

## Fish Welfare

In line with the increasing concerns about fish welfare Harwich Angling Club would like to highlight key aspects to improve the handling of your catch.

1. Use only barbless hooks
2. No bolt/fixed rigs.
3. A large wet unhooking mat for larger fish, i.e. bream/carp. Ideally a mat with edges to prevent fish leaving the mat or a suitable cradle.
4. Landing net of appropriate size to be used when landing any sizeable fish. 42 inches plus for carp fishing.
5. Disgorger of appropriate type for removal of hooks.
6. When landing sizeable fish, it is preferred practice to not swing in fish, but use a landing net, unhook fish in net and return to the water from landing net.
7. If handling fish wet hands do less damage and on no account handle with a cloth.
8. Fish are not to be retained/sacked for extended periods of time/overnight, this practice is only permitted whilst setting up camera equipment, fish are to be released after photographing.

Harwich Angling Club

9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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