

Mother Earth Workforce (MEW) Angling Ethics Worksheet

Student Name:

Class:

Date:

Welcome to the Mother Earth Workforce (MEW). You're perhaps the most gifted of any of the groups as you have a special connection to all biotic and abiotic components within the ecosystem. In fact, your group understands the scientific details of the delicate balance of aquatic lifeforms and food webs that can be affected by fishing activities. So your voice needs to carry the weight of all the lifeforms that cannot speak for themselves.

However, your intimate connection with Mother Earth might also cause the other groups to think that you're "environmental radicals" that want to prohibit angling altogether. But that's not true as some of your group are dedicated, ethical anglers. So combine your ecosystem wisdom with your angling knowledge to come up with creative yet sensitive ethical guidelines that all anglers should follow.

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 angling concerns:

- From the perspective of fragile estuary ecosystems, not all fishing boats and motors are considered equal. What ethical recommendations might help shallower or restricted waters that produce key lifeforms in the food web?
- Many groups will focus on what they can see. You know that water quality is a key abiotic part of a healthy ecosystem. What ethics might affect water quality in estuaries or fresh water bodies?
- You know that daily, tidal, and seasonal changes influence the life cycles of all aquatic species (feeding, spawning, refuge, vulnerability). So what special timing-life cycle considerations might be included in your angling ethics/
- A prime directive of Mother Earth is to plan for seven future generations. What ethical guidelines will protect ecosystems not only now but for generations to come?

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.

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; <http://intotheoutdoors.org/topics/aquatic-ecosystem-ethics/>
- Do online research about what species or parts of the food web might be affected by angling and boating.

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