

# Everything You Need To Start Fishing



TAKEMEFISHING™.org

*Tailored Tackle*®  
Fishing Kits & Combos

# License & Registration

One of the most important items any angler needs before they go fishing is their fishing license. Each state has their own regulations and offers daily, short-term, or annual licenses. [TakeMeFishing.org](https://www.TakeMeFishing.org) has a great tool to find out where to buy a fishing license, the types of fishing licenses available, age requirements, fishing regulations and online purchasing.

**1 Click the button below**

**GET YOUR FISHING LICENSE**

**2 Select your state**

**3 Review the best  
licensing options to  
fit your fishing needs**

## LICENSE INFORMATION BY STATE

Alabama	Illinois	Montana	Rhode Island
Alaska	Indiana	Nebraska	South Carolina
Arizona	Iowa	Nevada	South Dakota
Arkansas	Kansas	New Hampshire	Tennessee
California	Kentucky	New Jersey	Texas
Colorado	Louisiana	New Mexico	Utah
Connecticut	Maine	New York	Vermont
Delaware	Maryland	North Carolina	Virginia
District Of Columbia	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Washington
Florida	Michigan	Ohio	West Virginia
Georgia	Minnesota	Oklahoma	Wisconsin
Hawaii	Mississippi	Oregon	Wyoming
Idaho	Missouri	Pennsylvania	

North Carolina	Virginia
North Dakota	Washington
Ohio	West Virginia
Oklahoma	Wisconsin
Oregon	Wyoming
Pennsylvania	



 **TAKEMEFISHING.org**

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[Where To Fish & Hunt](#)

[About Teds](#)

[Get License](#)



[Home](#) [Washington](#) [Alaska](#) [Fishing License](#)

## Get a Washington Fishing License

Purchase a fishing license Washington, then spend a day fishing for crappie with the kids at Potholes Reservoir or fishing in ponds all up the coast at Lake Stevens. Fishing creates an opportunity to teach kids about how to follow rules and identify different types of fish, buy your license, read the fishing regulations, and take a lot fishing in Washington.

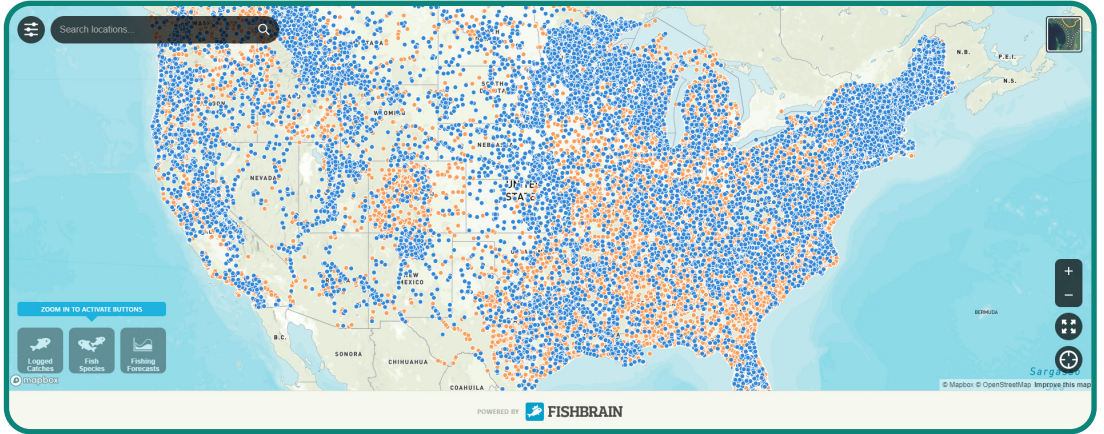
[GET A WASHINGTON FISHING LICENSE](#)



Your state's profile has links to resources where you can review the state **fishing regulations** and browse different types of **fishing licenses** available in your area. Many states allow you to purchase your license online and print out a temporary license to go fishing the same day. Remember to review the **age requirements** because children, seniors and veterans often receive discounts and unique opportunities for open fishing.

**1**

# Places to Boat & Fish



Ready to get out on the water but not sure where to start?

Click the [VIEW MAP](#) below to find [Places to Fish and Boat](#) across the United States. Use this list of key symbols on the map to find places to fish, bait shops, and recent fishing bites!



Body of water to fish and boat on



Best places to fish and boat with the family



Boat ramp



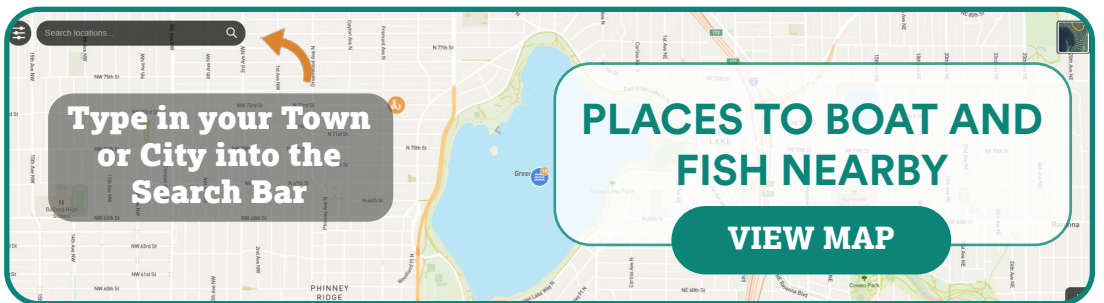
Bait shop



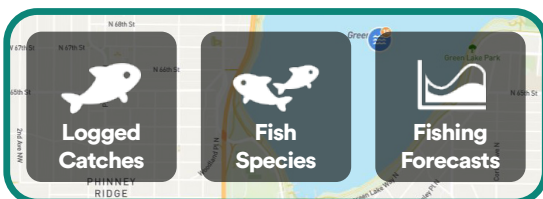
Marina



Fishing license vendors



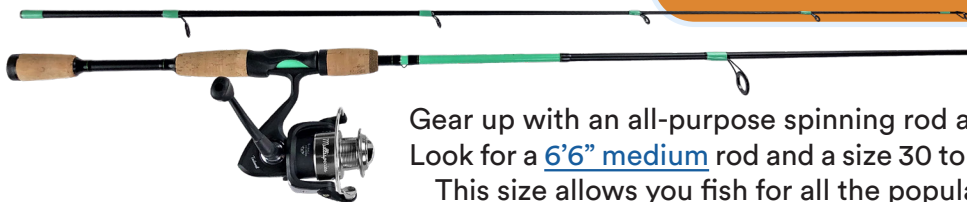
Click on a blue body of water icon on a fishing spot near you to:



- Review Logged Catches
- View Photos of Recent Catches
- Filter Fish Species in the Area
- Read Fishing Forecasts
- Get Directions to that Location

# Fishing Gear

## Rod & Reel



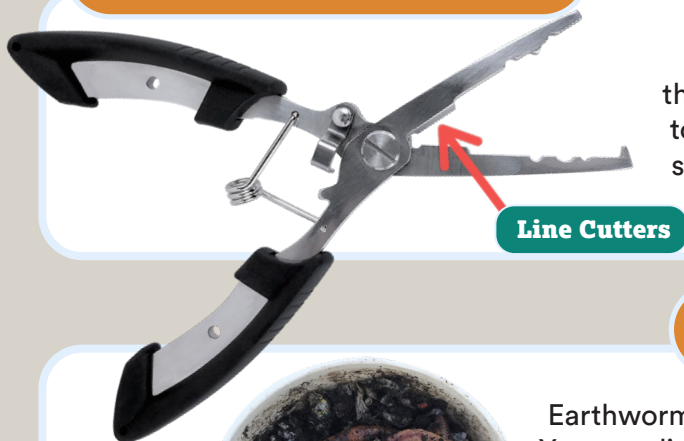
Gear up with an all-purpose spinning rod and reel. Look for a **6'6" medium** rod and a size 30 to 40 reel. This size allows you fish for all the popular fish species like bass, trout and bluegill.

## Fishing Line

Spool your reel up with 8 pound (lb) monofilament fishing line. This is a versatile material and weight for fishing big and small fish. You can go lighter for panfish (4 lb) or heavier for bass (10 lb). However, 8 lb allows you to reasonably go for both species. Don't worry about more advanced types of fishing line on your first few trips.



## Fishing Pliers



Fishing pliers are used to remove hooks from fish and wherever else they might get stuck. It is important to purchase pliers with a line cutter so you can effectively tie knots and efficiently manage tangles.

## Earthworms



Earthworms are a great beginner fishing bait. You can dig up worms in your back yard. Look under rocks, leaves and logs. Alternatively, you can purchase them at a local sporting goods store. Bait about 3" of worm on your hook. Backyard worms are typically this size. Bait store worms should be cut in half.



# Fishing Tackle

## Fishing Hooks



**Baitholder**



**Circle**



**Octopus**

Maintain 3 hooks for live bait. Use a baitholder hook for worms, a circle hook for minnows, and an octopus hook for leeches. For your first trip, all you need is a size #6 baitholder hook.

## Split-Shot Sinkers

Pinch a sinker onto your index finger 1 ft above your hook to present your bait on the bottom. Use a sinker when you fish for species like catfish that feed on the bottom.



## Bobbers

Bobbers float your bait off the bottom and above weeds or debris. Bobbers are best for fish that feed upwards, like a bluegill. A bobber also indicates when you have a bite. Clip a bobber 2-3 ft above your hook. Once the bobber submerges, you have a fish! Go ahead and reel it in.



## Jigs & Spinners



First, focus on fishing with worms and other live bait. If live bait is not readily available, spinners and jigs are good lure options for beginners. Cast and steadily retrieve these lures through the water. Their designs create vibration, and attract fish with less skill than other lures.

Freshwater fishing tackle and pliers are from the Tailored Tackle [Freshwater Fishing Kit](#).



# Fishing Knots

## Spinning Reel Parts



The bail is the wire half circle around your spool. It opens your reel to let line out. It also closes your reel so the line can catch as you reel your line in. The spool is the recessed cylinder in the middle of your reel where your line is stored. Above the spool is your drag system. The drag allows line to gradually feed out while fighting a big fish.

## How to Tie the Arbor Knot

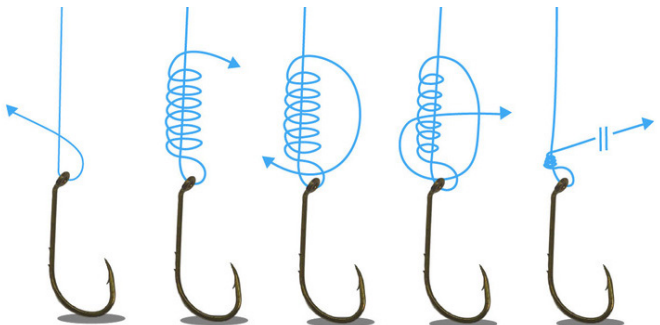


The arbor knot is the most secure knot for tying your fishing line to your fishing reel's spool. Always leave your bail open when tying your arbor knot. This way, your bail can catch the line after you close the bail to reel in your line.

## How to Tie a Clinch Knot

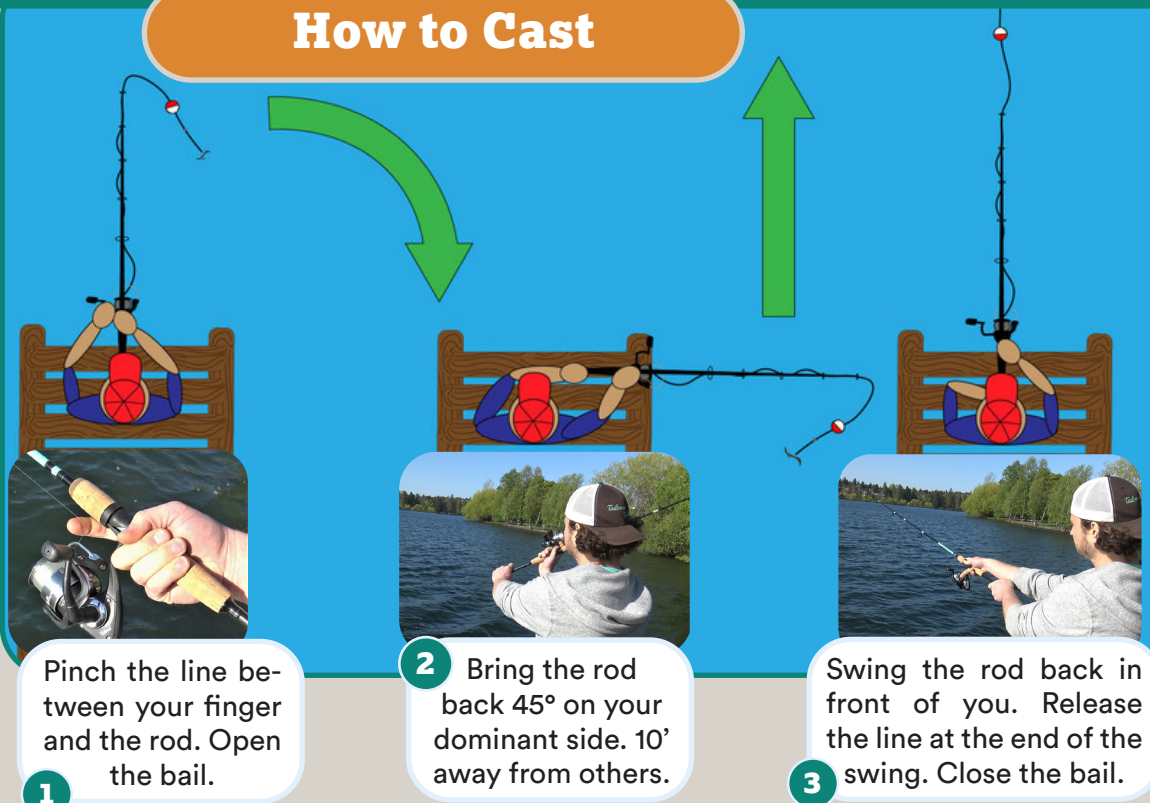
A clinch knot is the best knot to tie your line to your hook.

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# Fishing Skills

## How to Cast



## Releasing Fish

**STEP 1:** Gently lift the fish out of the water via your fishing line with your dominant hand. Use a net for bigger fish.

**STEP 2:** Cup the fish under the belly, away from the top fins, with your opposite hand. Grip firmly and be careful not to drop the fish on the ground.

**STEP 3:** Pick up your pliers with your dominant hand and close the end of the pliers right below the eye of the hook.

**STEP 4:** Push the hook towards the the throat of the fish while rotating the eye of the hook down towards the mouth. Your goal is to dislodge the barb, then remove the hook.

**STEP 5:** To release the fish, submerge the fish in your hand fully underwater. Gently release your fingers until the fish swims off!



# 5 Conservation Tips

1

Make sure you know the fishing regulations (including size limits and bag limits) in the state and the waterways you plan to fish.

2

Learn proper catch and release techniques to help ensure that any fish you don't keep, either when fishing for sport or because they are not within the regulations, have the best chance at survival.

3

Visit your state agency's fish & wildlife website frequently for updates or changes to fishing regulations and laws.

4

Don't keep more fish than you and your family can eat, even if you are allowed to.

5

Pack out what you pack in, and pick up any litter you see while on the water.



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**Fishing conservation means being respectful of the environment, taking care of our natural resources, and being respectful of other anglers.**



# Beginner Boating

If you don't want to limit yourself to fishing from a bank or pier, there are a few types of boats that are ideal for anglers who want to get started boating. Most anglers default to aluminum fishing boats, pontoons and deck boats. However, personal watercrafts (PWCs) like kayaks, canoes and paddle boards are popular and affordable alternatives.

**Here are some helpful resources on beginner boating:**

**Operate & Drive a Boat**

**Boat Rentals**

**Buying a Boat**

**Boat Comparison Tool**

**Kayak Fishing**

**Register a Boat**

