

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.