

Family Fishing Journal



Welcome to Fishing's Future

Background

Fishing's Future is a national non-profit organization founded in 2007 on South Padre Island, Texas by Master Angler Shane Wilson who utilizes the sport of fishing to help strengthen the family, teach environmental stewardship, educate about ethical angling, and most of all, get families into the "Great Outdoors"! To serve these goals, the organization establishes regional chapters run by local volunteers, headed by a Master Angler, who holds FAMILY FISH CAMPS and other angling outreach events/seminars within their community.

Our Website www.fishingsfuture.org

Like us on Facebook & Twitter

<https://www.facebook.com/fishingsfuture>

<http://www.twitter.com/fishingsfuture>

Mission

- Reconnect youth to family and strengthen family relationships
- Reconnect Families to nature
- Teach environmental stewardship and increase awareness for the protection, conservation and restoration of our Nation's aquatic natural resources.
- Increase participation in recreational angling.

What is a Family Fish Camp?

A Fishing's Future Family Fish Camp is a 4 to 6-hour day of learning the basics of fishing and then using your skills on the water to catch your first fish.

You will learn:

- * Knots
- * Lures & Bait
- * Rods & Reels
- * Casting
- * Rules & Measurement
- * Fish ID & Habitat
- * Environmental Stewardship (Trash Clean Up)

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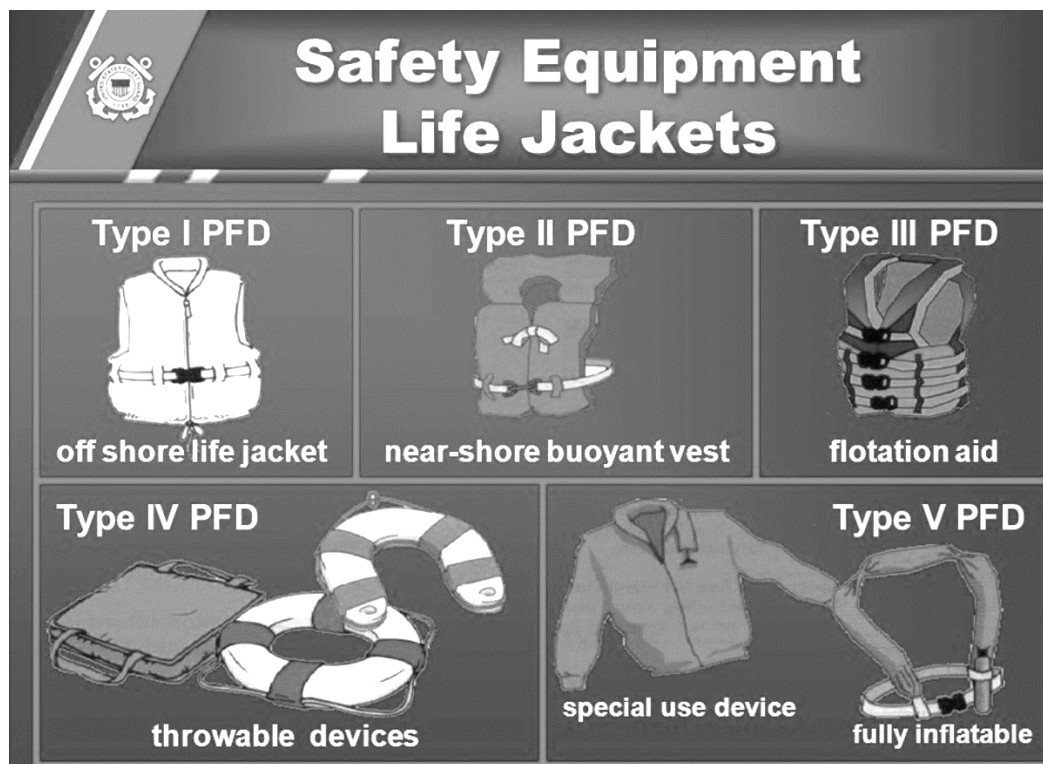
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Your Family Journal

- Print this out, punch 3 holes on the left and place in a 3-ring binder.
- A great place to add picture, drawings, and fishing locations that you would like to remember.

List Some Family Fishing Goals

Think Safety



Type I PFD's – Off-shore life jackets: These are the best devices for all waters, open ocean, rough seas or remote water where rescue may be slow in coming. This type of device is also used as abandon-ship life jackets for commercial vessels and all vessels carrying passengers for hire.

Type II PFD's – Near-shore buoyant vests: For general boating activities, calm inland waters or where there is a good chance for fast rescue.

Type III PFD's – Flotation aids: For general boating or specialized activity that is marked on the device (such as water skiing, canoeing, kayaking, hunting etc.). These devices are best for calm inland waters or where there is a good chance for fast rescue.

Type IV PFD's – Throwable devices: these devices are designed to be thrown to persons in distress. Often this type of device includes boat seat cushions, ring buoys and horseshoe buoys. These are not designed to be worn and should be supplemented by a wearable PFD. Both the throwable and wearable devices should be readily available for emergency situations.

Type V PFD's – Special use devices: Used only for special uses and conditions. Typically, these are labeled with their limits of use. Commonly these flotation devices are used for canoeing/kayaking, boardsailing, deck suits, work vests for commercial vessels and man over-board situations and law enforcement. Also included in this classification are hybrid inflatables. Hybrid inflatables are deflated devices and can be inflated on demand. These devices can have a buoyancy of between 22 and 34 lbs.

Workshop Session # 1: KNOTS, LINES, & HOOKS

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What happens if you get the hook in your finger?
2. What do I bring or buy before I go fishing?
3. How long should the tag end be when I cut the line off from the hook?
4. Why are there different sizes of hooks? Which ones should I buy?

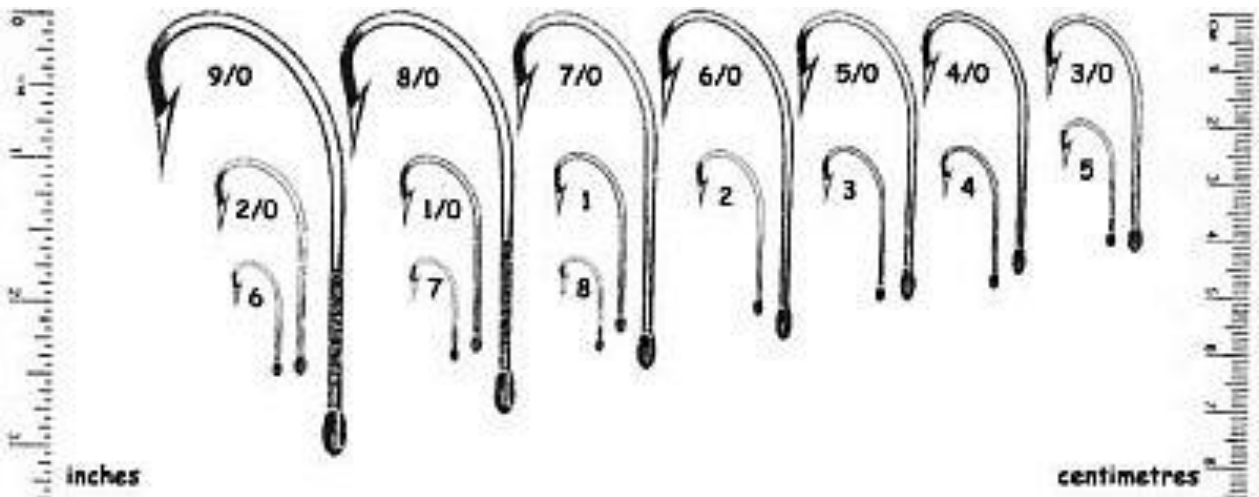
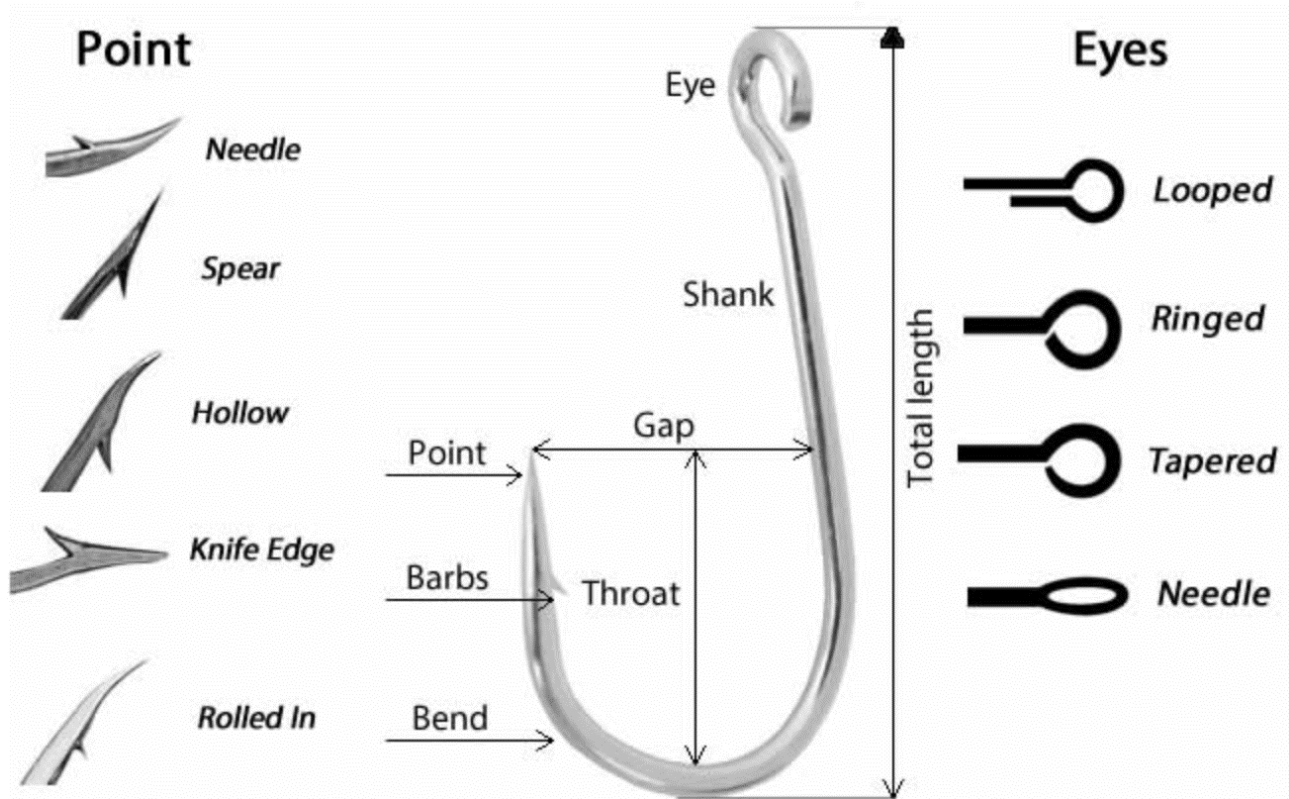
Hooks

Hooks come in an assortment of sizes and styles and must be kept sharp to be effective. If you plan to release your catch, bend down the barb to make it easier to remove the hook. Choose the size of hook for the species of fish you are trying to catch and the type of bait you are using. Ask a seasoned angler or a bait and tackle dealer for suggestions.

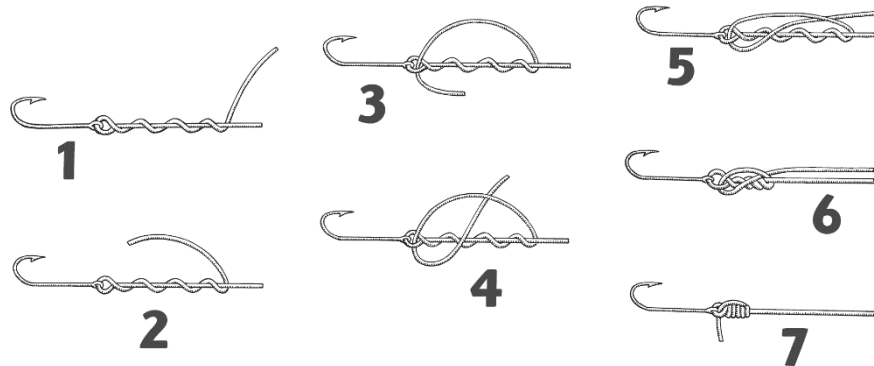
Line

Fishing line comes in pound-test, (the line size or strength). The larger the line size the stronger it is. Six-pound test line is more flexible but is not as strong as 12-pound test line. Match your fishing line to your rod and reel capability and the species of fish you want to catch. Using heavier line or higher pound test than needed may reduce the number of hits or strikes you get because heavier line is more visible to fish.

NOTES:



IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT



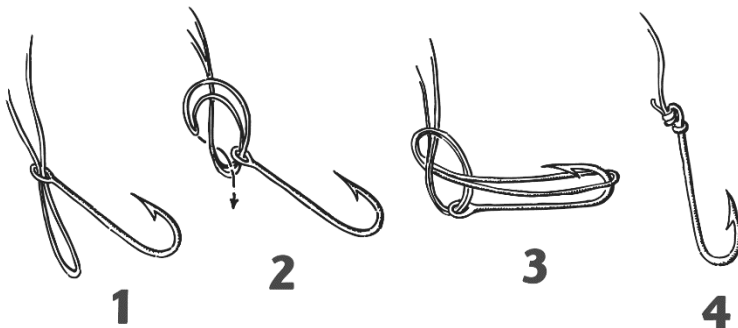
Improved Clinch Knot

An "old standby" known as the fisherman's knot.

1. Pass the line through the hook eye and, with the tag end, make 5 turns around the standing line.
2. Insert the loose end of the line between the eye and the first loop formed.
3. Bring the end through the large second loop formed.
4. Wet the line and tighten the knot slowly while holding the loose end of the line end between thumb and index finger so the knot is partly closed before it's secured against the eye.

NOTE: Clip the loose end of the line called the "TAG END"

PALOMAR KNOT



Palomar Knot

The easiest to tie and the strongest knot known to hold terminal tackle.

1. Double 4 inches of line to form a loop and pass the loop through the eye of the fishing hook. Let the hook hang loose.
2. Tie an overhand knot in the doubled line. Don't twist or tighten line.
3. Pull the loop far enough to pass it completely over the hook.
4. Wet the line.
5. Hold the hook carefully, and pull the loose end with the standing line slowly to tighten the loose end.

Learn 3 More Knots

- List the names of the knots below.

1)

2)

3)

Hook Types

NOTE: We use BARBLESS Hooks during Family Fish Camps

Aberdeen Hooks



[Aberdeen hooks](#) are composed of a lighter wire than Siwash hooks and are often used for bait fishing. The thin metal easily hooks bait with minimal damage, so it stays lively. Light wire also makes them a good option when fishing timber for crappie. When snagged, you can sometimes bend the hook and pull it free with a bit of pressure.

Bait Hook



[Bait hooks](#) come in a variety of styles and sizes. Most feature barbs on the shaft to hold bait in place. Longer shank hooks are good for teaching kids to fish, while shorter shank ones are often used in snells.

Circle Hooks



The term [circle hook](#) refers to a specific design for fishing hooks that causes them to appear circular in shape. Used primarily for live bait fishing. These hooks increase hooking percentages and help to prevent gut hooking fish. When a strike occurs, the hook slides out of the fish's throat. The barb does not penetrate until the hook reaches the corner of the mouth. At that point, the hook point pivots and sets for a safe, solid hookup. The primary thing to remember about circle hooks is that they do not require a standard hard, hook set. In fact, setting the hook in that manner will almost guarantee that a fish is lost. Instead, simply cranking down and applying steady pressure works best.

Treble Hooks



[Treble hooks](#) feature three bends and points in one hook. Trebles provide greater coverage for artificial baits such as [crankbaits](#), [jerk baits](#) or [top waters](#). Bait anglers also use trebles. Cut bait for catfish or threading minnows for trolling salmon or trout are examples where trebles are regularly used. Also, a great hook for saltwater.

Workshop Session # 2: Bobbers, Weights, Lures, & Baits

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Am I going to kill the worm?
2. Is it better to use live/dead bait or artificial?
3. How much are lures, and how do I know which ones to buy?
4. How many lures should we have in the family fishing tackle box?
5. What about a bobber? Do we need one? And what do they do?
6. How much weight do I need? Is lead OK to use?

Bobbers

Bobbers, floats and corks are used for three reasons. They keep your bait where the fish are biting, keep bait off the bottom, and they tell you when you're getting a bite or strike by bobbing up and down. Bobbers come in various shapes from round, to pencil or quill, to popping, and oblong. Most bobbers are spring-loaded and attach to your fishing line with a clip. Some are tied directly to your line or allow the line to slip entirely through for slip-cork fishing.

Sinkers (Weight)

Sinkers are weights used to cast your bait, take bait to the bottom, hold bait in place, or keep your bobber upright. Sinkers are designed in several different shapes and sizes and are used for various types of fishing techniques. They range in size from BB split shot to five pounds, something short of a cannon ball. In many cases, you will place your sinker 4 to 8 inches above your hook to allow live bait to look natural to the fish.

REMINDER - Always check current fishing regulations to make sure your choice of bait is legal in your State and the area you are fishing.

COMMON FRESHWATER BAITS

Crickets and Grasshoppers



These are excellent choices for sunfish, bass and catfish. Both insects can be caught by hand or with an insect net. Look for them in thick, tall grass or at night under lights. Laying a cloth, towel, cardboard or newspaper on the grass will attract crickets. You want to use small hooks for sunfish (#6-#10) and medium-sized hooks for bass and catfish (#1 or #2). Make sure the point of the hook is completely covered to increase bites.

Worms & Grubs



Whether it's an earthworm, red wiggler or nightcrawler, worms are a favored choice for many of freshwater fish in North America. You can either raise your own in a compost pile, dig them from your garden or purchase from bait shops and fishing tackle stores. Remember to cover the point of the hook when fishing for sunfish to keep them from pulling the worm off the hook. Store live, leftover worms in the refrigerator for the next time you go fishing or release them back into your compost pile.

Minnows



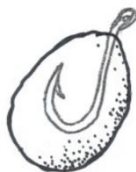
Varieties of minnows are used to catch both fresh and saltwater fish. Keep minnows in an aerated minnow bucket and don't crowd them. Remember to change the water often to keep the minnows lively. Hook them through the lips or under the dorsal fin. Avoid hooking through the backbone because this will kill the minnow. **REMINDER** – Check your local laws about releasing minnows that were purchased at a bait shop.

Crayfish



Crayfish, known as crawfish, crawdads or mudbugs, are used for catching largemouth and smallmouth bass, white bass, catfish and freshwater drum. They can be caught in small ponds, roadside ditches or where depressions hold water frequently and usually after a rain. These can be fished either live, dead or using just the tail. Hook through the underside of the tail so the point protrudes through the top. Catfish and freshwater drum don't mind if it's alive or dead. Grasp the crayfish, and pull the tail away from the head, threading the hook through its tail or both sides of body. Freshwater drum prefer crayfish to any other type of live or dead bait.

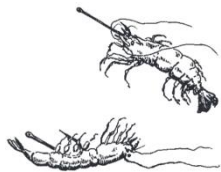
Prepared Baits (Dough Baits)



From homemade concoctions to commercially-made baits, these are primarily used for catching bottom-feeding fish like catfish and carp. Your choices include canned corn, stink bait, cottonseed cake, hot dogs, dough balls – the list goes on with this type of bait. Fishing with treble hooks works best to keep the bait from being flung off during casting

COMMON SALTWATER BAITS

Shrimp



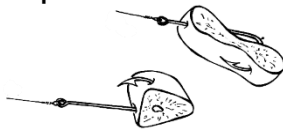
Shrimp are widely-used bait for saltwater fishing. Shrimp can be either alive or dead. Hook shrimp under the rostrum “horn” on the head to fish with live shrimp. You can either peel or leave the shell on fresh dead shrimp for fishing on the bottom. Many anglers fishing for freshwater catfish use dead shrimp for bait.

Crab



Different species are used for saltwater fishing to catch sheepshead, black drum, cobia and snapper. Sheepshead and snapper go after hermit and fiddler crabs hooked through the body. Black drum and cobia have a liking for blue crabs. Break in half or quarters for black drum and hook through the body sections. Use small, whole, live blue crab for cobia by removing the pinchers and hook through the body.

Squid

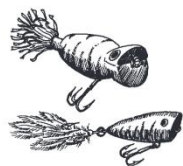


You can purchase dead squid for saltwater bottom-fishing. Fish such as gaff-topsail catfish, and snapper are good examples. Hook the squid two or three times in and out through body to avoid small fish stealing the bait.

ARTIFICIAL BAITS (Fresh & Saltwater)

Many companies make fishing lures in different types, patterns, sizes and colors. “How to” instructions are either on the package or inside with the lure. Both fresh and saltwater anglers use lures interchangeably to catch a variety of fish.

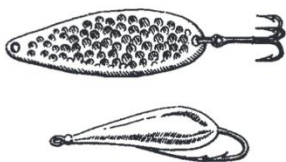
Plugs



black bass, crappie, striped, white and hybrid bass, seatrout, red drum, flounder and several offshore species

Plugs can be made of various materials such as plastic, wood and sometimes cork. Plugs are classified as top water and crankbaits (shallow diving, medium diving and deep diving). Either two or three treble hooks are attached to plugs to cover the fish's striking area.

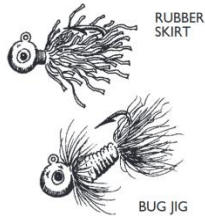
Spoons



black bass, striped, white and hybrid bass, seatrout, red drum, flounder and several offshore species

Spoons are metal, spoon-shaped lures made to resemble a swimming or injured baitfish. You can jig them (jiggle them up and down), cast and reel them in, or troll them behind a boat (let it drag on a fishing line behind the boat). Many anglers attach a swivel to the spoon to prevent it from twisting their line during retrieval.

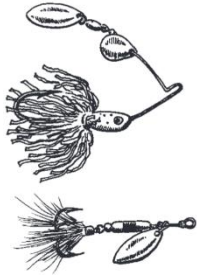
Jigs



black bass, striped, white and hybrid bass, crappie, seatrout, red drum, flounder and several offshore species

Jigs have weighted metal or lead heads with a body and tail made of rubber skirts, feathers, soft plastic or animal hair. Numerous sizes, colors and patterns are used to catch a large majority of fresh and saltwater fish.

Spinnerbaits



black bass, rainbow trout, crappie on small in-line spinners

Spinnerbaits have one or more blades that spin or rotate around a straight wire or “safety pin” type shaft. Nearly all spinnerbaits have tails and bodies made of rubber skirts, animal hair, soft plastic, feathers or other materials.

RUBBER
SKIRT
BUG JIG

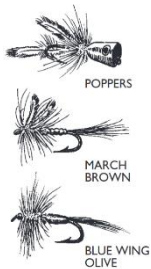
Soft Plastics



black bass, seatrout, red drum and flounder

Soft plastics are pliable lures made into worms, grubs, lizards, crayfish, minnows, shrimp, crabs and many others, resembling what fish eat. Plastics are available in different sizes, colors, and some with fish-attracting scent. They can be used with or without bullet weight sinkers, jig heads or spinnerbaits.

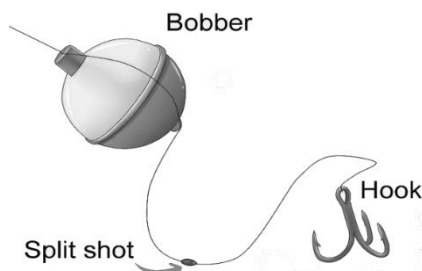
Flies and Poppers



almost all common sport fish will strike a fly or popper of some variety

Flies and poppers are small, very light, almost weightless lures used primarily for fly fishing. A spin cast or spinning rod and reel outfitted with a “bubble” (clear bobber) placed four to five feet above the lure works well if you don’t have a fly rod. These lures are excellent for sunfish and bass, but most any fish can be caught on these baits.

The Basics Rig (Bobber, Weight, & Hook Placement)



Learn 3 new Rigs

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Possible items for the family tackle box

- Tackle Box
- Pliers
- Nail clippers (to clip line)
- Small first aid kit
- Hooks (various sizes, depending on the type of fish you are targeting)
- Bobbers
- Weights(sinkers)
- Snap swivels
- Artificial lures (plugs, spinners, spoons or soft plastics)
- Stringer for keeping fish (only if you plan to keep and eat the fish)
- Measuring tape
- Outdoor Annual – Your States Rules and Regulations
- Fish identification card or booklet
- Small spool of monofilament (fishing line)
- Oil for lubricating the reel



Selection of artificial lures will depend on what fish you are targeting. When selecting artificial lures, it is wise to choose lures that are designed to fish at different water levels, such as top water poppers and diving plugs.

Other items to take along with you on your fishing trip:

- Camera
- Small can of bug repellent
- Cell phone (not to interrupt in the family adventure)

Always pack Sunscreen and bug repellent

Workshop Session # 3: Rods & Reels

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What kind of rod and reel should I buy for my child?
2. Does it matter the age of person and the size of rod?
3. Are the expensive reels all that different?
4. What do you do if your reel gets all tangled up or jams?
5. Do you have to clean the reel? If so, how?

NOTES:

Rods come in several varieties, each with its own advantages. Choosing a rod is a personal choice. You can fish with a can and string or a fancy rod and reel. One of the simplest and easiest fishing rods is the cane

RODS

Cane Poles



Cane poles are simply a pole or straight rod with a fishing line tied on to it. Use cane poles mainly for shoreline fishing since you're restricted to depth and distance you can reach. Cane poles can be made of bamboo, fiberglass, graphite or even a straight tree branch. Cane poles work, are easy to use and are inexpensive.

Spin casting and Bait Casting Rods

Pistol Grip



Straight through



Bait Cast



Rods come in various lengths and actions. All Spin Cast and Bait Cast rods have a place for the Index finger.



Casting rods have "spin cast" or "bait cast" reels and line guides mounted on top. Spin casting rods are easy to handle and perfect for beginners. These rods have straight handles and small line guides. Spin cast tackle is the most popular. Bait casting rods have either a pistol-grip or straight handle. The bait cast rod with its more complex reel is more difficult to control and is better suited for an experienced angler.

Spinning Rods

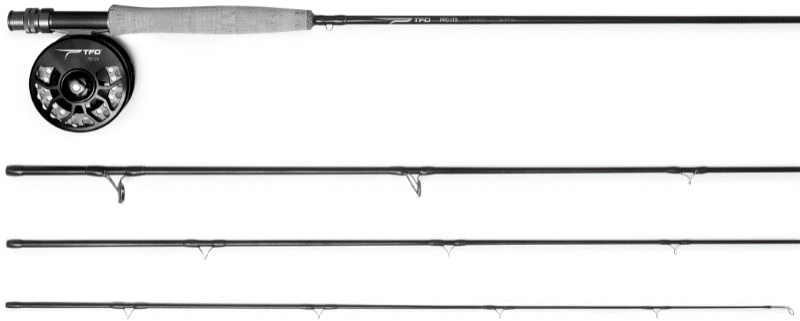
Straight Handle, Line guides on the bottom



Spinning rods have straight handles with large line guides and reels mounted on the bottom. Spinning reels cast quickly and long distances, making this rod suitable for all types of freshwater and saltwater fishing.

Fly Rods

Long flexible Rod, Line guides on the bottom



Fly rods are very long, flexible rods. In fly-fishing, you cast the line, not the lure. You'll see anglers develop almost artistic casting techniques, adding to the appeal of the sport. Line guides and reel are mounted on bottom of the rod. Fly rods come in various weight classes and lengths, suited for different locations and fish.

Saltwater Tackle

Going after saltwater fish involves a little change in the strength of the equipment. The rods, reels, hooks, line and lures or baits vary just as in freshwater fishing, but they can be stronger and heavier, built to withstand larger fish and natural or artificial structures



REELS

Spin cast



This popular reel is ideal for beginners. Known as a "closed-faced reel," it's the easiest reel to use.

Spinning



This "open-face reel" mounts under the rod. Fishing line spools off quickly allowing longer casts. This reel can cast lighter baits and lures.

Bait cast



Bait cast tackle is suitable for all types of fish and fishing. The spool turns when you cast, however, and can entangle the line if not properly adjusted. You'll need to practice with this model.

Fly reel



The fly reel is designed to allow fluid movement of the fishing line. This reel is mounted on the bottom of the rod.

What is "DRAG"

The drag is simply a pair of friction plates inside of fishing reels. If the fish pulls on the line hard enough, the friction is overcome, and the reel rotates backwards, letting line out, preventing the line from breaking. You want to set the drag on a fishing reel before your first cast of the day. Adjusting it while fighting a fish can be difficult. Also fishing reels are not designed to be adjusted while fishing, so doing so could cause damage.



NOTE: Spin Cast & Spinning - There could also be a switch that allows the reel handle to rotate in the opposite direction. Some fisherman like this better than the equipment's drag system.

Cleaning & Caring for Equipment

Always use clean freshwater after using your gear. Oil and Grease per manufacture. Never use WD40 unless you are going to break down and clean each part and re-grease and re-oil each part. WD40 removed grease and oil. Remember wipe down your rods and handles.

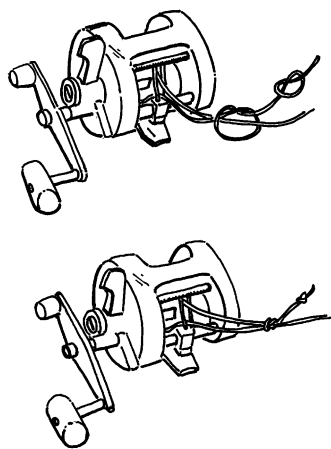
Replacing your used line

Remove all the used line from the reel and take to local bait shop to have them recycle. Check the reel for proper line weight, choose a color, and add the amount of line per manufactures instructions. Use the below know call the Arbor Knot to attach the line to the Arbor.

Arbor Knot

Quick, easy connection for attaching line to the reel spool.

1. Pass the line around the reel arbor (spool).
2. Tie an overhand knot around the main line.
3. Tie a second overhand knot in the tag (loose) end.
4. Pull the knot in the tag end tight and clip off the excess line.
Snug down the first overhand knot on the reel



NOTES:

Workshop Session # 4: Casting & Catching

Frequently Asked Questions:

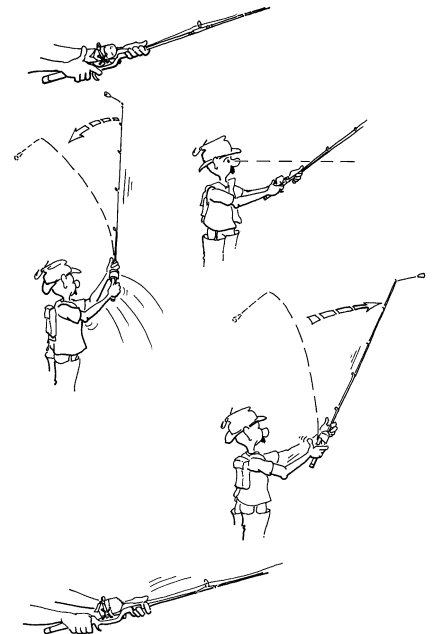
1. Does it matter how far I cast out?
2. What do I do if my line gets tangled or snagged?
3. Do I cast sideways or overhead?
4. How long or how fast before I reel it in to see if I have something?
5. What do I do if I feel a bite? What's the best way to make sure I hook the fish?

NOTES:

Spin Cast - Casting

A spin casting reel has a button that you push with your thumb to release the line.

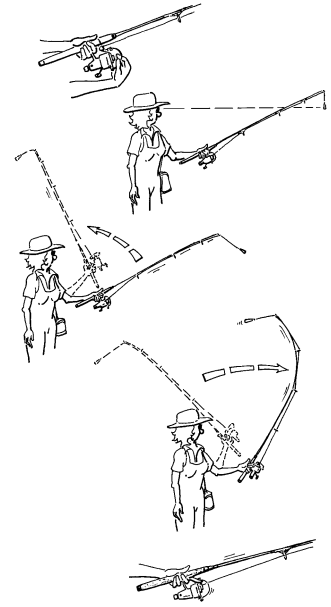
1. Grasp the rod's handle or pistol grip with one hand. Push the reel's thumb button down and hold it in.
2. Face the target area with your body turned to a slight angle, about a quarter turn. Aim the rod tip toward the target, about level with your eyes.
3. Swiftly and smoothly bend your arm at the elbow, raising your hand with the rod until it almost reaches eye level. When the rod is almost straight up and down, it will be bent back by the weight of the practice plug. As the rod bends, move your forearm forward with a slight wrist movement.
4. When the rod reaches eye level, release the thumb button. If the plug landed close in front of you, you released the thumb button too late. If the plug went straight up, you released the thumb button too soon.



Spinning - Casting

With a spinning reel, you use your finger to release the line.

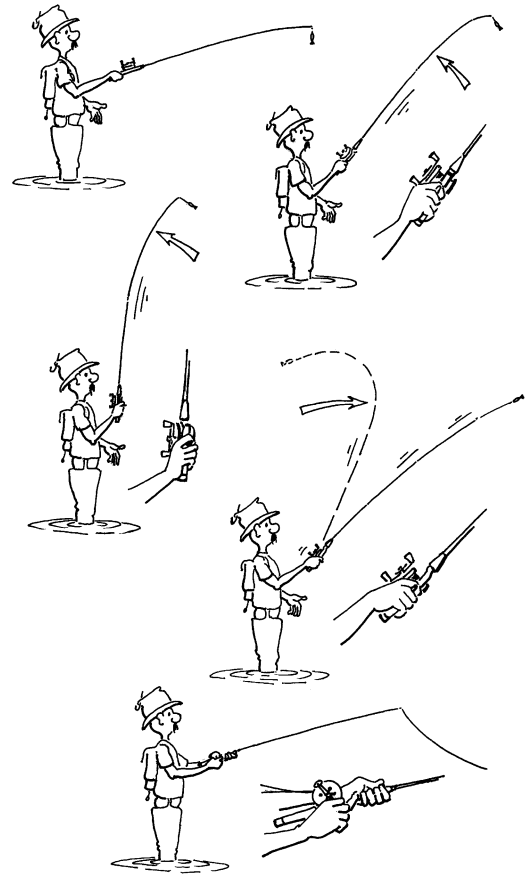
1. Grasp the rod's handle, placing the reel "stem" that attaches the reel to the rod between your middle fingers. Extend your forefinger to touch the spool cover. Open the reel's bail with your other hand.
2. Face the target area with your body turned at a slight angle, about a quarter turn. The arm holding the rod handle should be closest to the target. Aim the rod tip toward the target at about eye level.
3. Swiftly and smoothly, using just one motion, bend your casting arm at the elbow and raise your forearm so that your hand is almost at eye level.
4. When the rod is almost straight up and down, it will be bent by the weight of the practice plug. As the rod bends, move your forearm forward with a slight wrist movement.
5. When the rod reaches eye level, straighten your forefinger to release the line. If the plug landed close in front of you, you straightened out your index finger to release the line too late. If the plug went straight up or behind you, you straightened your index finger too soon.



Bait - Casting

The bait casting reel has a button either on the top right-hand side of the reel or a "thumb" button behind and center of the spool that you push with your thumb to release the line.

1. Grasp the rod's pistol grip or handle with one hand. Push the reel's thumb button down and move your thumb on the spool. Release the line so that the casting plug falls to the ground. Adjust the spool tension knob (located on the side of the reel) so that the spool stops when the plug hits the ground. It may take a couple of times to accomplish this and adjust it correctly. This will reduce the reel from backlashing when cast. Backlashing occurs when momentum from the cast allows the spool to keep rotating causing line to ball up once the plug hits the water or ground.
2. Face the target area with body turned at a slight angle, about a quarter turn. Aim the rod tip toward the target, about level with your eyes.
3. Swiftly and smoothly bend your arm at the elbow, raising your hand with the rod until it almost reaches eye level. When the rod is almost straight up and down, it will be bent back by the weight of the practice plug. As the rod bends, move your forearm forward with a slight wrist movement.
4. When the rod reaches eye level, release your thumb off the spool. As the practice plug hits the ground, place your thumb back on the spool to reduce backlash. If the plug landed close in front of you, you released your thumb too late. If the plug went straight up, you release your thumb too soon



Setting the hook

it is the act of planting the hook into the biting fish. You might be thinking, well, how hard can that be? Fish takes bait, reel in. But how can you be sure? A fishing pole setup for beginners may only contain a common bobber. How do you tell the difference between an actual bite versus a nibble or bump of the line? Follow the steps below to learn how to hook a fish every time.

When to set the hook

A good rule of thumb is to wait and feel the weight of the fish before setting it. If the fish is cautious and just tapping your fishing line and bait lightly, and not biting it, it's best to wait. Let the fish take the bait, and then set the hook after you feel its weight. For best results, be sure to use the proper fishing hook setup. For example, the use of circle hooks when fishing catfish often eliminates the need to set the hook, as it generally gets caught in the fish's mouth automatically

3 Simple Steps

1. To help you better know how to set the hook, look for common signs a fish is biting such as: your bobber is pulled completely underwater, you feel a true tug on your fishing line or your fishing line starts moving.
2. Reel in slack and keep your line tight with the bait or lure. This helps increase the sensitivity allowing you to feel the fish bite and be in a better position to set the hook.
3. The motion of setting the hook is relatively simple. But it can sometimes be difficult to tell if you have a bite or if you're just feeling the current or a fish bumping into the bait.

The more you know about the fish species you're after, and the more time you spend on the water practicing, the better you'll get. So, grab the proper fishing hook setup and maximize your catches!

NOTES:

Workshop Session # 5: Rules and Regs, Fish Handling, Ethics

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Does my child need a fishing license?
2. How do I get a fishing license?
3. Are there limits as to what a child can catch? How many can I catch? Is this per day?
4. Are there rules about WHERE I can take my child fishing?
5. What's the fine for breaking a fishing rule?
6. Is my fishing license good in another state?

NOTES:

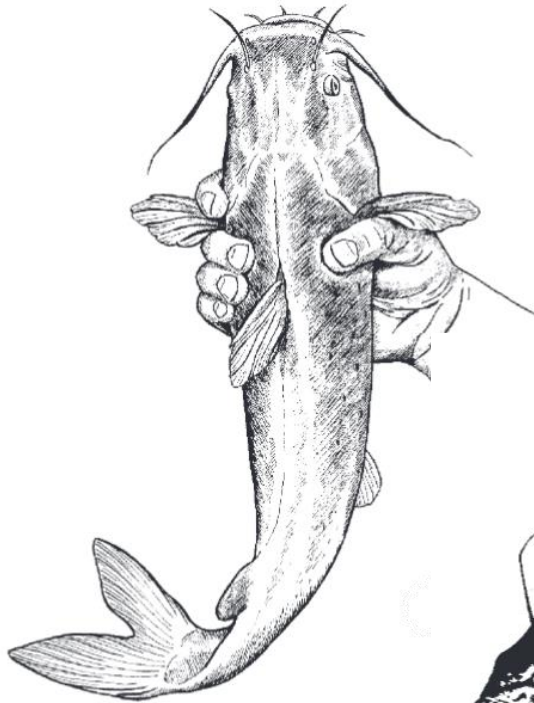
Ethical Fish Handling

Handling fish properly protects both you and the fish. Some fish have sharp fins or teeth that can cut you if you don't hold them correctly. Thus, different fish species need to be handled in different ways. Hold some fish by the jaw, such as bass or trout, and others along the body, such as a catfish. Learn by watching an experienced angler but keep the following rules in mind.

- Set the hook as quickly as possible to keep fish from swallowing the bait or lure.
- If the hook is set deeply, simply cut the line and leave the hook. There is less risk of permanent injury to the fish, as the hook will eventually fall out, dissolve, or rust away. You can also use barbless hooks to make it easier to remove the hook.
- Wet your hands and avoid handling fish excessively. Try to protect the mucous covering the fish's body because it prevents infection. Use special gloves or fish grips on fish that have teeth.
- Hold fish firmly. A fish dropped on the ground or in a boat risks additional injury.
- Never touch the gills or eye sockets.
- Release fish as soon as possible. Practice "Catch, Photo, Release" on fish you do not intend to harvest.
- Grasp large-mouthed fishes by the lower jaw with thumb and forefinger; holding the fish more vertically by the lower jaw, only briefly. If holding the fish at a horizontal angle, use other hand to support at the tail wetting hand first. smaller fishes with your hand around the mid-section, also wetting hands first.
- Stressed fish can often be revived by gently holding them upright in the water until they can swim away under their own power.
- Barbless hooks cause less damage to the fish, and if you keep a tight line, won't cost you catching fewer fish. Barbs can be squeezed flat with pliers or filed off the hook before using them.

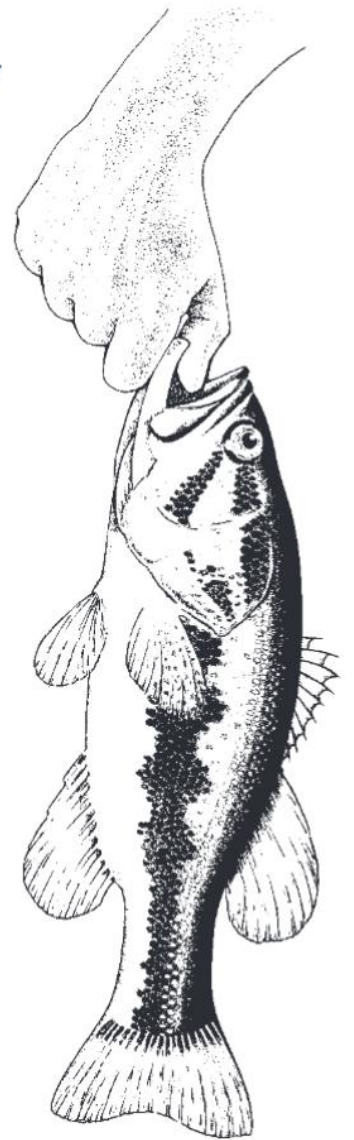
Some ways to hold a fish

CATFISH



BASS

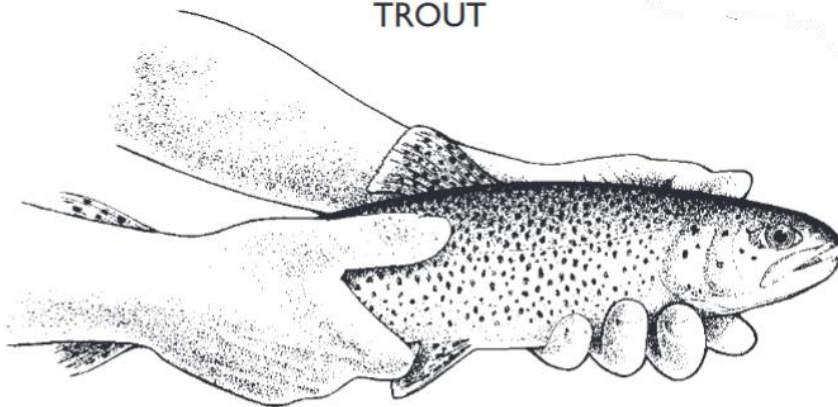
For bass three pounds or more, support its body with your other hand.



SUNFISH



TROUT



- When releasing **SALTWATER FISH**, have release equipment ready. Most saltwater fish have sharp teeth, so never place your fingers in their mouth. Use a release tool, such as needle-nose pliers or forceps, to hold the fish while removing the hook. You can also hold saltwater fish the same way you hold catfish.

Fish ID & Habitat

- Check you States website for the type of fish in your area.
- Know the Rules & Regulations about each fish.

Channel Catfish

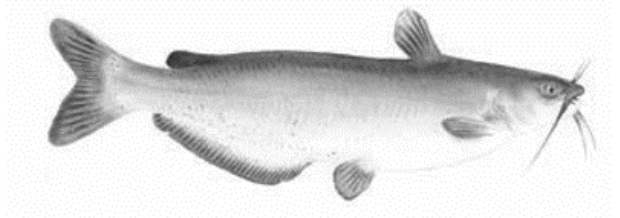
Ictalurus punctatus

Other names: channel, willow cat, fiddler cat, twister

Fishing Tips:

Most active in the evening or early night. Easily attracted and caught during the day by baiting holes with soured grain, cottonseed cake, hard dog food or alfalfa cubes.

Use worms, cut bait, shrimp, liver, blood or stink baits.



Largemouth Bass

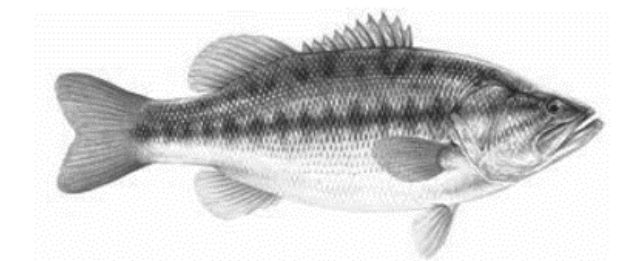
Micropterus salmoides

Other names: bass, largemouth, bigmouth, bucketmouth

Fishing Tips:

They will strike artificial baits including crankbaits, spinner baits, jigs, soft plastics, spoons, flies and other various live bait look-alikes.

Largemouth bass relish live baits such as **minnows, earthworms, crawfish, leeches, frogs, lizards, insects and even small mice when the opportunity offers itself.**



Bluegill

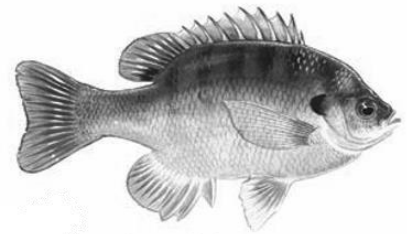
Lepomis macrochirus

Other names: bream, tiger sunfish,

Fishing Tips:

The simplest of tackle is all that is needed to catch these feisty, hand-sized fish.

Preferred baits are worms, crickets, mealworms, small jigs, spinners, miniature insect crankbaits or fly-fishing tackle (i.e. flies, poppers, worm imitations.).



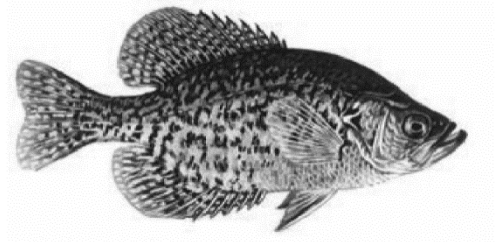
Black Crappie

Pomoxis nigromaculatus

Other names: crappie, white perch, papermouth

Fishing Tips:

Black crappie are found of small minnows, small streamer flies, small marabou or plastic jigs and worms.



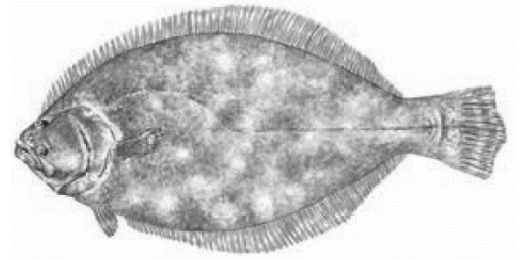
Southern Flounder

Paralichthys lethostigma

Other names: flounder

Fishing tips:

Fish with live finger mullet, mud minnows, live shrimp or artificial lures close to the bottom. May also be gilled in shallow water along reefs or shorelines during low moon phases with a tide movement using a lantern or some other artificial light.



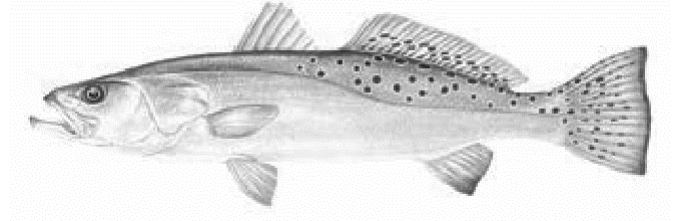
Spotted Seatrout

Cynoscion nebulosus

Other names: Specks, speckled trout, trout, spotted weakfish

Fishing tips:

Use live shrimp, live finger mullet, live croaker or artificial baits (i.e. shrimp/shad imitations).



Red Drum

Sciaenops ocellatus

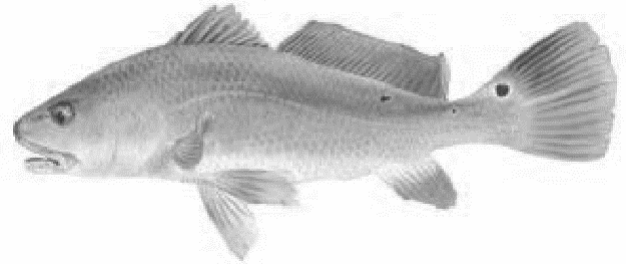
Other names:

redfish, reds, bull

red, rat red

Fishing tips:

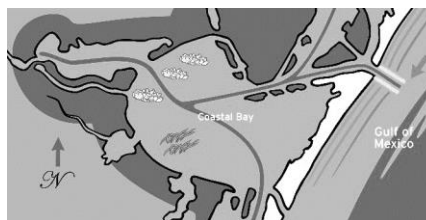
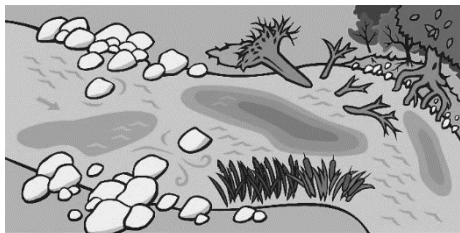
Use live finger mullet, cut mullet, live croaker, live or dead shrimp and lures fished close to the bottom. Gold and silver spoons also work well.



Your State may have other types of game & recreational fish. Please use the proper fish for your area. But get their permission.

NOTES:

Fresh & Saltwater



Fishing is best in water that provides good fish habitat: food, oxygen, water, shelter, and space.

Food

Food sources vary for different species of fish. Food can include plants, plankton, insects and insect larvae, smaller fish, crayfish, worms, and freshwater shrimp. Learn more about the food favored by different fish species on pages 14-19 (baits or lures) or read about different fish species on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website, www.tpwd.texas.gov/landwater/water/aquaticspecies

Oxygen

Oxygen levels in the water vary with water temperature, water movement, and with the amount of algae present. In the summer when water temperatures are high, and flow is low, algal blooms can cause oxygen levels to dip at night, causing a fish kill. Oxygen levels are increased when water moves over water falls or riffles.

Water

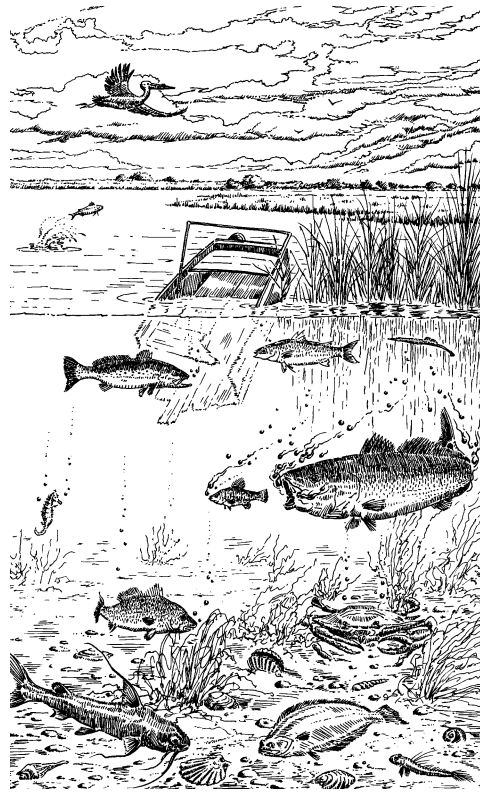
Water quality is also important and sometimes difficult to determine by just looking. If the water is very muddy, light can't penetrate, making it hard for many fish to find food. However, some catfish can thrive in water that is not clear because they can find their food mainly by smell. Also, particles in the water protect a catfish's skin from being sunburned. "Clean" looking water, however, may have harmful chemicals, too much or too little salt, or may be too acidic or basic. A healthy ecosystem helps maintain a good balance of nutrients and chemical composition in water, making it ideal for fish.

Shelter

All fish need "structure" such as rocks, stumps, aquatic plants, and piers to provide cover from predators or to hide out and wait for prey. If the water is flowing, try fishing downstream below one of these structures. In saltwater, fish deal with currents and tides. Near the shoreline, find a fishing spot down-current from structures such as jetties, piers, and rocks where fish are somewhat protected and can catch food floating by. In bays and other shallow areas, seagrass meadows provide good cover for small fish, crabs, and shrimp. These organisms attract larger predatory fish like spotted seatrout and red drum.

Space

Fish, like people, can't handle being too crowded. Good fish habitat has enough space to provide a good arrangement of structure for protection and rest, not only for them, but for their prey species as well.



Pond Life - Freshwater

Ponds are common in Texas. They vary widely in size, water quality and the habitats they offer aquatic life. Most are less than an acre in size, but even these small ponds can be home to sport fish like largemouth bass, sunfish and catfish.

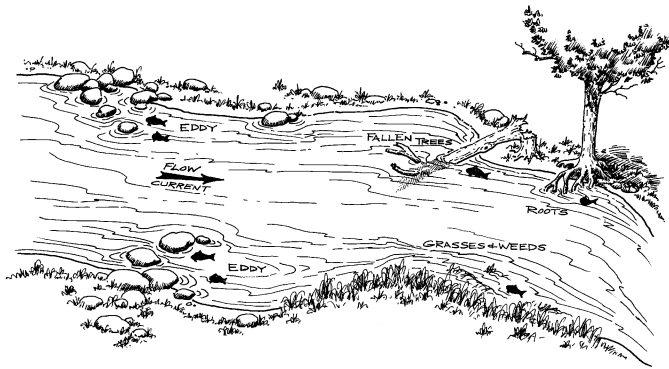
Good fishing requires good pond management. Careful stocking and proper harvest help maintain the balance of predatory fish and their prey. Control of aquatic plants keeps a balance between shelter and open

Coastal Bay & Marsh Life – Brackish to Saltwater

Coastal wetland habitats contain the largest diversity of plants and animals of any aquatic ecosystem. This is due in large part to the diversity of habitats that make up coastal wetlands. In the bays, water is salty, but shallow, with seagrass beds providing important cover for fish, crabs, shrimp and shellfish. Sandbars, spoil islands and shell reefs also provide structure. Tidal movements influence the feeding activity of all species. At the mouths of rivers and streams, the water is less salty with cattails and salt-tolerant reeds providing cover. The flow of freshwater helps maintain a fragile balance of water chemistry that many plants and animals have become adapted to and dependent upon. These areas are the nurseries for many saltwater fish, crabs, shrimp, and shellfish and their importance can't be overstated. In addition to aquatic species, coastal wetlands also support a diversity of bird life such as shore birds, wading birds, gulls, terns and pelicans. Songbirds migrating in the spring often travel great distances across the Gulf of Mexico before landing safely on Texas shores. Sadly, coastal wetland habitats are being destroyed at an alarming rate because of development, decreases in water quality and other threats. Communities and resource professionals are teaming up to conserve these productive habitats. Anglers will find exciting fishing opportunities in these shallower saltwater habitats. Spotted seatrout, red drum and southern flounder are a few of the more popular species to catch. Anglers use striped mullet, sheepshead minnows, shrimp and blue crab for bait along with a variety of lures.

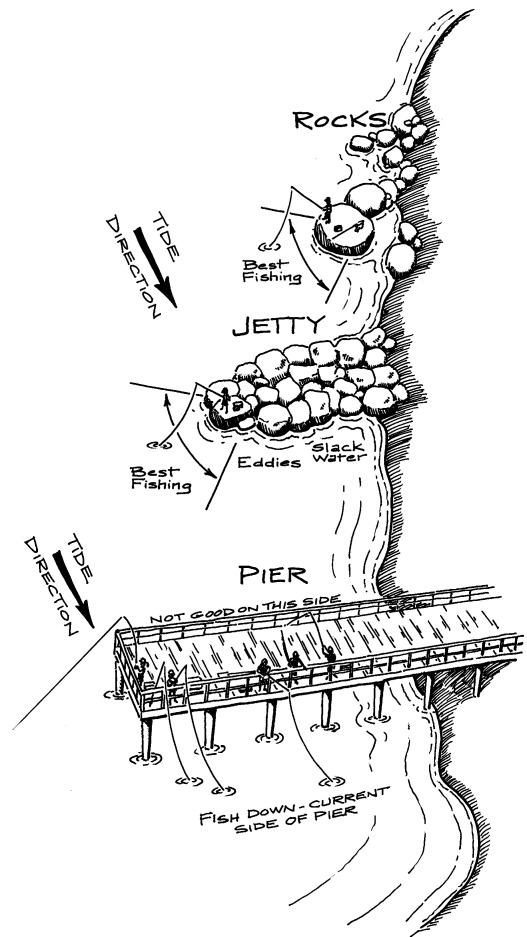
Finding Good Fishing Spots

Freshwater



NOTES:

Saltwater



Create a Family Fish Log

- Keep a record of all the fish your family catches. Here are just some examples.
 - Fish Type
 - Freshwater or Saltwater
 - Bait used
 - Type of equipment
 - Location
 - Weather

CONTACTS

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Michael@FishingsFuture.org



When you donate to Fishing's Future, you are guaranteeing that others will have an opportunity to experience something fresh and new.

- ✓ We provide opportunities for families to reconnect to nature
- ✓ Every dollar you give goes directly for the delivery of Family Fish Camps
- ✓ Your funds help Family Fish Camps to remain FREE to all families and that quality equipment will be available to heighten each fishing experience.

*Fishing's Future is a national non-profit 501 c3 corporation and your donation is tax deductible.
EIN 20-8782271*

Fishing's Future would like to thank the following contributors to allow Fishing's Future to use their images and information in this guide.

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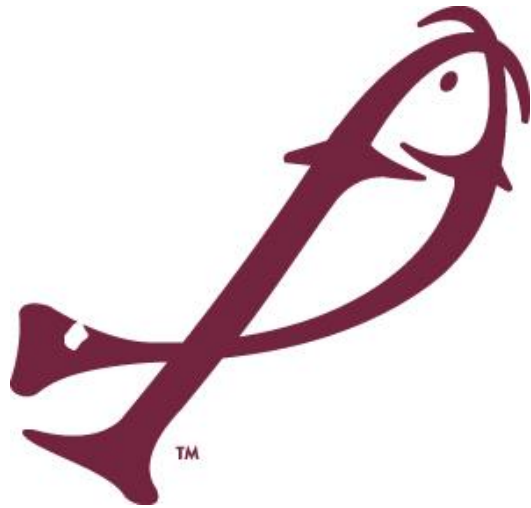
Sea Tow Foundation – www.seatow.com

Eagle Claw hooks – www.eagleclaw.com

Temple Fork outfitters (TFO) – www.tforods.com

Texas Parks & Wildlife – www.tpwd.texas.gov

Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation – www.takemefishing.com



The significance of our LOGO

The Fishing's Future Logo is made up of two lower case "f"s that are facing each other embracing. These two f's come from the two words "families forever".

When families spend time together outdoors fishing, it bonds them to each other and to nature.

Fishing's Future is founded on increasing family relationships and strengthening family bonds.

This is why we say it is "more than a sport"