



The School of Fish

by Duane Ryks

The Top Ten Reasons to Hire A Fishing Guide

Hiring a fishing guide might seem like an extravagant expense to most casual anglers. Actually, it may be the best money you spend all year. Here's why:

1. Quickly learn how to fish a lake that may be new to you. The larger the lake and the more structure it has, the longer it will take you to find fish. Fish move and methods change with the seasons. A guide will keep you on top of the fish.
2. Learn new tricks and techniques. Experienced fishing guides know those subtle changes in presentation that can make a big difference in fishing success. Remember, "even old dogs can learn new tricks".
3. Catch more fish. A guide who is on the water daily will have a pretty good idea where the fish are biting. Most of the time they can take you right to the spot on the first try.
4. Land the big one. Learn how to play and land that fish of a lifetime; instead of going home with yet another story of the "one that got away". A prepared guide will have a camera on board for that special photo.
5. Try out different fishing rods and reels before you buy. Fishing guides often have equipment that most novice anglers have never seen, much less, used.
6. Learn how to use some of the latest electronics. Sonar and GPS units are somewhat more complicated than your average DVD player. A little instruction can shorten the learning curve.
7. Boats and motors are an expensive initial investment. Then add to that electronics, trolling motors, batteries, rods and reels, life vests, fuel, bait, repairs, insurance, maintenance and storage costs. Suddenly the cost of a guide doesn't seem so prohibitive.



8. Relax and let the guide do the work. Most guides will not only run the boat, they will tie your lines, bait your hooks, net and handle your fish. Some will even send you home with packaged fillers or cook a shore lunch.
9. Fish safely in a comfortable, well-equipped boat with a guide who knows how to handle it, and handle the waves.
10. A guided fishing trip makes a special gift for a new graduate, an employee incentive, a recent retirement, a spouse's birthday, Christmas, or anniversary present.