

Let's Go Fishing!

A Beginner's Guide to
Safe and Responsible Fishing

**FREE
BOOKLET**
NOT FOR RESALE



By Clive Branson

Former World Angling Champion
Sharing over 60 years of angling experience

Enjoy fishing...
Respect nature...
Keep our lakes
and rivers for everyone!



Learn the basics



Simple tackle



Catch your first fish



Protect our wildlife



Visit my website

clive-branson.co.uk

where you can download a PDF copy of this booklet
and other items including my book Fishing for Beginners

Coarse Fishing
for Beginners



Watch my
fishing videos on
YouTube
Clive Branson

Welcome to Fishing!

A fun hobby
for everyone
— and a great
way to enjoy
nature!

Hello and welcome to Let's Go Fishing!

I have put this free booklet together to help young people (and anyone new to fishing) learn the basics, stay safe and enjoy our wonderful sport.

Fishing has given me a lifetime of happy memories. I have fished all over the world, won a World Championship and met many amazing people, but the best part has always been simply being out by the water, enjoying nature and sharing the experience with others.

Our lakes, rivers and wildlife are precious. Please always respect nature, keep our fishing places clean and tidy, and look after the fish and other wildlife such as swans, ducks and water birds.

I hope this booklet gives you helpful tips and inspires you to go fishing responsibly. It's a fun, healthy hobby that can be enjoyed for a lifetime!

Tight lines,

Clive Branson

Clive Branson
Former World Angling Champion
Sharing over 60 years of angling experience



Look after our wildlife

Swans, ducks and many other birds live on our lakes and rivers. Please keep a safe distance, be considerate and always respect their homes.

Fishing with a Waggler Float

A simple and reliable method that's perfect for beginners!

Easy to set up,
easy to use
and great
for lake fishing!



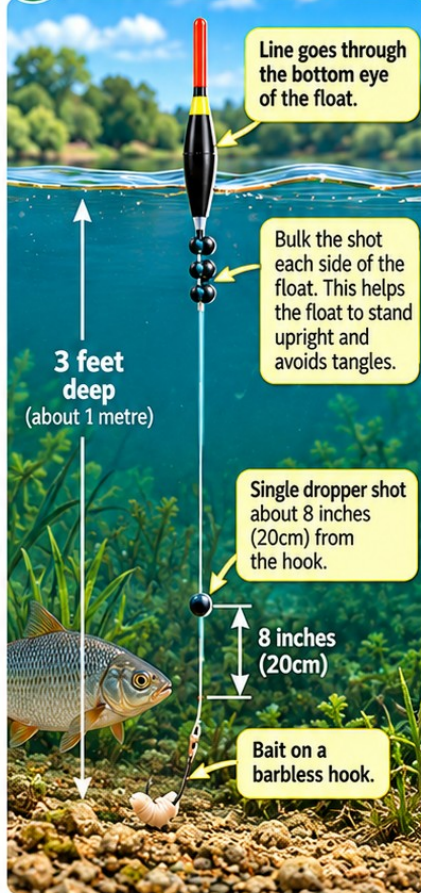
1 Choose a pole or whip

A simple pole or whip is ideal for beginners. It's lightweight, easy to use and perfect for lake fishing.



A pole or whip is a great way to start.

2 The bottom-end waggler rig



3 The waggler float

A slim bottom-end waggler is easy to use. It shows you when a fish is biting and is perfect for stillwaters and slow-moving rivers.



4 Barbless hooks

Always use a barbless hook. They are safer for the fish, much easier to unhook and better for our waterways. You can buy them already tied to nylon, ready to use.



5 Bait

The best baits to start with are maggots, worms or sweetcorn. They are cheap, easy to get and will catch lots of common fish such as roach, rudd, skimmers and perch.



Maggots



Worms



Sweetcorn

Top Tip!



Cast your float out, let it settle and watch the tip. When it goes under or moves, lift the pole steadily – you may have a fish!

Catching Your First Fish!

Follow these simple steps and you'll be catching fish in no time!

It's fun, relaxing and a great way to enjoy nature!

1 Choose a pole or whip

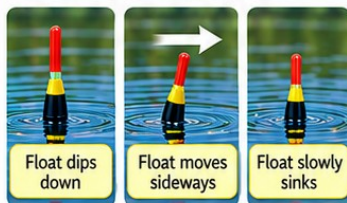
A simple pole or whip is ideal for beginners. It's lightweight, easy to use and perfect for lake fishing.



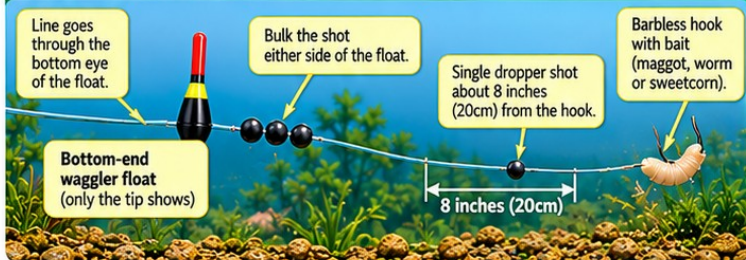
A swim around 3 feet deep is ideal for beginners.

4 Watch for bites

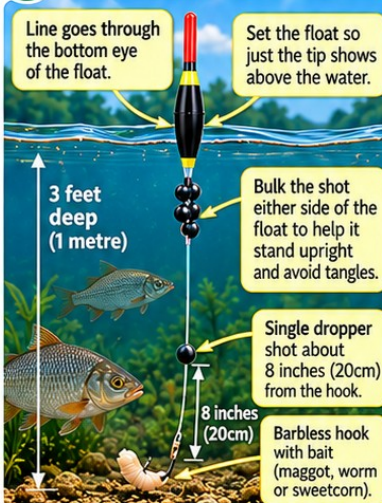
Keep your float in view. When a fish bites, the float may dip, move sideways or slowly sink. Lift the pole gently when it moves.



Your simple rig



2 The bottom-end waggler rig



Looking After Your Catch!

Handle fish with care so they can be returned safely and go on to be caught again.

Care for fish today so there are plenty to catch tomorrow!

1 Play the fish carefully

Keep a steady pull and don't rush the fish. Let the pole or rod take up any strong runs and tire the fish gently.



Take your time and enjoy it!

2 Net the fish

When the fish is close, guide it into your landing net. Keep the net under the fish and lift it smoothly out of the water.



Keep the net in the water until the fish is calm.

3 Unhook the fish

Use a disgorger to remove the hook quickly and safely. Keep the fish wet and handle it gently with wet hands.



A disgorger helps you remove the hook safely and prevents injury to the fish.

4 Keep the fish wet

Always keep the fish in the net or on a wet unhooking mat. If you need to hold it, make sure your hands are wet.



Keep the fish wet at all times.

5 Return the fish

Once the hook is removed, gently lower the fish back into the water. Hold it in the water for a moment until it swims away strongly.



Let the fish recover before it swims away.

✓ Your essential kit

Every angler should have these items with them:

- ✓ Pole or fishing rod
- ✓ Landing net
- ✓ Unhooking mat (even a wet net)
- ✓ Disgorger (most important)
- ✓ Tackle and bait
- ✓ A small bag to take your litter home



Landing net

Unhooking mat

Disgorger

A disgorger should always be in your tackle bag. It saves fish from dying and is the most important tool for any angler.

6 Be kind to all wildlife

Our lakes and rivers are home to many animals, including fish, swans, ducks, birds and other wildlife. Always give them space, never feed bread to waterfowl and keep your distance, especially when they have young.



Enjoy and respect our wildlife.

7 Leave no trace

Take all your litter home, including old line and packaging. Keep the lake or river clean for everyone to enjoy. Tidy up your swim before you leave.

Take your litter home and leave the area as you found it.



Clean waters and healthy fish for future generations!

Fishing Safely Around Wildlife

Let's look after our wildlife so everyone can enjoy our lakes and rivers!

Respect wildlife – keep our waters clean and safe!

1 Give swans, ducks and wildlife plenty of space



Never cast near birds and give them plenty of space. Don't allow them to swim through your line. Swans, ducks and other wildlife can be seriously injured by fishing line and hooks.

2 Never leave fishing line behind



Even a short length of discarded line can be dangerous. Birds can become tangled around their legs, wings or beak, which can cause serious injury or even death. Always take your old line home with you.

3 Look after your tackle



Keep your hooks, floats, shot and bait safely in your tackle box. Never leave baited hooks unattended. Always use barbless hooks to make it safer for the fish and easier to unhook.

4 Leave your fishing spot spotless



Take all your rubbish home with you, including old line, bait packets, food wrappers and broken tackle. Keep our lakes and rivers clean for fish, wildlife and other visitors to enjoy.

5 Ask an experienced angler for help



Young beginners should fish with a responsible adult who can help them learn safely, choose the right swim and give advice. They can also help if you catch a bigger fish or need any assistance.

6 What if a bird gets tangled?



Never pull on the line or try to catch a swan yourself. This can cause more injury. Tell an adult and contact a local wildlife rescue organisation or the park rangers, who have the right training to help.



GOOD ANGLERS PROTECT WILDLIFE!

Fishing is a privilege. By caring for our fish, birds and waterways, we can help everyone enjoy our lakes and rivers for generations to come.



Fishing TackleBox

Quality tackle for anglers of all ages!

- ✓ Rods & poles
- ✓ Floats, hooks & shot
- ✓ Bait and groundbait
- ✓ Tackle boxes and accessories

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Visit my website for a wide range of quality fishing tackle, perfect for beginners and young anglers.

Meet the Fish You Might Catch!

Here are some of the most common fish you might catch in lakes and rivers.

Different waters have different fish – see how many you can catch!

1 Roach



- A slim, silvery fish with red eyes and reddish fins.
- Likes maggots, worms and sweetcorn.
- Common in lakes, rivers and canals.

2 Rudd



- A golden, silvery fish with bright red fins and red eyes.
- Likes maggots, worms and bread.
- Common in lakes, gravel pits and slow rivers.

3 Perch



- A colourful fish with dark stripes and spiky fins.
- Likes worms, maggots and small fish.
- Common in lakes, rivers and canals.

4 Bream



- A deep-bodied, silvery bronze fish with a humped back.
- Likes maggots, worms, sweetcorn and groundbait.
- Common in lakes, rivers and canals.

5 Tench



- A thick, olive-green fish with red eyes and rounded fins.
- Likes worms, maggots and sweetcorn.
- Often found in weedy lakes and slower rivers.

6 Carp



- A large, powerful fish with golden scales and barbels around the mouth.
- Likes sweetcorn, boilies, pellets and bread.
- Common in lakes, gravel pits and some rivers.

7 Chub



- A strong, chunky fish with large scales.
- Likes bread, cheese, worms and maggots.
- Common in rivers and some lakes.

8 Eels



- A long, snake-like fish with a smooth body and small fins.
- Usually brown or olive in colour.
- Likes worms, small fish and meat baits.
- Common in rivers, canals and some lakes, especially at night.

9 Skimmer



- Looks like a small bream with a shallower body.
- Likes maggots, worms and sweetcorn.
- Common in lakes, rivers and canals.

Discover the amazing world under the water!

Visit my website to explore music, films and a 507-page book celebrating the incredible fish and wildlife in our lakes and rivers.

OUR JEWELS IN THE WATER

www.jewelsinthewater.co.uk

- ✓ Beautiful music and videos about our rivers and lakes
- ✓ A 507-page reference book
- ✓ Illustrated songbook
- ✓ Available on CD, USB and digital download



A Quick Guide for Young Anglers!

You now know the basics – so get out there, enjoy fishing and look after our fish and wildlife!

Fishing is fun, relaxing and a great way to enjoy nature!

Beginner's Checklist

Here are the essential items you'll need to get started:

- ✓ Pole or fishing rod
- ✓ Reel (for rod fishing)
- ✓ Float and a few spare floats
- ✓ Hooks (barbless is best)
- ✓ Shot (small split shot)
- ✓ Bait (maggots, worms or sweetcorn)
- ✓ Disgorger (always have one!)
- ✓ Landing net
- ✓ Unhooking mat (even a wet net)
- ✓ Tackle box to keep everything safe
- ✓ A small bag to take your litter home

Remember the Golden Rules

- ✓ Fish safely and responsibly
- ✓ Look after our fish and wildlife
- ✓ Keep your fishing spot clean and tidy
- ✓ Never leave fishing line behind
- ✓ Give swans, ducks and other wildlife space
- ✓ Always use a disgorger and barbless hooks
- ✓ Take all your litter home
- ✓ Be kind and respect nature

Always Check the Rules!

Some waters require a fishing licence and have their own rules. Make sure you know the local regulations before you go fishing.

Need Help?

If you're unsure, always ask a more experienced angler or an adult for advice. Local fishing clubs are a great place to meet friendly anglers and learn more.

Good anglers protect fish, wildlife and our waterways for future generations!

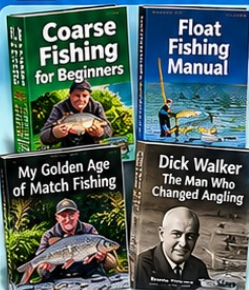
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Angling News and Articles



www.angling-news.com

News, articles and information for anglers of all levels.

Tight lines,
Clive Branson

Happy Fishing!

Visit my Jewels in the Water website

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