

**Always Sustainable Anglers Foundation (ASAF)
Angling Ethics Worksheet**

Student Name:

Class:

Date:

Welcome to the Always Sustainable Anglers Foundation (ASAF). You're the group that the fish love, well, at least the fish you aren't eating... because you grasp the concept of sustainable fishing in a time when our lakes and rivers are in danger of unsustainable practices. That includes overharvesting, water pollution, unruly fishermen, and the common practice of unwittingly transporting invasive species from lake to lake. You represent a small group of anglers that are always conscious of the lake ecosystem, not to mention the homeowners that live on the many lake chains in the Wisconsin northwoods. You know that fishing unethically impacts your community and the fragile ecosystem that your passion for fishing relies upon.

You are influenced by your personal desires to not have to defend your favorite activity (fishing) due to the negligence of other, less ethical, anglers. There's no hidden meaning in your group's motto, *Hey you! Knock it off! I'm trying to fish here.*

To put it bluntly, you want to preserve ecosystem health and your image as an ethical angler. So on a separate sheet of paper or on your computer, develop your own code of angler ethics that address these issues you've identified as real concerns:

- Plastic trash washing up along your property
- Invasive species of plants and fish destroying local lake populations
- Dead fish stinking the shoreline. Some have fishing line in their mouths. You're unsure if they were injured during fishing.
- Foul language from other anglers that make you look bad to the property owners along the lake.
- Early in the morning and late in the evening when you're in peak fishing hours, boats go racing by with noisy engines. This impacts the quality of your fishing trips. Those big boat wakes may also impact shoreline ecosystems.

In class Sessions 3 and 4, all of the groups will present their ethical angler plans then have a class debate on solutions to developing an overall set of angling ethics that best serves the combined interests of the various groups and the ecosystem.

Being blessed with such clear sustainable insight comes with a price. Some of the other groups may view you as self-serving or with your heads in the clouds. Don't fret though, you'll be able to support your recommended angling ethics using the following methods when developing your plan and debating in class:

- Begin your research by watching the classroom video again, and decoding some key points on the webpage
- You're a creative group of thinkers so consider how ethics combined with new technology might help convert ethical problems into solutions. Do online research about your challenges to explore solutions.
- How can you use your personal value system to educate anglers on codes of conduct. Maybe use the old adage, "Treat others as you'd like to be treated".

Now, go create an awesome set of ethical angling guidelines to present.