

It's phishing if...

It's fishing if...

You mouse over a link and it's going to a different address

Real fishermen know exactly where the big fish are

The address is deceptive,
- Walmart.com (real) vs.
TheWalmartsStore.com (fake)

Real fishermen know the correct name of every lake and stream

The message contains poor spelling and grammar

Real fishermen know the correct Latin spelling of every variety and species

The message asks for personally identifiable information like SSN, birthdate, credit card number when it's not needed

Real fishermen never reveal the exact spot where they caught the big one

The offer seems too good to be true

Real fishermen always make the fish bigger
... so yeah, that's like phishing

You didn't initiate the action

Real fishermen never have to be asked to go fishing

You're asked to send money to cover expenses

Real fishermen will always gladly offer to pay for gas for the truck/boat

The message makes unrealistic threats

Real fishermen will say they can definitely catch a bigger fish than you

The message appears to be from a government agency
- irs.gov (real) vs. irs.com (fake)

Real fishermen wisely buy all the correct local/state agencies' licenses

Something just doesn't look right

Real fishermen know the difference in a lure designed to catch the fish and one to catch the fisherman