QUICK TIPS, RESOURCES AND GEAR

1. PICK YOUR ROD & REEL

A closed-face spincast rod and reel are great for learning how to fish.

2. CHOOSE YOUR BAIT

Different species of fish have different appetites. Choose your bait based on what kind of fish are in the lake and what you are trying to catch.

TROUT
- Powerbait
- Lures
- Flies
- Salmon eggs
- Worms
- Jigs

SUNFISH & CRAPPIE
- Jigs
- Worms
- Mealworms

CATFISH
- Stinkbait
- Worms

BASS
- Jigs
- Worms

Bait restrictions may also apply to specific waters. Check the current Fishing brochure for additional information. Download the brochure online (cpw.state.co.us/Fishing/Brochure), or pick up a copy at over 700 license agents statewide.
3. GET YOUR GEAR ON

You need just a few basic items to get started. The fun part is adding to your gear collection as you progress!

- Fishing line, 4- to 8-lb. test
- Hemostats or needle-nose pliers
- Sinkers, 1/8 oz.
- Bobbers
- Hooks, #8 or #10
- Swivels, #10

Swivels keep your line from twisting.

These help you dislodge hooks and grip line while tying knots.

4. KNOW YOUR KNOT

There are lots of fishing knots. The Improved Clinch Knot is a good, basic knot to get you started.

- Thread the line through eye of the hook. Double back and make five or more turns around the line.
- Bring the end of line back through the first loop formed behind the eye. Then go through the big loop.
- Wet knot and pull the tag end to tighten down the coils. Slide it tight against the eye, clip excess.

5. PICK YOUR SPOT

Where should you go? You can find your perfect fishing hole by using the Colorado Fishing Atlas.

cpw.state.co.us/fish/fishingatlas

6. CATCH LIMITS

To maintain good fishing, the state regulates the number of fish you can catch and have in your possession. Check the current Fishing brochure for the regulations.

LICENSE INFORMATION:

Anyone ages 16 and older will need a fishing license. One-day, additional-day and annual licenses are available:

- ONLINE: CPW.STATE.CO.US/FISH/BUYANDAPPLY
- BY PHONE: 1-800-244-5613
- AT OVER 700 LICENSE AGENTS STATEWIDE