

## Ministry of Rural Development, Environment and Agriculture of the Federal State of Brandenburg



### Fishing for children and youth



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### My hobby is fishing!



Fishing is a great hobby, and not just for grown-ups. Children and youth can also take an interest in the animals and plants living in and around water. Would you like to fish in the many rivers and lakes in Brandenburg?

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### Are children allowed to fish?

In Brandenburg children and youth are allowed to fish for non-predatory fish without a fishing license since 1 August 2006. If you are between 8 and 18 years old, you need a valid fisheries fee stamp (price: 2.50 Euro) that should be stuck onto a green identity card. Both are available in the lower fisheries office (county administration), in the business offices of the state fishing club, and in further authorized places such as fishing stores, fisheries or campsite administrations.

The identity card for the fisheries fee is an important document containing the name, address and age of the fisher. The card has to be taken with you wherever you fish. In addition a fishing pass is needed for permission to fish on the particular lake or river. This fishing pass is available at fisheries and fishing stores. Anyone with a membership card from a fishing club may fish in any of the rivers and lakes maintained by that fishing club.



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### How many rods, hooks and baits can I use?

After you have obtained your fisheries fee stamp and your fishing pass, you can begin fishing with two rods for non-predatory fish. You must bear in mind that every rod can only have one one-shanked hook. You may use dough, cereal and worms as bait. Crabs, bait fish and other vertebrates, fish parts or artificial baits (e.g. spinners, blinkers, twisters, wobblers) and sinkers are not allowed as bait. If you use bait to catch fish, you must observe it continuously.

### Chumming

Chumming draws the fish to your fishing spot. You should keep in mind that uneaten food rots on the bottom of the sea or river. Please don't throw too much food into the water, or the fish might get sick or suffocate. Please take any unused food back home with you.

### When a fish bites ...

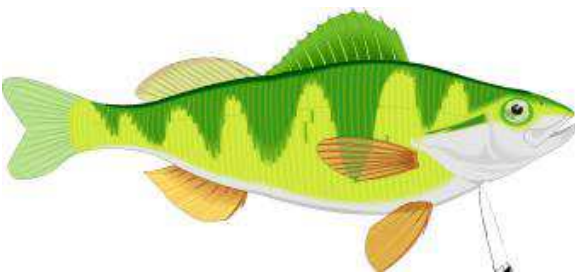


Forelle im Kescher © MIL

... it's very exciting. But maybe the fish is too small to take with you? Please check every time whether the fish you caught meets the minimum size listed in the fishing regulations and maybe on your fishing pass as well. You can find a selection of these minimum sizes on the table on the back of the card. If the fish is too small, it has to be put back in the water, so that it can continue to live and grow. Please carefully remove the hook, or if the fish has swallowed the hook too deep, cut the line at the tip of the head, and let it swim away quickly.

Some kinds of fish cannot be caught at certain times when they're spawning. Other types cannot be caught at all, because there aren't enough of them. These fish are protected so that they don't die out. Please inform yourself about the closed season calendar and let the protected fish go free. Fish that you don't recognize should also be set free, since it could be that they are under protection. If you are convinced that you are allowed to keep "your" fish, stun it first with hard blows to the head and then kill it with a knife to the heart so that it does not suffer unnecessarily.

### Stabbing the heart



So wird das Herz eines gefangenen Fisches durchstochen.

The knife should be inserted on the belly side around the throat before the pectoral fins (see illustration). It is also possible to cut the head off after stunning the fish. Do not let the fish suffocate. This is animal cruelty! The fish also suffer if you keep them alive in a keep net that is too small. It's better to stun and kill the fish right away.

### Prober conduction on the shore?

Choose your fishing spot on the shore so that no animals or plants suffer in or around the water. Reed beds are especially important not just for fish but for birds as well. The reed beds provide food and shelter and animals lay their eggs there. You may not enter reed beds and certainly not destroy them. The eggs and babies of fish and other animals have to be protected so that there can be enough of them in the future.

### Protect our environment!

- Avoid bothering or impeding other fishers with loud noises or roughhousing.
- Every fisher would like to find a clean fishing spot. Please help others by taking your own trash with you.
- Do not throw dead fish into the water or into garbage bins.

### Minimum sizes and closed seasons for fish

Minimum sizes for some non-predatory fish:

- **Eel:** 50 cm
- **Burbot:** 30 cm
- **Idc:** 30 cm
- **Tench:** 25 cm

- **Common dace:** 15 cm
- **Common carp:** 35 cm
- Common barbel: 40 cm
- Asp: 40 cm
- Blue bream: 20 cm

The **fish in bold** have **no closed seasons**. The closed seasons for the other fish can be found in the fishing regulations.

Fish for which there is no minimum size and no closed season:

- Perch
- Silver bream
- Common rudd
- Common bream
- Crucian carp
- Silver carp
- Prussian carp
- Bighead carp
- Black bullhead
- Grass carp
- Common roach
- European chub
- Rainbow trout

**Letzte Aktualisierung:** 07.06.2016

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