



# Bank Angler's Notebook— ENJOY FISHING FROM SHORE

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by *Darl Black*

If you're a novice angler, you don't need a boat to be successful. In Pennsylvania, anglers fishing from shore catch plenty of fish every year including large gamefish.

## Go light

A single 6- to 7-foot medium-power spinning rod with 8-pound-test line is a good all-around choice. It will handle both live bait and a variety of artificial lures.

## Minimize tackle

You don't need "everything but the kitchen sink". Have one tackle case with live bait rigging items: #8 hooks for panfish and trout; #4 and #1 hooks for

bullheads, crappies and Walleyes; #2/0 hooks for big catfish and pike; and a few floating jig heads. Also, include splitshot, egg sinkers, swivels and several floats. Weighted bobbers and slip floats allow longer casts. Have a second tackle case with a limited selection of shallow-running artificial baits. Add a line cutter, long-nose pliers and a hook remover. Pack everything into a mid-size shoulder strap tackle bag.

## Move around

When possible, move around the area and target cover from different angles. Alternate short and long casts to locate fish.

## Be prepared

Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, soap, a small towel, spray-on wound cleanser and adhesive bandages.

## Don't go hungry

Include a snack and water bottle. Carry out your trash. Consider packing a garbage bag and picking up litter left by others. ☐

## Fishing trip checklist

- Fishing License
- Rod and Reel
- Tackle Box (with needle nose pliers, wire cutting pliers and nail clippers)
- Water/Snacks
- Bait/Lures
- First Aid Kit
- Personal Flotation Device (PFD)
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Sunglasses
- Fish Identification Book

Adapted from the *F.I.S.H. Fishing Is Simple Handbook*.

## En español:



[fishandboat.com/Fishing/Basics/Gear/Documents/Spanish-FishingTripChecklist.pdf](https://fishandboat.com/Fishing/Basics/Gear/Documents/Spanish-FishingTripChecklist.pdf)

photo-Darl Black



Minimize tackle when fishing from shore. In a small tackle case, bring classic lures for a variety of fish species. In another case, bring a variety of hooks, weights and floats.