



# Alberta Fish & Game Association

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## Position Paper - Barbless Hooks

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The Alberta Fish and Game Association has over several years debated and considered the value of barbless hooks. With the recent (2004) Alberta Sport fishing Regulations prohibiting the use of barbed fishing hooks throughout Alberta, the Alberta Fish and Game Association position must be re-stated.

The following Alberta Fish and Game Association position on the regulation that prohibits the use of barbed hooks includes the following:

1. Scientific evidence does not indicate that higher or lower fish mortalities result from the use of either barbed versus barbless fishhooks.
2. Alberta Fish and Game Association resolutions in previous years have indicated that unnecessary angling regulations be eliminated and that the prohibition on the use of barbed hooks was not required.
3. Alberta Fish and Game Association have met with other angling organizations and the provincial government in previous years and have indicated that prohibition of barbed hooks was not supported.
4. The Alberta Fish and Game Association is concerned that unnecessary anglers regulations lead to reduced interest in angling and reduced publics who support fish, fish habitats and fish conservation.
5. The Alberta Fish and Game Association believes that the choice of barbed versus barbless hooks should be voluntary and that education and promotion will contribute to reduced mortalities of released fish.
6. The Alberta Fish and Game Association would request that Alberta angling regulations that prohibit barbed fishing hooks be amended as soon as possible.