

# Fishing Trip List Narrative Page

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This Fishing Trip/Vacation List is a product of more than twenty-five years of planning these kinds of trips. Although it serves as only a guideline, your personal preferences may vary and some changes may be necessary. Have a better organized, enjoyable, and safe trip!

## **Clothes**

Where clothes are concerned, too much is better than not enough. Take various outer garments to cover all situations, from the lightest jacket to a snowsuit, depending upon your destination and the season. Fishing gloves come in various styles, from those with liners to ones that have the fingers cut away. Footwear can range from deck shoes to rain shoes with special outer coatings of rubber to withstand water, to fully insulated boots. My personal preference during all but the coldest of weather, is to buy oversized walking shoes with velcro fasteners. This enables me to wear two pairs of insulated socks rather than insulated boots, which are uncomfortable when running a trolling motor. New socks now have a pocket built in them to hold a chemical warmer to keep your feet warm.

If you plan to see the sights or go to dinner, don't forget to take dress shirts, slacks, socks, shoes and sweaters. Sports shirts are enough for the less formal. T-shirts and flannel shirts are my favorites for fishing.

Wool sweaters, insulated underwear and sweat pants and shirts are necessary in the coldest of weather. Turtle-neck shirts can be helpful, especially in the wind.

Some easily forgotten items include walking shorts, a swim suit, rain suits and belts. Remember to take extra of everything you can, so that if one set of clothes, shoes or your jacket gets soaked during a sudden storm, then you can leave them behind to dry until the next day.

## **Equipment**

Be sure to check and/ or charge all flashlights and lanterns. Charge all boat batteries, including a spare, as well as rechargeable batteries for electronics. Take a spare battery charger and plenty of extension cords and adapters.

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A dry-vacuum or whiskbroom comes in handy to clean up messes in the car or boat. Remember the boat tarp, support poles and all tie-downs(bungee cords). It is safer to use chalk blocks behind your vehicle tires when unloading alone. A five gallon bucket has many uses, including: removing ice on boat ramps with lake water when fishing a power plant lake in winter.

I keep spare boat keys in my car, and spare car keys in my boat, as well as hiding a car door key under the car(magnetic key box).

## **Fishing Gear**

Take enough life vests, seat cushions and boat seats to accommodate everyone. Make sure your bump board is long enough to measure whatever species of fish you may catch. Take more than one fillet knife (an electric if you prefer) so that one person can fillet while another can cut the bones out of the fillet. Fishing logs from previous trips and blank logs for your current trip will enable you to keep a record.

If fishing in a tournament, don't forget the aerator (if your boat isn't equipped with one), bags to carry your fish to the weigh-in, a battery operated scale to cull your fish, and safety pins to keep your fish separate from your partner's fish

## **Food/ Kitchen**

Breakfast and Lunch items vary depending on your budget, lodging, taste, and destination. I will list some favorite snack foods: candy bars, nuts, pretzels, snack mix, sausage, cheese, crackers, corn chips, jerky, fresh/canned fruit, rolls, donuts. If convenient, take along your own bread, lunch meat, peanut butter, etc. or stop by a local submarine sandwich shop.

Beverages may include: soda pop, hot chocolate, cider, tea, coffee, juice, and adult beverages. The new coffee singles are convenient if you have a hot pot to heat the water. Include all the necessary condiments, such as: sugar, salt, pepper, dairy creamer, mustard, ketchup, honey, etc.

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Don't forget lunch sacks for sandwiches and garbage bags or sacks for dirty clothes, and trash.

## **Personal**

Among important personal items are: medical prescriptions, sunscreen, and eye care needs (such as contacts, cleaning solutions, etc.). Include some hand towels and toilet paper in your boat and a full sized bath towel if you dislike motel towels. White first aid tape helps keep band aids in place over cuts. Keep a full first aid kit in the boat.

## **Misc.**

A blanket and pillow are comfortable if you stop to sleep in the car. Other items for the boat include: bug spray, binoculars, and a clipboard with pen to write down any fishing notes. Take books, magazines, etc. if you prefer them over television. And take extra coat hangers to hang up wet clothes.

Don't forget any motel, tournament, or other entertainment reservations. A pocket organizer is nice to plan your daily activities. Chemical warmers can keep you comfortable if placed in your gloves or shoes. Take along several alarm clocks including at least one battery operated clock in case of a power outage.

## **Things To Do**

Make phone calls to confirm reservations, get fishing information, lake level reports, and avoid unpleasant surprises. Check all fluids, tires, and lights on the boat and car. Get coin change for toll booths and pay phones. And tell someone how to reach you in case of emergency.

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