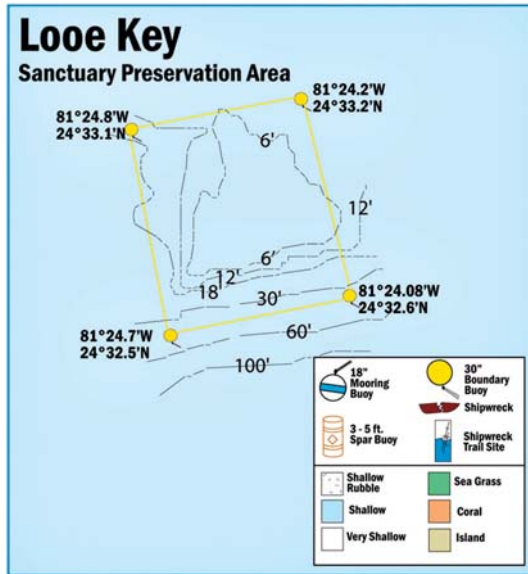


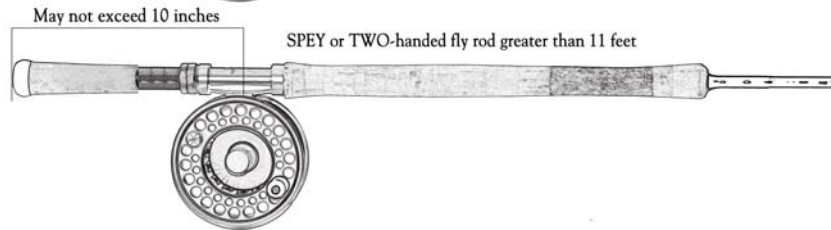
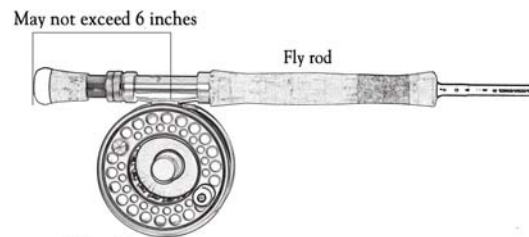
FISHING IN SANCTUARIES OR PROTECTED AREAS

Respect the regulations and laws governing the area you will be fishing



USING A ROD BUTT CUSHION WITH A FLY ROD

Can I add a fly rod butt cushion to my fly rod ?



Question: *One of my favorite spots to fish is right outside of a marine protected area, where fishing of any type is strictly prohibited. There have been times when we hook up to a big fish outside of the area, but by the time we land the fish, we are within the protected boundaries. Because I am fishing and hooking the fish outside of the area, do my catches still qualify for IGFA records, even though the fish is landed in an area that does not allow fishing?*

Answer: IGFA rules state that "no applications will be accepted for fish caught in hatchery waters or sanctuaries. The catch must not be at variance with any laws or regulations governing the species or the waters in which it was caught." In other words, not only does your catch have to comply with IGFA's International Angling Rules, it must also comply with all local, state, federal and international laws and regulations. Therefore, landing a fish in a prohibited area, even though the fish was hooked in legal waters, would disqualify the catch for an IGFA record. It is the angler's responsibility to be aware of and respect the regulations and laws governing the area they will be angling.

Question: *I'm an avid fly angler and have recently seen some new products that cushion the force of the fly rod while fighting a fish. Seeing that I am fighting fish for extended periods of time, adding a cushion to the butt section of my fly rod after the fish has been hooked would be great in reducing the discomfort that comes from sticking the rod into my leg/groin. Fighting belts could also help with this, but it is very difficult to find one that is fitted for a fly rod. Is it IGFA legal to add these cushions to the butt section of my fly rod, once the fish has been hooked?*

Answer: The IGFA's International Fly Fishing Rules state, "Once a fish is hooked, the tackle may not be altered in any way, with the exception of adding an extension butt." The cushions designed to fit on the end of fly rods would be considered an extension butt, so they are legal. However, IGFA rules also state that "overall butt length may not exceed six inches when measured from the center of the reel foot to the end of the butt. Overall butt length for two-handed or spey rods longer than 11 feet may not exceed 10 inches when measured from the center of the reel foot to the end of the butt." Therefore, anglers can add these "cushions" as long as the overall length of the fly rod does not exceed either 6 or 10 inches, depending on the type of rod used.