

# BASIC FISHING TERMS for "Ladies, Let's Go Fishing!"®

**Antireverse Lever-** A lever or knob that prevents the reel handles from turning backwards as a fish tries to take line.

**Backing-** A soft, strong fishing line, such as braided dacron that is wound onto a fly reel before the fly line is added.

**Backlash-** Line tangled on a casting reel as a result of a cast when the spool continues to revolve after the line has stopped going off the reel. Also called a "birds nest." A backlash is probable cause for getting yelled at.

**Bail-** A wire half-round device that spools the line onto an open-face spinning reel.

**Bail Roller-** A small roller bearing-like device on one end of the bail over which line rolls when it is retrieved.

**Bail Spring-** A small spring used to operate a bail on a spinning reel.

**Baitcasting-** Casting equipment that uses a bait-casting reel, also called a "level-wind."

**Banana-** Many anglers feel it is bad luck to bring a banana on a boat, and will most likely insist that it be thrown overboard.

**Barb-** The spur found on the point of most fish hooks to lessen the chance of a fish escaping.

**Bobber-** Used to float on the surface and to suspend a rigging of terminal tackle, usually consisting of baited hook and sinker. Sometimes called a cork.

**Bow-** The forward part of a boat.

**Bridge Gaff-** A gaff that is like a grappling hook attached to a line, used from a bridge or pier to land fish.

**Chart-** A "Map" of water areas. Charts pinpoint shoals, wrecks, rocks, shorelines, shallows, and other danger areas.

**Charter Boat-** A boat that is available for charter and can take out several passengers.

**Chum Bay-** A bay for placing chum.

**Chumming-** Scattering small bits of food into the water to attract and hold fish in an area where they can be caught. These bits of food can also come from an angler who feels ill and becomes the object of laughter by everyone else in the boat.

**Clicker-** A mechanism that makes a noise when line comes off the reel.

**Cockpit-** The open area in the rear of the boat.

**Current-** Any movement of water, whether caused by tides, ocean water movements, or flowing water, in rivers and streams.

**Depth Finder-** Also called fish finder or sonar, they are devices that signal the bottom and record it on a flashing dial, LCD screen, or graph paper. When combined with fish-finding electronics, this equipment is important to discovering where the fish are.

**Downrigger-** A fishing device used on boats that allows fishing very deep with light tackle. It consists of a reel of heavy line or cable, a heavy weight to keep the cable stretched, and release clips into which the fishing line is fastened and then released when a fish hits. This allows the angler to determine the depth to troll the lures. Downriggers increase the odds of finding larger fish which are swimming under a school of dolphin or bonita.

**Drag Anchor-** An anchor used for fishing in currents. The anchor is designed to slip, allowing the boat to move with the current. A length of heavy chain is often used.

**Drag Knob-** The knob that allows the adjustment of the reel's drag pressure.

**Drag System-** A system in any reel that serves as a braking mechanism to slow a fish as it pulls line off a reel. Drag pressure is usually set to 1/4 to 1/3 of the line test.

**Drop Back-** Releasing the line in order to place the bait further back in front of a fish.

**Eye-** the part of a fish hook where line is attached or where the hook is attached to a lure.

**Float Plan-** A plan which should be filed by every boater with someone on shore, that tells the plans for the day.

**Fly-** An artificial lure tied on a hook and made of fur, feathers, tinsel, wool, synthetic dubbing, thread, etc., and designed to be cast with a fly fishing outfit.

**Fly Bridge-** A platform above the boat, found in mostly large boats.

**Fly Tying-** The craft of tying flies, i.e., wrapping thread around fly tying hooks to secure the materials to imitate insects, bugs, and aquatic insects.

**Foul Hooked-** When the hook is in the side of a fish, not the mouth. When foul-hooked, a fish feels much heavier on the line than it is.

**Free Spool-** Allowing the line to flow from the spool without any drag or pressure.

**Gaff-** A "J" shaped, barbless hook on a long handle used to bring large fish out of the water.

**Gimble Belt-** A belt designed with a gimble for placing a rod against the pelvic area, helpful for reeling in heavy fish.

**Grip-** That part of the rod which is held by the angler. Usually made of cork or synthetic material.

**Guides-** Circular rings made of metal or synthetic materials (aluminum oxide, silicone carbide, etc..) Attached to the rod blank and through which the line travels.

**Gunnel-** The sides of a boat.

**Handle-** The part of the reel which is held and turned to retrieve line.

**Head-** The bathroom of a boat.

**Jig-** Lead molded onto a special jig hook. Tail material of rubber, feathers or fur and various combinations of these may be tied onto the hook shank.

**Jigging-** Fishing using an up&down motion with the rod.

**Leader-** Any material used between the main line and the lure or hook. Can be monofilament, or single stand wire or cable. Can be lighter or heavier than the main fishing line. Often used for toothy fish to prevent them from breaking or cutting off.

**Levelwind-** The part of a bait-casting reel that ensures the line is rewound evenly onto the spool.

**Livewell-** An aerated container, built into a boat for storing fish and keeping them alive.

**Lob Cast-** A slow cast used when fishing so as not to throw bait off the hook during the cast.

**Lure-** Name for any artificial bait used to attract fish.

**Monofilament Line-** A single, strong synthetic fiber used for fishing line.

**Outrigger-** A long pole that extends from the side of a fishing boat and used with lines and release clips to allow greater variety in trolling.

**Planer-** A device that will cause fishing line to angle down and take a lure deeper than it would normally run.

**Pumping-** A method of fighting fish that involves raising the rod to pull the fish closer, then gaining line by reeling as the rod is lowered.

**Push Button-** A lever or knob on a spincast reel. Pressing the push button holds the line in place until pressure is released, at which time the line and lure can be cast.

**Retrieve-** The act of rewinding line onto a reel spool and retrieving a bait or lure.

**Rigging-** The process of attaching a lure or bait for a particular situation or species of fish.

**Rod Butt-** The end of the rod handle.

**Rod Holder-** An insert for the rod to be placed into, commonly found at the side of a boat.

**Salon-** The "living room" of a large boat, and eventual resting place for chummers.

**Setting the Hook-** The process of embedding a hook in a fish's mouth.

**Shank-** The longest part of most fish hooks, between the eye and the bend of the hook.

**Sinker-** A weight used to get a lure or bait down deeper into the water.

**Snap Swivel-** Like a snap, but with the addition of a swivel to help prevent line twist.

**Spincast Lures-** Lures of all types that are fished with spincast tackle.

**Spinner-** A standard lure that consists of a rotating blade on a shaft that holds a body or beads and ends with a hook.

**Spinnerbait-** A lure consisting of a weighted head and hook (like a jig) molded onto a right angle safety pin wire that holds a single or double blade.

**Spool-** Device to hold the line on any reel.

**Spoon-** A lure made of metal and designed to imitate a baitfish. Includes jigging spoons for fishing vertically; trolling spoons; and weedless spoons with weed guards.

**Star Drag-** A drag system consisting of layers of soft and hard washers in a reel & controlled by a star-shaped wheel.

**Stern-** The rear end of a boat.

**Strike-** The point at which a fish hits or engulfs a lure. Also known as "to strike" a fish; to set the hook.

**Strike Drag-** A heavier than normal drag often set to strike a fish and drive the hook in the fish. Most often used with the drag system on offshore reels.

**Structure-** A term used by anglers to designate any type of object or cover attractive to fish. Structure that fish relate to includes stumps, rock piles, log jams, piers, docks, boat houses, reefs, artificial reefs, channel markers, points of land, weed lines, etc..

**Swivel-** A small fastener consisting of two eyes with a central barrel or swiveling portion. Designed for fastening lines and line/leader combinations to help prevent line twist through lure action.

**Tackle-** A name given to fishing equipment or gear.

**Tackle Balance-** A term used to describe how a rod, reel, line, and lure should be matched. Reel size, rod stiffness, line strength, lure weight, and fish size must all be matched to proper casting and fish fighting.

**Tapered Leader-** A leader used in fly fishing. Thick at one end, it tapers to a thinner end, or tippet, the end where the fly is tied.

**Taxidermy-** A method by which fish are preserved for mounting as a trophy.

**Terminal Tackle-** The hooks, weights, swivels, and other fishing tackle attached on or near the end of your fishing line.

**Test-** Line strength as stated on the label.

**Thermocline-** Temperature stratification in a body of water. The layer of water where temperature changes at least on half a degree per foot of depth. Thermoclines can help determine fish movement or location.

**Tight-Line Fishing-** A method of fishing with live or natural bait where the angler lets the sinker take the bait down, then tightens the line when the bait is on the bottom. You know there's a fish on when you see or feel the rod wiggle. Used without a bobber or float.

**Tippet-** The small, front section of tapered leader to which the lure is attached.

**Transom-** The rear of the boat; the portion onto which the motor is mounted.

**Treble-** A hook with three points used on many lures and for bait fishing.

**Trolling-** A method by which lures or bait are trailed on the end of fishing line, behind or to the side of a moving boat. This makes it possible to fish a large area rapidly.

**Tuna Door-** A door in the transom of the boat that opens for pulling in large fish.

**Tuna Tower-** A platform above the fly bridge.

**Ultralight-** A name given to casting equipment that is reduced in size for casting small, lightweight lures.

**Wet Fly-** A fly that imitates an aquatic or land insect and sinks in the water. Most are made of soft water absorbent materials.