

To Foreign Nationals Planning to Do Recreational Fishing

Rules for Recreational Fishing

In Japan, the areas, fishing gear, and methods for recreational fishing by foreign nationals are stipulated by law.* Anyone who violates these laws is subject to **imprisonment for not more than three years** or **a fine not exceeding 30 million yen**, or both. Please read this flyer carefully and follow the rules when engaging in recreational fishing.

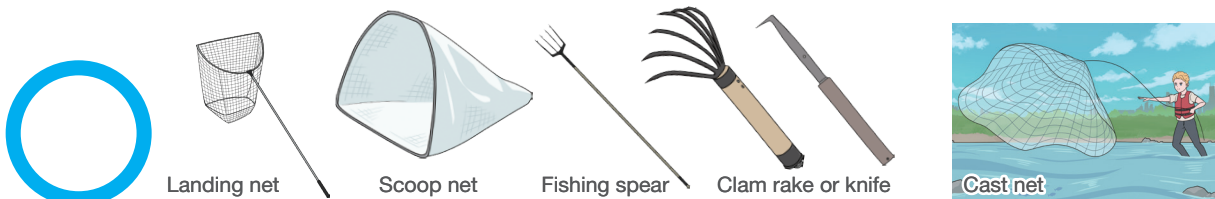


In addition to the rules mentioned in this flyer, there are also rules governing the gathering and catching of aquatic animals and plants (fish, shellfish, seaweed, etc.), including their types and sizes, as well as fishing gear, methods, seasons, and areas, designated by laws such as the Fishery Act, regulations of individual prefectures, and directives by the commissions in charge,** and so on. If you plan to do recreational fishing, please carefully check the relevant local rules beforehand.

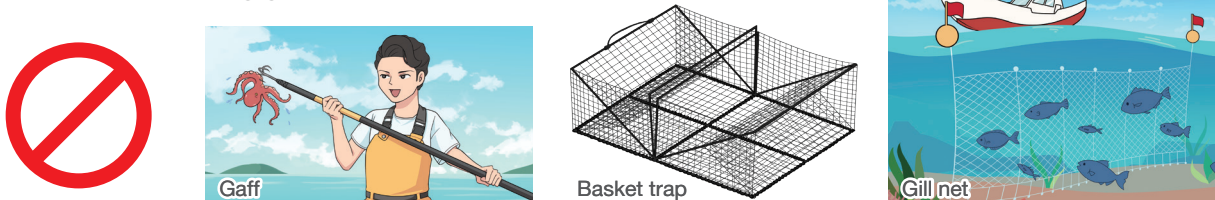
Clam digging and tidepool collecting



Examples of lawful fishing gear and methods



Examples of fishing gear and methods that violate the law



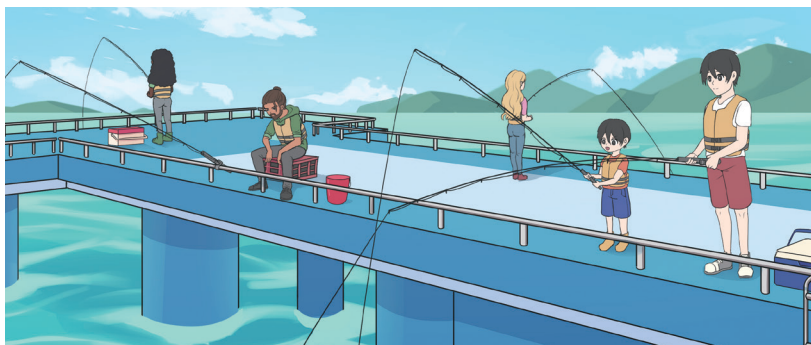
Fishing gear and methods other than these are also prohibited unless permitted by Japanese law.

In principle, please use shared fishing charters. They should be registered to a prefectural government. Pleasure boating is limited to small vessels of less than 3 tons. **Casting a net from a boat is not permitted.**

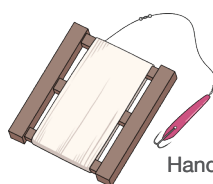
*Act on the Regulation of Fishing Operations by Foreign Nationals; Act on the Exercise of Sovereign Rights on Fishing Operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone

**Fisheries Adjustment Regulations; Directives issued by the Sea-area Fisheries Adjustment Commissions and Inland Waters Fishing Ground Management Commissions; Recreational Fishing Rules in Inland Waters

Shore fishing



It is permitted to use a handline or a fishing rod to fish. **Longline fishing and similar methods are prohibited.**



Handline fishing



Rod fishing



Longline fishing from a shore

Boat fishing



In principle, please use shared fishing charters. They should be registered to a prefectural government. Pleasure boating is limited to small vessels of less than 3 tons. There may be further limitations on fishing gear and methods according to the area of water in which you are fishing.

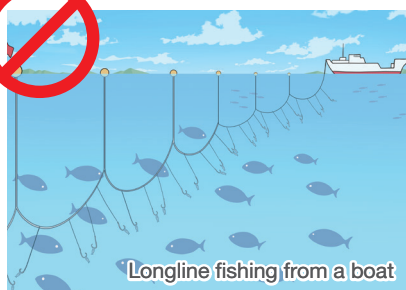
It is permitted to use a handline or a fishing rod to fish.
Longline fishing and similar methods are prohibited.



Handline fishing



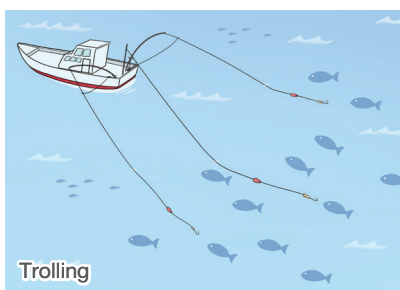
Rod fishing



Longline fishing from a boat



Trolling is allowed only in restricted areas and during limited times.



Trolling

Notes:

For more information, please refer to the Fisheries Agency website.

Also be sure to check the websites and information provided by relevant prefectural governments regarding local rules governing the area of any planned gathering and catching of aquatic animals or plants.

"Recreational Fishing by Foreign Nationals" page on the Fisheries Agency website



水産庁

Japan Fisheries Agency