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Saltwater Fishing Tips

By Frank Faldo

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Get Rid Of Sharks

Sharks buggin' you? To get rid of them pour some fish blood on a paper towel or newspaper and roll it into a ball. Toss it overboard and the sharks will follow it with the current.

Many anglers move much too quickly from spot to spot. Many times a hot spot is passed right over. Don't just cast out a couple times and move on - probe it thoroughly from the deepest point right up to the most shallow. Try at least two different lures/bait.

Fishing on the perimeter

Always try the edges of the perimeter first, instead of plopping your bait or lure into the middle. If you do hook a fish in the middle, it will scare the others away, but if you "milk" the edges of the perimeter first, you can later move into the unsuspecting ones in the middle.

If you fish with the amazing Evening Secret (http://www.eveningsecretfishing.com/specialsecret/Saltwater_Fishing_Tips.php) for swarming large amounts of fish in any water, you will also need to make sure to stay on that perimeter, that is where the action is.

Surf fishing

With surf fishing, remember that fish are tight against the shore, so make most of your casts parallel to the sand. Don't send your cast out too far.

The best tides range from half rising to half falling - especially when early or late in the day. Of course, if there is bait, the predators will always be there, but it just makes it easier if fishing during the half tides.

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If you fish by an inlet, fish in the outgoing water which brings the bait out to sea. This will hold the best action for strikes. Just let the outgoing water carry your bait out in a natural way.

Find a beachfront - they all of their share of structures such as holes, pockets, rocks, reefs, and other things. These will hold fish, and locating them is critical if you want success. Also find spots where channels lead to deep water - these will often times hold game fish. The fish usually follow these deeper channels until food is found.

Fish aggressively by walking back and forth and fishing areas that appear likely to hold fish. You can see the boils of feeding fish in hot spots - and keep an eye out for bait. Watch the birds as well; they are one of the best indicators of fish in the area.

Obviously, use the freshest live-bait possible, and change it often. You really want your bait on bottom, with a lighter weight - this will give you the best chance for stimulating strikes.

When using lures, use ones that can be cast easily. Switch out often to get to different depths, and experiment with the speed of retrieve. Use finer-diameter monofilament line because it gives better action to both natural baits and artificial lures.

If you hook a big one, keep it in front of you as you wind it in - running as you need to. As you bring it close, it will make a few runs out - just drop your tip and let it go. When it gets really close, use the waves to bring it even closer - timing it.

Fresh Shrimp

When you have live shrimp that you are going to fish, it is important to make sure they are alive and kicking - they will catch more fish this way. Keep them uncrowded, well aerated, and cool.

Use an ice chest as a shrimp box. It has a strong lid that can double as a seat, a plug for easy draining, and is well insulated to help ward off the bait-killing heat.

Instead of using ice to keep the shrimp cool, freeze water in plastic bottles so that when the ice melts it won't dilute the water and kill the shrimp.

When the shrimp is failing to get strikes, use brightly colored shrimp by dyeing them with food coloring. This will stimulate strikes if regular colored shrimp aren't working.

Shrimp Bait

Using sand shrimp as bait is an excellent choice because it is a popular meal for bottom feeders. Additionally, it gives off a big scent, which will attract them.

Unfortunately, they are fragile and almost impossible to keep on a hook.

Use a safety pin hook designed especially to hold soft baits like sand shrimp. The pin of the hook should run the full length of the back of the bait, leaving the tail and pincers free to move. Some people

use a few turns of lead wire, the kind used for weighting flies, to help hold the shrimp.

Storing jigs

Large saltwater jigs are not only heavy but also bulky. Finding a place to store them safely and conveniently can be a problem. Use a five-gallon plastic bucket with a lid. Just below the bucket's lip, drill or punch equidistant holes all the way around. Place the jigs inside, hanging them through the holes from their big hooks. Pop the top back on; label the bucket, and presto! Your lures are stored in a safe, untangled and accessible container.

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Offshore Saltwater Boats

By Allen Bohart

Offshore fishing is the stuff of legend, and brings about daydreams of hours-long battles with huge sailfish ala Hemingway. To realize those dreams, one must first own the right equipment, including an offshore fishing boat. Offshore fishing boats are not your everyday boat. They are much heavier and more rugged than the average lake runabout you see in many of your neighbor's driveways. In fact, you are highly unlikely to see any kind of offshore boat in anyone's driveway as most are not trailerable, though some of the smaller ones are.

Safety is a primary consideration when purchasing an offshore saltwater fishing boat, as you can't just take any boat out into the open ocean. These boats must be able to withstand some rolling ocean waves, and be able to protect the occupants in case of sudden inclement weather. I'm not saying that your boat should be able to plow through the perfect storm, but at least be able to get out of the rain and expect to come out alive should a few waves come along. Other safety concerns includes having bilge pumps, radio contact with the shore, and radar to detect oncoming vessels who may not detect you, especially if you should happen to be one of those crazies who likes to fish close to shipping lanes. Having an adequate supply of food and water is also a primary concern should you be forced to camp out for a while due to a conked out motor in the middle of inclement weather. It may take a while for the Coast Guard to come and get you!

In general terms, the bigger your offshore boat the better off you are. Of course, this is a moot point to those of us not rich enough to buy one of those huge cabin cruisers that we all dream about. Trade-offs may need to be made...Just make sure that you are aware of the risks and take them under consideration when purchasing your boat. As might be expected, offshore boats are the most expensive of all leisure boats due to the increased ruggedness and sheer size of them. Offshore boats range in size from about 26' in length to just about any length you can imagine and you can expect to pay anywhere from \$40,000 on up to a cool \$500,000 for a good offshore boat. Anything more expensive than that is a yacht and is nothing more than a status symbol!

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The smaller offshore boats will be equipped with either single or dual outboard motors. Most offshore motors will be of the high-horsepower variety, due to the need to power through rough waters. On larger boats, you can expect to have an inboard diesel motor of many hundreds of horses. The overall price of the boat, of course, is directly related to the amount of power that is packed into the motors.

This article gives a general overview of some of the items to consider when shopping for an offshore saltwater fishing boat. For more specific information, as well as suggestions on where to purchase a good fishing boat, be sure to visit Fishing Boat HQ.

Allen Bohart is a fishing fan, and enthusiastic writer for about any subject that interests him. He is also co-owner of

, a site about fishing boats of all kinds.



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