

Introduction to Fly Fishing Terms and Concepts

© May 2000 – Nick Gawryletz

Revised March 2002

Prepared by: Nick Gawryletz

Prepared for Nick's personal use, based out of Roberts' Fly Shop, Cochrane, AB



WELCOME

My name is Nick Gawryletz. It is my privilege to be your host during the next few hours as we go through the basics of fly fishing.

Please accept this mini-manual as your personal souvenir, and as a resource for your future growth in the knowledge and skills of fly-fishing.

Not all this information can be covered during the course of one session. This material is intended to whet your fly fishing appetite and launch you into many memorable experiences of personal fly fishing enjoyment.

Nick Gawryletz, 5 Chisholm Cr NW, Calgary, T2L 0Y9
403-282-1109, fax: 403-282-3866
nick@flyfish.ca www.flyfish.ca

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A. Personal Preparation for Fly Fishing

1. Clothing & attachments

- Hip or chest waders (neoprene for winter fishing, or breathables for warmer weather)
- Boots with non-slip felt soles
- Wading belt (in case you fall, or intend to go into deep water)
- Gravel guards (to keep gravel from wearing out your neoprenes)
- Vest (the more pockets it has, the more you tend to load it)
- Fingerless gloves (in colder temperatures)
- Hat (to keep bugs, sun & hooks out of your hair)
- Polaroid sun-glasses (to see fish better)
- Zingers (to hold floatant, cutters, etc)

2. Types of equipment needed (beginners often carry more than the pros do)

a) Casting equipment

- Rod – rods are sized: 0 to 13 (light to heavy) and are from 7 to 10 feet long
- Reel – reels are sized to match rod, left/right hand, replaceable spools
- Line – to match reel weight – dry, double taper, weight forward, etc.
- Leader – tapered (heavy to light), custom tied, knotless, etc.
- Tippet – sized 8x to 0x (light to heavy) length, type
- Weights on lines (split shot – lead is banned in National Parks)
- Strike indicators (to indicate when a fish takes your nymph or streamer)
- Line cutter (nail clippers)

b) Fly equipment

- Boxes of assorted flies
- Fly floatant (to keep dry flies floating on the water)
- Hooks – sized 32 to 0 (miniature to large)
- Hook sharpener
- De-icer (slows ice build-up on rod ferules in winter fishing)

c) Other tools

- Fishing net (for easier, quicker landing of fish)
- Long-handled forceps (to remove hooks)
- Thermometer (to read water temperature)
- Screen or seine net (to check stream insect life)

d) Optional

- Insect repellent and Sunscreen
- Stomach pump (to use on the fish!)
- Container with liquid (water, juice, etc.)
- Items needed for identifying, storing & transporting trapped aquatic insects



3. Kinds of knots to learn

- arbor knot – used to tie line backing to reel
- nail knot
 - from backing to fly line
 - from fly line to leader
- blood knots – piecing together different sizes of monofilament line when customizing tapered leader (normally 9 – 12 feet long)
- double surgeon's knot – from leader to tippet
- clinch, or improved clinch knot
 - from tippet to fly
 - from fly to dropper(s)
- wind knot – any time casting stroke is incorrect, or when wind is allowed to control the leader & tippet

B. The Keys to Casting

1. Introduction to casting

Get instruction before bad habits set in

Practice, practice, practice (summer & winter)

Aim for accuracy (placement, distance, etc). Casting presentations are the difference between successful & unsuccessful fishers

Be prepared to take up to 2 years to become a proficient fly-fisher.

2. Positioning your body for casting

Hand position

Thumb position

Wrist position

Arm position

Placing the feet

Line control by hand not used for casting (line hand)

3. Casting sequence & action steps

Assemble rod & reel and thread the line

Grip the rod properly (note location of thumb)

Strip enough line for a short cast (up to 15, 20 feet)

Make a loop with thumb and first finger of the other (line) hand, and hold the line between the thumb and finger, squeezing it on the back cast.

Load the rod with a power back-stroke to the 1 o'clock position

Stop / pause (for line to complete its loop)

Aim cast with power forward-stroke to 11 o'clock position

Allow line to slip through hole created by thumb & forefinger on forward cast

Lower rod to present fly gently on water surface

Strip line slowly with non-casting line-hand

Continue casting until a fish strikes, then set the hook by lifting rod sharply.

After 20 or so casts with no response, move to a new area.

To increase distance, add false casts by making extra power strokes between 1 and 11 o'clock positions.

4. Kinds of casts

- Straight line cast (what you usually aim for)
- False cast (used to lengthen cast, dry the fly, or change casting direction)
- Roll cast (front, back in tight spots)
- Side cast (windy conditions or under low branches)
- Downward cast (when nymphing in deeper water)
- Climbing cast, steeple cast (with limited room for back cast)
- Leisenring lift (keeps flies at consistent depth)
- Curve cast (to place fly behind boulders, etc)
- Mend, or reach, cast (upstream, downstream) (to make drag-free drift presentation)
- Slack line, puddle, tuck or S-cast (when casting downstream)
- Walking the dog (allowing the fly to dead drift as you walk downstream along the bank)
- Chuck & duck (avoid a hit in the head; get it in the rear instead)

5. Types of casting loops

- Back / front casting
- High / wide
- Open / closed (C or J form – the J loop is key to good casting)
- Tailing loops (no good – they create wind knots, tangles, etc.)

6. Retrieving fishing line

- Stripping (slow, fast) to simulate action of insects
- Hand or palm twist (especially when fishing for chironomids)
- Switch line from hand control to reel when fighting “the big one”

7. Main problems & solutions in casting technique

Problem: fly hits water or grass back of angler

Solution: rod tip has been allowed to drop too low on back-stroke, due mainly to wrist action.

Problem: creating tailing loops

Solution: forward-stroke has been made too soon, too hard &/or wrist action has been used.

Problem: sound of line snapping back of angler on back-stroke

Solution: forward-stroke has been made too soon & too hard

Problem: cast dies before reaching target

Solution: forward stroke is under-powered – rod not doing its work

Problem: not able to make long distance casts

Solution: make forward-stroke higher, and make rod tip work. Learn to use single or double haul to lengthen the cast.

Problem: tippet section of fly line hits rod on forward power-stroke

Solution: keep forward cast and back cast in line, and lower tip slightly on forward (presentation) cast

8. Which direction is best for casting?

Upstream – most common

Downstream – using puddle cast

Quartering:

Up & across – popular with streamer fishing

Down & across – for nymph fishing

Heave it & leave it (when using certain flies in lakes)



C. Streamside Observations

1. Anatomy of a stream

Riffle – shallow fast water

Pocket water – large boulders in mid-stream

Run – un-impounded narrow deeper channel of fast water

Pool – large amount of water collected in deep area

Tailout – funneling at end of a pool

Flat water – slow movement of water over heavy weed bed

Eddy – part of stream running contrary to main current

Upwelling springs – white spots near bubbling sand

Undercut bank – special hiding places

2. What fish need

Oxygen – most plentiful in faster water

Food – aquatics, terrestrials, crustaceans

Cover/protection – eagles, osprey, herons, mink, humans, other fish, etc.

Resting sites – behind boulders, logs, under cut banks, in deep pools

Spawning areas – gravelled stream-bed – egg site is called a “redd”

3. Types of Stations

a) Hiding stations – deep holes, eddies, upwelling springs

b) Feeding stations – pocket water, current seams, weed patches, overhanging bush, tailout, riffles

c) Prime stations – under cut banks, plunging pools, deep runs, and behind boulders, brush piles or root wads

4. Types of water where fish look for food

Where fast water meets the slow

Where deep water meets the shallow

Where one stream branch or tributary flows into another

Where dirty water meets the clean

Where warm water meets the cold

Where seams come together, ordinarily indicated by foam or bubble lines

5. Habitat Preferences

Species	Water Temp (° F)	Current Speed	Other Information
Arctic Grayling	42-50	Medium	N. Alberta – mainly in rivers. S. Alberta – lakes & ponds
Golden Trout	45 - 52	Stocked in high mountain lakes.	
Bull Trout	45 - 55	Medium	Hold in deep holes of streams.
Cutthroat Trout	50 - 62	Medium	Thrive in colder stream headwaters.
Brook Trout	52 - 56	Medium	Found in cold headwaters.
Rainbow Trout	55 - 60	Medium-fast	Often strays from cover to feed. Hold & feed in fast riffles & pocket water.
Brown Trout	60 - 65	Slow-medium	Most cover-oriented trout. Normally nocturnal..



6. Trout Diet and Feeding Habits

Species	Common Foods	Feeding Habits
Arctic Grayling	Mainly terrestrial insects.	Often seen dappling the surface for terrestrial insects.
Golden Trout	Insects, especially caddisfly and midge larvae; also tiny crustaceans.	Eat smaller food items than do most other trout.
Bull Trout	Mostly fish also immature aquatic insects, mollusks, crustaceans.	Normally feed beneath the surface.
Cutthroat Trout	Immature and adult aquatic insects, small fish, fish eggs, crustaceans.	One of the least selective feeders; easiest trout to catch.
Brook Trout	Immature and adult aquatic insects, terrestrial insects and small fish. Diet extremely varied.	Not as selective as most other trout. High summer water temperatures may slow feeding.
Rainbow Trout	Mainly immature aquatic insects, plankton, fish eggs, small fish, crustaceans.	Feed in all levels of water.
Brown Trout	Primarily immature and adult aquatic and terrestrial insects, also tiny birds & animals.	Feed at the surface, especially on overcast days, and at night, depending on abundance of food.

7. Rise forms

a) Types

- Simple rise ----- rise to meet fly on downstream drift, leaving circular ring
- Compound rise ----- simple rise combined with longer time to inspect insect
- Complex rise ----- as when a cutthroat drowns an insect before grabbing it from underneath
- Sipping rise ----- difficult to detect as trout often sip flies which drift past
- Edge sipping rise ---- trout is under bank or weed bed & slips out to meet insect
- Splashing rise ----- rise to fluttering insect, or one moving away fast
- Jump rise ----- chasing emergers to & above the water surface – e.g. caddis takes
- Bulging rise ----- hump out of water in surface feeding

b) Surface patterns

- Rings ----- simple rise forms
- Bubbles of air ----- fish takes bug off surface
- Ripples ----- rapid tail action
- Swirls ----- fast circular chasing of an insect

D. Hatches and Flies

1. Categories of insects & other fish food

a) aquatic (grow & hatch in the water)

- mayflies – 700 species in North America – 4 upright, sail-like wings
- caddis – 1000 species in North America – 2 or 4 tent-like wings
- stoneflies – 2000 species world-wide – 4 wings down flat on body
- dragonflies – delta wings (mainly found at or near still waters)
- crane flies – 1500 species in N. America – delta wings
- midges – 2000 species in N. America – 2 wings flat on body, over 2 unused wings
- damsel flies – wings pressed together on edge over abdomen

b) crustaceans (aquatics with hard shells on back)

- beetles, water boatmen, water walkers, backswimmers
- shrimp, crabs, water fleas, sow bugs

c) terrestrials (land-born insects that fall into the water)

- ants, grasshoppers & crickets
- worms, spiders, caterpillars
- beetles, bees, moths

d) forage

- sculpins, leeches, aquatic earthworms
- minnows & game fish fingerlings

e) other

- mice, moles & rats
- ducklings, goslings
- tadpoles, toads

2. Life cycle of insects (development time-clock is different for each species)
 - Egg (2 days to several months)
 - Worm or Larva (stage does not appear in some species' hatches)
 - Pupa (usually 1 year; stoneflies to 4 years)
 - Emerging pupa (seconds to minutes)
 - Cripple (the pupa has failed to develop properly)
 - Adult (minutes to a few days)
 - Dun (mayflies are called "dun" between hatching & mating stages)
 - Spinner (mayfly mating & egg-laying stage)
 - Spent (after eggs have been laid on, or in, water)

3. Anatomical structure of most aquatic insects
 - 3 body divisions (head, thorax & body)
 - 10 abdominal segments
 - 6 legs, stemming from thorax
 - 4 (sometimes 2) wings attached to thorax
 - 2 or 3 tails, varying in length (except caddis, midges, dragon flies, damsel flies which have no tails)

4. Matching artificial flies with hatch activity
 - a) Nymphs – imitate small aquatics near stream-bed
 - b) Streamers – attract fish that feed on larger foods (sculpins, leeches, etc)\
 - c) Wet flies – imitate insects between stream-bed and water surface – often in first stages of emerging
 - d) Soft hackle – have long pulsating-type wings; also used during first stages of emerging
 - e) Emergers – match hatching stage as insects rise through the water to the surface and become adults
 - f) Dry flies – imitate adult insects on top of the water

E. Planning Your First Fishing Trip

1. Sources of information about places to fly-fish
 - Angling regulations – issued annually, available at many sport shops
 - Alberta Fishing Guide
 - "The Fishing Map"
 - Fly fishing magazines
 - Books (sorry, no price breaks in second-hand stores)
 - Videos, fishing shows on TV
 - Web sites, interviews
 - City paper (weekend edition)
 - Sports shops
 - Conservation groups, fly-tying & fishing clubs
 - Your fishing guide / buddies



2. Targetting specific fish in specific waters

Brown Trout

Bow River

Raven River

Cow Lake

Brook Trout

Burnt Timber Creek

Quirk Creek

Maligne Lake

Rainbow Trout

Bow River

Crownsnest River

Waterton Lake

Cutthroat Trout

Livingstone River

Waiparous Creek

Picklejar Lake

Bull Trout

Oldman River

Muskeg River

Kananaskis Lake

Grayling

Little Smoky River

Athabasca River

Wedge Pond

Whitefish

Red Deer River

Bow River

Gap Lake

3. Knowing what to do when you get there

a) clarify local information

- acquire appropriate hatch chart for the stream (see sample page 15)
- drop in to local fly shop and inquire about appropriate patterns
- talk to available anglers

b) discover information at stream-side

- in the water (using a large seine or screen, or by tipping over rocks)
- on the water surface (using a small seine)
- in the air (any way you can)
- from the fish (use the stomach pump)
- in the bushes & trees

c) identify species of insect (mayfly, stonefly, caddis, midge)

d) pay attention to size, shape, color, wing markings, & number of tails

e) choose appropriate flies

4. Clues to finding a winning formula

Time of Year	Time of Day to Fish	Type of Insect	Active Insect Species
Early spring	Early afternoon	Small, dark	Black Stone, Blue Wing Olive, Midges
Late spring	Late afternoon, evening	Sulphurides	Pale Morning Dun, Yellow Sallies, Salmon Stoneflies, Midges
Summer	Early morning, evening, late evening, night	Large aquatics	Green Drake, Brown Drake, Travelling Sedge, Midges
Fall	Late morning, early afternoon, evening	Tiny	Trico, Blue Wing Olive, Slate-wing May, Midges



5. What flies should work

When fish are ...	Best type of fly	Suggested fly to use
on bottom of stream, lake, etc	Nymph	Hare's Ear, Prince Nymph
feeding on minnows	Streamer/Bucktail	Mickey Finn, Muddlers
taking pupae rising from the bottom	Wet / Soft Hackle	Green & Partridge
chasing hatching insects to surface	Emerger	CDC Emerger, Caddis
looking for insects that can't fly away	Cripple	Cripple May
waiting for the next hatch	Attractor / Stimulator	Royal Coachman
high &/or low in water	Double fly set-up	Stonefly/Pheasant Tail
feeding on hatched adult insects	Dry	Adams, Letort Hopper
gulping insects that have hatched	Spinner	CDC Biot Spinner

6. Avoiding "putting the fish down".

- a) the deeper the fish is in the water, the greater its range of vision is to the surrounding area. Brown trout, especially, will hide when they see you.
- b) sound carries four times faster in water than in the air. Therefore avoid walking in water unless absolutely necessary. Or, walk upstream as quietly as possible when sneaking up to a holding area.
- c) plopping the line noisily into the water, or creating a slurping sound while retrieving the line will scare most fish.

F. Establishing lasting memories

1. Good attitudes towards harvesting fish

- a) Fly fishing is an artful sport. We don't fly fish to take advantage of the fish or of its surrounding environment.
- b) Enjoy catching the fish, but learn to release all fish (except perhaps for a shore lunch where permitted), being careful to revive the fish properly before allowing it to return to its home waters.
- c) Releasing fish
 - Use a net with cotton-type mesh for landing the fish
 - Barbless hooks make releasing an easier process
 - Revive the fish before releasing it
 - Release fish as quickly as possible
 - Use hook remover



2. Issues related to stream etiquette

- Give other fishing people lots of room (preferably 10 minutes, or more, fishing distance before you fish the same stream; or at least around a bend or two)
- Try not to disturb other fly-fishers, and especially don't walk through pools or places being fished by others.
- Get permission to cross land owned by private citizens. Remember to close all gates, as well as taking all your garbage out with you.
- Don't take other friends to a good fishing spot shown to you by your fishing buddy.

3. Challenges that fish face

- Over-harvesting (the bucket brigade is NOT for taking home messes of fish)
- Fluctuating water levels (dams, irrigation)
- Wading through redds (where fish spawn, and their eggs hatch)
- Parasites (whirling disease)
- Logging too close to streams
- Changes of stream beds (beavers, road building)
- Flash floods, heavy rain, heavy snow melt
- Chemicals
- Roads & trails criss-crossing streams



4. Keeping a journal / fishing log (see sample page 13)

- Date, place & people you fish with
- Weather / time of day / temperature of water, air
- Water conditions (ice build-up, flow rate, visibility, spring snow melt)
- Insect hatches (species, size, color, peak time)
- Successful flies
- Species & number of fish caught
- Special observations



5. Dangers / obstacles fly fishers face

- Bears – know your area & carry a bear bell (or borrow your neighbour's dog)
- Hypothermia & dehydration
- Deep water
- Slippery coating on rocks
- High, steep river banks
- Sudden high winds, snow storms
- Sudden release of water from upstream dams
- Unexpected drop-offs in stream beds
- Soft river beds (tacky mud, hidden holes in stream bed)
- Log jams or sweepers especially dangerous when using drift boats
- Wind & sun burn
- Mosquitoes, other biting insects
- Private property with exclusive water rights



6. Code words for secret places

- Frenchman's Creek
- Zipper Lake
- Pete's Pot-hole



G. PERSONAL NOTES

H. Bibliography and Reference Book List

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ISBN 0-517-52550-X

Nymph Fishing for Larger Trout, Charles E. Brooks, Crown Publishers, New York NY,
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ISBN 0-13-689398-8

Trout Streams of Alberta, Jim McLennan, Johnson Gorman Publishers, Red Deer AB,
1996, ISBN 0-921835-17-5

Western Hatches, Rick Hafele and Dave Hughes, Frank Amato Publications, Portland OR,
1981, ISBN 0-936608-12-9

Web Sites worth checking out:

“A Beginner’s Journal” by Don McPherson, -- www.flyanglersonline.com/begin/bjournal/

“Fly Fishing 101 – For Beginners” -- -- www.flyanglersonline.com/begin/101/

for weekly stream reports check
www.flyfishalberta.com
www.flyshop.com

FISHING RECORD

Date: _____ Year _____ Week day _____ Partner(s): _____

Location: Stream/Stillwater _____ Fishing area _____ Parking _____

Weather: Sun ___ Sun/Cloud ___ Overcast ___ Fog ___ Rain ___ Sleet ___ Snow ___ Thunder ___

Wind: None ___ Light ___ Moderate ___ Strong ___ Direction: _____

Air Temperature: _____ Water Temperature: _____

Water Conditions Clear ___ Misty ___ Dirty ___ _____
 & Runoff Low ___ Normal ___ High ___ _____

Recommendations from Others: _____

Insect Samples :

Stomach: _____
 Seine: _____
 Surface/Air: _____

Hatches:

Kind	Size	Color	Peak Time	Distinctives

Successful Flies: (size, color if possible)

Nymphs	Emergers	Surface	Streamers

Fish Caught:

Kind	Number	Size Range	Comments
Rainbow			
Brown			
Brook			
Bull			
Cutthroat			
Whitefish			
Hybrid			

Observations & Notes:

The Beginning Fly Fisherman's Glossary

(by Randall Winter, condensed from Field & Stream, August 1982)

Dry Fly – one that hasn't been in the water yet

Wet Fly – one that has been

Fast Water – can move Cadillac-sized boulders

Slow Water – can move Volkswagen-sized boulders

Terrestrials – fishermen who forgot to bring their waders

Streamers – fly fishermen who turn up their noses at lake fishing

Tippet – what most anglers normally do on their first float fishing trip

Bucktails – a term borrowed from hunting vocabulary, referring to end-of-the-day stories told back at the fishing lodge

Roll Cast – a cast whereby the line is whipped out a good distance as the angler struggles to accommodate the slick, baseball-sized rocks rolling underfoot.

Aerial Roll Cast – same as above, but angler actually becomes airborne. (Best left to the experts.)

Leaders – fishermen who usually win the race to the tail-end of the best pool

Double Haul – the number of trips needed to carry gear from vehicle to shoreline

Double Taper – descriptive phrase commonly used in telling about the one that got away, as in, "He was so big I couldn't measure him with one tape. He was a double taper."

Limit – convincing evidence of the somewhat odd sense of humor displayed by most fish and game departments

Wading Staff – an entourage employed by a wealthy fly fisherman to assist him across the stream

No-Hackle Fly – one of the few streamside insects that doesn't settle upon the angler's neck

Matching the Hatch – a doctoral thesis in entomology

Dropoffs – flies that don't stick in the fleece pad of the fishing vest

Dolly Varden – the favourite singer of many fishermen

Dropper – an awkward fly fisherman. (Never lend flies to a 'dropper'.)

Fly Vise – an expensive, incurable habit of collecting fishing flies

Brookie – a fly fisherman who adheres to the teaching of the great Joe Brooks

Weight Forward – prevalent posture of middle-aged fly fishermen

Cutthroat – a realistic assessment of your partner's general attitude when discussing first rights to the new pool

Lunker – another description of a fish that is not landed

Chumming – a way to glean information from fishermen one meets on the way down to the stream

Fly Fishing Definitions for the Beginner

(by Al Campbell of Fly Anglers OnLine – selected entries)

Hackle – something that gets raised on my wife every time I tell her I need a new fly rod.

Free Drift – The mode my mind is in when my wife is discussing my need for that new fly rod.

Drag – the term I use to describe life without a new fly rod.

Fly Line – a story you're going to hear about your buddy's fishing trip to Montana.

Fly Line Conditioner – the words you use to lead up to the story about your fishing trip to Montana. It is a very important phase of telling a fly line. If you omit it, no one will believe a word you say.

Leader – the best liar in your group. He has great potential as a writer for fishing magazines.

Backing – something you hope your fishing buddies will give you when you're telling one of your bigger fishing lines.

Nail Knot – One of the many creative knots you can accomplish by allowing your back cast to get too low on a windy day. Other similar knots are 'twig knots', 'brush knots', and the dangerous 'rattlesnake noose knot'.

Blood knot – what you get on the back of your head when you execute a forward cast with a nail knot in your line.

Surgeon's Knot – also called 'stitches', this is a common treatment for a severe blood knot.

Strike Indicator – the annoying guy you took fishing who always yelled, "You got a hit, set the hook."

Waders – an item of clothing worn on the lower half of your body, but is always 2 inches shorter than the water you intend to wade.

Royal Wulff – something I've been known to do to a hamburger after a long day of fishing.

Stomach Pump – medical attention needed after eating at Taco Tim's after a day of fishing the Big River.

Snake Guide – the shifty-eyed fellow you paid to show you where the fish are. They call him a snake for a good reason.

Reel Seat – the one item of comfort you need after a long day wading the river. It's much more comfortable than the ant hill you sat on when you emptied the water out of your waders.

Float Tube – the container of suntan lotion you dropped in the river. It's the only thing you can drop that won't sink out of sight in an instant, but drifts away to be picked up by the game warden, who'll ticket you for littering.

Fly Vise – a common misspelling of a term used to describe our addiction to fly fishing. A related habit is telling fly lines.

Spinner – another name for the teller of fly lines.

Dun – something you are when you finish all you planned to do. That's what I am at this moment – dun.

A Dictionary for Constant Anglers, Weekend Waders and Artful Bobbers

(selected from the book by Henry Beard & Roy McKie)

Advice – two or more pieces of contradictory angling information contained in a single phrase or sentence.

Bamboozle – to convince an angler to purchase a bamboo fishing rod.

Camera – small heavy, object used by anglers to store small amounts of water and a canister of spoiled film.

Custom-made – bilked to order.

Fork – the point where an unproductive river divides into two unpromising streams.

Habitat – place where a particular species of fish was last week.

Ice Fishing – winter fishing method in which anglers use a variety of specialized equipment to catch colds.

Knot – a tangle with a name.

License – permit issued upon payment of a modest fee, allowing fishermen to lose lures in a specified area.

Map – a handy, schematic representation of all the roads in the area that you are not currently on.

Minnow – embryonic stage of a large fib.

Oar – clumsy wooden implement used to moisten boat occupants.

Panfish – anything removed from the water that will fit into a frying pan.

Pond – large volume of water surrounding a snapping turtle.

Portage – the shortest distance between two hernias.

Prize Fish – any fish that weighs more than the gear used to catch it.

Rod – a flexible, tapered stick, the basic tool of angling. Most fishermen find rods of average length awkward to carry, but they can easily be shortened to a more convenient size by removing the top few inches with a car door, a station wagon tailgate, or a trunk lid.

Rowboat – a small craft named because its occupation by more than one angler immediately causes a row.

Rule of Thumb – Don't take advice from people with missing fingers.

Still Fishing – fishing technique characterized by a long time spent with the angler lying quietly, followed by a shorter time in which he lies noisily.

Tent – cumbersome device made of fabric and tubing, used by fishermen camping in the woods to collect specimens of local insects.

Traditional – any fishing technique that has been conclusively proven to be impractical.

Unsporting – any fishing technique that has as its purpose the capture of fish rather than the accumulation of fishing equipment.

Wading – the most common means by which a dry-fly fisherman becomes a wet-fly fisherman.

Wrist – in an angler, the ache that connects the cuts & sores to the pulls & strains.

Yard – a unit of measurement. In angling, usually 17 inches.

Zzzzzz – the sound made by a patient angler waiting for a bite, **OR** the sound made by an insect about to deliver one