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FISHING BASICS: Boats, Rods, Reels and More...

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FISHING BASICS: Boats, Rods, Reels and More...

Fishing: Balm for the Soul

Have you ever thought of taking up fishing as a sport or hobby? If not, it's time to think about it. Fishing is relaxing and it gets you out into the great outdoors where you feel as if you're one with nature. There's nothing as great as sitting on the bank of a creek under a willow tree and leaving the stress of the world behind. It's balm for the soul and in today's stressful world, it's a great way to let off a little steam. It's also a great hobby for those of all ages. Kids love to fish, so after you've been out a few times, take a kid along for a day of fishing fun.

If you've never tried fishing, you don't know what you're missing. Not only does it bring you closer to nature, there's the thrill of the catch. Imagine standing on the bank of a pond or stream, your rod bending under the weight of a good catch. This one's a fighter and you take your time, allowing the fish to tire itself out before reeling it into shore. When you finally land it, you realize you've just caught the biggest fish of your life. It's an awesome feeling and one you'll never know unless you give fishing a try.

Now that your interest is piqued, you may be thinking that you don't have a clue about how to fish. If that's the case, these tips will help. If you'd like to learn how to fish, there are a few things you can do:

- Research the sport of fishing. Go to the local library and check out how-to books and fishing magazines. There are many resources in the library that will educate you on the sport of fishing.
- Research online. There are hundreds of websites that give instructions on fishing gear, baits and where and when to fish and where to find the species you are aiming for.
- Ask a family member or friend who is an avid angler to take you along the next time they go fishing. For this you will need basic equipment. Do not buy a lot of expensive gear until you determine whether or not you enjoy fishing.
- If you wish to take professional fishing lessons, check with guide services and fishing stores in your area. They can often provide you with the names of professionals who will teach you how to fish.
- Check with your local Conservation or wildlife service. Often there is a fishing day where beginners gather to learn the basics of fishing.

Anytime is the best time to fish and you never know what you might catch. Certain species are more active near dawn and dusk when they feed. Others will bite any time of the day. Some species are more active at certain times of the year, but really you can fish all year round. If you live in a climate that has four seasons, you might consider taking up ice fishing at some point. Really the time of year you should fish all depends on the species you are after.

Fishing licenses are required in most locations. These can be purchased at fishing tackle stores, Conservation and Wildlife Services. Cost varies by location. Fishing licenses are not usually required for children. Check always the regulations. If you are planning to fish on private property, be sure to get permission from the owner. Entering someone's property to fish without permission is classed as trespassing. Be courteous and if permission is denied, move on.

If you follow the advice in this article, you will soon be enjoying fishing as a sport or hobby. If you enjoy the sport initially, you can hone your skills and move on to more advanced techniques.

Great Spots to Take a Fishing Vacation

The waters of the world are full of fish and there are thousands of spots to take a fishing vacation. So, when you pack up and head out for a fishing vacation, it is your own personal preference of where you choose to go. However, there are some great fishing spots that are highly recommended for their unique fishing opportunities.

Long Island, New York

At Long Island's tip, you will find Montauk Point. The world's top naturalists have studied the area and concluded that this is the place where the majority of the world's fish are found. The point is a glacial cliff. Fish species found at Montauk Point include tuna, marlin, cod, mackerel, striped bass, white shark and a variety of others. Montauk Point is the location of the oldest lighthouse in New York State.

Cast your bait from the rocks below the lighthouse for the area's best fishing opportunities. You won't be disappointed. Spring and fall fishing is best along the Point, but many species of fish can also be caught in the summer months.

Wyoming, USA

If you are looking to catch trophy trout in the US, a vacation to Yellowstone National Park is a must. Slough Creek is full of trophy trout, as are other streams within the Park's boundaries, and they are all stocked regularly. Streams and rivers outside of the Park also offer great fishing opportunities, as do the waters of nearby Idaho and Montana.

Wyoming is home to 62 native species, including Arctic grayling, burbot, channel catfish, shiners, chub, several trout species, suckers, goldeneye, mountain whitefish, shovelnose sturgeon, and a wide variety of smaller fish.

Hampshire, England

Believe it or not, there are great fly fishing opportunities for vacationing anglers just a few miles outside of London. In the chalk streams of the area, you will catch trout and Atlantic salmon. The Itchen and Test rivers offer unique fishing opportunities. The areas around these rivers are

on private land and a fee is required, but all are very reasonably priced. The Itchen area is where the first artificial nymphs were invented and this area of Hampshire will fulfill all of your fishing vacation dreams. There are many trout fisheries and trout fishing clubs in Hampshire.

Manitoba, Canada

Don't overlook Manitoba, Canada, as a fishing vacation destination. Known as the 'Land of Lakes', there are hundreds of trophy fishing opportunities for both still and fly fishing anglers. Though northern pike can also be caught in the US and other countries, Manitoba has whoppers that will put up a terrific fight. Northern pike strike hard and fast on the American lure known as the 'Daredevil'.

Flies can also be used with much success. Other species that can be fished in the Land of Lakes include rainbow, brook and brown trout, channel catfish and perch and pickerel. The best time to take a fishing vacation to Manitoba would be spring or fall, but many fish can also be caught during the summer months.

The Florida Keys

The Florida Keys offer a wide range of fishing opportunities for sea anglers and they flock to the area year round. Ernest Hemingway fished at Key West and it still offers the same opportunities today that it did then. The waters surrounding the Marquesas Islands offer tarpin, and bonefish. Other species caught in this area include blue marlin, black grouper, King mackerel, sailfish, yellowfin, barracuda, shark snapper and wahoo.

Missouri, USA

If you want the optimum outdoor experience, plan a fishing vacation in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri. Here you can fish for bass beneath the towering limestone bluffs that are part of Missouri's rivers. Missouri is home to over two hundred fish species, including several bass species, channel catfish, blue and flathead catfish, sunfish, bluegills, bullheads, muskellunge, walleye, shiners, lamprey, shad, pickerel, perch, trout gar, sturgeon and more. This State has more fish species than any other in the entire USA.

Tips for a Fishing Vacation

Instead of packing all of your fishing gear to haul around the world, use a guide service that provides all necessary equipment in the price of their service. When booking a guide service, ask about years of experience, licensing, insurance and if they are bonded. Ask for references from people who have used their services. Be sure to check these references carefully. If a guide service hesitates when asked for services, run the other way as fast as you can.

Ask the guide service to provide necessary fishing licenses, permits and information on exporting your catch if you wish to do so. If this is the case, check with your Customs Office to see if you are allowed to import your fish from other countries. Ask the guide service the best time of year to book a fishing expedition for success in catching your targeted fish species.

Check with the local Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau or the equivalent in the area where you will be vacationing to find out more about the guide service that you are planning to hire. Some areas mandate that you hire a licensed guide to fish. Check regulations of the area where you will be taking your fishing vacation.

If you have trouble choosing a destination for your fishing vacation, ask someone you know where they have enjoyed the ultimate fishing experience. Research your local library and Internet to find the perfect fishing vacation for you.

Fishing Boats

You and your family are heading out early in the morning for a day of fishing in your brand new fishing boat. You hit that highway that leads to the lake, excited voices echoing throughout your SUV. Your wife and kids are just as delighted with the new boat as you are and are discussing the whopper they hope to catch. You arrive at the lake, launch the runabout that contains the entire family's fishing gear and in no time at all, you are skimming across the water, every family member safely encased in a lifejacket. You just know that this is going to be a great family outing and everyone loves the new fishing boat.

A fishing boat can be anything between a canoe where you dangle basic bait over the side in a river or stream to a powerful cabin cruiser or yacht. Basically, all you need to get out onto the water is a vessel that is seaworthy. There are a large variety of fishing boats available on today's market. You can buy them at boat shows, fishing shows or dealerships. Let's look at some different types of fishing boats.

Freshwater Fishing Boats

If you enjoy fishing in freshwater rivers, lakes and streams, leave the big, powerful boats for someone else. Choose a fiberglass or aluminum boat that is lightweight and easy to transport. A bowrider, runabout, walleye boat or a boat with a small or dual console will meet all of your freshwater fishing needs. These boats are perfect for family outings.

Bass Boats

Bass boats ride low in the water and are usually very colorful and extremely fast. They can be aluminum or fiberglass and most often they are equipped with platforms in both the bow and stern for easy casting. If you've always dreamed of owning the perfect bass boat, be sure to buy one that has a trolling motor mounted on the bow. These boats are mainly used for sport fishing and tournament fishing.

Offshore Saltwater Boats

If you enjoy heading out on the open sea for a day of saltwater fishing that includes huge fish and heavy tackle, you will need a heavy boat that is dependable and can be relied on in all situations and weather. Anything less than a cuddy cabin or center console that's equipped with either twin or single outboard motors will not fit the bill. The high end of an offshore saltwater

boat is a bluewater or convertible that comes complete with luxury quarters and elaborate salons. These boats should be equipped with inboard diesel engines that have maximum power.

Inshore Saltwater Boats

If you're planning to fish for tarpin, bonefish, trout and snook or redfish on tropical flats, a light boat will take you a long way. This type of boat should always be less than a 25-footer and powered by a single outboard motor. The best type of vessel for inshore saltwater fishing is a basic bay boat or flat boat. Both types of boats offer a spacious deck for casting and float well in shallow water.

Float Tubes

Float tubes are devices that allow fly anglers who don't own a boat easy access to get out onto the water. They are excellent for fishing ponds, lakes and mountain streams. Essentially a float tube is a floatation device that is equipped with a seat. The angler sits in the seat while wearing fins and kicks his way around while partially submerged. Fly fishing from float tubes can be difficult, especially for those who are using them for the first time. It definitely takes time to hone your fly casting skills from a float tube.

There are two basic types of float tubes - traditional and pontoon. Traditional float tubes are usually round and have an opening in the front or middle. Basically, these are an inner tube with built-in features for fly fishing. These float tubes can take a lot of time to maneuver because they are round in shape and cause a lot of water resistance.

The newer pontoon float tubes are much easier to use. These are equipped with two pontoons, or air chambers, one on each side of the fisherman. Pontoon float tubes have less water resistance and offer far less drag than traditional ones because the pontoons are V-shaped and move through the water almost effortlessly.

If you are thinking of purchasing a fishing boat, shop around, talk to anglers who own their own boats and do your research to help you decide which type of boat you'd like to have. If you still can't make a choice, talk to a boat fishing guide or the owner of a fishing charter service. They will be glad to give you tips on how to choose the perfect boat for you.

Finding the Best Fishing Boat Setup for Your Needs

Fishing boats practically sell themselves. There aren't many people who haven't had pleasant and adventurous experiences coasting on a fishing boat. Some people say they if they could have any job in the world they would definitely choose to be a fisherman. Even if you're not into catching fish, a fishing boat is a great excuse to enjoy a relaxing day on the water. Having a fishing boat setup ready to go is the ultimate for any enthusiast.

Whether you enjoy waking up before dawn, or sleeping in at sea, there's a fishing boat that's right for you. There are generally two types of people who enjoy fishing boats--hard-core

fishers and casual vacation only fishing. Go online to see the latest in new technology, or to find the best quality used boats for sale as there is a boat for every type of fisherman.

There's nothing more relaxing than the gentle rhythm of the waves, and knowing that you've mastered the waters to a sufficient degree in your fishing boat setup- it's not difficult or challenging once you know the basics. Fishing boats are a fabulous way to immerse your self into boating.

And you don't have to be a fishing expert nor do you don't have to be a member of a professional boat or yacht club to know how to operate a fishing boat. Get yourself good a good fishing boat, and it's easier than steering a car. The rewards of fishing are just as great, you just spend less time worrying about getting there.

Fishing boats offer durability that is simply unmatched. They allow you to discover the most extreme situations while enjoying comfort and convenience. With plenty of space and storage, your options are unlimited. You will find many uses for your boat, even relaxing with family and friends. All you need to do with your fishing boat setup is enjoy yourself.

Trolling the Market for Fishing Boats

Fishing boats are a major investment, whether you're buying a small whaler to take out in the lake or a yacht to cruise the deep seas. They represent one of the best ways to declare yourself a hardcore fisherman, and the one surest ways to drop a lot of cash on fishing equipment. For all of these reasons, it's important to be sure you're making the right investment with your vessel.

First, consider all of the hidden costs of having a boat. There are the basic upkeep fees, such as keeping it fueled and cleaned. Then you have the fees for its storage and parking. If you're going to dry dock the boat during the off-season, you could be looking at a more than nominal fee. Even if you plan to store the ship in your own backyard under a tarp or in your garage, you are required to have a way to pull out and put in the boat come winter and spring. This involves a trailer, a pickup, or at least friends who have them.

One you have those fiscal chores figured out, now you can look forward to the fun part of buying fishing boats--choosing which one is right for you. There are as many makes and models out there as there are cars and SUVs, so you'll be up to your neck in options. But this fact also means that you can be sure to find the boat that's right for you if you look hard enough.

Bass Pro Shops is one brand-name boat model that offers quality at a decent price The famous angling supply store created their first "fish ready" Tracker boat way back in 1978. Since then, they've mastered the design and technology of boats that are rigged as if all of them are for a pro. They come as a package with motor and trailer. Marine gear is optional.

Another big name besides Bass Pro Shops Trackers are the Charger boats. These crafts have a reputation for quality and performance. They're a no nonsense company that believes in providing innovative and effective fishing boats.

Basic Fishing Tackle

If you've decided to take up fishing as a hobby or sport and get out into the fresh air and sunshine, you've made a good choice. Fishing can be very relaxing. It gets you away from the hustle, bustle and stress of daily life and makes you one with nature. Like all other hobbies, sports and activities, there are a few basic things that you will need.

Fishing tackle is equipment you use to get live or artificial bait into the water, dangling in front of the fish. It's not necessary to have a lot of tackle if you are just taking up the sport of fishing, but you do need basic and proper tackle. If you are a beginner, it's best to keep tackle to a minimum until you hone your skills. Then, and only then is the time to try more advanced tackle.

Rod and Reel

A rod and reel can be purchased at your local fishing store. It's best to buy a lightweight rod because they make it easier for you to tell when you have a bite. Spinner reels are best for beginners. Often, you can purchase a rod and reel as one unit. If you don't want to buy a rod and reel until you've tried the sport, borrow one from a family member or friend. An adult fishing rod should be approximately 6 feet long. A rod for a child will be between 4 and 5 feet long.

Fishing Line

Fishing line, also called filament, comes in a wide range of sizes or strengths, which are called pound-test. The larger the pound-test, the stronger the fishing line. For instance, eight pound-test is not as strong as ten pound-test. The trick here is to match your line's pound-test to your rod and reel, the bait you plan to use and the species of fish that you're hoping to catch. Small, lightweight rods that use spincasting or spinning reels will use a line that is up to six pound-test.

If you have a large spinning reel, be sure to use a strong pound-test line. Bait casting reels use a heavier line that can run anywhere from six to thirty pound-test. However, eight to sixteen pound-test is the most popular size of fishing line. Keep in mind that if your line is too heavy, you won't get as many bites or strikes because the fish can see the line. If you're a beginner or if you're using line for kids' rods, eight pound-test is recommended.

Fishing Net

A fishing net isn't an absolute necessity but they do come in handy when you're landing a fish. They're also useful for keeping kids busy when they tire of fishing. They can catch frogs, minnows and tadpoles and discover a whole new world.

Bait

There are several different kinds of bait, both live and artificial. Night crawlers, also known as earthworms, are great for beginners. Instead of buying a dozen, take a flashlight out into the yard after dark when there's dew on the grass and pick your own, or dig them out of your

compost heap. Place them in a plastic container that contains a bit of soil and store them in the refrigerator over night. Be sure to punch holes in the lid of the container and make sure the top is secure. Other types of baits include mealworms, kernel corn, grubs and bread balls.

Bobbers

Bobbers are floats that you attach to your fishing line to dangle the bait in front of the fish. They also give extra weight when casting. The bobber sits on the water surface and when it dips into the water, you know you have a bite. Small is better. Use a bobber that has just enough weight to keep your bait from dragging it under the water. The most sensitive bobbers are the pencil style.

Round bobbers are less sensitive and therefore it's easier for you to tell if you have a bite using a pencil bobber. However, round bobbers are the easiest to cast. Slip bobbers can be adjusted quickly and easily to allow you to fish at different depths and they're easy to cast. They come in both pencil and round styles and are perfect for beginners and children.

Hooks

Fish hooks come in a wide variety of sizes and styles. If you are planning to use live bait, it's best to buy a variety pack that includes hooks in sizes that range from No. 6 to No. 10. If you are fishing for bullhead or catfish, you will need larger hooks. If you intent to catch and release, fish hook barbs can be flattened.

This gives you more of a challenge and inflicts less pain and injury on the fish. Flattening barbs reduces the amount of fish that die because of wounds or because they swallowed the hook. A good rule of thumb to keep this from happening is to use hooks that are compatible with the size of the fish's mouth that you are hoping to catch. If the hook is too small, it is easily swallowed and if it's too large the fish won't take the bait.

Sinkers

Sinkers, or weights as they're sometimes called, come in a variety of sizes and are used to keep your line from floating on the water surface. Split shot sinkers range in size from minute to about the size of the end of a lead pencil, and are the smallest type of weights. Sinkers range from split shot to weights of a pound or more. The most popular and frequently used sinkers are split shot and they are the best weights for beginners and children. When you purchase sinkers be sure they are lead free in order to protect the environment and wildlife species.

Leaders

Fishing leaders are fine pieces of metal with an eye on one end and a small easy to use pin catch on the other. You open this pin to slip a hook or lure onto it. The fishing line is threaded through the eye and knotted. Leaders aren't necessary for beginners or children but are recommended for ease of changing hooks and lures. Leaders are also used when fishing for game fish such as northern pike, muskellunge and walleye. The metal leaders stop these toothy fish from biting through your line.

Swivels

Instead of attaching leaders, hooks and lures to the fishing line, many anglers use a small device called a snap swivel. There is an eye on one end and a pin clip on the other. The fishing line is threaded through the eye and fastened securely with a fishing knot.

The pin clip opens much the same as a safety pin and the hook, lure or leader is slipped onto it and the clip pin is closed. Snap swivels protect your line from tangling as your bait moves and spins through the water. Snap swivels allow you to change bait or to change leaders quickly without cutting and re-tying your fishing line.

Fishing Knife

A fishing knife comes in handy if you have to cut snagged or tangled line. They are also used for scaling and cleaning fish. If kids are fishing, give them nail clippers to cut their line.

Needle Nose Pliers

These assist in removing the hook when the fish swallows it.

First Aid Kit

Pack some bandages, peroxide and anti-bacterial ointment in your tackle box to treat cuts and scrapes.

Tackle Box

A tackle box is used for organizing and storing bobbers, hooks, line, lures, leaders and other small items you will need to have a successful fishing experience. Boxes that open from the top and have two trays are great for beginners, children and casual anglers. Tackle boxes often come with a small amount of tackle such as hooks, bobbers, sinkers and artificial worms.

Now that you have your rod, reel and tackle, you are ready to head out to the old fishing hole. Find a nice shady spot on the bank of a creek, pond or stream or on the side of a lake and relax while you wait for that nibble or strike.

Don't Get Set Adrift With the Wrong Fishing Tackle

Talking about fishing tackle, you should have a good heart to heart with the fish you're looking to reel in. Ask them about their lifestyle, where they're from, what kind of diet they're into, and other aspects of their daily life. Of course, we aren't talking literally having this conversation! You can find out all of this crucial information without even phoning a fish.

Why are all these questions important? You won't have any success at fishing unless you know what kind of prey you're hunting, and know what kind of equipment you need to catch them. You see, fishing gear is very specific to the type of fish it's meant to capture.

There is different gear for fresh and saltwater fish. Equipment varies if you're in still water, a slow moving river, or a class 5 rapids. Plus, you'll need to know what season you're fishing during, and what part of the world you'll be in. And, yes, your gear needs to match the type of foods your fish like to eat.

Once you have this type of information for your next fishing trip, you can get down to buying the right fishing tackle. First, look for tackle that will balance your particular lures. For instance, heavy tackle with a light lure will prevent the lure from doing its job. The heavier your lure, the more weighty tackle you can use.

You can even consider using weights in some instances. In this case, be sure to keep them as distant from the lure as possible. And with the basic tackle rule mentioned above, try to avoid overweighing your lure with too many weights.

And of course, ask yourself a lot of questions when you're on the market for new gear. Are you the kind of fishermen who likes to have all the finest gear, even if you won't use it that much? Do you require a fishing tackle box that you're proud to open in front of your friends? Lastly, what kind of diet are you into?

All About Fishing Rods

Imagine standing on the bank of a swiftly moving stream in the shade of a gnarled willow, your fishing rod bent beneath the weight of an unusually large catch. The type of rod you choose is important for a moment like this. It can determine whether or not you land that fish.

A fishing rod is a rod of graphite, fiberglass, steel, wood or bamboo that is used for the purpose of catching fish. Fishing filament, also called fishing line, is threaded through the ferrules (eyes) along the flexible rod. One end winds around a reel, which is located at the base of the pole. The other end of the line has a barbed hook attached to it. This hook is where you place the bait. Your reel has a handle which you turn to reel in the line once a fish has taken the bait.

Fishing rods vary in size between 4 feet (for children) and 16 feet. The average rod is 6 feet in length. The longer the rod, the more force is put on the angler's arms. However, your fishing rod is the backbone of your fishing tackle and you need to choose a rod that is right for you. The length of the rod you choose depends on two things. The first is the species of fish that you wish to catch. The other thing you have to consider is the landscape of the fishing location and the type of water.

If the landscape around your fishing hole has a lot of trees and overhead branches, a short, flexible rod is best. Short strong rods are best for landing game fish. Flexible, thin rods that are 10 to 12 feet in length are best if wind conditions are moderate. Stronger and thicker rods should be used for large, aggressive fish such as northern pike, muskellunge, walleye and Arctic char. These fish would quickly snap a light and more flexible pole.

Flexibility, which is the amount that the rod can be bent before breaking, can be determined by the diameter of the pole. Light rods are thin and flexible, while stronger rods are thicker and more rigid.

When you look at a fishing rod, you will see several metal rings that are spaced from the handle to the tip. These are ferrules. They guide your fishing line and help it to cast and retrieve smoothly. The tip ferrule directs your cast. Your rod probably also has a reel seat that helps secure the reel to your rod. The reel seat is placed near the handle grip.

Your rod is the most important tool that you will use while fishing and they come in a wide range of types, styles and lengths. Types of fishing rods include bamboo, fiberglass and graphite.

Bamboo rods can be as basic as an inexpensive pole with a line attached, to very expensive handcrafted rods that are used for fly fishing. Simple bamboo poles are great for kids. Expensive bamboo poles make great fly fishing rods. Bamboo rods run from \$5 to hundreds of dollars for handcrafted fly fishing rods. If you are not planning on taking up fly fishing, fiberglass and graphite rods are best.

Fiberglass rods are great for beginners and kids. They come in a variety of lengths and flexibility. They're reasonably priced and it's easy to find a fiberglass rod that will fit your needs. They stand up well and require very little or no maintenance. Experienced anglers prefer graphite rods because they are very lightweight and extremely strong. Graphite is the best of the basic rod types.

If you are just beginning your life as a fisherman, you might consider buying a prepackaged rod and reel, but these are not something you will use once you have a little experience under your belt. If you're not sure you will enjoy fishing, borrow a rod from a family member or friend, instead of investing money in tackle that you may not use for long. More experienced anglers should choose a rod and reel unit over the prepackaged ones.

If you wish to become a successful and skilled angler, you need to choose a fishing rod that compliments your style. Your rod is an extension of your arm and the backbone of your fishing tackle. Choosing a rod doesn't have to be complicated. Take into consideration where and how often you fish. If you're a beginner, buy a reasonably priced rod and reel and then purchase a more expensive one when you've honed your skills.

Do you plan to freshwater or saltwater fish? Freshwater fishing is done in lakes, ponds, rivers and streams that are found in the interior of the country. Saltwater fishing is done in oceans and on the coast. Be sure to choose a rod that is compatible with its job. Though some rods can be used outside of their intended application, it's best to choose a rod that is the right one for the job. This ensures a successful fishing experience.

If you have trouble finding a rod that fits your arms and is as comfortable as a pair of old sneakers, ask a family member or friend who has angling experience to go along to help. Or seek the assistance of the staff at your local fishing store. They'll be glad to give you a few pointers that will help you choose the fishing rod that is right for you.

Casting for the Right Fishing Rods

Fishing rods are an essential piece of the puzzle whether you're fly fishing, surf fishing, or deep-sea trolling. It's almost as if the fish can sense the quality of your rod even with the feet of water between you and him. Why bother getting reeled in by this piece of junk, they might say.

Seriously, the right rod has a serious impact on your skills. For instance, with flying fishing, a proper rod can directly affect how well you cast. The wrong rod could leave you well wide of your wanted mark, whereas a high caliber rod can put you precisely where you want to be.

Plus, high quality fishing rods are also much more dependable than junkers. You may be able to pick up a rod on the cheap and save a few bucks, but imagine the feeling when that rod falls apart at the wrong moment. Say, you are finally on that vacation with your buddies to Minnesota, pull out on one of those beautiful one thousand lakes, when your rod snaps apart in your hands. That's not a pretty picture to say the least.

Now that you're sure you need a quality rod, here are some of the telltale signs that you should look for. Check out the make and composition of your rod. Today's strongest and lightest models come with graphite composition or other alloys. Examine the cork, too. It should not require any tape or extra glue to fit to blank. The guides should be of a strong durable metal and perhaps even coated with some sort of rust protectant.

With these qualities in mind among others, do a thorough job with your research. Put as much effort into finding the right fishing rods as you would investing in the best set of golf clubs.

The Spin on Fishing Reels

There's nothing like standing on the bank of a stream or river, the sun sparkling on the water and feeling the thrill of a big catch. You play the fish until it tires, carefully bringing it in using your reel. Your choice of reel is important when you're an active fisherman.

A fishing reel is a piece of fishing equipment that is devised for sports and hobby fishermen to cast and retrieve fishing line. It is a spool and axle that mounts on a fishing rod. There are also reels that have been specifically designed to mount on boats. There are three basic types of fishing reels: bait casting, fly casting and spin casting.

Bait Casting Reels

Bait casting reels are extremely complicated. The line is pulled off the rod by the weight of the lures being used. It is thrust forward by the motion of casting. These reels usually provide a device that lays the line evenly across the rotating cylinder that acts as the core of the reel. If the cast is not smooth, it will cause problems when the line is reeled in. The line can become tangled, which is frustrating to the user. Great lengths of time can be spent untangling the line when using bait casting reels. These reels are not for beginners or children.

Fly Fishing Reels

There are two specific things you need to be aware of when choosing a fly fishing reel. One is to ensure that it has a drag that is extremely responsive. The second thing is to buy a fly fishing reel that can stand the tension and strain put on it should you have a significantly large catch. Fly casting reels are more expensive than other types of fishing reels.

When purchasing a fly fishing reel, look it over with an eagle eye and ascertain that there are no plastic parts. It isn't unusual for plastic to fail when you have a large fish on your line. All metal reels are much more reliable and are worth the extra price that you will pay.

Spinning Reels

There are two types of spinning reels - closed faced and open faced.

The closed faced reel is inexpensive and easy to use. It is the best type of reel for those who are learning to fish. Closed faced reels are almost trouble free, yet are capable of bringing in your catch, whatever it may be. Closed faced spinning reels have a push button release when casting and have an opening in the top for the line to come out when cast. This type of reel is mounted on your fishing rod. Spinning reels are used by fishermen who are hobbyist, casual sportsmen, beginners and children. If you buy a prepackaged rod and reel, this is usually the type of reel that's included.

Open faced spinning rods are more difficult to use and comes in a variety of sizes. Ultra light models are great for catching pan fish. Larger models will be needed for game fishing or ocean fishing. Line capacity on an open faced reel is greater and is serviceable when fishing for salmon and trout. They have a smooth drag, which makes them an excellent choice for the longer run game fish.

A closed faced fishing reel is perfect for beginners and children, as mentioned above. As your fishing skills are honed, you may wish to upgrade to an open faced reel and then move on to more advanced reels. Keep in mind that you don't want to choose a reel with plastic parts that can fail if you catch a good sized fish.

A good rule of thumb is the lighter the line, the smaller the reel. Be sure the reel you purchase is compatible with the type of fishing line you plan to use. If you're choosing only one reel, a medium speed is best. If you plan on buying at least two reels, choose both a high and low speed. There is a difference in reels for right and left-handed people. Be sure you purchase a reel that is compatible with your dexterity. Left handed reels turn counter clock wise while a right handed reel turns clock wise.

If you have trouble choosing a reel, ask a family member or friend who is an avid angler to lend you a hand, or ask the staff at your local fishing store. Anyone who has experience in fishing will be more than glad to help in any way they can.

Fishing Reels Shouldn't Be a Drag on Your Game

Use old or poor quality fishing reels if you want to lose that big fish. Combined with the wrong leaders and tippets, your wrong reels will cost you all the glory of the big catch. If that's not enough, throw the wrong reel on your fly fishing pole, too. It will make sure that your whole outfit is out of whack. Sounds like a plan, right? Wrong.

Any serious angler knows that it's essential to have a great reel if you want to actually catch something on the lake or the stream. Buy something cheap if all you're looking for is a couple hours of peace and quiet and a few brews. Not that there's anything wrong with a little quiet time in the Great Outdoors, but the whole reason for being out on a boat at 5 am, or waist high in a river, is to reel something in.

There's no disputing the simple truth in that. All is there to do now is find yourself fishing reels worthy of your dedication to fishing. You'll be surprised by the choices out there, and assured that one or more of the reels out there will do for you. You have your hands full of choices whether you're on the market for a fly reel, or a spin reel.

For fly reels, keep your eyes out for the two different types of drag systems on the market. In case you forgot, the drag is what gives your line tension and makes it more or less difficult for the fish to pull out more line from the reel. For smaller fish, the drag of a reel isn't as important, since they won't have the muscle to yank on your line. Larger catch, on the other hand, you'll be worrying about the drag on your fishing reels.

Finding the Daiwa Reel Parts You Need

Purchasing Daiwa reel parts can be a very confusing experience. With so many different types, varieties, models and sizes of fly reels for you to select from, the fly reel parts marketplace can be very confusing, especially for the beginner. You need to ensure that you buy the right part for your needs. As a beginner you are in exactly that predicament right now. If so, here are a few tips on what to look for when you go shopping for fly reel parts.

Daiwa reels are good quality casting reels due to their free floating spool design, which permits the spool to detach from the main gearing during the outcast, and the 153HST holds true with tradition. However, like every good quality reel that is subjected to the rough treatment of angling again and again, things can go wrong and you will occasionally require additional Daiwa reel parts.

Cast tests for Daiwa reels are always excellent and reels are never offered to market until they know that anglers who have fished with them will notice an improvement on the products immediately from existing Daiwa products and other reels on the market. For instance, the 153HST casts so quickly that most normal anglers will want to make use of some amount of resistance using the new Magforce-Z.

While the traditional Magforce knob found on most Daiwa reels is more attractive than the larger adjustment knob implemented on the 153HST, this larger knob is easier to adjust on the

fly with just one hand on the reel. If you are looking for Diawa reel parts like these knobs then look no further.

Diawa reel parts can be purchased on the Internet from fishing supply wholesalers. And if you order the fly reel parts from some Internet suppliers you might actually be able to get free shipping and insurance depending on how much you spend in any one transaction. You can also visit www.diawa.com for more information.

Finding the Shimano Fishing Reel Parts You Need

There are many different Shimano fishing reel parts to accommodate various styles of reels and thus serve the many forms of fishing undertaken by professional and amateur anglers all across the country. One popular model of Shimano fishing reel is the TLD 20 lever drag reel which features four stainless steel ball bearings, a stainless steel main shaft, gears and reel foot. It has a one piece graphite and titanium body and an oil ported rod handle.

The Downrigger level wind reel is designed especially for the demands of down rigging and features a strike alarm to let you know you have a fish on your hook. The frame is made with graphite and titanium and has a stainless steel reel foot, steel pinion and main gears, an aluminum spool and a ball bearing power knob and titanium drag. It also has a 300 yard capacity and a 20 pound testing ability.

With regards to Shimano fishing reel parts, you may also be able to find the two speed level drag reel and parts for that reel at a discount fishing equipment store online usually for far less than the normal retail price. This two speed level drag reel has the power to allow you to do stand up fishing for larger fish like tuna, shark or marlin. These reel parts and mechanisms are made with graphite and stainless steel for extra strength and endurance.

Another Shimano fishing reel is the Speedmaster reel which features a very high gear ratio with the purpose of allowing you to catch many fish in a shorter period of time. This is great for professional or serious amateur fishers. It also has a strike alarm, aluminum spool, stainless steel reel foot, ball bearing titanium drag and stainless steel gears. There are many online fishing and gear outlet stores who offer a wide selection of Shimano fishing reel parts and standard reels.

How to Find Fishing Lures That Provide Consistent Strikes

Fishing lures can sometimes seem like they're more for showing off to other anglers than they are for attracting lurking fish. They come in every shade of color in and under the rainbow. Some have frilly ends or metallic sheens, while others are designed to practically glow and flutter along in the water.

While some men get as giddy about lures and children do over the wares of a candy store, we must all remember that lures do have practical purposes. And sure, lures may come secondary

to doing the right prep work before you cast away. It may be more important, for instance, to learn the habits, tastes, and patterns of your prey first. But it's also important to choose the right shaped and colored fishing lures.

Picking the right color lure, in fact, could help you draw out that fish that otherwise wasn't going to bother with your line. Basically, you want to base your color selections first and foremost on what sort of body of water you'll be working with. The dirtier and more opaque the water, the brighter colored you want your lure. On the other hand, if you're floating on a crystal clear lake, go with less eye-catching, more natural colors.

The tone of the color, and the number of colors, depends on this basic rule, too. If you're wading into murky muddy waters, go for heavy colors, or dual-colored, lures. For example, dark purple, black, or midnight blue shades can do, with the dual color effect of a red or orange tail. Whereas, in water where you can see the fish swimming around your feet, go with translucence with colors such as gray, pink, and clay.

Not only will you have a selection of lures that look pretty and are worth showing off to your chums. Your fishing lures will work no matter where you're at.

Fishing Bait Basics

Imagine heading out for a few relaxing hours of fishing. With rod and reel and tackle box in hand, you descend a hill and come to the edge of a swiftly moving stream. The sun reflects off the crystal clear water as you set down your tackle box and rig your bait. You cast into a tranquil pool or eddy and your bobber floats on the water surface. Suddenly, it disappears. Your reflexes automatically set the hook. The fish has taken the bait.

Bait is something, either live or artificial that attracts fish. When the fish 'takes the bait', you set the hook and skillfully bring the fish to shore.

Live Bait

There are many live types of bait that can be used to catch fish. These include earthworms, also known as dew worms and night crawlers. Insects that can be used include grasshoppers, flies, insect larvae and crickets. Other live baits are minnows, chub, shad, crayfish and frogs. Live bait can be purchased at fishing bait and tackle stores, at some variety stores in popular fishing areas, on a dewy lawn after dark (use a flashlight to find dew worms), compost piles, around piers and boat launches as well as around campsites.

Prepared Bait

Prepared bait is bait that has been previously prepared. These include kernel corn, bread balls, cheese balls, stink baits, salmon eggs, cereal balls, baked potato pieces, chicken entrails and hotdogs.

Artificial Bait

Artificial bait is bait that is manmade. These include plastic worms and insects, flies, lures, small jigs, streamer flies, spoons, streamers and spinners.

Fish and Bait

There are certain types of bait that work better for specific fish species. A few suggestions of bait to use for fish species are:

Bluegill

Maggots, grubs, worms, crickets, grasshoppers, small flies, ice spoons or jigs.

Bowfin

Worms, minnows, crayfish, frogs, spinners, spoons and streamers.

Bullhead

Leaf worms, night crawlers, insects, insect larvae, crayfish and stink bait.

Carp

Dough balls, angle worms, peeled crayfish tails, corn, cheese balls and cereal or baked potato pieces.

Catfish

Night crawlers and prepared baits such as bread balls, hotdogs and chicken entrails.

Crappie

Minnows, worms, insect larvae, insects, small flies, small jigs and small spinners.

Gar

Minnows, suckers and frogs.

Perch

Minnows, worms, crayfish, insect larvae, insects, small flies, ice spoons and small jigs.

Pickereel

Minnows, chub, crayfish, worms, spinners, spoons and streamer flies.

Rock Bass

Minnows, crayfish, insects, insect larvae and worms.

Striped Bass

Shad, worms, shad, spinners and streamers.

Sunfish

Maggots, grubs, leaf worms, insects, small flies, ice spoons and small jigs.

Trout

Salmon eggs and lures.

There are several different types of minnows and some are better than others for specific fish species. A few specific fish that can be caught with different types of minnows are:

Chub

northern pike and bass.

Golden Shiner

northern pike and bass.

Fathead Minnow

bass, crappie, panfish and walleye.

Bluntnose Minnow

bass, crappie and walleye.

Bait is placed on the end of your fishing line. If you wish to change bait with ease, use a fishing knot to attach a swivel and/or leader, which you should carry in your tackle box. A hook or lure is attached to the swivel/leader with a pin-like clip. If you are using lures, you attach the lure, cast and work or troll it.

If you are using live bait, you attach it to the hook. When hooking worms, you can either start the hook near the head and thread it about three quarters of the way through the center of the body and exit near the tail, or hook it twice, about a half inch from the head and again about a half inch from the tail. Hook maggots through the blunt end very lightly to ensure it remains lively. If using slugs, use a large hook, about a size 2, and nick it through the body.

Prepared bait is also used on a hook. To bait a hook with cheese, bury the point of the hook inside the cheese. Sweet corn is slide through the end of the kernel. Bread can be mixed with a bit of water and made into balls. When using bread balls as bait, bury the point inside the ball.

What Not to Use as Bait

Salmon and trout should never be used as bait, as these fish can promote the spread of whirling disease, which is a type of parasite. If you don't know which bait to use for specific fish, or how the bait should be attached to the hook, ask a family member or a friend who is an experienced angler to help you determine which is best to attract the fish species you are hoping to catch. The staff at the local bait and tackle shop will also be happy to suggest certain kinds of bait.

Fish Bait Recipes to Make at Home

Curing Salmon Eggs

If you are fishing for large game fish, cured salmon eggs are the perfect bait. Largemouth bass, pickerel, muskellunge, salmon, lake trout and other large fish species love them. Here's how to cure salmon eggs to use as bait. When you remove the eggs from the salmon you are cleaning, keep the egg sacs, also known as skeins intact.

Cover a large, flat, moveable surface with 1/4 inch of borax. Cut the egg sacs (skeins) across the membrane in sections of 3 to 4 inches. Lay the egg sac (skein) sections 1 inch apart on top of the borax. Sprinkle more borax over the top to create a light coating. Be sure all egg sacs are covered. Move the large moveable surface that the eggs are on into a sheltered area that has good air circulation all around. The eggs must not be in direct sunlight and must not get wet, so be sure they are protected from precipitation.

Allow the sacs to dry for two to three days, being sure to turn them every 12 hours. Pick the egg sacs out of the borax and shake any excess off them. Place them in plastic bags or storage containers. The egg sacs are ready to use when they are completely dry and feel leathery, but flexible. If eggs are properly cured, they can be saved in the plastic bags or containers to be used on your next fishing trip.

Cheese Bait

Cheese bait can be used to catch bream, catfish, chub, and carp. In fact carp especially love cheese bait. So if you're looking to catch any of these species or a huge carp that's been lurking around your fishing hole, here's how to make your own cheese bait. Use 10 ounces (284 grams) of pie pastry and roll it flat on a cutting board or counter top. Smear the pastry with mature cheddar flavor. Add 6 ounces (170 grams) of grated mature cheddar cheese and 4 ounces (115 grams) of crumbled Danish blue cheese.

Make sure it's crumbled to fine grains. Fold the pastry over the cheese so it is completely covered and roll again. Continue this process until the pie pastry and the cheese are mixed thoroughly and the cheese is absorbed by the pastry. Form the paste into a large ball and knead by hand. Add ten drops of the mature cheddar flavoring to a freezer bag and place the cheese paste ball into the bag. Place in the freezer.

When it is thawed, this bait has a very appealing consistency and texture, and a very powerful cheesy smell. Roll the thawed paste into cheese balls and place into a container for your next fishing trip. When you place a cheese ball onto your hook, set the hook's point into the center, cast and wait patiently for the fish to bite. Optionally you may add a few drops of red food coloring to the paste if you wish, but it isn't necessary.

Get Your Wish With Fishing Supplies

Great fishing supplies are an essential when it comes to netting the big game out at the lake or the stream. You can't expect the fish to bite, though, if you don't bring your A game. And a big part of a top-notch game is the right gear--from rods and reels, to lines, lures, and tackle boxes.

On the other hand, even some weekend warrior with the most advanced, most pricey equipment won't last very long on the lake if he doesn't know what he's doing. They can practically smell inexperience, and they'll walk all over you--or swim, in their case--if you can't fish worth a darn.

That's where practice comes in. Get in a few hours of fishing whenever you, wherever you. No matter if it's off a dock on the bay or thigh-high in high tide in the Atlantic, cast away whenever you can find the time. Just like any athletic pursuit or hobby, practice combined with the best fishing supplies makes for perfect angling.

Try to learn as much about fishing as you can, too. Instead of running off on your own, try to fish with buddies whose fishing skills you envy. Or hunker down near a few total strangers and pick their brain while you're all casting and reeling. And while you're not talking, do some watching as well. Observe their techniques. Check out what equipment they use. And watch what kind of fish they're catching.

Finally, observe yourself. You don't have to take notes like a hook worm. But keep track in your mind what kind of lure you're using at all times, what kind of natural conditions you're working with, and what kind of fish you're catching, or not catching. You will start to see the tendencies of your prey, along with your own tendencies. Fishing, you see, is much more than just about waiting and drinking beer. You also need practice, a sharp mind for it, and the right fishing supplies.

Fishing Accessories

It's a cold day. Yes, fall has arrived. This is a great time for fishing, so you gather up your fishing equipment and head out. You walk through a forest where the trees are dressed in their fall colors of red, gold and orange. They look beautiful with the evergreen backdrop. Then, you come to the edge of a swiftly moving stream where there is a great fishing opportunity.

You set down your tackle box and your rod and reel, slip off your new water proof jacket and slip a pair of hip waders on over your fisherman's vest. These are just a few of the many fishing accessories that are available. This article will go into more depth on fishing accessories.

Your rod and reel is the backbone of your fishing equipment. If you are a casual fisherman, fishing hobbyist or are buying equipment for children, go with the basic rod and reel. Tackle can range from simple to extremely complicated. Basic tackle includes hooks, sinkers, bobbers, fishing line and a pair of needle nosed pliers for removing your catch if it swallows the hook.

You may also wish to buy a net. If you are choosing a net, choose a size that will easily hold the fish species that you are fishing for. You don't want a small net if you are fishing for salmon and don't want a huge net if you are fishing for rock bass. If you fish for a variety of fish species, you might want to consider buying both a small and a large net.

Electronic alarms allow you to know when you have a fish on your line. With these, your fishing line threads through a slot in the alarm head. If you get a bite, the alarm beeps and an LED display flashes. There are a wide variety of good electronic alarms on the market.

Clothing for fisherman can range from simple to elaborate. One necessity is a fishing hat and sunglasses that will shade your face from the sun. A good fishing vest with lots of pockets also comes in handy, especially if you plan to wade into a stream. Waders come in thigh or chest type and are great for getting out into the water to extend your casting length. You may need suspenders for these. In spring and fall, a good waterproof jacket and gloves are essential to keep you dry in foul weather. Rain suits are also available in one and two piece suits.

Other accessories are forceps, a scissor, a flashlight, wading shoes, a fishing belt, a gaff, which is used for big game fish, a tackle box or bag, pliers, pocket thermometers, angling pliers, and a good fishing knife and sharpener. These are all accessories that will aid you in your fishing experience. Be sure to take along a floatation vest or life jacket if you are fishing from a boat.

Before choosing expensive accessories or tackle, be sure it is right for the job and right for you. There are many factors to be taken into consideration, including the species of fish you are fishing for. If you are not sure what fishing accessories you will need, or if you have trouble choosing, ask a family member, a friend, or a staff member of the local bait and tackle shop to help you assemble the fishing accessories that you will need for the particular fish species you are fishing for.

Getting a Good Lock on Fish Finders

Fish finders are part of fishing, and there's no turning back. The whole sport has gone from a more traditional game of testing the waters to the technological wonders of outsmarting the fish. Finders allow you to get a bead on your prey, while checking the water depth and temperature, floor structure, and fish locations. There are as many finders on the market these days as cell phones, personal digital assistants, and other gee whiz wonders.

All of them work on the same principle: sonar. It's the same amazing sound-based technology that submarines use. The finder sends out electronic pulses to its transducer mechanism, which then shoots the pulse into the water. The pulse continues to travel until it is deflected back by the floor of the water body. Most other objects, such as fish, jellyfish, or other creatures, the beam passes right through.

When the beam bounces back to the finder, the computer then analyzes the results. Then it interprets the data to tell you the depth of the water, the number and location of other undersea objects, and so forth. It can even detail any sort of items that it found on the seabed, such as vegetation or on that one in a million sort of day, a sunken galleon full of gold bullion.

Beyond this basic technology, however, fish finders are all different. First off, they have different levels of power. The basic stats on a finder will tell you its wattage and its "peak to peak" power, which can tell you how strong a transducer it has on it. Obviously, with any sort of electrical equipment, it will have a better range, faster speeds, and better performance the more power it can crank out.

You should also check the stats on finder for their pixel quality. As anyone who has bought a digital camera knows, the higher the pixels, the better the resolution you can get. And resolution is crucial for figuring out what is on the screen of your fish finders.

Hone in on a Hummingbird Fish Finder Today

A Hummingbird fish finder is one of the most well known and appreciated brands on the market. No wonder. They've been in the fish finding business for more than 30 years now. That whole time they've been focused on producing one of the most innovative and useful electronic gear out there on the high seas. They also are masters of depth sounders, GPS systems, and radios made especially for your craft,

With markets and buyers in more than 100 countries, the maker of Hummingbird, Techsonic Industries, runs their main plant out of Eufaula Alabama. They started there in 1971, and have never left. Of course, when they first began, they didn't own the state of the art facility that they do now. Back in the 70s, they practically worked out of garage designing their first primitive fish finders.

It wasn't long, however, until the Hummingbird fish finder made a name for itself in the angling world. It was 1975. The company released the Super Sixty, the original and first waterproof depth sounder. It took the market by storm, and to this day, is still one of the highest selling models in the world. Not only did it put like Techsonic on the map, it pushed them toward the number one spot on that map.

Innovation is what kept them on top, so Techsonic has always stuck with what got them there. It was in the early 1980s to be exact that they released another one of the famous models. This one was the LCRs, such as the LCR4000 and LCR2000, followed three years later by the LCR4ID. The wonder of these machines were their displays, which started the trend

toward liquid crystal display. The clearest images on the market made the LCRs huge hits, topping the sales charts in both the fishing world and the general boating world.

With such a pedigree, you can feel sure when shopping for a Hummingbird fish finder today.

Fish Finder Reviews for the Avid Angler

Fish finders are now valuable tools for recreational fisherman. This is because of they help anglers to continually find fish, plus they are easy to use and very convenient. There are many manufacturers of these devices today, including companies like Eagle Electronics and Hummingbird. Fish finder reviews on the internet are usually the best way to determine which fish finder is the most appropriate for your needs. Each manufacturer offers its own fish finders from which you can choose.

Eagle fish finders come in many different configurations including the single frequency lines such as the CUDA and FishElite finders. Their dual frequency finders include the SeaCharter and SeaFinder finders. Finally, Eagle also offers two GPS-only IntelliMap finders. If you are buying a fish finder on a budget, the CUDA 128 is the entry level Eagle finder that provides a great service for a lower price. Read fish finder reviews on the internet for more information.

A Hummingbird fish finder is also something you might want to consider when shopping for fish-finders. Some of the Hummingbird products include the Matrix and SX series of finders. The Matrix 15 is loaded with a DualBeam PLUS 60-degree sonar, which delivers superior range and better coverage. It can detect fish for hundreds of feet, and an easy-to-read LCD monitor keeps users up to date as to the depth of the water and the locations of the fish. Read fish finder reviews on the internet for more information.

Fish finders are useful, easy-to-use tools for the fishermen who want to have greater success when it comes to reeling in the fish out of the water. There are many more types of finders available on the market, so it's a good idea to do some feature comparisons before buying one. Read fish finder reviews on the internet for more information before you make your purchasing decision because you will see what other people think of the product you are considering purchasing.