



## Rolux Fishing Rods Ltd. June 2014 Newsletter

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# Fishing tips – the basics

By Allan Bain

**Ponds and shallow lakes** are quiet shallow bodies of water that may allow sunlight to reach the bottom of the body of water. The sunlight supports the growth of rooted plants throughout the



lake. These plants grow fully under water or could have some parts on or above the surface. Some other plants can grow next to the water's edge. Plants provide food for a variety of animals including fish, and cover for fish to hide. Rock formations including jetties and other formations along the lake edge also provide shelter, shade and protection for the

fish. Wind and streams carry in eggs, seeds and organisms that build up into a variety of life forms. You can fish in shallow or deep water, in open water or by man-made or natural structures, from a boat or from the shore. Any pond or lake structures like inlets created by creek or stream, or rock formations, plants or weeds, holes and dams, islands,



points, jetties and overhanging banks, surface vegetation and natural objects are the best places for fishing. In short, good places for fishing are generally where fish are either looking for shelter or food.



**A word of warning here!** Make sure you are aware of any fishing restrictions in the area where you intend to fish. A common one is a fishing ban within a certain distance from river mouths, either to the sea or into lakes. **Penalties are severe** and would ruin any fishing trip. If in doubt, **read the rules** that come with your license and ask the locals if in doubt.

**Remember to buy a License.**

**Protect yourself and help to support New Zealand's fisheries.**

**River and Stream** fishing is different to lake fishing in that the angler has to take into account the current. The ability to cast your line accurately is more important than in lakes or other still bodies of water. Basic physics states that a current will always flow in the path of least resistance. In a river, it



will follow the outside bends, and anywhere there is a strong current, the water will be deeper (normally). The faster current keeps the flow channels cleaned out, while slower water will fill in with sand and sediment. In the rivers, fish often feed near current breaks where the flow changes direction or slows



down. When a current hits a rock, it divides and goes around the rock creating an area of calm water on the downstream side of the obstacle. This is a good place for fish to rest from the current, facing the flow of water.

Deeper water may be found at the head of pools and the incoming current will bring a constant supply of food from upstream.

A current edge is a place where objects in the river slow the current and the food. These are good places for fish to rest and find food coming from the current. Rocks, islands, drop-offs and merging currents are all structures creating current edges. When water travels over a drop-off, the water slows and any food trapped in the current will slow and drop also. Any slowdown is a great feeding place, especially drop-offs because it is in deeper water.



Other good fishing spots include the bases of waterfalls, under banks, under overhanging vegetation or converging currents. Where two flowing currents meet, the currents collide and the food and water slowing down create a great place to fish. Most fish in a river, face the flow of water and wait for food to come to them. Fish in flowing water seldom move far for food. Mostly the fish waits for food to come close enough to ambush.

## Setting the hook

Every fish strikes differently depending whether you are fishing Freshwater, Saltwater, flowing or slack water, when you fish, and the time of day or of the year. Some fish bite your bait, causing your line to tick or move. Some fish swallow the whole bait with the hook and rig all once in one hit. When you feel a strike, set the hook by giving your rod a quick jerk backwards and up. As soon as you have the



fish on the line, it will fight back and your line will follow the movements of the fish.

In running water, set the hook with just a quick wrist movement as soon as you feel anything different than current movements on the line. You can do it by moving both the rod and line back and up. In still water set the hook as soon as you feel the rod bending after the line tightens. You can do it by raising the rod tip while holding tight on the line.

## Playing & fighting a fish



When a fish feels the hook, it fights to get free. All fish species fight differently. It could jump, make a long run, swim back against the line or head for the rocks or weeds. In shallow water, fish are more likely to jump and behave more wildly than in deep water where fish tend to head towards the bottom.

If a fish makes a run for freedom, don't just try to reel it in, just set the drag and keep the rod at a 45 degree angle to the water and point it at the fish. When the fish slows down, gently pull the rod up and then reel in as you lower the rod, using a pumping action. Small smooth strokes will help to keep the line tight and the fish calm. If it runs again, don't let the fish rest, just repeat the drag and smooth strokes. Every subsequent run will be shorter and slower. Start reeling as soon as the drag stops working. Depending on where you are fishing, try to lead it into increasingly shallower water or so it can be netted or gaffed. If you are fishing the surf for instance, use the natural wave motion to bring the fish into the beach.



Basically the same techniques can be used wherever you are fishing – river, lake, surf or boat. Obviously, everyone develops their own style over time.

If you are fishing from a boat I have found that quite often the fish will go under the boat while being retrieved. Put your rod tip in the water and follow the fish. Even though you may not be able to see the fish, you will be able to feel it. The fish will tire, so just wait and get your landing net ready. Place your net in the water and lead the fish into it head first.



### Examples of reel drags



**A word of warning:** – DO NOT REST YOUR ROD AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE BOAT WHEN FIGHTING THE FISH AS THIS WILL “POINT LOAD” THE ROD AND PROBABLY LEAD TO FAILURE!



**Please note:** -It is very important to handle your fish with care, especially if you intend to release your catch.

I welcome any feedback from readers, and if there are any topics that you would like to see included in future newsletters (especially in the areas of rod design & building), I will do my best to address these.

I am also taking orders for our range of "CROWN" plastic tent pegs, rope slides and Keyhole tensioners. If you would like to learn more about these products, go to the "tent pegs" page on the Rolux website at [rolux.co.nz](http://rolux.co.nz)

For pricing & further information, please email me at [rolux@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rolux@xtra.co.nz)



*Next month in the July issue, I will be discussing the differences between Spinning and Casting rods. I will also outline the basic techniques used with both types of set-ups.*

Wishing you enjoyable and successful fishing.

