

# Fishing Rod Checklist

By Campbell Rodriguez

- Questions to Ask
  - Are you just learning to wet your line or are you a tournament pro?
  - How often you find yourself on the water?
  - Are you planning to fish for freshwater or saltwater species?
  - Do you prefer to fish with spinning or casting reels?
  - What you truly look for in a rod?
- Choosing a Fishing Rod
  - If you're a beginner start with a 6-foot, 10-inch, medium-heavy action baitcaster.
  - Consider buying a pre-packaged rod and reel.
  - If you're not sure you will enjoy fishing, borrow a rod from a family member or friend.
  - If you own a boat or can fish close to home, a single piece rod will be the best choice.
  - If you enjoy fishing with lures you should seek a rod that is comfortable to cast repeatedly all day.
  - If finesse fishing is your game then select a higher modulus graphite rod which will be faster, stiffer, and more sensitive.
  - Seasoned anglers will want to invest in higher quality, more sensitive rods that they are sure to use for extended periods.
  - If fishing requires you to travel, you should consider collapsible or multi-sectional rods.
  - If you are an offshore angler choose a robust rod capable of matching up with your heavy duty traditional round reel.
- Buying a Fishing Rod
  - Ask an expert in the store to help you choose the rod for your type of fishing.
  - Test the grip of the rod; Make sure the handle fits snugly in your palm.
  - Choose the length of rod.
  - Test for flexibility.
  - If buying used fishing equipment, check the rod for hairline cracks on the pole.
- Tips

- 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.