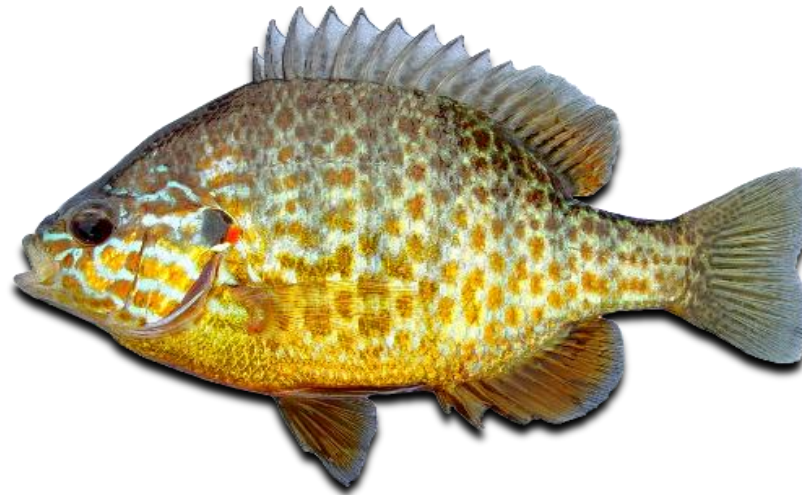


Fishing Basics

Tom Bourret, Connecticut DEEP
Justin Wiggins, Connecticut DEEP
Fred Monahan, Scouting America

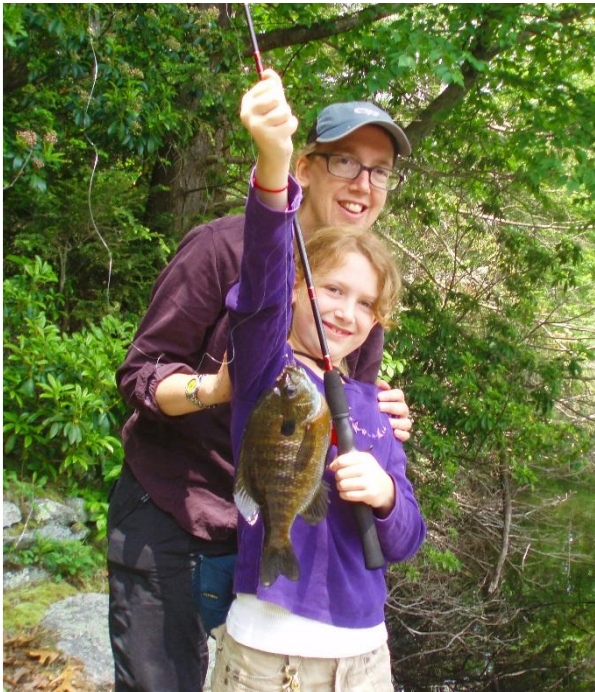




Introduction to Fishing



Developed by:
Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) Program
Scouting America National Fishing Leadership Team



Topics

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- ▶ **Basic Fishing Tackle**
- ▶ **Fishing knots**
- ▶ **Fishing Ethics**
- ▶ **Fishing Regulations**
- ▶ **Finding Fish in a Pond or Lake**
- ▶ **Fishing Trip Checklist**
- ▶ **Fish Identification**
- ▶ **Baits and Lures**
- ▶ **Casting**
- ▶ **Fishing Techniques**

Basic Fishing Outfits

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2-Piece Spincast Outfit



Telescoping Pole



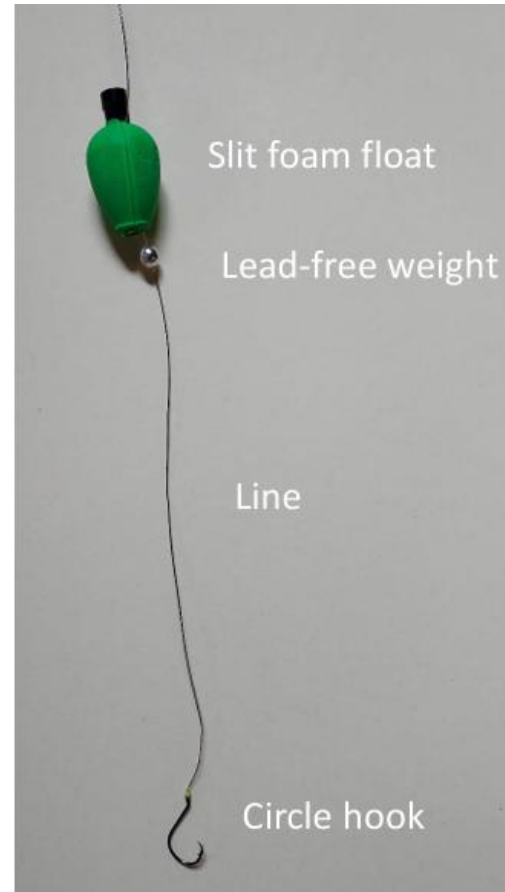
3-Piece Cane Pole

Basic Fishing Tackle

5



Spincast reel



The split-shot goes below the float to reduce tangling when casting.

Hook sizes 6-10 perfect for freshwater fishing.



Foam Float



Split Shot Weight

Hooks



- ▶ **“J” hook – Used as a bait hook.**



- ▶ **“Inline J” hook – Is used to replace treble hooks on lures.**

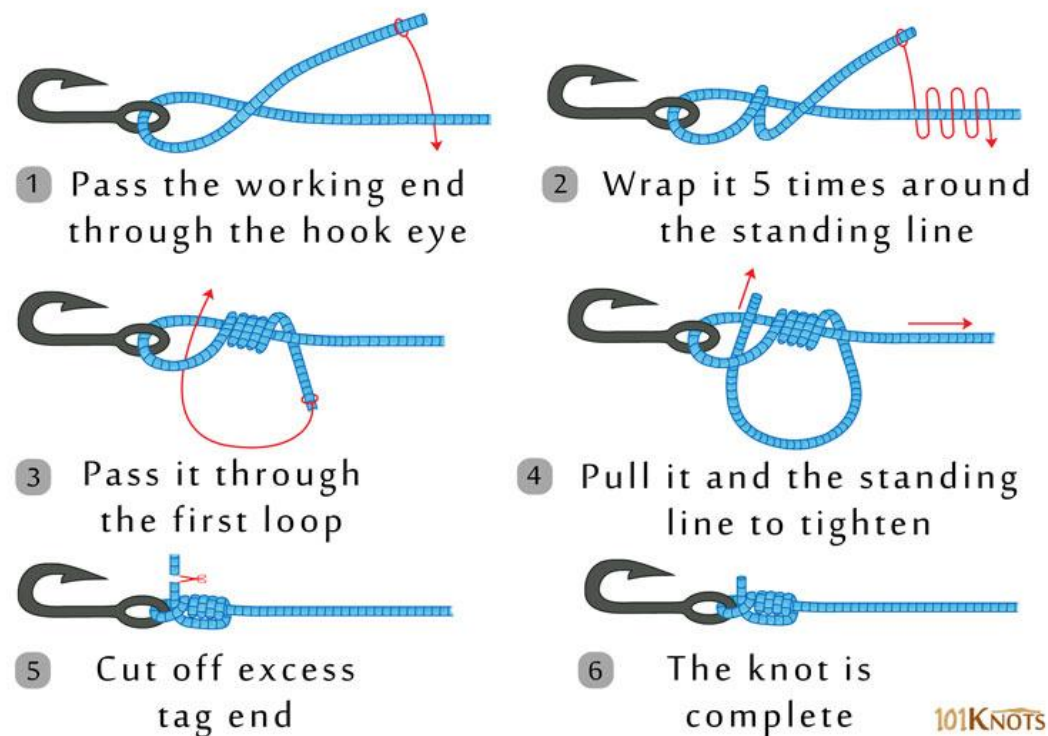


- ▶ **“Circle” hook – Can be used as a bait hook. Best choice for youth; safer and easier for young Scouts to use.**

Learning Knots: the EDGE Method

- ▶ Hand out 6-lb monofilament line and paperclips. Bend each paperclip into a practice “hook”.
- ▶ **Explain** what the clinch knot is used for, why strong knots are important, why knots must be neatly formed, why knots should be lubricated before tightening, and why knots should be tested before use.
- ▶ **Demonstrate** how to tie the knot.
- ▶ **Guide** each Scout while he or she ties the knot.
- ▶ **Enable** Scouts to succeed on their own. Ask them to tie the knot a few times.

Tying a Clinch Knot



www.animatedknots.com and www.101knots.com are excellent online resources

Outdoor Ethics

- 1.** Try to retrieve ALL lost fishing gear, monofilament, hooks, weights, etc.
- 2.** Properly dispose all discarded fishing gear, especially monofilament and fluorocarbon.
- 3.** Pack out all trash - yours and any that you find. Recycle all plastic.
- 4.** Respect wildlife.
- 5.** Be considerate of others.



Leave your fishing area cleaner than you found it. Take nothing but pictures; leave nothing but footprints.

Fishing Regulations

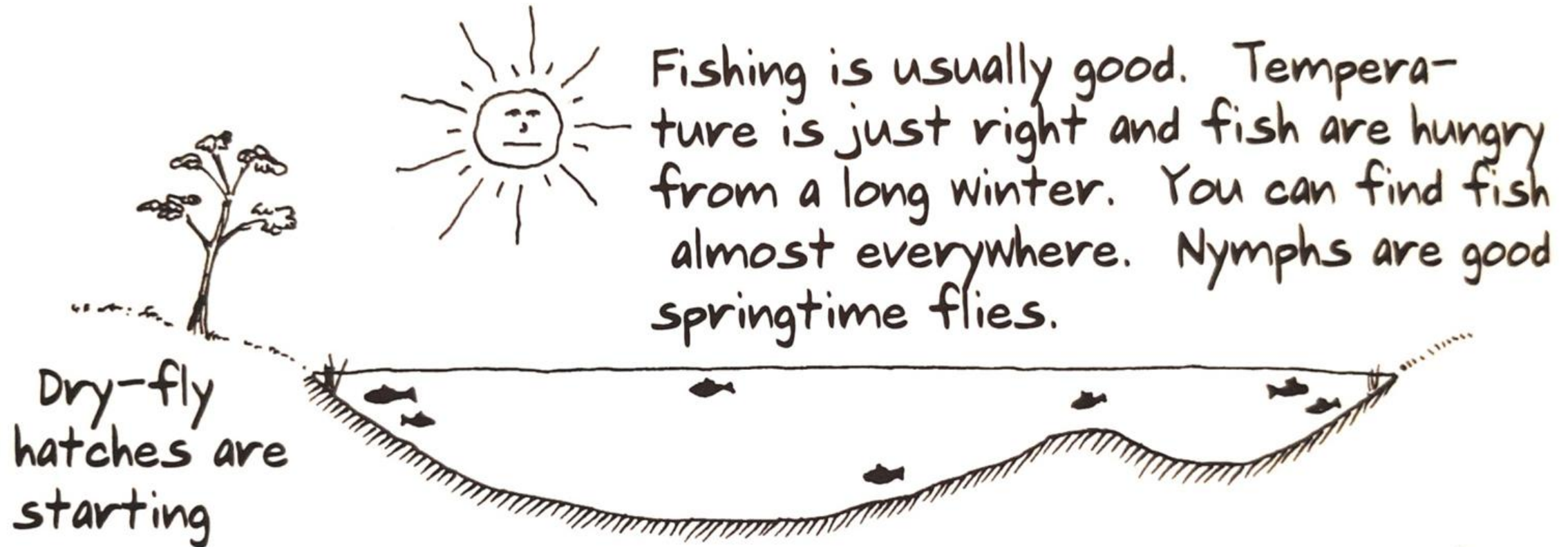
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- ▶ **Your State Fishing Guide contains regulations and advice concerning:**
 - **Fish Species Identification.**
 - **Bag Limits.**
 - **Seasons & Size Limits.**
 - **License Requirements.**
 - **Where to go Fishing & Waterbody Regulations.**
 - **What Gear You Can Use.**



Finding Pond and Lake Fish in the Spring

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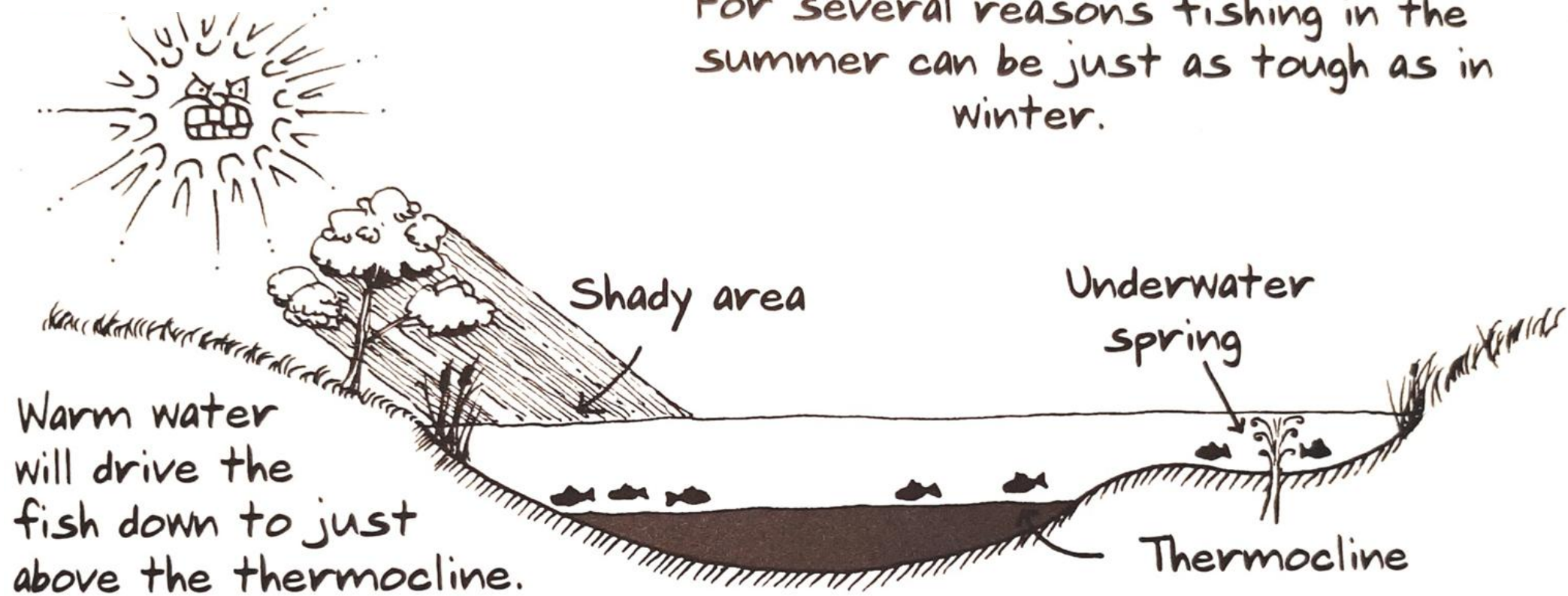


From *Lake Fly-Fishing Manifesto* by Mike Croft

Finding Pond and Lake Fish in the Summer

11

For several reasons fishing in the summer can be just as tough as in winter.



From *Lake Fly-Fishing Manifesto* by Mike Croft

Fishing Trip Checklist

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- ▶ Check the weather (rain gear).
- ▶ Check local fishing regulations (available online).
- ▶ Check your gear (fresh line, hooks, floats, bait, tackle box, eye protection, etc.).
- ▶ Tell someone where you are going.
- ▶ Scout essentials (next slide).

Invite a friend - share the fun!

Scout Essentials

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Cub Scouts

- First Aid Kit
- Water Bottle
- Flashlight
- Trail Food
- Sun Protection, Hat & Sun Screen
- Whistle

Scouts BSA (additional)

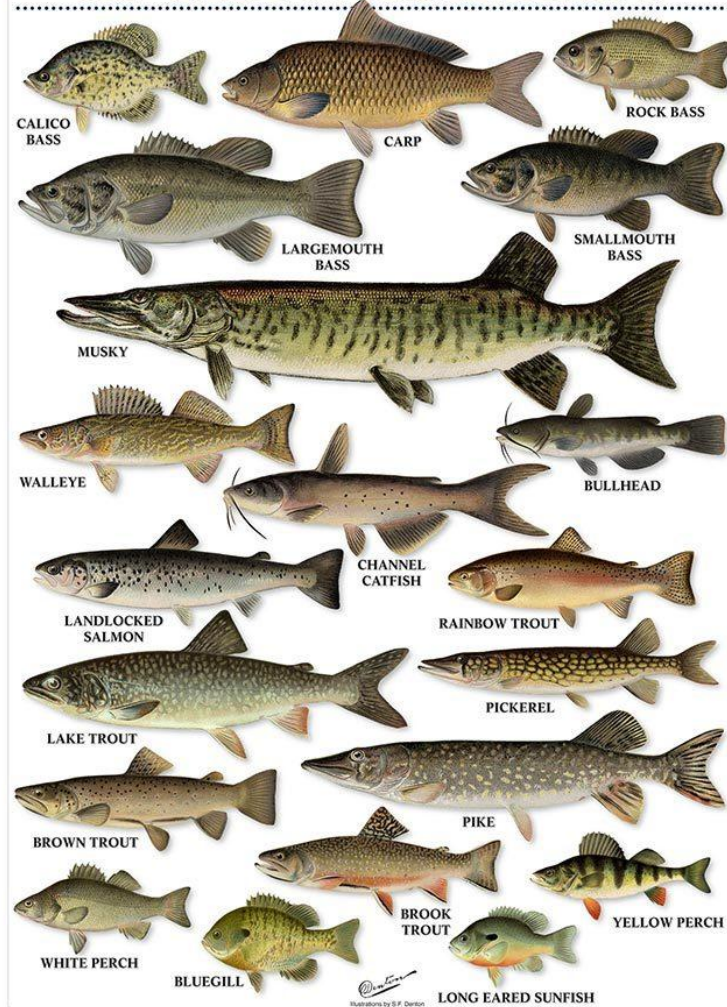
- Pocket knife
- Rain Gear
- Extra Clothing
- Map & Compass
- Matches & Fire Starters



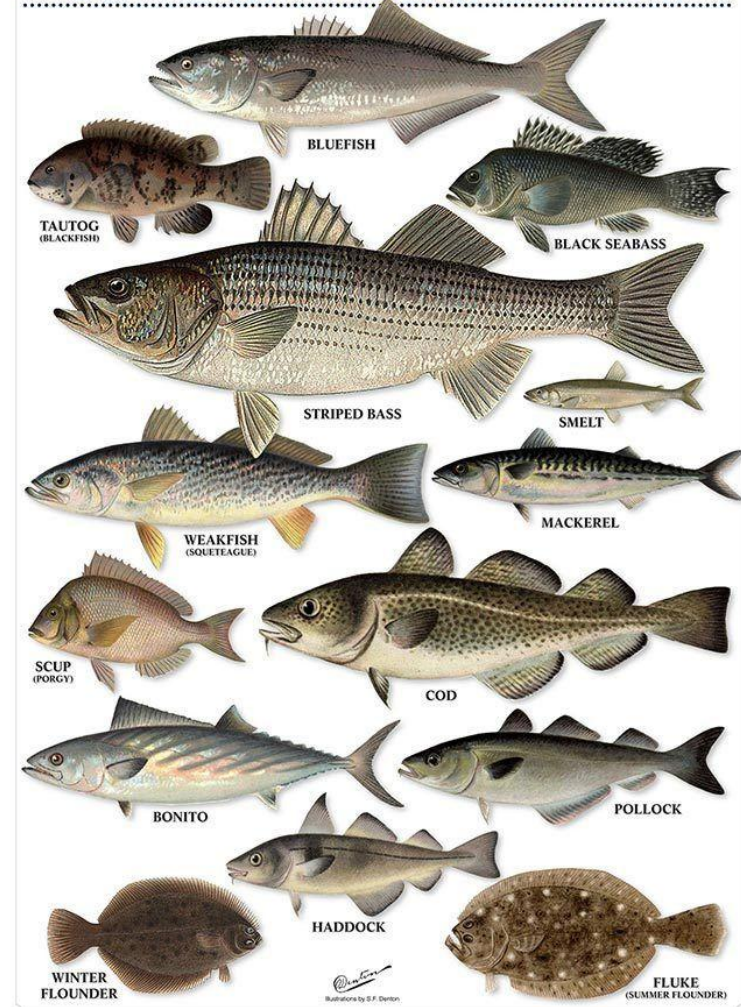
Fish Identification

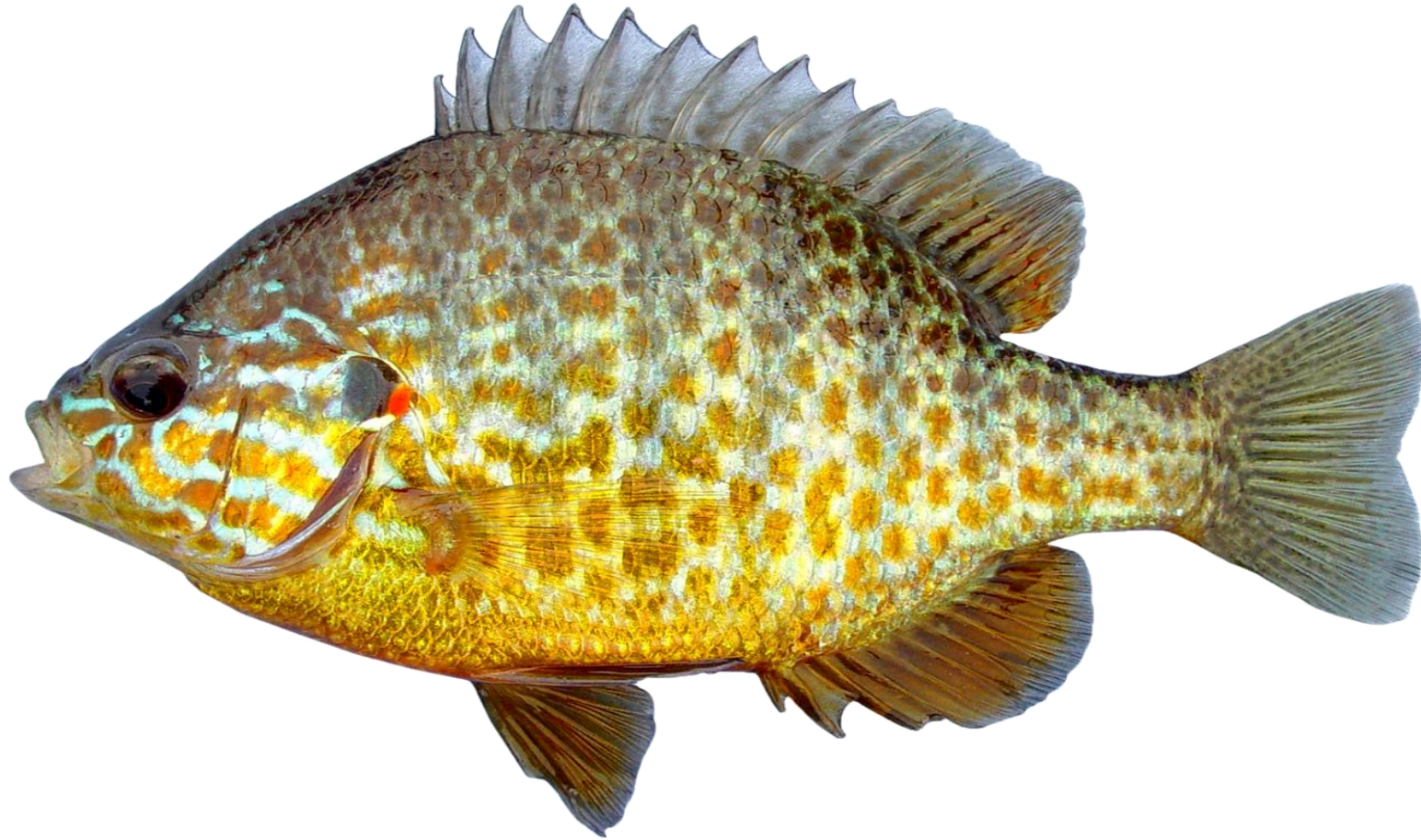
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FRESHWATER GAMEFISH OF THE NORTHEAST

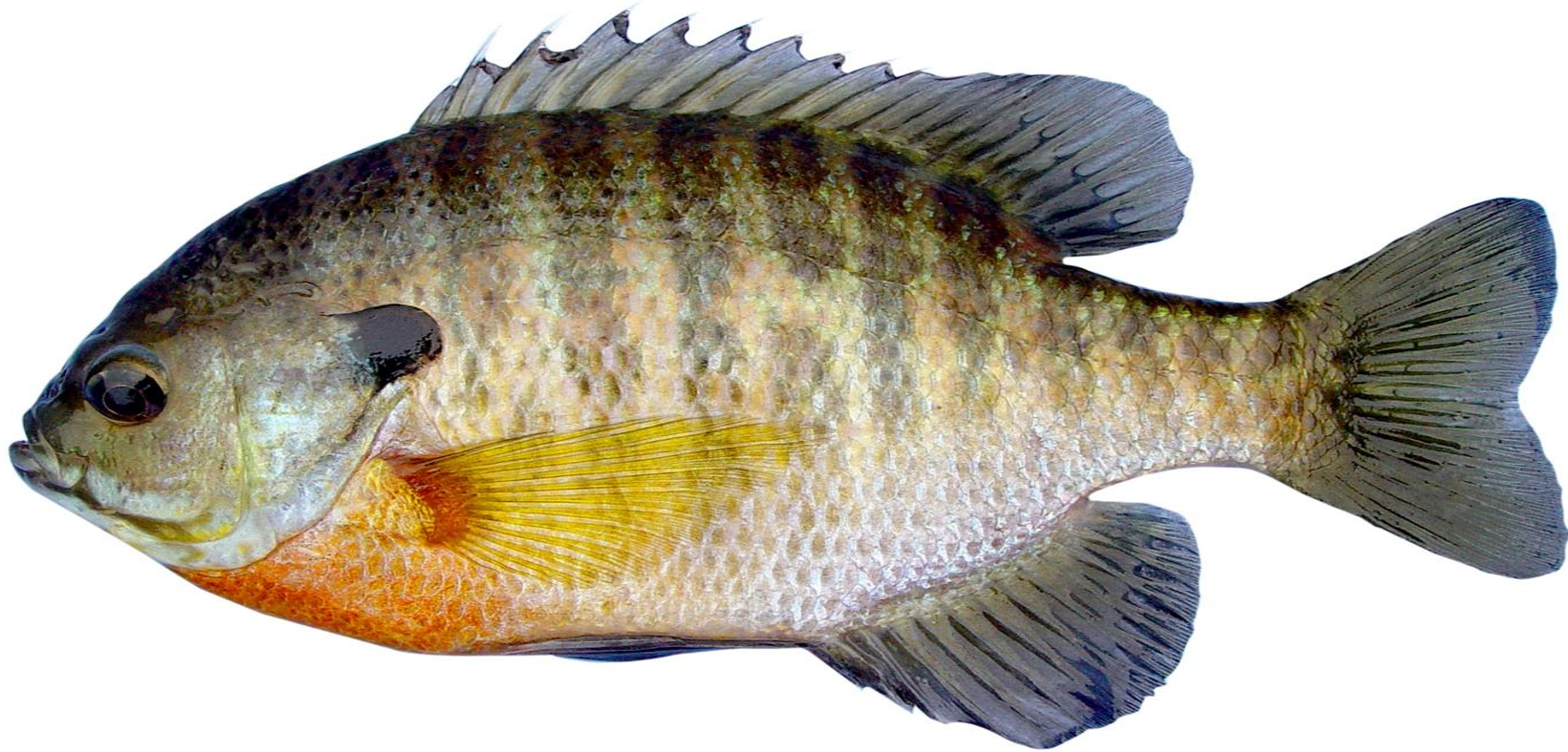


SALTWATER GAMEFISH OF THE NORTHEAST





Pumpkinseed Sunfish



Bluegill Sunfish



Largemouth Bass



Yellow Perch



Rainbow Trout



Chain Pickerel



Channel Catfish

Natural Baits

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Live baits commonly used for fishing.



Worm: use for small fish.
Put the worm on the hook as
you would put a sock on a foot
to cover the hook.



Meal Worm
Put the meal worm on
the shaft of the hook
leaving the hook bare.



Minnow or Shiner
Place hook through lips or
back in front of dorsal fin.



Putting a Worm on a Hook

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- ▶ Hand out a paperclip and Gummy Worm to each Scout. Have each one form a “hook” from the paperclip and break the worm in half. No fair eating yet!
- ▶ **Explain** how the worm should be threaded on the paperclip hook so it just covers the hook.
- ▶ **Demonstrate** how to put a worm on a hook (like putting a sock on your foot).
- ▶ **Guide** the Scouts as they attempt to thread the worm on the hook.
- ▶ **Enable** the Scouts to try threading pieces of worm on the hook a couple of times.



Encourage the Scouts to eat their worms, after taking them off the hook!

Note: There are many ways to thread a worm on a hook. Short pieces that cover just the hook are good for small-mouthed fish, like Bluegills. Longer pieces that wiggle are good for large-mouthed fish, like Bass.

Some Artificial Lures



**Not recommended for Cub Scouts or young Scouts BSA.
Replace any treble hooks with single inline hooks!**

Casting a Cane or Crappie Pole

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- 1.** Hold the rod in one hand and the bobber in your other hand.
- 2.** Point the rod tip where you want your bobber and bait to go.
- 3.** Lift the rod tip and let go of the bobber so it swings outward like a pendulum.
- 4.** Lower the rod as the bobber and bait swing out.
- 5.** After the bobber lands, lower the rod to give a little slack line from the rod tip to the bobber.



Casting a Spincast Rod

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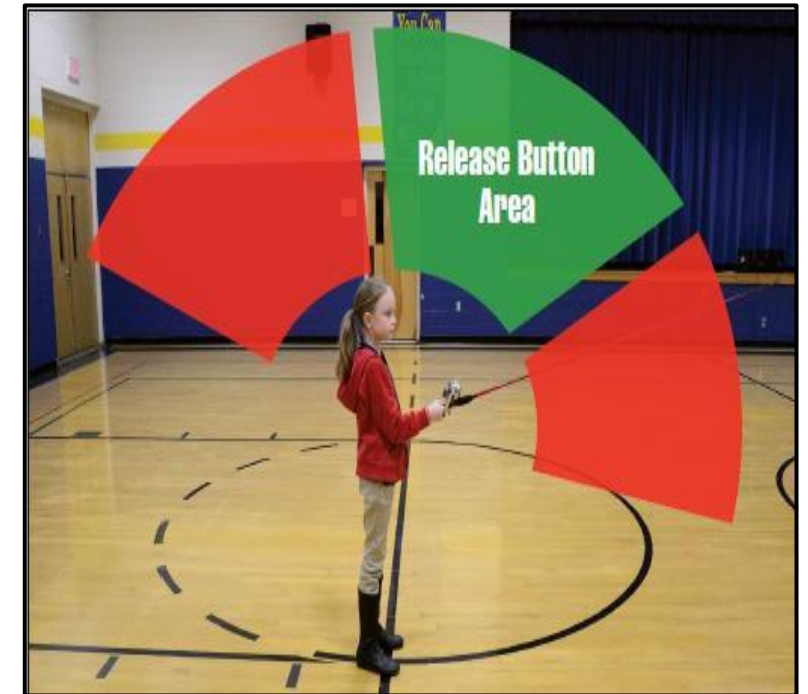
You can use the simple cane pole swing cast or the overhead cast below.



Hold the rod with reel facing UP. Push and hold the button on the reel.



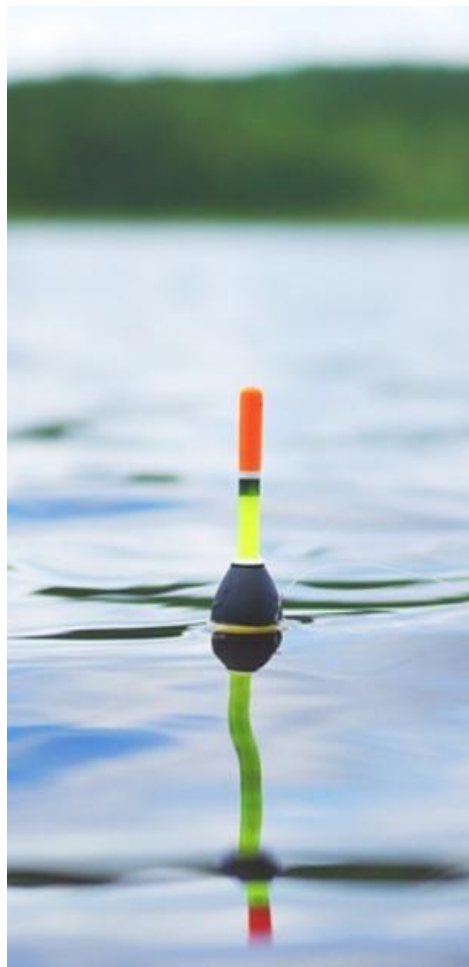
Look around for hazards. If it's safe, slowly bring the rod back over your shoulder.



To cast, swing the rod forward, releasing the button when the rod is just past the vertical position.

Detect the Bite

- ▶ **Visual (best)**
 - Bobber, Float or Strike Indicator.
 - Line Motion or Stopping.
 - Water Motion or Swirls.
 - Fish Take or Flash.
- ▶ **Touch**
 - Line Tightening.
 - Rod Tip Motion.



Set the Hook

- ▶ **“J” Hook**
 - A short, quick set by raising the rod tip is usually successful.
- ▶ **Circle Hook**
 - Just hold the rod steady - the fish will set the hook for you.

Play the Fish

- ▶ **Maintain line tension. Keep the rod tip up - no slack!**
- ▶ **Tire the fish with side pressure.**
- ▶ **Bring the fish in quickly - don't tire it too much.**
- ▶ **If fishing with a reel:**
 - **Set the reel's drag to keep tension but still let the fish pull out line without breaking it.**
 - **As the fish tires, begin to reel it in until it makes another run or you can capture it.**
- ▶ **If fishing without a reel:**
 - **Keep steady pressure on the fish.**
 - **Lift the rod or swing it to the side so the fish can be landed.**

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Land the Fish

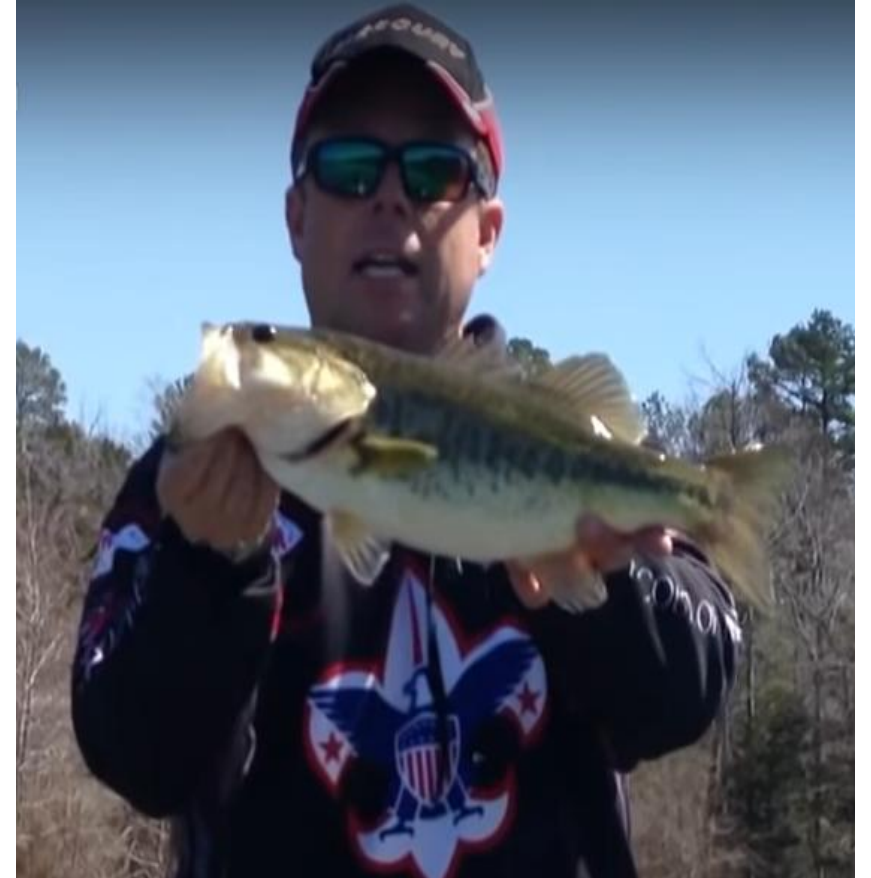
- ▶ **Capture the fish gently in a WET net or in your WET hand.**
- ▶ **Protect the fish's gills and delicate protective coating.**
- ▶ **If possible, keep the fish in the water.**



Handle the Fish and Remove the Hook

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- ▶ Wet hands to protect the fish's protective coating.
- ▶ Cradle the fish gently, supporting the head or belly and the tail.
- ▶ Minimize time out of water – about 10 seconds.
- ▶ Be careful of teeth, sharp gill covers, spines, etc.
- ▶ Use forceps or pliers to remove the hook.
- ▶ Be quick and gentle – minimize trauma.
- ▶ If the hook has been swallowed, cut the line before releasing the fish. The hook will dissolve or pass through the fish in time.



And don't forget to smile for the camera!

Release the Fish

30

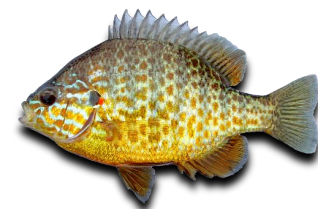
- ▶ **Must be done right if you want the fish to survive.**
- ▶ **After removing the hook, hold the fish gently in the water until it recovers and swims off strongly.**
 - **Facing up-current in moving water.**
 - **Facing toward deeper water or shelter in still water. Do NOT move the fish forward and backward to flow water through the gills. This can collapse the gills.**
- ▶ **Take the time to make sure the fish is ready to go on its own - usually a minute or less.**



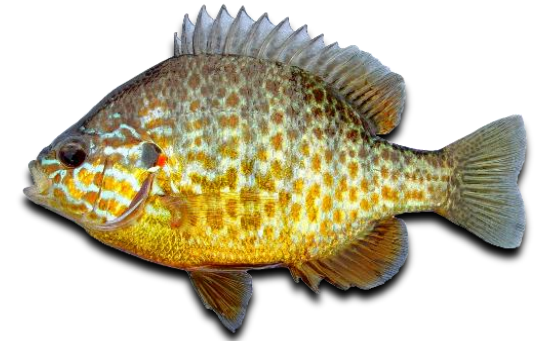
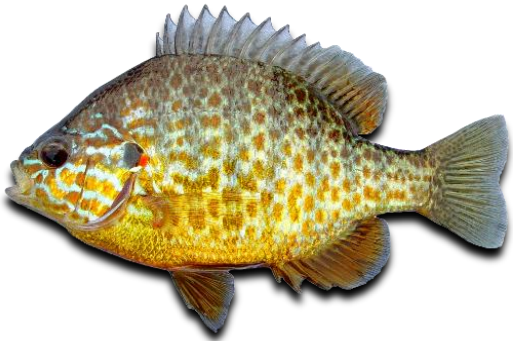
Equipment List for Fishing Trip

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- ▶ Spincast outfits and Cane or Crappie poles rigged with 6lb or 8lb monofilament line.
- ▶ Circle or barbless hooks – size 6 or 8. Always have extra.
- ▶ Backyard Bass Educator Kit.
- ▶ First Aid Kit.
- ▶ Extra snacks and water.
- ▶ Cooler with ice to keep worms or grubs cool.
- ▶ Cooler with ice if you are keeping the fish that is caught.
- ▶ Rags.
- ▶ Fishing license.
- ▶ Extra floats or bobbers 1" or smaller.
- ▶ Pliers, hemostats or fish hook remover.
- ▶ Fingernail clippers or nippers.
- ▶ Fishing net.
- ▶ Sunglasses and sunscreen.
- ▶ Fishing hat – wide brimmed.
- ▶ State Fishing regulations.
- ▶ Scouts to bring their Scouting Essentials backpack.



**Congratulations on
Completing
Fishing Basics!**



**Plan and go on that
Fishing Trip!**