



# Fishing Hurts



Imagine reaching for an apple on a tree and having your hand suddenly impaled by a metal hook that drags you—the whole weight of your body

pulling on that one hand—out of the air and into an atmosphere in which you cannot breathe.

This is what fish—who have well-developed pain receptors—experience when they are hooked for “sport.”

**PETA**

# Live and let live.



Ann Marie Gianni

**"I often read of people who say that when they retire, they will go fishing. ... It never occurs to them for a moment that innocent beings will suffer and die from this innocent little sport."**

**—Isaac Bashevis Singer**

Fishing is a lesson in insensitivity toward the pain and suffering of others. According to Michael K. Stoskopf of the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University, anglers are "inflicting pain in a variety of ways" to fish. Adds Professor Frank Hurd, a microbiologist at Melbourne

University who has studied pain in fish for more than a decade, "The argument which says that vertebrates such as fish do not feel pain is an argument of convenience."

Fish are routinely stabbed with one or more large hooks and hoisted out of their natural habitat, then the hooks are ripped out of their mouths and throats. Not very sporting, is it?

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

■ Fish who are hooked and thrown back suffer potentially fatal internal injuries, exhaustion, and loss of their protective outer coating. According to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, up to 43 percent of fish die when they are caught and released. Those who survive have still been forced to endure an unnecessary and cruel ordeal.

■ Fishing doesn't hurt just fish: Every year, countless birds and mammals suffer, and many die, from injuries caused by lost and discarded fishing hooks, monofilament line, and lead weights. *Scientific American* magazine reports that fishing line is responsible for more wildlife entanglement than any other source.

■ Give cruelty the hook. Instead of fishing, try hiking, canoeing, snorkeling, or bird watching, or read a good book in that waterside chair.



PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS  
501 FRONT ST., NORFOLK, VA 23510 • 757-622-PETA  
[www.NoFishing.net](http://www.NoFishing.net)