

Fishing Coffee Mill Lake



By:

Jacob Donnelly
Boris Duric
Ricardo Garza
Seth Turnbough

Image Source: http://cdn.outdoorcanada.ca.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Father_Son-fishing-e1338919234135.jpg

Contents

Introduction.....	V
Before you fish.....	1
What you'll need.....	3
Choose your target fish.....	3
Choosing the right boat.....	4
Choose your equipment.....	5
Rods.....	5
Reels.....	6
Lines.....	7
Bait.....	8
Hooks.....	9
On the day.....	11
When you arrive.....	13
At the launch site.....	13
Launching the boat.....	13
Choose your fishing location.....	13
Map Of Lake Coffee Mills.....	14
At the location.....	15
The Palamor Knot.....	15
Calling it a day.....	19
Trailoring your boat.....	21
Troubleshooting.....	23
References.....	29
Index.....	30

Introduction

Coffee Mill Lake is a 600 acre lake located in Fannin County, Texas. The lake is regarded as being one of the best places to take your kids fishing because of the abundance of fish that populate its waters. Fishing has always been a great way to spend quality time with your children. Taking your child fishing gives you a chance to make lasting memories, explore the outdoors, and, with luck, feel the thrill of catching a trophy fish.

Fishing Coffee Mill Lake gives you the luxury of targeting either crappie, catfish, or bass. This manual was written in order to help you prepare for a successful fishing trip on the lake and is broken down into the following three sections, “Before you fish”, “On the Day,” and “Calling it a Day.”

The “Before you fish” section includes information about selecting your fish, and equipment you will need for the trip. You’ll find targeted information based on the fish you select to help you choose the right rods, reels, bait, and more for the fish you want to catch.

In the “On the Day” section you’ll find a complete walk-through of the day from launching your boat to casting your line. This section is targeted at helping even the most inexperienced angler be successful fishing by providing information until it’s time for “Calling it a Day”.

“Troubleshooting” covers familiar mistakes, mishaps, and general misfortune that befalls even the most experienced anglers. Use this section along with the tips scattered throughout the manual in the blue boxes to help ease the common mistakes that plague anglers. Bright red boxes highlight safety and warning information and should not be ignored. Happy fishing.

Before you fish

With large warehouse stores focused on fishing equipment, you'll need to narrow your options a before you set out.



© www.CanadaPhotos.Info

Before you fish

What you'll need

No matter what other decisions you make you'll need to be sure you have certain items.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Life Vests	<input type="checkbox"/>	Towels
<input type="checkbox"/>	Anchor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wipe Down Towel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fender Pads	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sun Protection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tie Ropes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Camera
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bag of Snacks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Orange Safety Flag	<input type="checkbox"/>	Waterproof Bag with Insurance/Registration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flotation Device	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jumper Cables
<input type="checkbox"/>	Impeller	<input type="checkbox"/>	Additional Battery
<input type="checkbox"/>	Set of Tools	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rod
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hook Remover	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bait	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fishing Line
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lures	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hooks
<input type="checkbox"/>	Net	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fishing License

Choose your target fish



Crappie – Travel in large schools as they chase baitfish through shallow and deep water. Due to the fact that crappie are always on the move, fishing for them does not depend on the time of day. Crappie are one of the smallest species of game fish in Texas lakes. The average crappie weighs, on average, less than 2 lbs.



Catfish – Actively feed throughout the day since they are typically found in deeper water and the sun does not affect them. Channel catfish are the species most commonly found in Coffee Mill Lake. Channel catfish tend to range anywhere from 5lb to 12lbs.



Bass - Actively feed between the hours of 6 a.m. and noon. During this time, bass are typically found in open water as they are feeding on schools of baitfish. During the afternoon when it's really hot and sunny outside, bass tend to find underwater structure (sunken trees, lily pads) and hide. Bass are considered a trophy fish and, therefore, most anglers only catch and release them.

Choosing the right boat

Choosing a boat is not based as much on what you're fishing for as much as where you will be fishing.



Fish n Ski Boat - Two deck boat with seating for five. Sits lower in the water than a ski boat which allows anglers access to shallow water while being versatile enough for non-fishing fun on the water.



Bass Boat - Two deck boat with two chairs designed for up to two fishermen at a time with a shallow bottom to access coves and shallow waters.



Ski Boat - Single deck boat sits deeper in the water so access to shallow waters (<5 feet) could be challenging. While possible to use for bass fishing many of the best locations are in shallow or obstructed waters. It is advisable to choose one of the other two options if fishing bass.

Before you fish

Choose your equipment

Rods

All rods are designed to have a specific “power” rating. The power of a rod dictates the size of fish that the rod can handle without breaking. The power of the rod is always labeled on the side of the rod right above the reel seat. The following breakdown is a generalized listing of rod power and fish size:

Rod Power	Fish Size
Ultra-light	less than 1lb
Light	2lb or less
Medium-light	2lb to 4lb
Medium	5lb to 8lb
Medium-Heavy	8lb to 15lb
Heavy	12lb to 20lb

For Crappie - A small species of fish that typically weigh less than 2 pounds.

- Use an ultra-light or light power rod
- Ultra-light and light power rods are best suited
- High sensitivity is needed as crappie are small fish

For Catfish – Catfish are a large species of fresh water fish (on average, 5+ lbs) which means that you need a rod with a lot of backbone.

- Medium-heavy or heavy power rods are highly recommended
- A 7ft or 8ft rod is best suited for making long casts

For Bass - Bass are a mid-sized fish (5 to 8 lbs) and are located in different areas based on time of day

- Bass swim and feed in more open water in the morning
- If fishing in the morning, use a 6½ or 7ft medium power rod
- Bass swim and feed closer to underwater structure during the afternoon when it is sunny outside.
- If fishing in the afternoon, use a 6½ or 7ft medium-heavy power rod

Reels

There are three main factors that an angler should consider when deciding what reel to use for his/her fishing trip.

1. How far do I need to cast?
2. What size line will I be using?
3. What kind of drag system will I need in order to catch the fish?



Crappie- A spinning reel is most suited for crappie

- Casts lightweight line well
- Low resistance for so small fish can pull line
- Easy to load line onto
- Holds up to 120 yards of monofilament fishing line

Source: <http://www.pescadoria.com.br/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/9df78eab33525d08d-6e5fb8d27136e95/2/4/2406.jpg>



Catfish: Round profile baitcaster

- Holds 20+lbs line
- Casts heavier line up to 20 yards
- Holds 250 yards of line
- Holds line tension for stronger fish such as catfish

Source: http://www.abugarcia.com/sites/default/files/category_pictures/ag-6601-bcx.jpg



Bass: Low profile baitcaster

- Lightweight reel better for repeated casting
- Ergonomical design for all day comfort
- Strong enough to keep tension for fish such as bass
- Holds 120 yards of line

Source: http://www.abugarcia.com/sites/default/files/imagecache/product_models_large/product_images/mgxtreme_cat_img_0.jpg

Before you fish

Lines

For Crappie - Crappie fishing line needs to be extremely light. 4lb to 6lb lines are extremely sensitive and will send a vibration to your rod with even the smallest nibble from a crappie on your bait.

For Catfish - Catfishing lines needs to be heavy. The average catfish at Lake Coffee Mills is 5 to 12 pounds which means that you must have at least 20lb line on your reel. The heavy line to help prevent line breakage as a result of a catfish getting tangled up in underwater brush, logs, or sunken timber as it tries to free itself from the hook.

For Bass - Choosing the right bass fishing line depends on the bait that you will be using.

- Monofilament line sinks, so if you are fishing with any kind of artificial bait (soft plastics, crankbaits, jigs) or live-bait (shad, minnows) that you want to sink below the surface of the water, you will need to use monofilament line.
- Braided Line does not sink, so if you are fishing with artificial lures (plastic frogs, mice, top-water minnows) that you do not want to sink, you will need to use braided line.



Above: Braided fishing line (left) vs monofilament line (right)

Source: <http://forshorefishing.blogs.theledger.com/10387/monofilament-vs-braided-fishing-line/?tc=ar>

Bait

For Crappie

IV



Pre-Made Jig -The benefit to using a pre-made jig is that you do not have to worry about the hassle of attaching your own plastic "bodies" to the jig.

- For Coffee Mills Lake, use black and green colored jigs

V



Night Crawlers - A very universal bait.

- Night crawlers are larger than a normal earthworm
- Squirm violently in warm water which attracts fish
- Send off natural scent that fish can smell from 50 yards away

For Catfish

VI



Catfish Charlie Bait - Catfish Charlie is the ultimate catfish stink bait.

- Bait is similar to play-dough in the sense that you can roll it into a ball and stick it right on your hook
- Horrible scent attracts catfish hundreds of yards away
- Best flavors to use at Coffee Mills Lake is the "blood" or "cheese" dip bait

VII



Magic Baits Preserved Shad - Preserved shad is a natural alternative to live bait because it features:

- Natural coloration, scent, and texture
- Use the preserved shad rather than the preserved minnow when fishing Coffee Mills Lake

For Bass

VIII



Plastic Worm - Designed to mimic a night crawler.

- Worm is extremely easy to cast
- Extremely durable (can catch up to 5 bass per worm)
- Come in several different colors
- For Coffee Mills Lake a 5" green worm with purple flakes is suggested for bass.

V



Night Crawlers - A very universal bait.

- Night crawlers are larger than a normal earthworm
- Squirm violently in warm which attracts fish
- Send off natural scent that fish can smell from 50 yards away

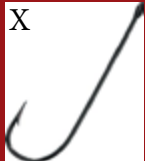
Hooks

For Crappie



Crappie Jig- Small hook for smaller fish

- Allows for custom addition of a body
- Comes weighted
- Several different colors are available
- Use a 1/16 or 1/32 ounce at Coffee Mill Lake since the lake is very shallow (less than 20ft deep)



Eagle claw hook - Standard hook

- Should be used if fishing with live or preserved shad
- Size should match size of the shad

For Catfish



Mustad Catfish Hooks - The ultimate catfishing hook.

- Wide bend in the hook is designed to hold your bait firmly to the hook without fear of it falling off during the cast
- Surgically sharpened hook allows for easy hook sets
- Enlarged barb on the tip of the hook makes it hard for the catfish to free itself once you set the hook
- Size 4/0 and 5/0 are recommended if using dough bait



Real Catfish Circle Hook - A favorite for catfisher's

- This hook floats sideways which means that the catfish will hook itself by eating your bait and swimming away with it
- This hook comes with a barb on the shank which prevents live bait from squirming its way off of your hook
- Use this hook if using live bait
- Size 1/0 or 2/0 is recommended if using live bait

For Bass



Blakemore Bass Hook – High action hook

- Designed to hold night crawlers
- Ensures that the night crawler stays on your hook during and after your cast
- Long eye shaft that helps prevent line twist
- Size 1 or 1/0 is recommend if using night crawlers



Owner Worm Hook – Offset hook

- Designed to hold onto your soft plastic worm
- Features an offset shank right by the hook eye which allows your soft plastic worm to stay on the hook
- Thicker than the Blakemore hook which means that this hook should not be used on night crawlers
- Surgically sharpened for easy hooksets
- Size 3/0 and 2/0 are recommend if using a plastic worm

On the day

Plan your trip with enough time to account for approximately thirty (30) minutes of on site preparation such as launching the boat, arriving at your fishing location, and baiting your hook.



On the day

When you arrive

At the launch site

1. Unplug the trailer towing light assembly.
2. Put the drain plug in the boat.
3. Undo the hold down straps.
4. Have your dock lines and fenders ready to go for immediate use.
5. Back the trailer down the ramp. Drive slowly, making tiny fine-tune steering corrections as you go.

Failure to follow this first step could cause an electrical shock hazard.

A good rule of thumb is to back in until the water is just above the hubs on the trailer.

6. Ensure that your tow vehicle has the parking brake set before exiting the vehicle.

Launching the boat

1. Lower the lower unit (for boats with outboard and inboard-outboard engines).
2. Ensure boat is free from the trailer.
3. Crank the engine.
4. Drive the boat to the dock.
5. Secure the boat to the dock.
6. Slowly pull the vehicle out of the boat ramp.
7. Park your vehicle and trailer in a safe location.

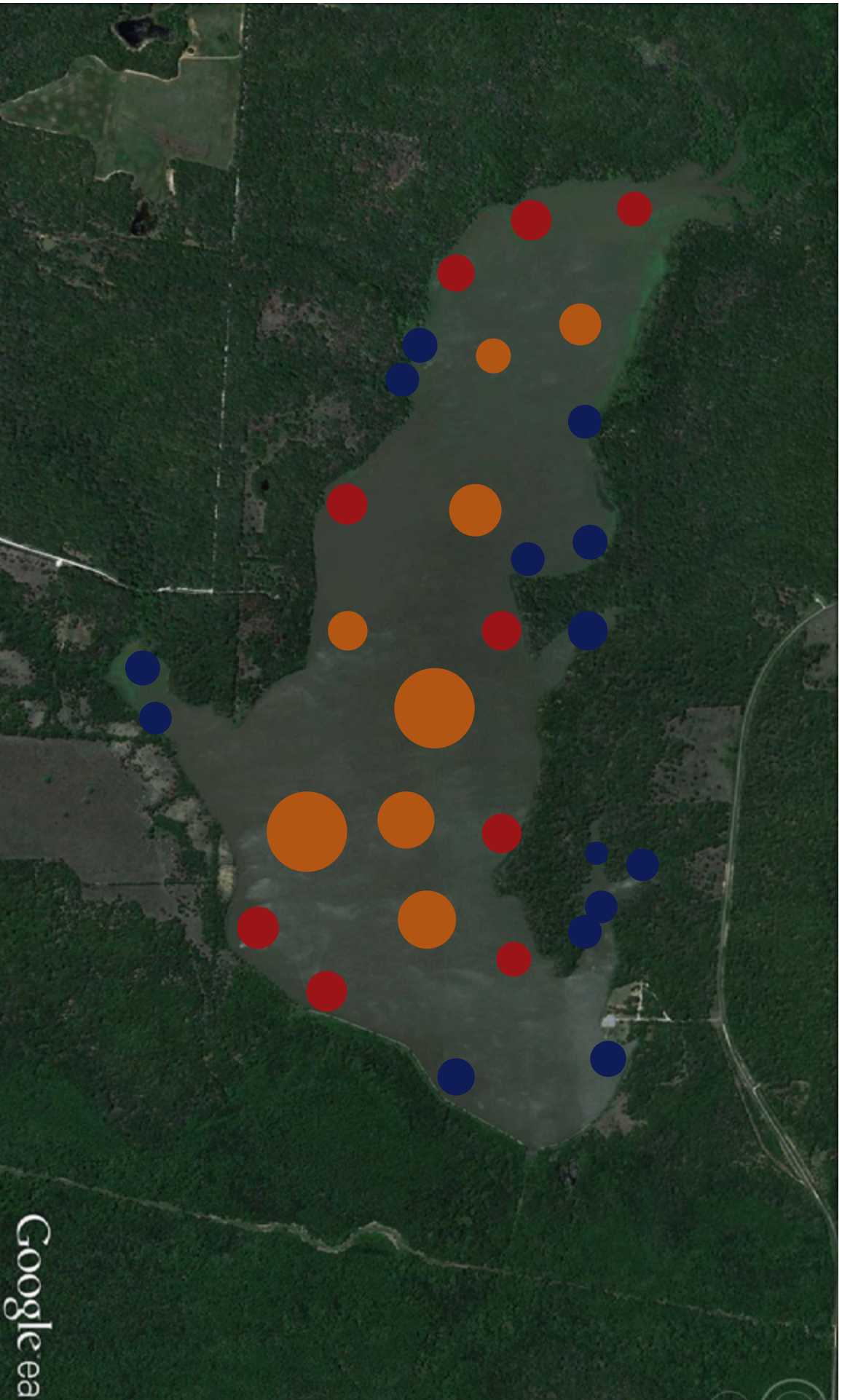
When pulling away from the dock, it is important to understand that unlike a car, the stern of the boat is pushed to one side or the other, whereas a car's pivot point is in the front.

Choose your fishing location

Be mindful when choosing your location as fishing requires more room than some other lake activities.

A good rule of thumb is to maintain a minimum of 100ft of distance from any other people or boats on the lake.

Fishing locations range from the obvious to the secretive. Choosing the best location is outside the scope of this guide but for a general selection please refer to the map on the next page.



Map Of Coffee Mills Lake

- Crappie
- Catfish
- Bass

On the day

At the location

Upon arrival at your selected fishing location it's time to get ready to fish.

1. Drop anchor.
2. Attach your reel to your rod.

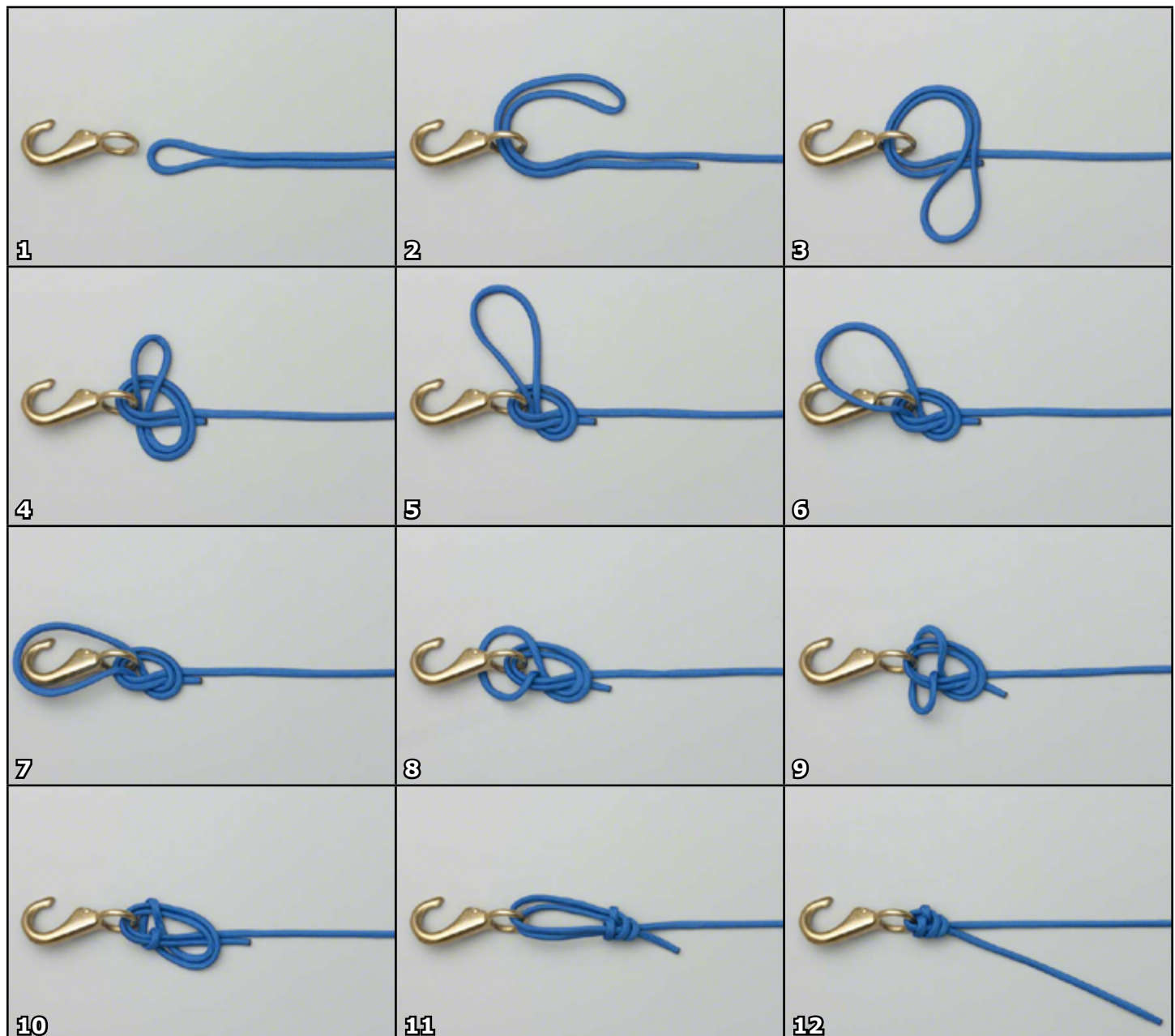
Depending on your chosen rod and reel, type and brand, methods of attachment can vary greatly.

Refer to the included instructions that came with your rod and reel for instructions.

3. Tie your lure/hook to the end of your line using the Palamor knot.

Always use caution when handling fishing hooks or lures. You don't want to cut a trip short to go to the hospital

The Palamor Knot



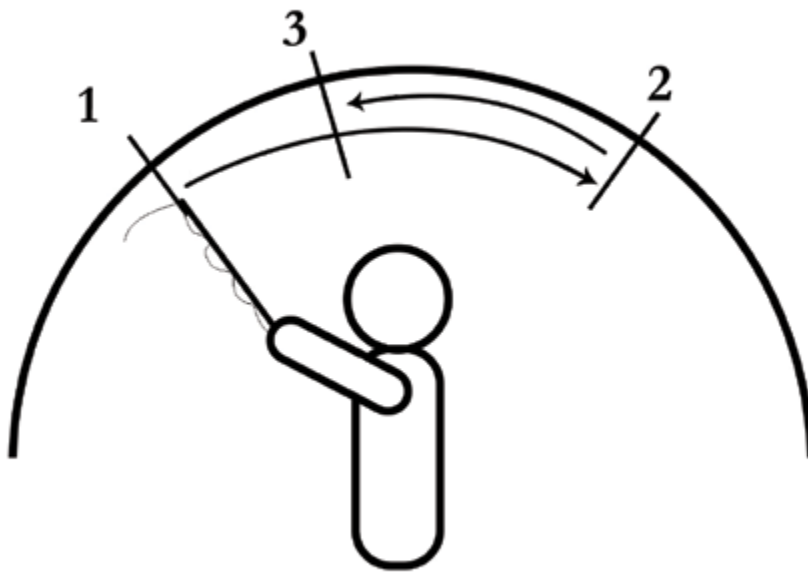
Images on this page from: <http://www.animatedknots.com/palomar/index.php?Categ=fishing&LogoImage=LogoGrog.jpg&Website=www.animatedknots.com>

4. Bait the hook (not applicable if using a lure)

For live bait, such as night crawlers, pierce the worm about 1/2" from the end.
For artificial baits follow the instructions on the container.

5. Cast your line.

1. Hold the rod in front of you with approximately 12 inches of loose line hanging from the end.
2. Holding the line release button draw the tip of the rod behind to point number 2.
3. Swiftly flick the tip of the rod forward releasing the line button when the tip reaches point number 3.



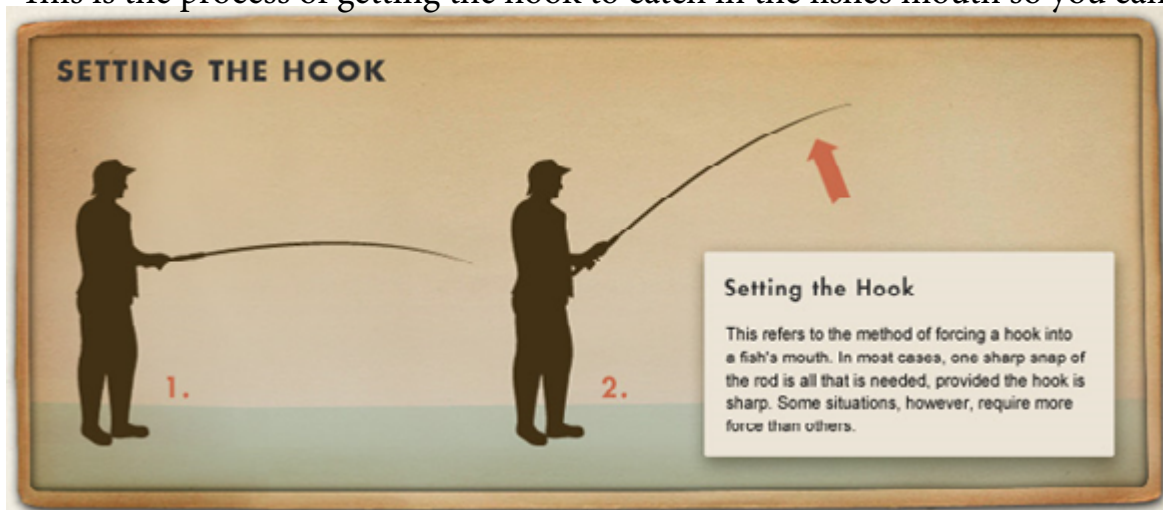
6. Repeat as necessary until you get a nibble.

Remember to reapply sun protection every few hours.

On the day

7. Set the hook.

This is the process of getting the hook to catch in the fishes mouth so you can reel it in.



8. Reel it in.

Otherwise known as playing the fish. Be prepared for the fish to put up a fight. Even a small fish can snap a line if not handled properly. If a fish does snap your line don't worry. Even veteran anglers lose one occasionally.



9. Remove the hook.

Some fish have small mouths that make hook removal a challenge to say the least. If you find yourself in this situation or simply want to make it easier on yourself hook removers are available and range from the simple to the complicated. As the range of options varies it is outside the scope of this guide to explain use of the hook remover except to say to follow the directions included with your hook remover.

10. Catch and release vs. catch and keep.

Some fish are better for meals than others. While you can eat crappie, catfish, or bass, generally bass is treated more as a trophy fish. If you don't plan on eating it, it's recommended that you release your fish back to the water in order to keep the population levels up.

Whether you're releasing, eating, or keeping your fish as a trophy, don't forget to get a picture.

Images on this page from: <http://takemefishing.org/fishing/fishopedia/how-to-fish/setting-the-hook-new/>
<http://takemefishing.org/fishing/fishopedia/how-to-fish/playing-the-fish/>

Calling it a day

Pack up your gear and return to the boat ramp you used to launch your boat.



Source: <http://www.dudemeetsdad.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/dennis-hallinan-silhouette-of-father-and-son-fishing-at-sunset.jpg>

Trailoring your boat

1. Park your boat at the dock near the boat ramp
2. Tie off your boat
3. Return to your vehicle
4. Back your trailer down the boat ramp
5. Ensure the parking brake is set on your vehicle before exiting
6. Return to your boat
7. Carefully steer your boat back onto the trailer
8. Slowly pull your vehicle off the ramp to a safe location
9. Remove any loose gear from your boat
10. Remove your boat plug
11. Secure your boat to your trailer using the appropriate tie downs
12. Reconnect your trailer towing light assembly

To minimize the risk of being shocked or shorting out your trailer lights ensure that all electrical connections and your hands are dry before connecting the towing light assembly.



Source: <http://www.grapevinetxonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/Katies-Woods-High-Water-Boat-Ramp1.jpg>

Troubleshooting

When things go wrong at home you call an expert. When things go wrong on the water you only have yourself to rely on.



What happened

Line Snapped

Hook in person

Forgot parking brake when launching the boat

Headache and dry mouth

Lost bait without hooking fish

Lost fish after setting the hook

Difficulty setting the hook

What to do

Advanced anglers learn to tie two lines together but as a novice it's better to simply tie your hook or lure to the end of what line is left and continue on.

If the barb isn't buried in the person it is usually safe to remove and treat with first aid. If the barb of the hook is under the skin leave the hook in place and seek medical attention from a licensed professional.

Carefully attempt to pull the trailer and vehicle out of the water but be aware that if the vehicle does not gain ground or slips further into the water it is best to stop immediately and call a tow.

Possibly a sign of dehydration. Be conscious of your water intake and if drinking water does not improve the situation get out of the sun before heat stroke sets in.

Bait not secured well. Use suggested amount of bait or ensure bait has ample body on both sides of the hook to remain secure.

Use less force when reeling in the fish so as not to rip the hook out of the fishes mouth.

Setting the hook is different for every fish. When you feel a nibble don't yank immediately. Give the fish a second to swallow the hook. Be sure to use a firm swift yank to set the hook. If you've been using a firm swift yank try a slightly gentler yank to set the hook.

What Happened

Boat fills with water immediately after launching

Anchor lost

Engine stops

Forgot tie ropes

What to do

Check boat plug. To drain the boat while on the lake drive the boat at a constant speed in circles to allow the water to drain from the back of the boat. Once sufficient water has been removed insert boat plug.

Fishing without an anchor can be challenging but not impossible. Place the nose of the boat into the wind and set the motor on low to try and maintain your location.

Check fuel and spark plugs. If you are unable to restart the engine use your oar to navigate the boat back to the boat ramp.

Do not leave your boat unattended if it is not secured. Have your fellow angler hold the boat in place on the dock while you pull your vehicle off the boat ramp.

References

- I. <http://www.pescadoria.com.br/media/catalog/product/cache/1/image/9df78eab33525d08d6e5fb-8d27136e95/2/4/2406.jpg>
- II. http://www.abugarcia.com/sites/default/files/category_pictures/ag-6601-bcx.jpg
- III. http://www.abugarcia.com/sites/default/files/imagecache/product_models_large/product_images/mgx-treme_cat_img_0.jpg
- IV. <http://store.fishermans-corner.com/shopimages/products/thumbnails/1712U-BGBT.jpg>
- V. http://carolinapetsupply.com/images/european_nightcrawlers.jpg
- VI. http://www.boaterbarn.com/images_products/shad_dip_bait_sd_12_68974big.jpg
- VII. <http://assets.academy.com/mgen/14/10303314.jpg?is=500,500>
- VIII. [https://basspro.scene7.com/is/image/BassPro/1005873_95621?\\$Prod%5FThumbnail\\$](https://basspro.scene7.com/is/image/BassPro/1005873_95621?$Prod%5FThumbnail$)
- IX. http://images.cabelas.com/is/image/cabelas/s7_124846_006_01?wid=200
- X. http://www.cabelas.com/product/Eagle-Claw-Lazer-Sharpreg-Crappie-214BP-Hook-150-Per-50/739104.uts?Ntk=AllProducts&searchPath=%2Fcatalog%2Fsearch.cmd%3Fform_state%3DsearchForm%26N%3D0%26fsch%3Dtrue%26Ntk%3DAllProducts%26Ntt%3DEagle%2B-Claw%2BLazer%2BSharp%25AE%2BCrappie%2B214BP%2BHook%2B%2596%2BPer%2B5-0%26x%3D27%26y%3D0%26WTz_1%3DHeader%253BSearch-All%2BProducts&Ntt=Eagle+Claw+Lazer+Sharp%EE%A0%83rappie+214BP+Hook+%E6%A0%90er+50&WTz_1=Header%3BSearch-All+Products
- XI. http://www.cabelas.com/product/Mustad-C10829-Ultra-Point8482-Big-Gun-Catfish-Hooks/739107.uts?Ntk=AllProducts&searchPath=%2Fcatalog%2Fsearch.cmd%3Fform_state%3DsearchForm%26N%3D0%26fsch%3Dtrue%26Ntk%3DAllProducts%26Ntt%3DMustad%2BC10829%2BUltra%2BPoint%2599%2BBig%2BGun%2BCatfish%2BHooks%26x%3D21%26y%3D10%26WTz_1%3DHeader%253BSearch-All%2BProducts&Ntt=Mustad+C10829+Ultra+Point%E9%A0%82ig+Gun+Catfish+Hooks&WTz_1=Header%3BSearch-All+Products
- XII. http://www.cabelas.com/product/Real-Catfish-Gear-Double-Action8482-Circle-Hook-Value-Pack/711909.uts?Ntk=AllProducts&searchPath=%2Fcatalog%2Fsearch.cmd%3Fform_state%3DsearchForm%26N%3D0%26fsch%3Dtrue%26Ntk%3DAllProducts%26Ntt%3DReal%2BCatfish%2BGear%2BDouble%2BAction%2599%2BCircle%2B-Hook%2BValue%2BPack%26x%3D25%26y%3D13%26WTz_1%3DHeader%253BSearch-All%2BProducts&Ntt=Real+Catfish+Gear+Double+Action%E9%A0%83ircle+Hook+Value+Pack&WTz_1=Header%3BSearch-All+Products
- XIII. http://www.cabelas.com/product/Blakemore-StandOut8482-Dropshot-Bass-Hook/739157.uts?Ntk=AllProducts&searchPath=%2Fcatalog%2Fsearch.cmd%3Fform_state%3DsearchForm%26N%3D0%26fsch%3Dtrue%26Ntk%3DAllProducts%26Ntt%3DBlakemore%2BStand-Out%2599%2BDropshot%2BBass%2BHook%26x%3D8%26y%3D9%26WTz_1%3DHeader%253BSearch-All%2BProducts&Ntt=Blakemore+StandOut%E9%A0%84ropshot+Bass+Hook&WTz_1=Header%3BSearch-All+Products
- XIV. http://www.cabelas.com/product/Owner174-5110-Oversized-Worm-Hook/1353562.uts?Ntk=AllProducts&searchPath=%2Fcatalog%2Fsearch.cmd%3Fform_state%3DsearchForm%26N%3D0%26fsch%3Dtrue%26Ntk%3DAllProducts%26Ntt%3DOwner%25AE%2B5110%2BOversized%2BWorm%2BHook%26x%3D10%26y%3D1%26WTz_1%3DHeader%253BSearch-All%2BProducts&Ntt=Owner%EE%A0%B5110+Oversized+Worm+Hook&WTz_1=Header%3BSearch-All+Products

Index

A

At the launch site 13

At the location 15

B

Bait

Crappie, Catfish, Bass 8

Bass 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 29

Before you fish 1

C

Calling it a day 19

Cast your line. 16

Catfish 3, 7, 8, 9, 14, 29

Choose your equipment 5

Choose your fishing location 13

Choosing the right boat

Fish n Ski Boat, Bass Boat, Skit Boat 4

Contents III

Crappie 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 29

H

Hooks

Crappie, Catfish, Bass 9

I

Introduction V

L

Launching the boat 13

Lines

Crappie, Catfish, Bass 7

M

Map of Coffee Mill Lake 14

O

On the day 11

P

Palamor Knot 15

R

Reel it in. 17

Reels

Crappie, Catfish, Bass 6

References 29

Rods

Crappie, Catfish, Bass 5

S

Set the hook. 17

T

target fish 3

Trailoring your boat 21

Troubleshooting 23

W

What you'll need 3

When you arrive 13