

# Wisdoms Learned From Fish & Fishing

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With the longer days of summer it is time once again for many of us to return full time to pilgrimages back to the waters of life. I for one can't wait to feel the sun on my face and a fish on the line for I am a fisherman and I've been one most of my life. My earliest recollection of fishing is setting in the bow of my Dads 12 foot aluminum pushed by a 3.5hp Sea King motor. We were flying across the water in predawn wonderment of what lay ahead. My bright orange life vest was so large it held my neck like a trauma support and the cold wind on my face brought tears to my eyes. But the white spray flying from the bow as we cut through the water and the dark black water in our wake was a marvelous sight to behold. I remember the pink glow of mornings light as it faded to blue with the coming of day and the concentric rings from a fish jumping clean out of the water. I also remember how I managed to lose my old bait caster over the gunnel and watching it sink out of sight in the abyss below but not before it taught me numerous lessons in the art of throwing a backlashed cast. I did become a better caster from the experience and my father showed great patience in untangling each birds nest from my line. At days end we piled gear and fish into dads ol'55 and headed for home. I couldn't tell you how many memories were shared that day or how many fish were caught but I can give testimony to the fact that fishing can sure pull you in and stay with you for life. So you see I grew up with fishing in my blood, all types of fishing on all kinds of water. I've fished from boats, piers, cliffs, float tubes and canoes. I've fished with rods, nets, scuba gear and even rocked picked for abalone To this day fishing is a passion and a part of my life I thoroughly enjoy. When not on the water I'm thumbing through outdoor catalogs, books and magazines. I spend hours watching videos and perfecting the art of fly-tying. I relish the company of fisherman. A warm cup of coffee and a good fish tail hooks me every time. And so as it is with all fishermen everywhere I occasionally encounter those wretched soles uninitiated in the ways of the water. I understand that they just don't get it and realize that my attempts to educate them may be fruitless. But never one to walk away from a challenge I thought I

would try to offer some insight into the things I've learned from my time on the water in pursuit of fish and observing their behavior. To that simple question "Why do you fish?" I humbly reply as follows, "I've never met a fish I didn't find entertaining and my time among them, exploring their habits and habitat has provided some valuable life lessons". I have jotted some of my lessons down for your review but first let me remind you that fish run in schools and maybe as an educator this simply strikes my fancy. I invite you to pour yourself a cup, put up your feet, and explore the possibilities of each lesson. When you are finished, I invite you to develop your own list and when the drifts are blown out or you are, facing slack tides maybe you could send them my way. I would enjoy learning from you the lessons you have learned as well.

## Lessons Learned from Fish & Fishing

1. Face into the current and good things will come
2. When our travels are complete it is good to return to our native waters
3. Spend some time near a shady bank its good for the soul
4. Cultivate sensitivity and a soft touch
5. Be patient after a storm for when the calm waters return they will be full of new possibilities
6. Big fish eat little fish
7. Most attacks come from behind
8. To be fooled by a well-dressed fly is no shame
9. If you never venture into new waters you limit your opportunities
10. Stay focused on the present with an eye to the future
11. Realize that what has passed has passed and will not return
12. Learn where the dangers of your world reside
13. Remember the keys to success, they will prove useful again
14. Big fish get the pick of the drift
15. Big fish don't get big by accident they
16. If you sample everything that catches your eye you may get hooked
17. If you reside in stagnate waters you will die
18. If you are patient, you will succeed

19. Swimming helps you stay in shape
20. Be the best of your species
21. Don't surrender without putting up a good fight
22. A big rock can provide safety and security
23. Always be ready for the hatch
24. Pay attention to the activity of birds
25. When your days are done turn belly up and let the waters carry you away