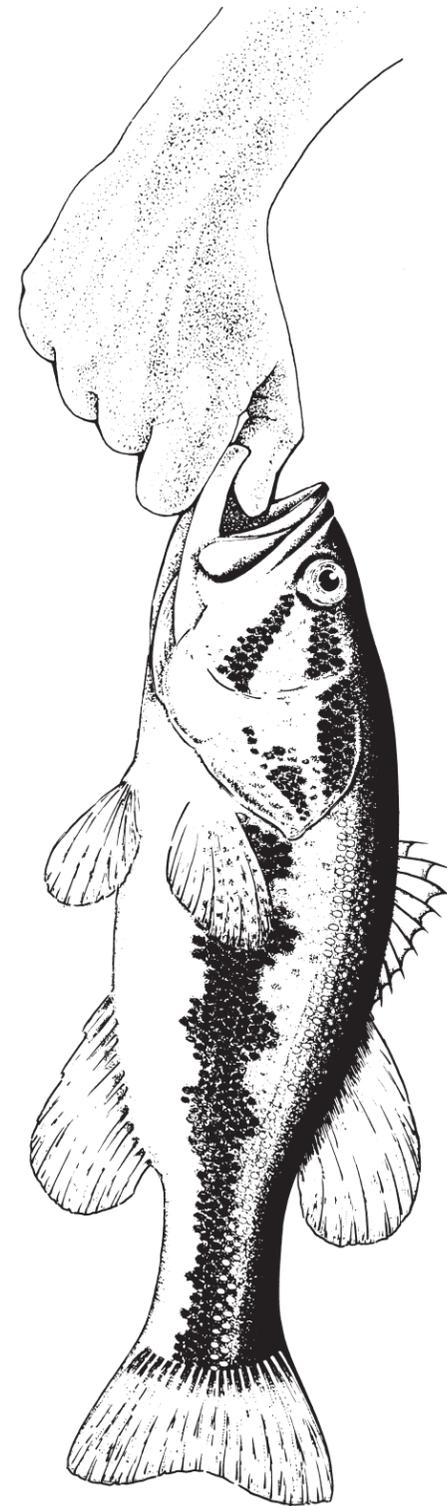


# FISH HANDLING



**Sunfish**



**Bass**

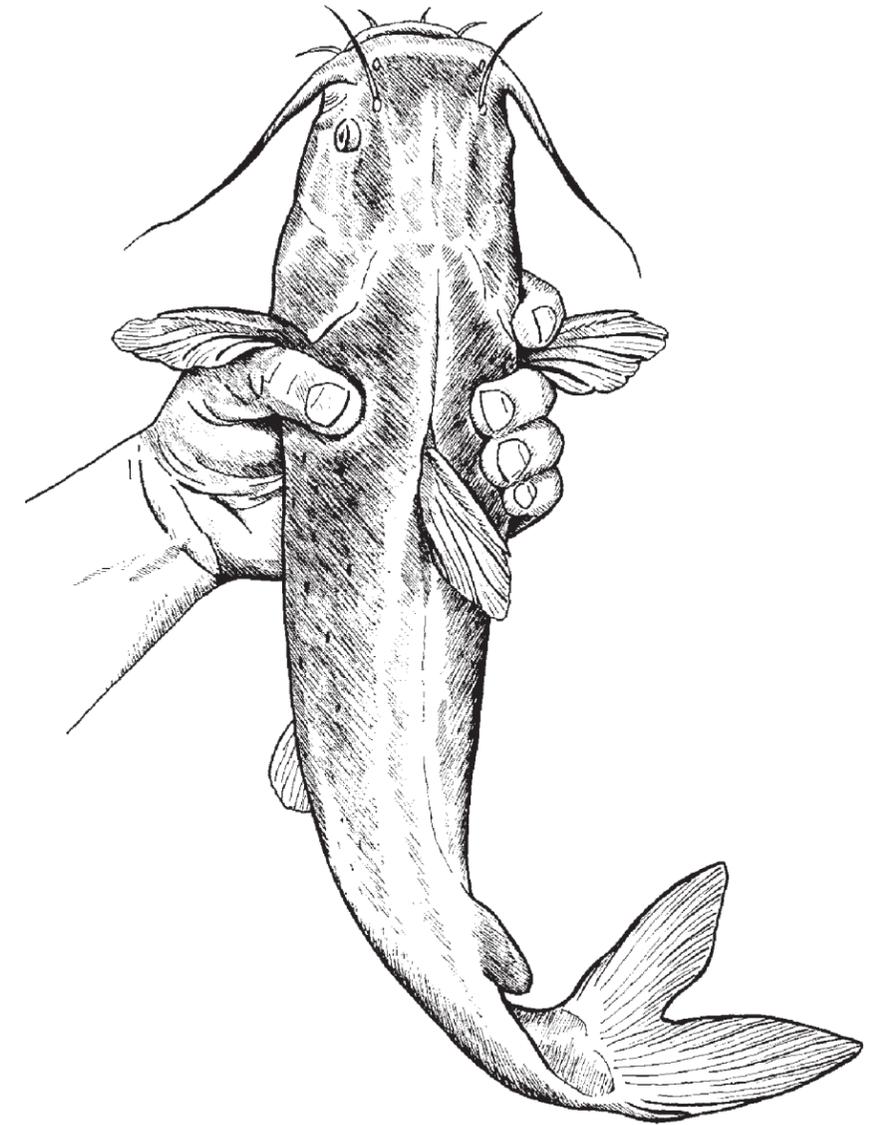
# FISH HANDLING

- When you are releasing a fish, if you can't see the hook, cut the leader or line as close to the hook as possible.
- To minimize stress on a fish when handling it out of the water, wet your hands before touching the fish and release it as quickly as possible.
- Minimize disturbance to the slime on the fish's skin because the slime serves as a barrier to infection.
- Fish can often be revived by gently moving them back and forth under the water, thus promoting water flow over the gills.
- When releasing SALTWATER FISH, have release equipment ready. Most saltwater fish have sharp teeth, so never place your fingers in their mouth. Use a release tool, such as needle-nose pliers or forceps, to hold the fish while removing the hook. You can also hold saltwater fish the same way you hold catfish.

# FISH HANDLING



**Trout**

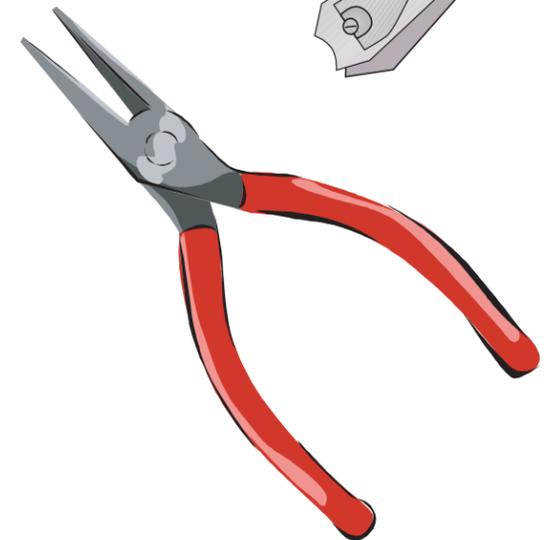
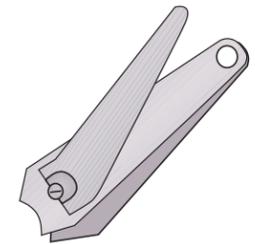
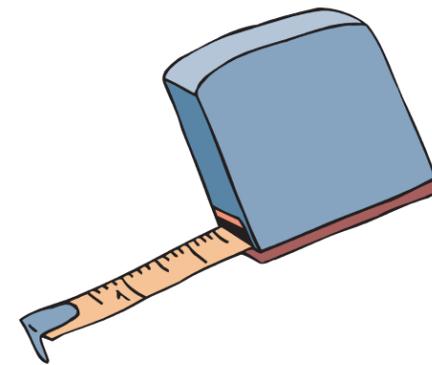
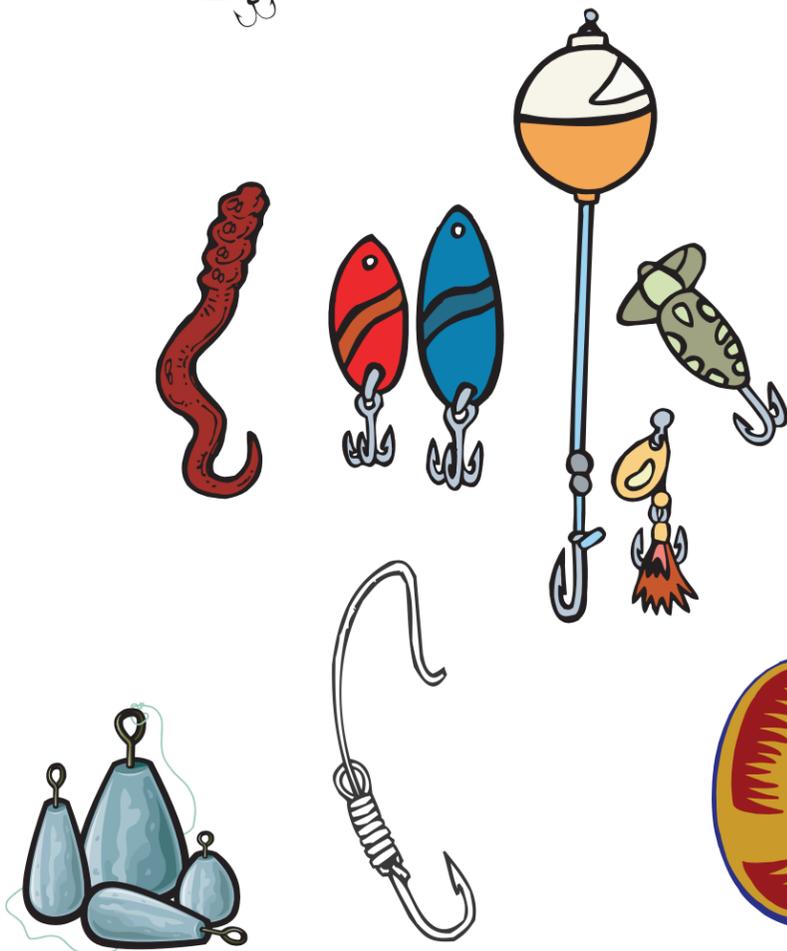
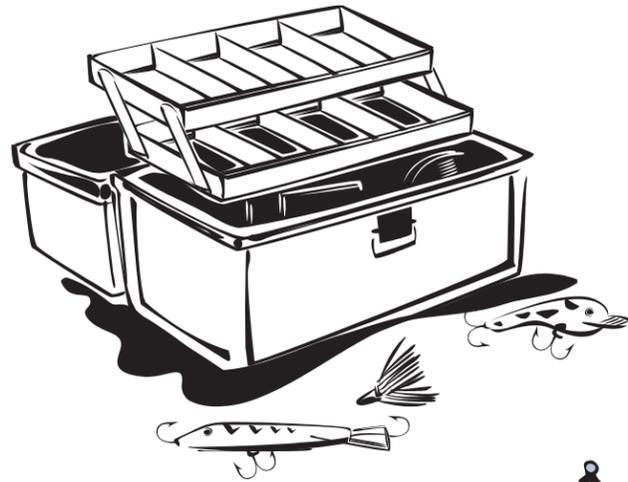


**Catfish**

# FISH HANDLING

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# TACKLE BOX BASICS



# TACKLE BOX BASICS

**Pliers**

**Nail clippers** (to clip line)

**Small first aid kit**

**Hooks** (various sizes, depending on the type of fish you are targeting)

**Bobbers**

**Weights** (sinkers)

**Snap swivels**

**Artificial Lures** (plugs, spinners, spoons or soft plastics)

**Stringer** for keeping fish (only if you plan to keep and eat the fish)

**Measuring tape**

**Outdoor Annual – Rules and Regulations**

**Fish identification card or booklet**

**Small spool of monofilament fishing line and oil for lubricating the reel**

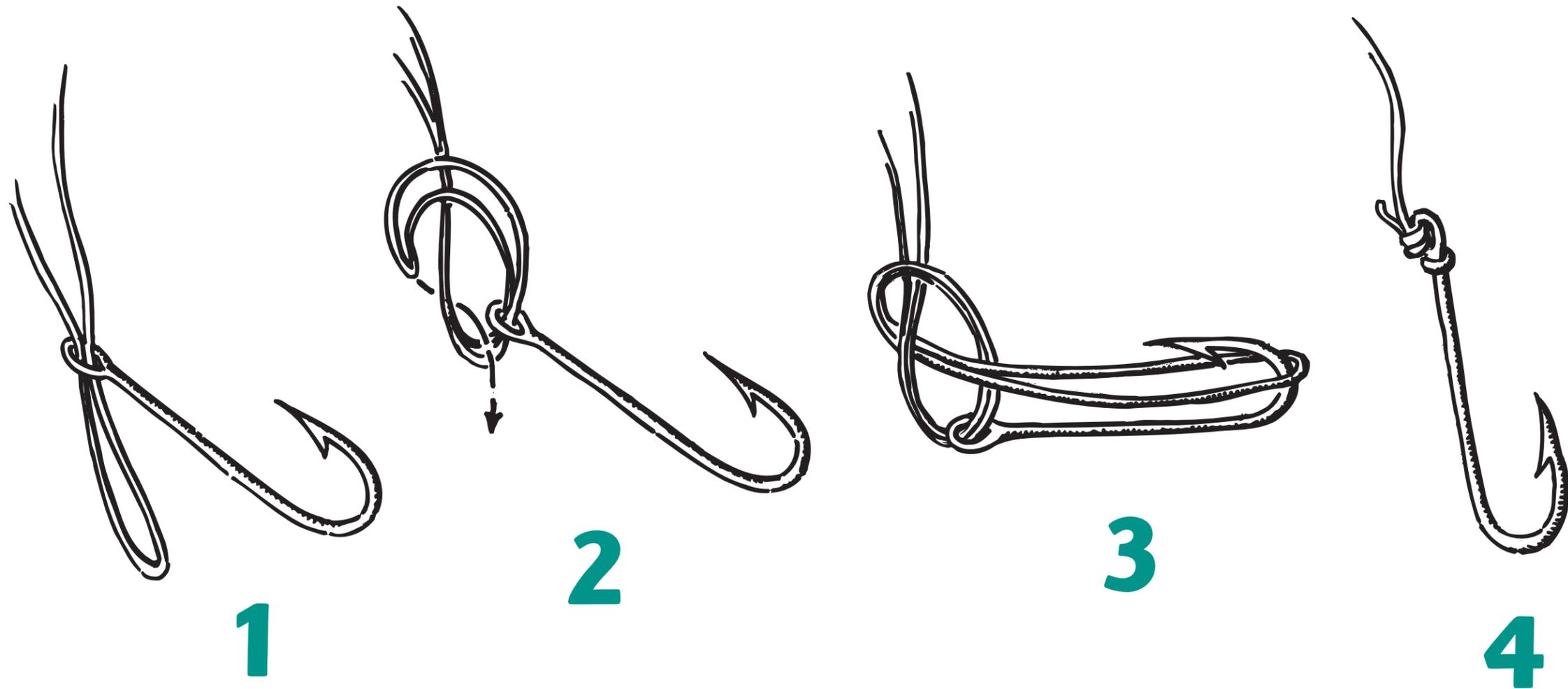
## NOTE

Selection of artificial lures will depend on what fish you are targeting. When selecting artificial lures, it is wise to choose lures that are designed to fish at different water levels, such as top water poppers and diving plugs.

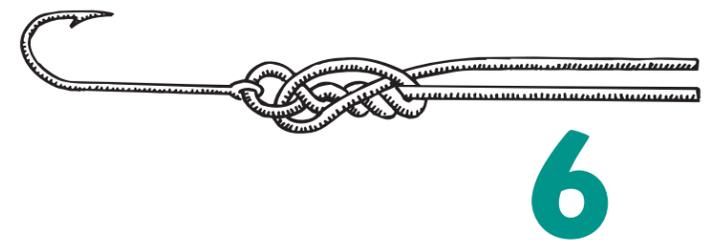
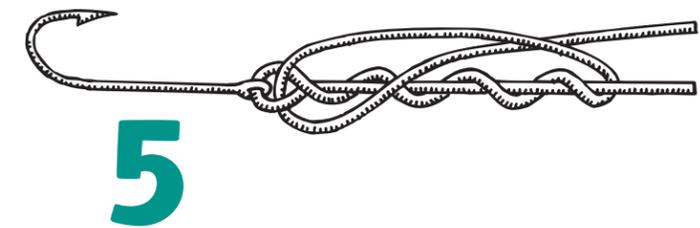
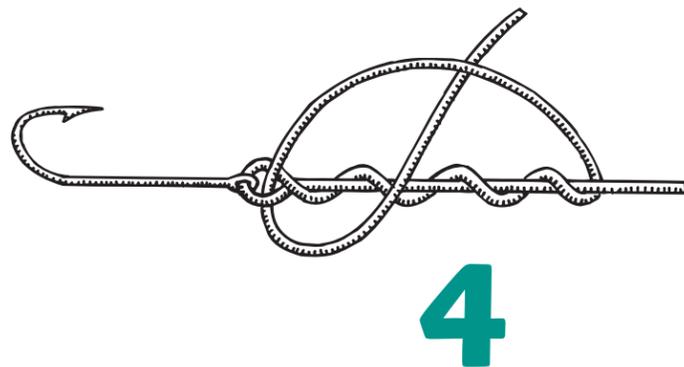
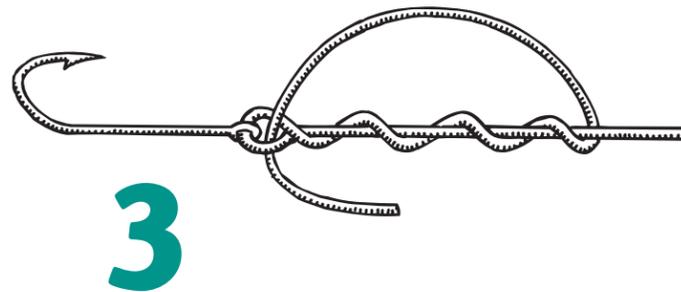
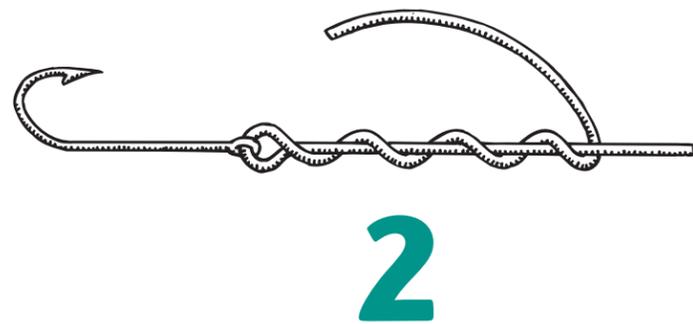
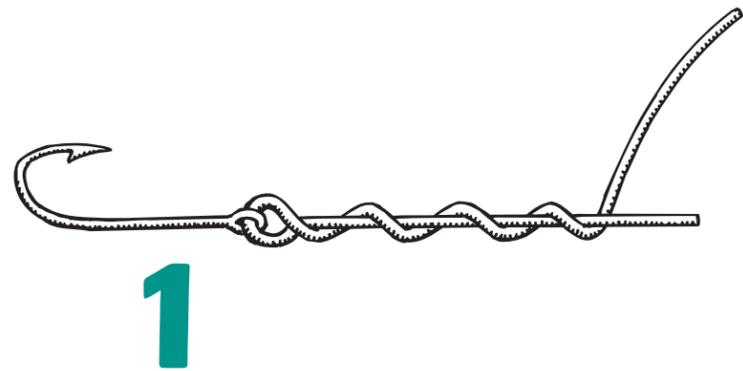
**Other items to take along with you on your fishing trip:**

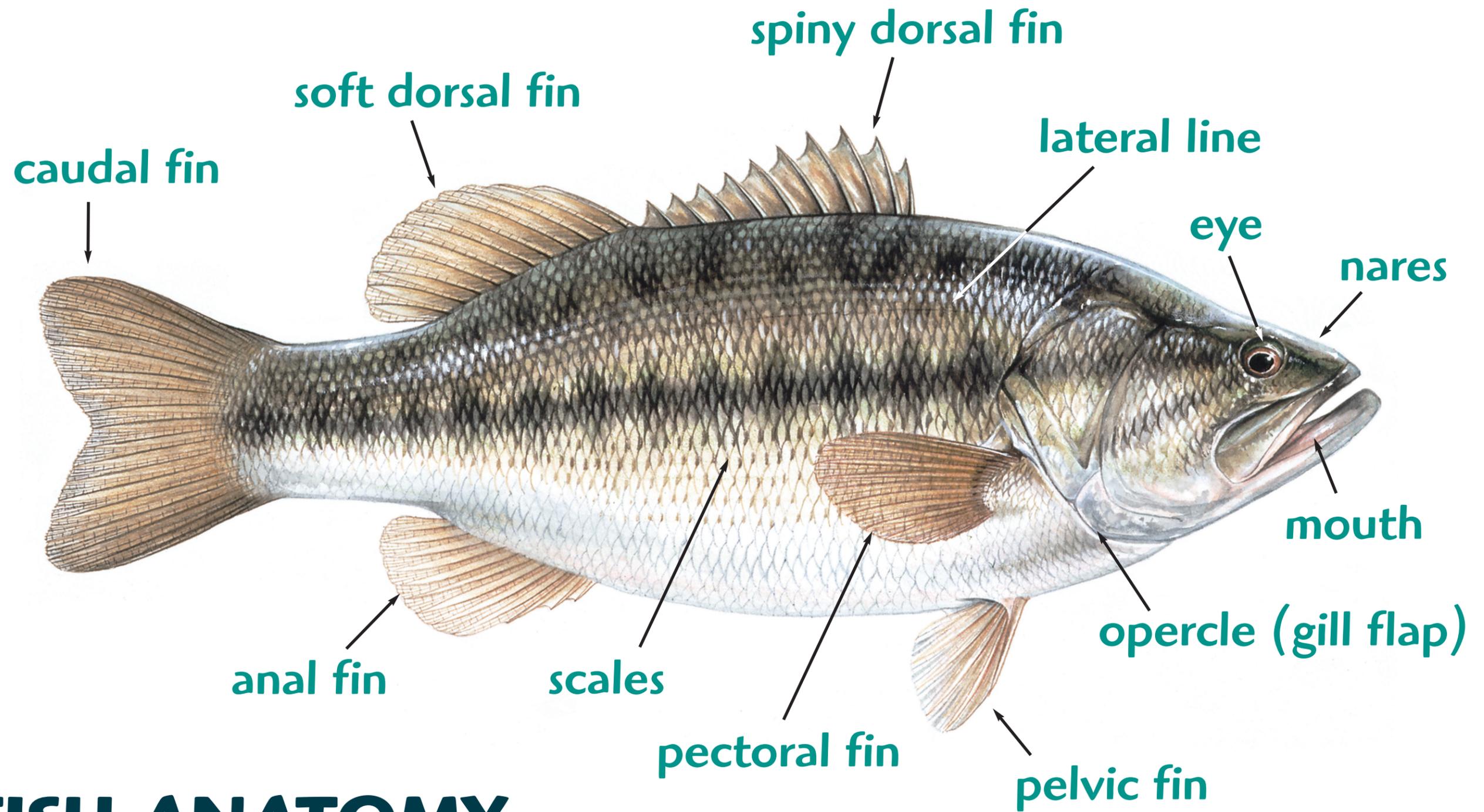
- Camera
- Small can of bug repellent
- Cell phone

# PALOMAR KNOT



# IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT





# FISH ANATOMY

# FISH ANATOMY

**Gills** – filter out oxygen for the fish.

**Opercles (operculum)**– the gill cover.

**Mouths** – Shapes of mouths can give clues about where fishes feed. Mouths turned upward indicated top water feeders. Bottom feeders will have mouths angled downward.

**Nares (nostrils)** – openings that aid in the sense of smell. Small flaps or ridges behind the anterior nares aid in guiding water into the olfactory organs.

**Eyes** – have fixed irises and no eyelids. Fish are “nearsighted” and can see clearly at short distances.

**Lateral line** – not found on any other species of animal. This organ detects sound and responds to low-frequency vibrations in the water. It is located on the outside of the fish’s body.

**Scales** – protect the fish and are often used to tell a fish’s age (by counting the growth rings).

**Pectoral fins** – correspond to an animal arm. They are used for locomotion, braking for sudden stops, staying in one place and for fine-tuning a fish’s position.

**Anal fins** – are usually short-based and located behind the anus.

**Spiny & soft dorsal fins** – help stabilize and make quick changes in direction. They can also be used along with the caudal and anal fins for braking.

**Caudal fins** – or tail fins, give clues to the swimming habits, speed and maneuverability of a fish. For example, fishes that have a crescent-shaped caudal fin are generally the speediest of fishes and are capable of rapid, sustained motion. Forked tails indicate speed and these fish are constantly on the move. Broad tails indicate a fish that can turn quickly.

**Pelvic fins** – correspond to animal legs and aid in positioning, braking and balance. In some fish they have special functions such as holding, grasping or crawling.