



4-H Sportfishing Project



Are you Into It?

The 4-H Sportfishing Project is about fishing and so much more! In the project you will have opportunities to:

- Practice important angling skills, like casting and retrieving your line.
- Learn about different types of tackle and how they are used to catch fish.
- Learn how to take proper care of your rod and reel.
- Practice cleaning and cooking your fish.
- Investigate the ecology of aquatic and marine environments.
- Learn how to identify the different types of sportfish and how to catch them.
- Demonstrate what it means to be a responsible angler.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic

- Discover what fish are popular as sportfish in your local waters.
- Use a real fish to learn about the parts of a fish.
- Visit a tackle shop to learn about different types of fishing rods and reels.
- Practice your casting skills using a "pop can caster."
- Go fishing with someone who can help you learn more about fishing.

Learning More Intermediate

- Identify a fish you want to catch and where it lives.
- Rig your own fishing rod and explain your reasons for rigging it that way.
- Learn to tie some fishing knots and use them to rig your rod.
- Plan a fishing trip with your club and make a list of what you should bring.
- Catch, clean, and cook your own fish.

Expanding Horizons Advanced

- Build or repair a fishing rod or reel.
- Collect and identify some aquatic insects and learn about their importance to the aquatic ecosystem, especially for fish!
- Learn about fly fishing and how to cast a fly.
- Demonstrate what responsible anglers do when they catch a fish.
- Investigate the kinds of careers that are related to fishing.

Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are more ideas to get you started!

Citizenship/ Leadership

- Present an idea for improving a fishing habitat at a club meeting.
- Help organize a beach clean-up with your club.
- Learn about state and federal regulations related to fish habitat and harvest.

Communication

- Create a display on a fishing topic for a community event and/or use it for a presentation.
- Teach younger children about fishing at a local school.
- Teach other youth how to tie some fishing knots.

Healthy Living

- Learn about the nutritional value of certain types of fish, create a display about it, and present this information at a public event.
- Get outside and enjoy nature by planning a fishing trip with your club.

Science

- Work with a citizen science group to help them monitor the water quality of a local lake or stream.
- Design and conduct an experiment to help you answer a question about fish biology or behavior.



Expand Your Experiences in the Sportfishing!

- Share what you learned by working with your club to develop a service learning project in your community related to fish and/or fishing. You may even mentor or teach others how to fish!
- Work with members of your club to prepare for and enter the 4-H State Marine Ecology Event. For more information visit florida4h.org/mee.
- Attend State Marine Camp or a 4-H Sportfishing Camp and practice your fishing skills. For more information on these camps visit florida4h.org.
- Enter the 4-H Marine and Aquatic Photography Contest and share a fish photo. For more information visit florida4h.org.
- As a senior, attend 4-H University and give a demonstration talk on a topic related to fishing, participate in workshops, listen to motivational speakers, and participate in a community service project. For more info visit florida4h.org.
- Investigate the kinds of careers that involve fishing and the fishing industry.
- Are you interested in a career in the area of wildlife management or aquatic science? Schedule a visit at the University of Florida Admissions ufl.edu/admissions/ to learn more.

Project Sharing Ideas

Apply what you have learned in the project by doing an illustrated talk or demonstration at the county, district, or state level. Here are a few ideas:

- Demonstrate to others how to catch, clean, and cook a fish properly.
- Present a demonstration on how the “earbones” of a fish can be used to determine its age.
- Create a poster on how to repair or make a fishing rod.
- Present a demonstration on proper casting techniques.
- Mentor another youth on responsible angling techniques.

Resources

4-H Project Resources

Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county 4-H office or you can order directly.

Available at National 4-H:
4-hmall.org

4-H Sportfishing Project

- Level 1: Take the Bait
- Level 2: Reel in the Fun
- Level 3: Cast into the Future
- Helpers Guide

Available at EDIS
edis.ifas.ufl.edu/

- Fins and Scales

Connections and Events

Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that will expand your project learning will help you become the best you can be.

Attend these and other statewide events. Check them out at florida4h.org

- 4-H Sportfishing Camp
- 4-H State Marine Camp
- State Marine Ecology Event
- State Marine & Aquatic Photography Contest

Attend *Kids Fishing Clinics* hosted by Florida Fish and Wildlife. For more info visit myfwc.com

Record Keeping

Learning to take good records of what you do and what you spend for your project is a 4-H life skill.

The following record keeping forms can help you keep a record of your activities.

Project Report Forms can be found at florida4h.org

- Junior (ages 8-10)
- Intermediate (ages 11-13)
- Senior (ages 14-18)
- Financial Summary
- Member Portfolio (ages 8-13)

Awards and Recognition

Florida's Recognition Program involves feedback through:

- Participation
- Setting Goals
- Meeting Standards
- Peer Competition
- Cooperation

Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips an/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

To learn more about current recognition opportunities, visit the Florida 4-H website at florida4h.org or contact your county 4-H agent.

Learn more at florida4h.org
or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER