

# Consider Proper Release

*It's  
working!*

Most anglers agree that trout fishing in Wisconsin has steadily improved over the past two decades. Average size and the number of trout caught per trip are increasing. One of the factors contributing to this healthy trend is that anglers are getting better and better at releasing trout so they survive.



## CPR's 5 simple steps:

- 1. Don't play fish to exhaustion. Use a landing net.**
- 2. Handle fish in the net. Grasp across the back and head.**
- 3. Turn fish belly-up while removing hooks.**
- 4. Don't remove swallowed hooks. Just cut the line.**
- 5. Don't keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds.**

# You can become an expert at properly playing and releasing trout

Some of the trout we release will die from hooking injuries no matter how carefully they are handled. But if all anglers properly play and release their trout, nearly all fish hooked in the jaw or mouth will survive, and two out of three trout hooked in the gills or stomach will survive. Biologists estimate Wisconsin anglers can save the lives of at least 250,000 trout each season by following the five simple CPR steps.

If you fish with natural bait, strike quickly, before the hook is swallowed — your catching success may decline a bit, but you'll release more trout unharmed. Maybe the trout you "recycle" this season will be bragging-sized on future trips.

**There are two reasons why CPR assures continued improvement in Wisconsin trout fishing:**

1. The number of trout fishers who voluntarily release trout they could legally keep is increasing.
2. Today's fishing regulations impose more restrictive minimum size and daily bag limits aimed at reducing harvest to improve fishing quality.

**But in order to get the maximum benefits of these conservation efforts, we must reduce the mortality rate of the trout we release.**

**Keep the trout you want, but try CPR, too. It's working!**

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For more information about CPR — including the science behind these recommendations — visit us at [www.WisconsinTU.org](http://www.WisconsinTU.org).

