

**DRAFT CHARTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPORT FISHING CONFEDERATION (CIPS)**

Introduction

The charter for practising responsible and sustainable sport fishing seeks to be the sport fishing community's contribution to efforts to combat threats to the world's aquatic environment.

It promotes best practices for a type of fishing that takes into consideration the social, economic, environmental and sporting factors that have an impact on the fishery resources of member nations.

As a sporting discipline, sport fishing plays an important social and economic role in many countries, contributing to international prestige and to the development of high-end tourism, creating jobs, services and revenues.

The sustainability of sport fishing depends on the correct management of fishery resources, hence national sport fishing federations have an interest in actively helping the national State with initiatives to conserve and restock fishery resources in restored ecosystems.

The future of sport fishing depends greatly on the environmental state of waterways and on the reasonable exploitation of fishery resources. States, the general public and anglers should be made to understand, through information and awareness-building initiatives, the role and importance of sport fishing in the socio-economic development of CIPS member nations.

Through this charter, the International Sport Fishing Confederation undertakes to promote fishing that respects waterways and the surrounding environment and complies with relative regulatory texts.

It also undertakes to disseminate the charter, implement it and see it is fully complied with by all the National Federations of member nations.

ARTICLE 1. Conservation of the aquatic environment

The growth of sport fishing activities is closely tied up with the ecological condition of waterways.

The International Sport Fishing Confederation is required to oversee and promote the sort of conduct that can help to preserve the habitats of aquatic ecosystems and to see that such conduct is maintained by all.

It must also pay great attention to the minimisation of waste production during fishing activities carried out along coastlines, river banks, waterways, etc., and of pollution resulting from industrial waste, hydrocarbons and plastic materials released into waterways.

ARTICLE 2. Conservation of fishery resources

Conserving the wealth of stocks of exploited fishery resources is a prime concern for the sustainability of sport fishing activities.

National Sport Fishing Federations must be regularly informed about the status of their fishery resources. They must also take an active part in all initiatives to ensure their maintenance.

In addition to maintenance initiatives, they must, insofar as they are able, take part in actions to protect and repopulate troubled stocks, and if possible in operations for the creation of artificial reefs to improve ecosystem habitats.

ARTICLE 3. Responsible and lawful sport fishing

Federations must oversee and demand full respect for rules and regulations, and through training and awareness-building ensure regulations are complied with by their members.

National Federations must increase monitoring and sanctioning actions. Catch traceability and statistics must be organised and ensured on a regular basis, in collaboration with States and international organisations such as ICCAT.

ARTICLE 4. Sustainable sport fishing

Fishery resources are not inexhaustible, and must be exploited reasonably to ensure their sustainability. Sustainable fishing means preserving aquatic environments and the resources that live there.

Generally speaking, National Federations must encourage fishing practices that meet current needs without jeopardising the needs of future generations.

National Federations must push to make the systematic release of caught fish mandatory.

They must play a part in efforts to combat destructive fishing practices and opt for virtuous practices that optimise the exploitation of fishery resources.

ARTICLE 5. Governance of sport fishing

The good governance of sport fishing depends on the effective management of the sport's structures and managing bodies at a national and international level. This is a prime requirement of this charter.

National Federations must be committed to setting out their development policy and drawing up planned strategies and actions.

They must also define their type of organisation, mode of operation and types of infrastructures and facilities for good sport fishing practices, within the spirit defined by CIPS.

ARTICLE 6. CIPS World Environment Day

CIPS has decided to organise an annual world day devoted to efforts to combat pollution and the negative effects of climate change, and to promoting the conservation and indeed enhancement of aquatic biodiversity.

Sport Fishing's World Environment Day will take place on the first week-end or the last week-end of the month of May every year.

Actions performed as part of this Day include the clean-up of beaches, river banks and waterways, marina and wharf infrastructures, removal of plastic waste and oily, dirty objects. They may also include exhibitions, training, awareness-building and information-provision initiatives through the media, conferences and symposia, and all actions designed to combat the deterioration of aquatic environments.

ARTICLE 7. Commitments of the responsible angler

Attached hereto is a set of commitments required of responsible anglers.

Article 7.

Commitments of anglers affiliated to CIPS

As part of the commitments undertaken regarding the protection of the aquatic environment, as per the charter for the environment, the International Sport Fishing Confederation (CIPS) hereby provides anglers with the following guidelines:

Anglers affiliated to the FIPS and the CIPS are required to comply with the following guidelines.

1. Leave no trace of your passage, take away all waste produced as a result of your fishing activity;
2. Pick up all the waste found during fishing activities;
3. Put all fish back in the water, especially those fish not having the authorised dimensions;
4. Respect any biological rest periods decided by public authorities;
5. Protect the natural aquatic environment and the creatures living in it;
6. Always fish in authorised places;
7. Know and abide by local and national rules and regulations: permits, measures, quotas, dates, catches, etc.;
8. Have appropriate baits and fishing tackle for the fish being fished;
9. Respect caught fish and take great care with them to ensure their safe release;
10. Respect private fishing zones and do not enter them;
11. Report to the competent authorities all infringements and all poaching you may be witness to, or all pollution encountered on fishing trips
12. Avoid fishing for protected species;
13. Take all precautions so as not to fish in protected zones;
14. Help with the traceability of catches with a view to the collection of statistical data;
15. Take an active part in the CIPS world environment day.