

TO BE FINNED OR NOT TO BE FINNED

By David Neyses, TPWD Angler Education Area Chief

This catfish teaching aid was developed to help folks learn how simple it is to safely hold a catfish (for both the fish and the angler) while removing the hook.

To make the model:

1. Punch three small holes in a water bottle with a small diameter nail (see the photo).
2. Insert pipe cleaners through the holes and hot glue to secure where the three "fins" exited the bottle and where the two pipe cleaners touched inside the bottle - for additional stability.
3. Narrowly cut strips of paper were scotch taped to the end of the bottle to replicate the "whiskers" and get a little laugh.

Optional:

- add googly or wiggle eyes (found at craft stores)
- add a caudal fin (using craft foam sheets)
- attached fishing line to the "mouth" or bottle cap

