

Clean Ocean Action's ~10 Tips For Anglers~



1. Put trash in its place.

Responsible anglers protect our waters by using garbage and recycling receptacles and picking up garbage left by others. If necessary, bring waste home with you for proper disposal.

2. Hold onto your butt. Cigarette filters contaminate water and do not biodegrade. They can be lethal when eaten by birds and fish that mistake them for food. Since cigarette filters are designed to accumulate toxins, each butt contains many human carcinogens. Use portable ashtrays or your pocket. *Altoid* tins can be re-used as ashtrays. See COA's "10 Tips for Smokers".

3. Hold the line and recycle. Fishing line can entangle and kill wildlife. Utilize fishing line recycling receptacles or bring used line to a local tackle shop or marina for recycling (visit njcleanmarina.org for more information). If one doesn't exist, incorporate and maintain a fishing line recycling station at your favorite fishing spot. If recycling is not possible, cut line into small pieces to dispose of it in the garbage.

4. Slash Your Trash. Avoid using disposable plastics and invest in re-useable containers and coolers. Plastic requires valuable resources to make and does not bio-degrade. Avoid any plastic hooks and bait.

5. Respect Wildlife. Stop, look, and listen for wildlife before casting the line as birds and other wildlife can easily get hooked or entangled in line. Release unwanted fish. Each species plays an important role in the ecosystem. Always practice catch and release. Use barbless single hooks and touch fish minimally. Barbs may be crimped with pliers.

6. Protect habitat. Stay on designated paths and avoid fragile areas including dunes and sod banks. These areas are important breeding and nesting areas for much wildlife.



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7. Avoid using lead sinkers or lead wire for artificial flies. Lead can have a harmful impact on loons, eagles, and other birds that live near the water and depend on fish for their diet. Use non-lead alternatives such as brass, steel, or iron.

8. Tag fish. Help improve the science on growth rates and migration routes. If you catch a fish with a tag, follow the instructions immediately. For more tagging information, contact the American Littoral Society at www.littoralsociety.org.

9. Join a conservation group. Hunters and fisherman were among the first conservationists and should remain at the forefront of the movement. Ensure the health and survival of wildlife and habitats by staying informed about current fishing and water pollution issues.

10. Lead by example & educate others.

Take a child fishing and promote environmental stewardship. Together, we can become the solution to reduce ocean pollution.



Nonpoint source or “pointless” pollution is the #1 cause of coastal water pollution. This pollution has many sources, including stormwater runoff that carries litter, pet waste, fertilizers, pesticides, soil, and waste from leaky sewage systems into waterways. Every time it rains polluted stormwater travels to the nearest storm drain or waterbody that ultimately drains to the ocean. Though people and their everyday habits are often the source of pollution, we can easily become the solution. By making small changes we can make our ocean fishable, swimmable, and healthy.

For more information and the complete 10 Tip Series visit:



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