



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Sportfishing

Project units are designed for members 8-18 years old.



Unit 1 - Take the Bait

Inspiring youth to:

- Learn different casting methods
- Learn how to decide on the proper tackle
- Understand the basics of aquatic ecology
- Learn the importance of clean environment

Unit 2 - Reel in the Fun

Inspiring youth to:

- Learn how to tie fishing knots
- Practice different types of casting
- Make your own fishing tackle
- Study the different characteristics of fish
- Recognize the importance of water quality for fish habitat
- Understand why fishing regulations are important
- Prepare a fish meal for a family

Resources:

- Exhibit & Judging Requirements
- Record Books
- Manual Information

Located at: [Colorado4h.org](https://colorado4h.org)

Unit 3 - Cast into the future

Inspiring youth to:

- Learn how to determine the age of a fish
- Disassemble and reassemble a fishing reel
- Make artificial flies and lures
- Modify fishing equipment
- Design and craft a lure
- Collect and identify aquatic insects

Project Tips:

- Complete the Sportfishing e-record and secure in a sturdy binder
- Select and complete fishing trips and record your explorations and observations
- Share new skills through talks, exhibits and demonstrations
- Try out the activities and Fishing Deeper activities in the manual
- Find a topic for your exhibit from what you learned

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A person wearing a fishing vest and holding a fishing rod, standing on a grassy bank next to a body of water.

Sportfishing

Tips:

- Complete the Sportfishing e-record and secure in a sturdy binder
- Exhibits may include a display board or stand-alone items such as hand-wrapped rods or hand-made lures.
- ***Please consider the toxicity of materials used in projects and their impact on fish and their surrounding environment. Be sure anything that may come into contact with fish used for consumption is made with materials that are food safe.***
- Stand alone items must not exceed 3' in width or depth and 7' in height. The items must be stable when standing to be displayed.
- For display boards, use photos, drawings, or other illustrations rather than actual items.
- Hooks must be removed from lures and jigs when these items are used in an exhibit. The exceptions are artificial flies, which may be exhibited with functional hooks, but the hook points must be imbedded in material (i.e., rubber, dense cork, etc.) that will secure the flies and offer safety to the judges and other show officials. Be sure to remove barbs and any other sharp points.



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**Beyond
Ready**

Sportfishing Industry Careers



Fishing Guide

Leads clients on fishing trips, provides instruction and ensures a safe and enjoyable experience



Charter Boat Captain

Operates fishing charters, manages crew, and provides customer service



Tackle Shop Owner

Runs a retail business selling fishing equipment, gear, and accessories



Sportfishing Writer/Journalist

Writes articles, books, or produces media content related to sportfishing



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
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Degrees/Certifications:

Marine Biology
Environmental Science
Fisheries Science Management
Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Recreation Management
Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
Boating Certification
Certified Fly Fishing Guide
Coast Guard License (OUPV/Six-Pack License)



Fishing Tournament Organizer

Plans and manages fishing competitions and events



Aquatic Biologist

Studies fish populations and aquatic environments to assist in conservation and management practices



Conservationist

Works on projects related to the preservation of aquatic habitats and fish species



Fisheries Management

Works in the fishing industry to help maintain health of sportfishing environments and populations of fish