

Title: Introduction to California Sport Fishing for Kids

Synopsis: Kids receive a introduction to Sportfishing methodology in California with a focus on understanding Saltwater and Freshwater habitats, methods of take, species identification, and resource conservation.

Dur./Freq./Time/Instructor: 5 weeks; Once-per-week, **Fridays, 2:10pm – 3pm, Mr. Liu**

Audience: K – 5. Parents welcome to attend.

Week1 – Jan . 12, 2007: Brief history of fishing and fishing techniques in California. Commercial and Recreational; Freshwater and Saltwater. Local places to fish in the Bay Area. Slideshow on local sportfishing and fish species. Learn/Review basic fish anatomy. Show differences between species. Learn about the Dept. of Fish and Game and the "rules of fishing." Have discussion session with kids and let them express what they'd like to learn from this class or let them share their fishing stories. Short quiz on Fishing History and Places to Fish in the Bay Area.

Week2 – Jan. 19, 2007: Start with a visual fishing story about freshwater fishing. Ask if any kids have gone fishing this past week and want to share. Introduce five fresh water species - Bluegill, Black Bass, catfish, rainbow trout, carp. How to catch them. The bait tackle we use. Where to catch them. What we do with fish after we catch them. Cleaning fish, filetting fish, cooking fish. What we do with fish if we want to release them. "Catch-and-Release" (CnR) conservation. Special tackle and techniques used for CnR fishing. Using landing nets and especially hoop nets to land fish gently. Practice tying two knots - the Improved Clinch and Modified Surgeon's Loop (or climbers loop) knots. Short quiz fish species and CnR.

Week3 – Jan. 26, 2007: Start with a visual fishing story about saltwater fishing. Ask if any kids have gone fishing last weekend and what to share. Introduce 7 saltwater species - Striped bass, anchovy, herring, dungeoness crab, salmon, leopard shark, bat rays. Some species are "Anadromous". Learn how to catch them and where to catch them. Learn about 2 more fishing knots - Palomar knot and dropper loop. Learn about different types of fishing rods. Spinning, Spincasting, Baitcasting and Fly casting. Learn how fishing rods are made. Short quiz on fish species and tackle.

Week4 – Feb. 1, 2007: Start with a visual fishing story about fishing with different fishing lines. Ask if any kids have gone fishing last weekend and want to share their story. Learn about fishing line and common fishing rigs. Different types of line including Nylon Monofilament, Copolymer filament, fluorocarbon line and braided line. Each have differences and each serve a purpose: Mainline, backing, or leader. Learn 1 new knot: the Arbor Knot. Learn to tie 3 common rigs - Bobber/Float rig, Sliding Sinker rig and High-Low Rig. Learn how to load the line onto reels. Work in teams to practice hands on loading line onto reels. Learn how to dispose of line and line recycling. Learn about how to cast a spincast, spinning and baitcast rod. Spend some time practicing with plastic plugs. Short quiz on different kinds of line and parts of line and how to operate a rod.

Week5 – Feb. 8, 2007: Trophy stories - have a visual story on some big fish and fighting techniques. Ask if any kids went fishing and have stories to share. Learn about fighting fish and the concept of drag adjustments and the pump fighting techniques. Practice hands-on with a partner. Learn about Tackle Boxes and tackle checklist of items to prepare when going on a fishing trip. Learn about safety - casting safety, fish handling safety, water safety and first aid. Learn where to buy tackle and what to look for in a good fishing outfit. Quick quiz on fish fighting technique, tackle box items, and safety. Pass out free tackle gift to students.