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The Works.

The Magazine from Block Island



Hope you enjoy!
Love, Stacey

Paul's Complete Guide to Angling

or,
Lessons I Have Learned Fishing with My Father
by Stacey Longo

My father bought a home on the Island years ago to help further his recreational fishing activities. After being forced several times to sit on a mosquito-infested beach with Dad....losing hundreds of lures....just missing several thousand 40-lb. stripers....I felt it is time the world knew Dad's secrets to good fishing.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- 10 lbs. of the stinkiest fish you can buy.
- 20 fresh squid. If the squid is more than two days old, this warrants going to Champlin's Marina at 1 a.m. to catch fresher squid for 3 hours.
- Every lure that you have ever caught a fish on, had a nibble on, or looks really cool.
- Every fishing rod that you have ever caught a fish on, had a nibble on, or looks really cool.

IF MOM IS COMING:

- 6 blankets
- 1 portable heater
- 12.5 gallons Cutter Insect Repellent (repels ticks, too!)
- 7 flashlights
- 2 spare sets of car keys (another vehicle is also a good idea.)

IF MOM IS NOT COMING:

- 2 cases Budweiser
- 3 cans Copenhagen



The author and her father, setting out on a major fishing expedition.

THE BEST TIME TO GO:

As a rule, Dad insists that two hours past high tide is the ideal time for fishing. This can be altered, however, to two hours past low tide, one hour past high tide, 45 minutes before high tide, or whatever time it is that you feel inspired to fish.

THE BEST BAIT:

- very fresh squid (see previous mention)
- mackerel, or
- if the local bait shop is out of mackerel, this is a sign from the fishing-powers-that-be that you must use eel.

* **note:** Any lobster/crab/seagull found dead on the beach also makes for excellent bait.

WHERE THE FISH ARE:

There are many signals to alert the professional angler as to where fish can be located. These few were told to me in confidence, and have heretofore never been printed:

- if there are sea birds in the area, there are fish. The big fish chase the bait fish to the surface, hence easy pickings for the birds.
- if there is no crab damage to your bait, there are fish. The big fish scare the crabs into hiding.
- if there are striped carcasses on the beach, there are fish. Some lucky fisherman left with his fillets moments before you arrived.
- if there is a ton of seaweed in the water, there are fish. Dad never really explained this one to me, but hey. It's my Dad. He knows.

CASTING TECHNIQUES:

My father has his own unique style of casting, which involves throwing one's line back, hooking one's lure on a dead log that you didn't even know was behind you, snapping the line, using several expletives as you curse the log, the lure, the fish, and God. It's a highly complicated ritual that I could never betray my father by revealing, so best just to cast your hook into the water, contemplating the mysteries of life, and leave it at that.

WHY YOU HAVEN'T CAUGHT ANY/THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FISH:

Alas, you have followed all of my father's sage advice and yet you've had nary a nibble. Here's why:

- Blackfish are extremely elusive. They can swallow your bait, spit out the hook, and be on their merry way in a matter of seconds.
- Stripers are extremely smart. They'll be eyeing your bait, contemplating lunch, when all of a sudden they hear the soft 'fwoosh' of your mother's insect repellent a mile away on the beach, and they're wise to you.
- Bluefish are just mean.

DEALING WITH OTHER FISHERMAN:

If another fisherman happens by and asks, "Any luck?" the following answers are appropriate:

- "Naw." (Hide all fish.)
- "I had a few hits over at ____." (List any beach at the extreme opposite of where you are.)
- "Nah. I'm just trying to teach my daughter how to bait a hook, if she'd just stop taking notes for one dangd minute!"

There you have it. My father's complete guide to fishing. Use them wisely, for you cannot understand the power within these words. My father should know—he's an expert fisherman. If you don't believe me, well, just ask him.

