

FIELD & STREAM

**Spring
Fishing
Issue**
—
Bass, Walleyes,
Panfish, Trout,
Catfish, Carp,
and More

Catch More Fish

75

**Tactics and Tips
to Make Every
Species Bite**



0.4
FIELDANDSTREAM.COM \$3.99 U.S.
0 174820 08796 1

Plus: TURKEY SEASON 2008
Best Loads • New Decoys • The Man Who Thinks He's a Gobbler

4 Kayaking Considerations

- ▶ **Bags** Six inches above the water, wallets, cellphones, and spare clothes are bound to get wet. You can store some items in disposable food bags, but a heavy-duty dry bag holds more gear. You can get one for \$15.
- ▶ **Drysuits and wetsuits** One of these can extend your kayak fishing season into the cold months, but they don't come cheap. Figure on spending at least \$300 and probably much more.
- ▶ **Lashes and leashes** Anything on a kayak can fall into the drink and sink or float away with one errant wave or paddle stroke. Invest in bungees, straps, and clip cords for everything on board (including your paddle).
- ▶ **Rudder** It provides better tracking, but adds to the price and doesn't work in shallows.
- ▶ **Scupper plugs** Scuppers allow excess water in sit-ins to drain away easily, but they often let some water in as you paddle. Scupper plugs will keep you and your gear dry in calm conditions.

5 Resources

- ▶ **The Complete Kayak Fisherman** By Ric Burnley (\$17; burfordbooks.com) A no-nonsense, up-to-date guide.
- ▶ **Jersey Paddler** (888-225-2925; jersey-paddler.com) A giant supplier; you can test-paddle various models.
- ▶ **kayakfishingstuff.com** A site with many pages of gear and instruction.

F&S

STARTER KIT // KAYAK FISHING

6

Basic Gear

You need only a paddle and PFD to get started, but other gear is helpful.



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE:

Technically any PFD that fits you will do, but kayak-specific models are more comfortable to wear when paddling. The Stohlquist Fisherman Vest has a high back (so you won't feel hunched over when seated), zip pockets, and a fold-down work surface. **STOHLQUIST FISHERMAN VEST (a)** \$100; 800-535-3565; stohlquist.com

ROOF RACK:

If you don't have a pickup truck or a sturdy roof rack on your vehicle, you'll need a rack system. Thule offers a multitude of kayak rack combinations.

THULE RACKS (b) STARTING AT \$100;

thuleracks.com

ROD HOLDERS:

Kayaks designed for fishing typically have either molded-in or bolted-on rod holders because you need a secure place to keep your rods (and net) when paddling. Two popular add-on types are the RAM Mount (shown) and

the Scotty Power Lock (800-214-0141; scotty.com) series.

RAM MOUNT (c) STARTING AT \$25; 206-763-8361; ram-mount.com

PADDLE: A double-bladed paddle can be made of aluminum, fiberglass, or a lightweight carbon composite. Two-piece models are easier to

tote and store. You can get a basic paddle for \$25, but don't skimp here—you want something comfortable and sturdy. A nice choice is the two-piece, fiberglass Werner Skagit. **WERNER SKAGIT (d)** \$125; 800-275-3311; wernerpaddles.com

CRATE: The basic 13x13x11-inch milk crate has evolved as the ideal

kayak tackle storage device. It can fit a lot of gear and lets water drain out if you take a wave. Office-supply stores sell crates for \$10. The Crate-Mate Jr. is a nylon bag that completely encloses your crate and provides extra pockets and rod holders on the outside. **CRATE MATE JR. (e)** \$60; 866-407-4747; 3rdgrip.com



(a)