

## Etiquette tips...

- Shore angler has right of way
- Communicate with each other
- Be courteous
- Leave as much distance as possible between boat and shore angler
- If space is limited between you and a shore angler remove your line from the water or put it out the other side of the boat
- Leave room above and below shore angler
- If space allows you can also float behind wading anglers
- Drift anglers should not pass another boat to cut in on water being fished.
- Don't let your actions affect someone else's fishing pleasure. Treat everyone as you would like to be treated, but understand that they may not share your sense of ethics.

## Fish Handling

- Play fish quickly – spend as much time reviving them as you did fighting them
- Keep fish over water
- Keep fish wet
- Thoroughly wet your hands before handling fish. Use both hands if possible and avoid squeezing fish particularly between the pectoral and dorsal fins.
- Avoid placing fingers in the gills.
- Support fish horizontally and gently when lifting
- Prepare camera in advance if photo is desired
- Avoid fishing and wading in spawning areas.
- Pro tip: A great way to photograph your catch is under water as it swims away. Get a waterproof camera.

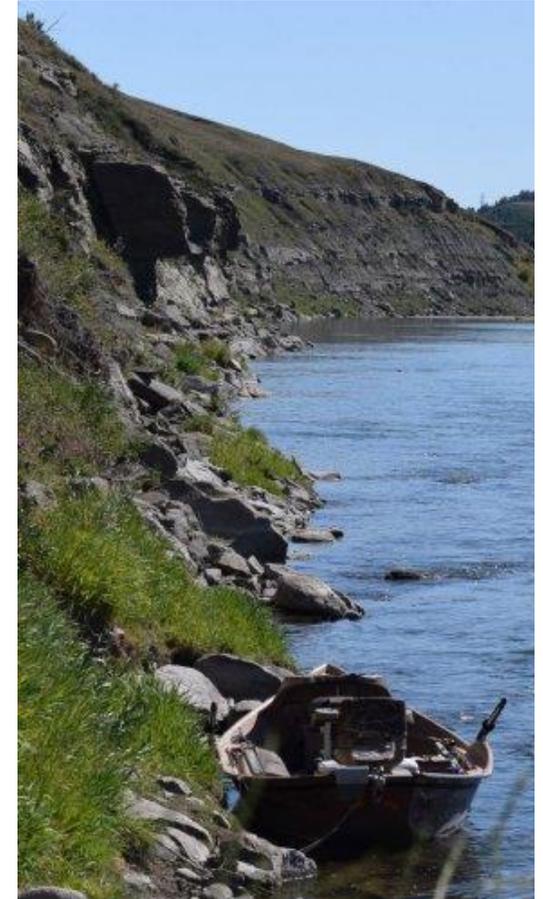


Maxwell Robinson photo

## Etiquette and fish handling tips



Angling Outfitter & Guide  
Association of Alberta



Paul Morrell photo

## Boat Ramp Etiquette

Launching and removing a boat can be stressful especially on busy days. Here are some tips to make it a better experience for all river users.

### Getting Ready

Whether you're launching or taking out, the boat ramp isn't the best place to get prepared because everyone is anxious to get out on or off the water.

- When launching, prepare your boat and gear well away from the ramp and out of the way of people parking. Many boat ramps have a staging area.
- Remove tarps, insert drain plugs, load coolers and gear, and remove unnecessary straps/tie-downs. If you unplug the trailer lights do it now.
- Be mindful of your pets and children by keeping them out of harm's way.
- Don't let things like oars and fishing rods stick out of the boat to catch people or objects while you're launching.
- This goes for when you're pulling out too; have things stowed. Consider stopping on the river or pausing out in the lake before coming in. Organize the equipment you used during your day on the water.
- Be patient and courteous. It's contagious!

### Backing Up

Backing up a trailer isn't something many of us do every day and we can be a bit rusty from season-to-season. Here are a couple of tips that can help this go smoother:

- Practice a bit before you get to the ramp.
- If you have friends with you, ask them to spot for you and guide you in.
- Don't be afraid to ask others for assistance either. Everyone is eager to help.



**\*TIP** Try placing your hand on the bottom of the steering wheel and move it in the direction you want the trailer to go. Try it!



Barry White photo

[www.aogaa.ca](http://www.aogaa.ca)

### Pulling Out

Nothing tops off a great day on the water better than having things go smoothly at takeout. Here are a couple of things to think about to make removing your boat from the water a breeze.

- Not all boat ramps are roomy so be mindful of other boats in the ramp area.
- Tie your boat off leaving room for others or leave someone to mind it while you retrieve your vehicle. Ensure kids and pets stay out of congested areas.
- Once your boat is on the trailer, secure it with a single strap and pull it up to the parking lot or staging area before you start to pack up.
- Don't occupy the boat ramp reliving the experiences shared on the water. Clear the ramp for the next person. Once you're off the ramp and out of the way you have plenty of time to pack things up and enjoy the day'
- If you get to the boat ramp and see someone struggling ask if you can help and don't be afraid to ask for help either. Sometimes one little helping hand is all you need to get you going.
- And at the end of the day you don't want to occupy the boat ramp so the next person has to remove their boat in the dark.