

Fishing Checklist

By Campbell Rodriguez

Preparation

Lessons

There are places that give fishing lessons and guided fishing trips. The best lesson is practice, practice and more practice!

Experience

This goes along with lessons and just hanging out experimenting with bait and hooks and lures. Lots of practice will get you the experience you need to be a good fisherman (or woman).

Equipment

There is quite a bit of equipment to buy if you intend to be serious about fishing, so start out simple at first, and see if you will stick with it.

Clubs

Fishing clubs are fun, and you can pick up tons of great information there, and lots of friends, too.

Permission

Check and make sure you have permission to fish from the owner of the area if it is not public.

If Fishing from a Boat

Oars/Paddles

Depending on the type of boat you use, make sure you have some of these on hand.

Rope

This is necessary for any boat, so stock up - you may need to pull yourself into a dock, tie up, or throw a life preserver or someone in the water.

Anchor

Having the boat stay in the same place while you're fishing lets you take advantage of schooling areas where fish are plentiful.

Life jackets/PFDs

These are required no matter where you fish at, so have at least two per boat.

Seat cushions

For people who prefer to be comfortable while sitting down fishing, cushions do make it easier.

Fishing Equipment

Tackle Box

This does not need to be fancy, but it does need to hold all of the lures, bait and other things you will use.

Fishing License

This is an absolute must, because if the local authorities pull you over, and demand to see this, you have to have it.

Rods

Make sure that your rods are well taken care of, and inspect them on a regular basis.

Lures and Bait

You will need a variety for the different types of fish you may want to catch.

Hooks and Sinkers

Again, a variety will be needed for different types of fish.

Knives

You will need both a fillet knife and a pocket knife for different uses.

Weighing scale

This is needed to make sure that any fish you catch is legal to take home with you - you may have to toss it back in the water.

Tape Measure

This is to check the size of the fish.

Hook Remover.

This is to take the hook out of the fish's mouth

Wet Weather Items

- Boots**
Preferably rubber boots, top keep your feet dry.
- Rain hat**
This will help keep your head dry.
- Poncho**
This goes over everything else to keep wind and rain off.
- Rain suit**
If you are an avid rainy day fisher, invest in a suit for extra mobility and comfort.
- Safety Tips**
 - Keep hydrated**
Drink water, and plenty of it, on a regular basis.
 - Life vest.**
Wear it, don't be a fool!
 - Communication**
Have at least a two-way radio, or cell phone available if you need help.
 - Set a going back time**
Agree on a time that you'll go back in, if you're in a group; that way, no one gets lost. Make sure people know where you are going and when you should get back.
 - Search and Rescue**
Know who to contact, and when the appropriate time to do so is, should there be a problem.