

Fishing Requirements & Best Practices

General Requirements

To ensure responsible, sustainable, and humane fishing practices on SMBC-managed waters. These guidelines must be adhered to by all.

- Do not remove fish from the water or premises under any circumstance.
- No night-fishing is permitted. Fishing is allowed only during designated daylight hours.
- Fires or barbecues are strictly prohibited on or near the fishing grounds.
- Ensure you have a valid and up-to-date fishing rod license before fishing.
- All litter, including fishing line, must be taken with you or disposed of in the bins provided.

Fish Welfare Guidelines

- Use barbless hooks – This reduces the likelihood of injury and makes it easier to release fish safely.
- Use unhooking mats – Always use soft, padded mats when laying down fish to prevent physical harm.
- Use fish-friendly nets – Nets must be made of soft, knotless material to protect fish scales and skin.
- Use wet hands or gloves – This helps to preserve the protective slime coat on the fish.
- Set up unhooking tools and cameras before landing a fish to minimise air exposure.
- Use long nose pliers or hook removers for swift, safe hook extraction.

Responsible Fishing Practices

- Land the fish quickly to avoid exhaustion and improve survival chances.
- Do not fish during periods of extreme heat or low oxygen levels.
- Use gear appropriate to the fish size to ensure a faster and safer catch and release.