

Mailed Fishing Survey: Qualitative Responses

Qualitative Responses

This document contains data from the free-response questions to the Fishing survey.

Q9_6_TEXT

Q9_6_TEXT: What did you do with the leftover baitfish you had harvested when you were done fishing? - Other (please describe) - Text

N/A

used worms

used others baitfish

disposed the carcass of the cut bait

ate

I have a home tank

ate them

Q16_4_TEXT

Q16_4_TEXT: What did you do with the leftover baitfish you had purchased when you were done fishing? - Other (please describe) - Text

keep on dock until dead then release into water

Kept alive for another day

saved at home for another day

rarerly - left on ice

Saved for next trip or compost pile
garden

Released in my pond to feed turtles

Kept for next trip

charter captain took it back

left bait in well and fished again next day or minnow bucket tied to dock

fed to cat

gave away to other fishermen

Store in fridge in water for next use

Saved for another fishing trip/stored in livewell

feed to my ducks

Brought home kept in tank to reuse

Kept in tank

kept for future trips/days

dumped it on the ice, but not in the hole

Disposed of by resort that provided them

Dad kept

Left what I didn't use for whoever was up next did not have any leftover baitfish

froze dead

Saved for next day

gave to the owner of resort

dumped on ice

Kept for reuse

saved until next trip.

brought home thinking we could use again, but didn't. they died & flushed them

I don't remember

dumped onto of ice

took them have used them next day

w/ others not sure what they did

I kept them in water in garage

Kept alive for next trip

Saved/aerated for future use

Kept it till the next time

Froze on ice

freeze and reuse

Fed to brothers cats

Fed pet fish

Kept alive for next outing @ home always kept in isolated water (no lake water)

sometimes save for next trip (keep alive)

kept alive & used on next trip

Home tank

eaten by otters/animals out of minnow bucket

kept alive at home

compost/garden

Tried to keep alive for next trip

I did all three options

fed to the seagulls

Q18_7_TEXT

Q18_7_TEXT: What type(s) of bait/lure do you use? Please select all that apply. -
Dead/preserved bait (explain) - Text

frozen shiners

frozen shiners

Heads of Minnows

Berkley power bait crappie nibbles (chartreuse)

Corn

Frozen shiners

Used those salted shiners? Once for sturgeon. Worms work better fyi.

Smelt

charter captain use's dead minnows

frozen

frozen shiners

salted

when live baitfish die, they can be salted whole and chilled, then used for up to a week later

Artificial "Gulp" minnows

when in canada on lake of the woods

Frozen Minnows

Salted/frozen minnows

cut bait

frozen shiner

doughballs for catfish

frozen shiners

dried shiners

minnows

rarely I use Glup products

frozen shiners

salmon eggs

Smelt for tip up fishing L.O.W.

sucker fish

packaged from store

frozen shiners

shrink bait

mumified waxworms

minnows

frozen smelt for pike (rarely)
Other - I use corn and hotdogs sometimes
Gulp
frozen shiners
Frozen shiners & chubs
frozen shiners and minnows
prefer fresh cut bait but will settle for frozen
smelt/shinners
*sulph minnows
tulilee's for tip ups
corn or bread
gold shiners
chicken liver "catfishing Mississippi"
Dead-preserved minnows, I fish in Canada
salted minnows
frozen shiners
Crickets
Worms
corn
Dead minnows in trout lakes
Dried shrimp
frozen emerald shiners
Frozen shiners

Q17

Q17: When you think about how you disposed of leftover bait that you had harvested or purchased, how did you decide which disposal method to use, and what factored into your decision to dispose of your leftover bait in this way? Explain. If you did not use live baitfish during the 2018-2019 fishing season, please leave this question blank.

you're supposed to throw on land to decrease any transfer of invasive species

We live on a lake and leave on the dock until next fishing day

I think it was the natural way to dispose

I disposed of it in the garbage because that is what the law says.

I thought it would be better for the ecosystem to release the baitfish. Figured it was a waste to just dispose of them & didn't have a friend near by to use them.

Put them in the lake so we didn't have to transport them/didn't have place to store them
convenience

If a minnow died I threw it in the lake The line ones I kept alive

Convenience

I chose to give away or keep alive at home to save money and prevent waste.

If not going to use, I gave to other fisherman/women. Reuse is better

Gave to friend to use since he fished more than I

Threw minnows on to the bank or saubace along with crawlers.

Thought They were 'Natural' To The environment.

I eather give them away if not going to be used in a short piriod or throw them outside

Easiest way to discard baitfish.

LAND ENSYIST

Do not use live bait anymore. Did use live bait as a kid & younger fisherman. Dug up my own worms (earthworms) & captured night crawlers in grass at night or in ground soil.

I fish until I'm out of bait

1. If we knew someone who would use it -> we sometimes give our leftover to a friend who does fishing guiding 2. If we had any left

Other angler in party's decision

I disposed of leftover live bate in garbage so as not to put them into a lake they did not come from.

We try to keep them alive until the next weekend. If they died (very few) they went in the garbage.

Baitfish-the lake worms- dirt

N/A

Same body of water

I was always told it is illegal to dump minnows into the lakes you are fishing in.

Purposely continued fishing to use all the minnows

I thought the most humane way to dispose of bait was to release into water. Should I do something different?

The cost!

Felt disposal in trash better for ecosystem.

Was the only option available or had a friend going the next day or soon.

I fish mostly for panfish and have much better luck using a 1/16 oz J16 with various color hair on jig. When using live bait the number of fish caught decreases.

N/A

1) Did not want to release bait fish into water- as they were "rough" fish... (Invasive species) 2) Prefer to leave unwanted bait on ice, to provide food for other predators. I never want to leave bait fish behind alive- especially minnows, fatheads, or bait sockers

State fishing rule book

Bait was dead/old

I throw the unused bait on the ground. I do not release live bait into the water.

I disposed of my leftover baitfish on land/garbage. I chose this method because I was always told that if you release your leftover baitfish into the water that it will kill or cause diseases to the current fish in the lake.

It's bad for the lakes so I properly dispose of them- no release

Tossed them in the garbage at home because they didn't make it to the next days fishing.

It depended on how many baitfish were left at the end of our fishing trip. If only a few we released into the lake or if a lot left then gave them to a friend.

I was told by people it is not good to release them into the lake so I do not.

I was taught to dispose of baitfish caught in different bodies of water on shore

My parents live on Sybil Lake so we keep all bait in minnow buckets off the dock until either used or it dies. We never dispose of live bait that is still alive.

We were aware that the shiners were from zone 4 in Brainerd lakes so therefore we knew they were going back to the same lake & environment. We were not able to save the bait as we had a *portable tent & it did not make sense to keep them it was inconvenient. The well for the bait us. saving w/a new *purchase also*

Friend needed bait, and I had some left

Because throwing them on land or in trash is better because they might not be native species to that lake

Bait was provided by Bordeview Lodge at the Guide

Always was told to put them in the garden

Always saved minnows for use in fishhouse but when it was too long between fishing and they died they went into the compost pile. Mostly stay in my own county and nearest lake least than 1/4 mile way. Used night crawlers most during warm months

If baitfish still alive, and moving good I will release in water, unless there is someone else in the area that can use them.

If a friend was going fishing soon and I knew it, I gave it to them

No leftover.

We used them all

Recommended by fishing guide

I drained the water in the lake which I got it from and dumped the bait at the landing if they had garbage. If not, I took them home and threw them away. I this was an appropriate way to dispose of them.

I released the minnows back into the water because it was just easier to throw them into the hole and not worry about keeping them alive until the next time I went fishing.

Disposed of as instructed

I seldom use minnows, but always disposed on land. I believe its the law.

If the leftover bait is released into the water, other fish can still eat them and the bait stays alive disposing of them on land and they die.

I have heard to not dispose of bait in the Lake so I've always just dumped them on the shore

The fish *willedo the bait that is not used

Not allowed to dump into the Lake!!!

Leftover bait was left on the ice. I only purchased live bait for ice fishing. The reason for leaving on the ice is two-fold: 1. No sense in disposing in lake and 2. something for the birds

Feed the fish and make them bigger

'-fished until gone OR gave to friend

Trying to be responsible, threw in trash

In January, my buddy fishes often so I gave them to him. In July, we have family camping on a lake, in which my uncle lives on and he fishes every day so we always gave him the leftover bait

Did not want to release into lake

Released so they could be eaten by fish and not be wasted

Yes, it's important to know and understand the repercussions of the disposal of live bait.

I would just throw them out when they die

I gave to friend to use or other fishermen

We were *leaving to go home in zone 2&4 They were staying so they could use

Minnows- I always dispose on hard water or land to die. You never know what type of minnows are in that bucket and I don't want to introduce a species that would harm the lake. Leeches I do tend to dispose of in the lake. They are native to most lakes in MN, I don't see much harm.

It's the law

Give them a chance to live

because it is required

Disposed outside of lake to keep the baitfish out of lake

If still fresh released

Easiest place to dump them where pets wouldn't get into them.

'-Attempted to completely use during each outing, *Celia*/dead, -If @ end of day & bait *desd disposed w/cleaned fish* remains. Live bait released if any

Instructions from the DNR fishing guide book.

Left with friend who continued fishing after I left

Pot in Garden

If not totally used-Landfill

Brought back home and if went fishing next day could use them again but if didn't *use it out could just get rid of them

Died before being able to use *all

(Unsolicited and unrelated) comment - I am concerned that my neighbors on the lake think its o.k. to put softener salt or cow lick blocks in the lake to kill the weeds in front of their cabins. They need to be educated (enlightened).

Health of lake

Don't use public access. Mostly have private access through people I know and they have a place on there property to throw them so usually they end up in compost pile.

No live bait used except when ice fishing on lake Mille Lacs in February

I dumped them on land, because they don't belong in the lakes I fish. Usually dumped them in my compost for fertilizer in the garden

I believe there was a sign on land indicating where to dump them

feed wild life in my man made pond on my property

Crappie minnows; we typically keep them in hopes of going fishing again soon. We dump the dead ones on land. We will occasionally dump a few remainers in the lake. Sometimes the cat gets them as a snack.

It was taken from the same body of water. Cross contamination is nullified.

Gave to another person in the resort

Did not want to release in the lake

I gave it to my dad - worms only

By whatever we had left and when we were going next

I disposed of most bait fish by dumping them in the wood by my cabin. Poor things!

Neighbor has bait box at his dock and he would use them as needed

did NOT WANT TO POLLUTE OR CAUSE IMBALANCE

P.S. PEOPLE OVER 70 SHLD NOT HAVE TO BUY A LICENSE. PLEASE RESTORE THE AGE PRIVILEGE!!

Used fishing guide. Not sue what they did.

If I did have left over threw in garbage

I disposed of the baitfish in the garden to use as fertilizer rather than just toss in garbage or on the ground.

Did not want left on land or ice. I moved to Little Rock Lake to fish 70 yrs old, put a path to the lake 400 ft off lake. Path 4-5 ft wide. Washed sand first then rock on to walk to lake. Had to takeout from walk in water and mud to lake. Hard to carry things to ponton old one. So much fun. To get there, people around me filled there all in. I can't have a little path county Benton DNR. Army core of BAG* - said no. So much for the retirement fishing. Sorry for Bitching. Jerry

The charter captain takes it home and uses it the next day

Wanted to feed other fishies

It was the easiest route to put the remaining live baitfish in the water where I was fishing

Best way is to destroy/bury them

I didn't have any

Not to introduce into a lake

A friend was still fishing

Tried to keep them as long as possible for use again. If I knew I wouldn't make it out fishing again soon I'd give them to friends. If nobody was able to take them I would dispose of them outside.

Giving it to friend is the most efficient way to use all baits and reduce impact to ecosystems

I was told by people it is not good to release them into the lake so I do not.

I do not want our lakes and rivers populated with baitfish. So I dispose of the bait in garbage.

Place I stayed had a covered fish gut pit. Don't like to throw on ground and attract predators.

I feel by releasing the bait into the lake it would help the fish in the lake.

Able to reuse

My friend was in charge of the bait after we finished since he fishes more often than I do.

Did not want to infest the lake I was fishing

The people I fish with who use bait fish do not release them into the lakes. They use them up or dispose of them on land. I myself, use artificial bait unless fishing with friends who may use bait fish but that doesn't happen to often.

If they die in bait well - dispose on land. If they are still alive dump in garbage or on land. Don't put in lake. Because we know that's what "they" want us to do. Rule book. Don't put live bait in the lake.

convenience,

I released the leftover minnows back into the lake as they are present naturally already

Disposed of any leftover bait in the trash.

Part of our fishing team stayed longer and we gave them leftover bait to use in the next days

Didn't want them to go to waste. Gave them to nearby fishermen.

Only thought of letting them go. Let them go because I would not be back in time to use them.

Don't use baitfish just night crawlers

Don't release into the water

I've always either thrown them in the grass by the parking lot of the boat access, or left them with a buddy if he was gonna go out again.

Garbage None get back into the water

We threw it into the lake because why not. Also I didn't want to eat them. P.S. Thank for the dollar. Now I can buy a 50 cent frosty - wait I can buy 2!!

We do not put anything in the lake. They disposed of on land. Worms are put back in the bait box

Was what my Dad always did

Discarded in trash or froze and salted. Dead.

Leaving the lake area (out of town) to head home (Twin Cities): no chance to keep baitfish alive; so gave to friend if available, or let back into the lake.

Always was fishing with friend(s) who continued fishing - so gave away for their use

I did not put into lake. I don't know if this good so I pumped them out on the ground

I want to use it up (not waste) so I try to give it away. Otherwise I was taught not to return it to a lake, so I dispose of the leftover

I was told not to release in the lake. Some we threw on the ice and some on shore by the cabin. We always figure something will eat them.

We used the purchased baitfish in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. After a week fishing, we sure weren't going to carry live baitfish out!

I rarely used. When I did, I never had any left to dispose of.

We typically only buy one scoop. If any left the cats eat them

I don't release live bait fish into the lake - so I dispose of extra by disposing on land

Was on vacation at my sons near Walker. Left the extra bait with them to use when left for home.

did not acquire baitfish. Separate topic- Opposite DNR practices DNR is sometimes there own worst enemy. On one hand they practice carp elimination, but on the other hand practice removing carp traps into lakes, which ultimately dirties the lake and affect game fish reproduction.

THE BAIT FISH HAD FROZEN OR DIED. I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE LITTER ON THE LAKE.

DNA

They are expensive, so we try to save what we can for next time.

Bought a family license, but *diedical issues prevented any fishing last year

The month that I used baitfish, June, I disposed of the baitfish by tossing them in the woods, about 20 meters from shore. I did not want to put purchased fish into the water system might harm other fish.

didn't feel the need to waste live bait that could survive until the next fishing trip

It was near by

Always have

I disposed on land, away from water so the bait fish die and do not contribute to rough fish in the lake.

We always give the leftovers to friends or use all with none leftover. Once in awhile if we do have extra we release into the water

Always dispose on land and/or garbage. This was something taught to me as a little boy from my father

I always left the left over minnows with my friend. We fish regularly on his lake & he has a bigger live box. We purchase minnows in Madison Lake & St Peter for use on Lake Jefferson

I never put bait fish back in the water. My chickens and ducks eat them

Dumped in lake I used them for the purpose of ***** lake fish

They were released into the water they came from

To cheap to buy again so I kept them alive to reuse

I have always disposed of leftover bait on land, composting back into the earth. I have never harvested my own live bait. Always purchased.

Fertilizer

*Shallow Buriac Invasive Species Mitigation

According to MN fishing regulations The regulations says you must dispose of any leftover bait be disposed of in the garbage

If I recall correctly, the fishing regulations state or suggest dumping bait in the trash or on land away from bodies of water to reduce spreads of invasives/disease

I always dump them in my yard if i use live bait

Didn't want to release, shame to waste. Gave to friend.

DNR regulations are to dispose in garbage at boat landing

I was told -so I thought it was a rule- not release into water.

Just dump minnows in weeds. Leeches & worms are saved and used again. Dumping minnows on land is the law and I agree it keeps unwanted species out of lakes. However, I think it's too late for their. Invasive species are already in all lakes.

'-Disposed on land -Don't want released into water- I'm a cabin lake owner, unknown consequences

I had used up all of the bait I bought for our trip; however If I had any leftovers, I would have given them to a friend

I know disposing of live bait in the water is illegal.

They were healthy & Lively

COMMON SENSE

I always was fishing with at least one another person, and they were fishing more than I did. So we always kept them and they used them the next day or so.

Garbage seemed like the best option

I let the leftover minnows into the lake

Always kill on land never let go in lake. could be invasive species for that lake.

Was always taught not to return "rough fish" (bait) to the lake. Usually, as a young fisherman we dumped them in the woods. Later I took them home and put them in the garden as fertilizer. Occasionally I have asked fisherpeople at the landing if they wanted my leftover bait. (I do not know how they disposed of them)

I hate to waste so would give leftover bait to a friend as first option

As far as I know you are not suppose transport Bait fish from lake to lake. So I dump them in my garden or garbage. I normally only fish the lake I lived on.

They come from the water, just letting them go home. The dead ones usually go in the trash.

Based on activity of larger fish in the water. Would assume the baitfish would get eaten by larger fish.

I have learned not to put left overbait into the lakes. So I try to gave them away or dispose of them.

I normally use cut bait, so the fish were deceaced. I only caught as much as I needed for the day of fishing. If I had live fish, it was normally purchased so I did not release leftovers into the body of water.

Don't want anymore shit fish in lake

I decided not to release but to disposeof because they could become a problem in the waterbody. I decided to keep them because I wouldn't have to pay for new ones next time I went fishing.

The availability of some one that could use them, or if we were fishing again soon!

Thought best place to put them was the lake

If I have any baitfish I left I dispose in garbage not to spread invasive species

Didn't buy my live bait I dig worms and return unused to the spot as dug

I heard that we weren't supposed to dump the minnows in the lake, so we dumped them on the ice so they wouldn't survive.

Releasing any live bait or worms can harm the ecosystem

My wife and I use both worms and minnows. We don't purchase more than we are going to use. When the minnows are gone we use wax worms

land/garbage disposal because of invasive species

If we harvested in a lake, we returned them to the same lake. If we purchase, we disposed of in the garbage. Generally, we try not to introduce fish to the lake if we didn't harvest them there.

Did not want to contaminate fishing waters

Disposed of on land; this was done in case baitfish were carrying pathogens or parasites

Could not release live into the water so put into plastic bag and put in the garbage

During winter I will dispose of crappie/fatheads to the water I'm fishing. Summer I discard in trash/feed the fish in my dad's pond. I attended CLC for natural resources in 2010-2012. I was a water craft inspector and an invasive species intern. I am very cautious of my actions.

Because its against the law to throw them in the water or leave them frozen on the ice

Often the minnows died by the time we were done with our fishing trip so the natural choice was to throw them away. Otherwise I give them to a friend who has a lake home to use as he fishes very often

I gave to friends if I were to have extra dead bait fish I would put them in the compost pile in the garden.

Some minnows died so I elected to dispose of all since I would not have time to use before the all died

During ice fishing not but was left, open water I would leave on Thursdays so whatever bait (if any) I left for my family to use the next weekend.

We grew up putting leftover bait in the compost

It's illegal to dispose of baitfish into the lake

Most convenient method for cleaning boat/equip for next trip

Potential spread of invasive species laws/legal

We did not want to waste the leftover bait fish so we gave them to neighboring fish houses

Fed to cats (farm cats)

The bait fish were dead, so I figured it'd be an easy meal for the fish near the dock

Informed by DNR to throw away on land

I had been accidentally killing the plants in their person house I was staying at so I thought nightcrawlers would help make soil good. Also was high on meth so I thought eating the worm was spiritual of me.

Land by lake or by *calia. Iwe never release live bait into the lakes we fish

I gave ti a friend that was going to continue to fish that day so they would not to waste. I use all of my bait before I finished fishing

When I do have leftover I dispose of on land. I normally don't have leftover

To reduce waste, gave to friend if there was any left. If that wasn't possible, disposed on land to reduce the introduction of minnows into the lake.

Convenience, disposing on land would smell

Easy to just dump overboard. Felt bad if I let them die in minnow bucket

Most convenient

Told by a friend

Used bait was released into the water. Unused bait was saved in aerated water bucket to be used next time. Used bait we figured probably wouldn't live long and just provide food for bigger fish

Most of remaining baitfish (fatheads) were dead when I disposed of them. I've never really thought about it before - I've disposed of them by dumping them in the water since I started fishing - 18 years ago at age 5. It seems a little odd to throw live baitfish in the garbage though I suppose their constant release could leave negative impacts in certain fish populations. I certainly would stop releasing them (dead or alive) into the water if I found out there was a negative impact on fish populations.

Disposed of leftovers on land or garbage because that's the law.

I always throw live bait away so they don't spread into lakes and make more invasive species.

Bait was dead.

Gave to friend on *meylor paa* not to waste. If not toss into lake because it was convenient to do so.

I used crappie minnow - they were all used up

When done with the bait, I think we'd dump the minnow pail into the water when coming in from our last time being out fishing. I didn't do it myself but someone I was with would

Just always ask someone else if they needed bait

Typically there was a trash can with signage recommending that un-used bait be put in trash can. Was almost always where you pull out the boat and inspect for invasive species - milfoil etc.

DNR rules makes it clear that it is illegal to release bait into a waterbody.

if minnows, gave to friends or saved for future use.

If a friend was with I would allow them to take leftover bait. If nobody wanted it I would release them.

We hoped to re-use next day or next wkd. but minnows died so we finished. or We dumped on the ground before leaving b/c minnows are not suppose to be put into lakes, it's an invasive species.

Referred to fishing guidelines

It was the easiest way to get rid of them.

I used live bait fishing with someone else, they furnished the bait. I don't know the answers to your questions.

If I had bait left (live) would give to someone who was fishing still. Anything dead goes in the trash. I use all my bait not much left over if ever.

Ecologically correct

We knew we shouldn't release them into the lake, so we would dump them up from shore into the woods.

I did not release live into water. I didn't want a foreign minnow released live into lake.

1. I would use them up. 2. I would give to friend or family to use. 3. I would bring home and try to save for next time. 4. By this point they die and I dispose of them in compost

I went fishing on one, 5 day trip with my grandkids last summer. I don't recall how the live bait was disposed of, but it was possible that some were released (after dying) into the lake water. What happens to dead minnows is the least of my concerns when I have 5 young kids with me.

They all died so I put them in the woods @ the landing.

Made a concious decision to NOT dispose in lake.

When we were leaving the cabin and cleaning up we disposed of them in the garbage instead of dumping them into the lake.

We gave it to another fisherman.

How many we had left, if they were dead or alive

Relatives were staying up fishing longer and we left it with them

Casual fisherman. no one to give them to.

That is what I was told to do

If a friend or relative could use them when I was done I gave them away. If nobody could use them I disposed of them on land

Do not want to spread invasive fish species to where they are not native.

Ease of disposal in a way that I don't believe to be harmful to that specific lake environment.

Released to live bait Dispersed of dead bait Gave live bait to a friend

Kept the fish alive as long as possible to re-use. Threw dead ones outside in the snow.

Easiest/most economical

Best way to dispose of bait

Disposed on land. Should not release leftover bait fish into water.

Found the best way to recycle the livebait.

If there was any bait left over and we weren't going to fish within the week, we would put the rest in the lake.

Didn't want to contaminate local waters so dumped crappie minnows on ice during February.

I only used live bait one time last year. It was for an ice fishing derby. I went with my brother's family. He provided the live bait and I do not know how/when he disposed of it.

Was the easiest way to dispose.

They died so I threw them away

Never used baitfish

If there were any leftovers (very few) the rest were ket go into lake

We used all of them, or they were dead. Put dead ones on ice.

If I wasn't going fishing the next day throw them way/we keep them in fresh water so we can take them home.

We used up all the baitfish, and kept fishing until it was gone.

Members of group did this

Threw them into the garden year round for soil

Released in water so other fish could eat, threw dead shiners on frozen lake, gave some to a friend so they didn't have to spend \$

Did not want to introduce a new type of fish to our lake.

Trash-compost What I have allway be told so not to spread any thing to lake

We think they be better as food in water

The leftovers were typically dead.

If they died I threw them away, if they were alive I give them to a friend.

Healthy fish were disposed in water, dead or dying fish disposed on land

I just followed the actions of my father who had taken me to go fishing

1) Released shiners because they are natural forage. 2) Disposed of fatheads because I heard you are supposed to 3) Sometimes you see some one going out when you are coming in & you offer them your bait to be helpful/nice.

Seemed to be the right thing to do

Left with other fishermen

Always use up all bait

N/A

Not supposed to let them back in the lake.

When I get home from fishing I just dump them out on land

If our neighbors & friends were fishing I just gave to them to use. If a few were left and no one to give to - released them

Once a year I go on a 2 day fishing with a Men's Group, Normally, that is the only time I fish. Someone else in the group purchases the bait. We fish on Leach lake, last year did not catch a single fish.

Just threw them in our compost pile.

Left live baitfish in a ditch for fertilization

I have my own pond I harvest from

I believe releasing baitfish back into the water would be able to utilize baitfish for feeding the population, instead of disposing into garbage. (Depending on the baitfish and condition of the baitfish.

Kept them alive to save money and time. Not many bait stores in my area

I kept them. Eventually I'd use them up off they die in the bucket. I don't usually buy minnows if I can't fish for a few days after purchase. I tossed the dead ones on the ground Well, bait isn't free and I had the resources to store and care for them. If any happened to "go bad", I'd dispose in water or land

left over bait died in bait box, disposed in trash/garden

I used lake water to keep water cool and fresh and didn't want to take chance of spreading bacterias or specimens

Way we always do

Minnesota fishing regulations state: can't dispose of unwanted minnows in The Lakes and Rivers

Law Understanding there could be invasive species in live bait. Easy disposal at public access

Either gave any I had left to another angler or I didn't want to transfer leftovers to another lake.

We didn't have any leftover. We normally only get a few so we don't have left over for this reason.

Used only gulp

Offered them to neighbors first and if they did not accept, we would release into the water

Most convenient, most humane, most organic and eco-friendly

Ease of disposal, we also own/operate a resort and do not dispose of minnows/bait in the garbage. We usually would not have many minnows leftover and would only dispose of minnows when dead, if possible.

Not supposed to release minnows in Lake

If there were friends around would just give them away. Usually not too many left, so dumped them in the garbage - not stinky in the water

I put on airater in the bucket and used it the next time. I threw all the dead bait in the garbage

I didn't want to release them into water alive so I dumped them on the ice or threw into garbage

Dumped on shore or in the disposal area. Don't want to release into lakes.

If friends were fishing in the same area leftover bait was given to them. However no baitfish (purchased or caught) were released to foreign waters because of concern of contamination

I understand the MN laws and know about invasive species and how they are impacting the lakes around zone 4.

Fished until bait was gone

Did not want to possibly contaminate the lake(s)

Because it is recommended to do so. Disposal

Passed on to someone going fishing again soon. Otherwise we would have brought them home. Sometimes we dump them in the lake but assume that is bad, so don't do it anymore

We either released to water or gave away

Friend needed bait. Disposed of bait on land, because I thought it was unlawful to release minnows into lake. These surveys should be sent out at the beginning of the fishing season, not a year later. I believe that your survey would be more accurate than having people try and remember from the prior year

My son was told not to release them into the lake

We use what we buy I would have released them if we had left overs

Because that is what the MN DNR says to do. Also because I don't to spread invasive species

Asked friends if they needed bait otherwise disposed of on land.

We must toss all fish on shore (not in the water)

N/A

Frozen shiners work well if not better than live bait. Easy to freeze and keep in December gave to neighbors

Whether or not a garbage was present at the lake. If not, bait was released in the water

1. Dumping in my lake is against the law 2. I'm against invasive species. After all, look what the DNR did in Yellowstone

Cats have minnows

I feed my leftover bait fish to my pet piranhas. I need to buy crappie minnows once a week to feed them.

Easiest way to dispose was garbage

I've always tossed them out on land or in the trash. I was taught that's what you should do with my leftover.

We fish with children so there generally is little, if any, baitfish left. If we come early, we save to later in the day. If we're completely done, we give to anyone else who can use them.

Normally use them. Otherwise offer them to someone else. Or release.

Although I have not fished for several years — I years past I have fished in northern MN extensively.

1) If I see a trash can they go in there. If I can't, they go in the woods. 2) Freeze large bait for later use 3) I'll eat sunfish after a trip to the croix

If they were still alive I released them into the water.

I try to buy about 3 dozen or 36 baitfish when I fish. 3 dozen seems to be a sufficient amount to fish with family of 5 when we go. We usually run out at the end and we use crankbait when our bait is gone.

It's what everybody else did that I knew of

It's the law to throw away minnows on land

Cost of live bait

We disposed of the baitfish in the garbage because we didn't want to introduce other species into the lake.

Gave to friend who needed/wanted leftover baitfish because we were headed home.

released for fish in the lake to eat

I dumped them in my pond for future use.

1)if still alive, i kept; refrigerated and used it (not counting artificial). If the worms or leeches were dead, I usually drained the water (leeches) and threw them in the trash. 1) did not read question to the end. please disregard.

N/A

It's the right thing to do

Just know not to dump n the water. Don't want to have invasives of diseases.

easiest option

Ease

I save it away or disposed of on bank or in garbage can! Because that is what I was taught to do dispose of on bank or in garbage can not to release back into ***** water?

I disposed of my bait which was almost always worms by dumping them in the water.

The way I was taught when I was young.

Disposed of as told

Dispose onland- Didn't want to infest waters with not native species

Not suppose to release minnows back into the lake

I try to use as much of my bait fish as possible. If the bait fish die between fishing trips I dispose of them in my home garden.

We try to keep them alive in a bait cooler.

We went fishing with family and we saved the fish for the next day and when we left we gave them to our family who lives in the area.

Brought bait back to house and they frozen in the minnow bucket.

History of invasive species

thats how my dad does it

When released into water. Just easy way to get rid of/and thought it would be okay

Had been told that the best way is to put them in garbage or in compost.

Read the regulations and complied with the rules.

Common sense with invasive species

I did not want to release live, or potentially impaired, bait fish into the water. I *suried them on land whether they were still alive or had died.

If others were around I gave them the bait otherwise threw them in garbage

I was always under the impression that if you didn't get them from the lake they could be harmful to release into that lake. Always dumped on ice (winter months)

Bait goes in the trash b/c we don't know, personally, the ramifications of dumping them in the water

Was told that we could not release back into water. do next choice was on land/garbage.

we don't really use baitfish nightcrawlers or twisters/rapalas if we were to catch anything it would probably come from a stream near were we live in zone 6. to dispose of them we would just feed them to the fish or give to fishermen who were just starting for night.

Understand it is illegal to dispose of in the water

I did not have any bait left over

none

knowing that disposing of unused bait fish on land is helping prevent the spread of invasive species and other things that can cause harm to lakes and rivers

It was easy they stayed alive

Did not want in the lake

I was told to give bait to someone or bury. Never put in Lake. I also only fish one lake, Spirit Lake (Atkin)

Read the annual the fishing manual. It is the only method I've known

I always dispose of baitfish on shore to eliminate the possibility of the fish becoming an invasive species/overpopulated

easiest and fastest

Disposed of minnows in garbage because 1) they smell bad, 2) If minnows have diseases/chemicals, best to throw them away

Well its illegal to dump into lake, because of damage to native minnow species. I had a leftover fish tank put it into laundry room, that way I don't pay \$4.00 every time I go fishing

Threw them in the garbage so they did not get used in another lake

The DNR say not to throw live bait back in the water. So I throw them in the garden for fertilizer.

Reused bait fish in same lake I was the day before with distilled water

If we did not have anyone that could benefit from our purchased bait (friend). we disposed remaining bait in the garbage, per DNR guidelines

I have been told not to release bait fish in the lake so we dispose of them on land

To save money for a friend

State regulations

Wasn't planning on fishing for a while, and my friend was.

B.S. Fisheries biology degree. Common invasive spp. practice. Never release spp. w/ unknown origin to outside body of water

Always gave to a friend or son

The law

Done fishing - knew a friend who could use - kept alive with an aerator until individual could use

Always told to dispose off if not using

Use artificial bait

Put bait in ditch by cabin (not by lake). Easy to do and no way for bait to live.

We usually give excess bait to family/friends or others in the same area. Sometimes we drain it & throw it out

I read the regulations book *precieve* when I purchase a new fishing license. I know not to release *rough* fish back to a lake.

Thought it was the law

Figured the fish or turtles would eat the leftover baitfish

We had other friends fishing & didn't want them to go to waste

Usually never have bait leftover dispose on land or shore

It was disposed of in the trash in order to prevent harm to the lakes

Any left overs released in water. was better than having them die saving for next fishing

I disposed of on shore because that is what I am aware of as the proper method to do.

Disposing on land is legal and convenient

I usually don't have left over bait. If I do dump on ice or they die in bucket. I don't dump bait into lakes because I do not want to do anything that could potentially alter the lake.

I didn't want to put them in the lake so I put them in a hole in the now on land away from the water.

they died

Disposed in garbage. Not to introduce bait Fish not indigenous to lake

Dumped the leftover minnows into the water, I figured they would be eaten rather quickly.

If they were dead or alive

I fished until I ran out of bait

I almost never had left over minnows - my partner and I shared and used them up -

Easy to dispose of

'- Disposed on land to feed birds.

Used most of the minnows - Have Always let leftovers Back in the Lake

Followed recommendations on sign at boat launch (lake access)

Disposed on land to prevent contamination to lake.

Tried to conserve it if possible or give to someone else to use

i cannot recall having leftover bait when done fishing

dumped them in the lake because it was convenient.

I did not have any leftover baitfish to dispose of.

We usually fish until were out of bait but if we have any left we give them away.

Gave baitfish to a friend so they wouldn't have to purchase them.

Release back in water or gave to a friend or did not have any left. I dont like to wast winnows

If someone else wanted/could use the bait I would give it away. Otherwise it was disposed of it regularly

If a friend was going out fishing soon, we gave bait leftover to them

Just went with what the experienced fishermen I was with, he purchased and disposed of the bait

Cleaner, more humane, convenient

Water release seems the best so the fish in the lake could feed off them.

Dead by the next time I went fishing

Minnows were either used or dead. Trying to save minnows for a subsequent trip is made significantly inconvenient by new DNR rules. So much so I choose to use minnows as little as possible

I will give leftover purchased bait to someone fishing in the same body of water, if possible, in order to not let bait go to waste, if no such person is available, I will always dispose of leftover bait on land, away from the water, or in the trash if available, in order to comply with fishing regulations and prevent transporting water and the possibility of invasive species. If any live leeches are left stored in a container with top water I will keep them and transport them for future use.

The bait was dead so I dug a hole and put in Then covered.

Always bring home to use again but they usually die so I dispose of them in my woods

Felt they would be eaten by the fish in the lake

I disposed of them on land because I always thought that is what you were supposed to do.

I don't like to kill anything I don't plan to eat. That includes small animals, minnows, and even most insects (mosquitoes excepted)

Part of a "cabin" fishing group. Others purchased the live bait. Reimbursed them for what I used. Did not dispose of any baitfish they were still fishing when I left.

With all of the aquatic invasive species education going on I have always disposed of bait on land away from water or in the trash

great compost

the law

Garbage when baitfish was unused or not alive at end of trip

don't want to hurt lakes. birds love them

Did not have left over baitfish

1. How soon I would go out again (kept) 2. Knowing a friend who fishes all the time. 3. Returning minnows to lake only if I bought minnows from resort or bait store on the lake

Caught bait out of leech lake only fish leech lake made sense to release back into leech lake

on ground

I didn't want any dead bait floating around the water and being washed up on the shore. I wanted to keep it clean.

Convenience

This is what we are supposed to do.

If we were done fishing for the day and we had friends that were still fishing, we'd give our bait to them to finish up. Most of the time we did not have leftover bait, however.

I dispose of bait on land to avoid any contamination of the water where I am fishing and to make sure the bait does not invade the water either if it is not part of the ecosystem.

Never have done anything different my entire life. We only use minnows, so we release them when done.

Easiest disposal and then they can still live

because the seagulls and the pelicans were fun to watch

Live near where I fish; easy to dispose of on land.

Toss it

Read what to do in the fishing guide book

Should not release live bait.