

# "takemefishing"

## Fishing Safely

- Safety Around Water, Personal Floatation Devices
- Wading
- Reach-Throw-Row-Go
- Swimming, Safety With Fishing Equipment

Fishing isn't a dangerous sport, but you should prepare to keep safe and comfortable in the outdoors. It is possible to get caught unexpectedly in bad weather, encounter insects, spend too much time in the sun, or get caught on a fish hook.

Wearing the proper clothing helps to protect you from injury. It also keeps you warm in cold weather and cool in hot weather. Rainwear and other gear keep you from getting wet and chilled.

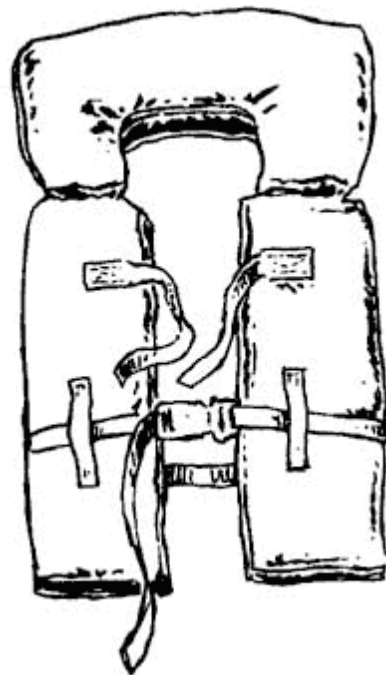
### Safety Around Water

Anglers should learn how to swim and use caution around water at all times. You should always use the "buddy system" and have a friend or an adult with you in case something goes wrong.

### Personal Flotation Devices

Find out about Boat US' Kids Free Life Jacket Program

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) which are also called life jackets and life vests, are not just for wearing in boats. Anytime you are on or around deep or fast moving water, it is always best to be wearing your PFD. U.S. Coast Guard and/or state laws require you to have an approved PFD when you are in a boat. The rules say a boat must have one PFD for each person on board. Certain types of boats must also have a cushion or ring that can be thrown to a person in the water.



### Wading

There are several rules you should follow for safe wading.

1. Always wade with another person.
2. Always wear your PFD.
3. Find out how deep the water is.
4. Find out how strong the current is.
5. Find out what the bottom is like.
6. Use a stick or staff. Shuffle your feet along the bottom to avoid holes.

While wading you can protect your ankles by wearing high-top shoes or wading boots. Long, lightweight pants can protect you from jellyfish and sea nettles in saltwater and from snags and rocks in freshwater.

### Reach-Throw-Row-Go

Reach-throw-row-go is a method of rescuing a person who falls overboard or an angler or swimmer in trouble.

The first safety step is to REACH out with an oar, tree limb, or other long object if the person is close to you. If you can't reach the person, then THROW them a life-saving device. This can be a boat cushion or ring that floats. If possible, it should be tied to the end of a line so you can pull the person to you. If a cushion or ring isn't handy, anything that floats can be thrown. Plastic coolers, ski belts, or even beach balls can be used in an emergency.

