same respect that you feel you are entitled to.

There's a lot of water in our area with some fantastic fishing opportunities. So, get out there and have fun, catch fish, enjoy your days on the water, but most of all **BE SAFE!**