

Table of Contents

- 6 About the Author
- 11 Acknowledgments
- 13 Foreword
- 15 Introduction

Getting Started in Kayak Fishing

- 20 Why Kayak Fishing?
- 22 Before You Start
- 24 Safety and Self-rescues
- 34 Choosing a Kayak
- 40 PFDs and Paddles
- 42 Kayak Rigging
- 54 Seasonal Kayak Fishing
- 60 Transporting Your Kayak

Let's Go Fishing

- 66 Kayak Positioning and Maneuvering
- 74 Preparing for a Kayak-Fishing Trip
- 80 Fishing in Unfamiliar Places
- 84 Fighting and Landing Fish
- 90 Freshwater Fishing
- 98 Saltwater Fishing
- 106 Fly Fishing from a Kayak



Photo by Connie Parrish.

Photo courtesy of Michael Maxwell.

Favorite Fishing Locations

- 112 Anchor Bay, Lake St. Clair, Michigan and Ontario
- 114 Cockroach Bay, Florida
- 116 Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR
- 118 Elmer's Island State Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana
- 120 Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel, Virginia
- 122 Hickory Mound Unit, Florida
- 124 Jamaica Bay, New York
- 126 La Jolla Kelp and Canyon, California
- 128 Lake Mattamuskeet, North Carolina
- 130 Lighthouse Lakes, Texas
- 132 Lynnhaven Inlet, Virginia
- 134 Oahu, Hawaii
- 136 Ottawa River, Ontario
- 138 Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Washington
- 140 San Francisco Bay Area, California
- 142 Susquehanna River, North Branch, Pennsylvania



Resources

- 146 Kayak-Fishing Tournaments
- 148 Kayak Manufacturers
- 150 Kayak-Fishing Guides
- 153 Conservation
- 154 Fly-Fishing Knots
- 156 General Fishing Knots and Rigs
- 160 Last Cast



Photos by Ryan Anderson.

The author with a Port St. Lucie sheepshead caught on a live shrimp. Photo by Francois Betoulaud.



Before You Start



*Ruthless trying out his Redfish 12 in Lynnhaven inlet. This is his preferred kayak for clients of his business.
Photo by Matt Routh.*

Before we look at kayaks, I recommend you take the following steps to make sure that you are thoroughly ready for kayak fishing.

What's up Doc?

Just like any exercise program, you should get a checkup from your doctor prior to starting, to tell if kayaking is for you and whether you should go in full steam, or take it slowly. Either way, do what the doctor tells you. Then return after six months and see what a difference a kayak-fishing workout makes.

Back to School

There are instructors out there who can teach you proper paddle and rescue techniques. The best instructors are certified by the American Canoe Association (ACA). Their instructors go through a rigorous training regimen to ensure you are taught the latest and most effective paddling techniques. Most paddle shops and outfitters have an ACA-certified instructor on staff and offer several basic paddling technique classes throughout the year.

These same instructors can also instruct you in what to do if things go wrong and you

capsize. It is a good idea to practice capsizing and recoveries with an instructor at first, then continue to practice in controlled environments. See your local outfitters for more info. The ACA Web site is www.americancanoe.org.

Outfitters

Visit your local outfitter and talk with their paddling experts. They should be able to point you in the right direction. Some outfitters even have an angler available on staff.

The Club Scene

There is not a better place to learn the basics of kayak fishing than a local kayak-fishing club. There are several clubs located around the country and the world. See the Resources section for a listing of kayak-fishing clubs. Attend a monthly meeting, a seminar, or check out their Web sites. There is a wealth of information out there, and who better to learn from than your fellow kayak anglers.



Kayak-fishing seminars are a great place to learn about the sport.



Larry Routh on the hunt for big fish in Deep River, located in Worthville, North Carolina. Photo by Connie Parrish.