

Each week's lesson will be posted on the day of the corresponding live class

First Week

Topic: Be The Fish, Charlotte Harbor Places
Gear: Best all around gear, logbook
Environment: Water Quality, What is an Estuary

Read: the online workbook up to page 4 Charting and Predicting Tides.
Read page 50 - 52 Fish Basic adaptations

If you never fished before:

BASIC ROD

If I could only have one rod to fish Charlotte Harbor with it would be a 6.5 or 7 foot medium action rod with 12-pound mono line and a gold spoon. I like the mono line because fish can't see it as well as braided line, although braided line is stronger. Fishing is about trickery. You want to be quiet, you don't want to scare the fish away!

A gold spoon is a lure, something used to attract a fish. The first 'spoons' anglers used were actually made of old table spoons. The spoon attracts fish because it is shiny and it sparkles and reflects the light from above. Small baitfish that our local bigger fish like to eat are about the size of a table spoon and they have silvery scales on their sides. So a fish will sometimes mistake the shine on a spoon for a baitfish.

The thing about fishing with a lure is that when it is not moving it is not something that fish go after.

Different lures take a different kind of 'retrieve' cranking on the reel. You'll learn more about that later.

Speaking of the rod and reel, if you are right handed you crank with your left hand. If you are left handed... the other one!

If you haven't already read the *Be The Fish* section, read it now!

You have to think like a fish to catch fish!

Get a piece of lightweight rope. Look up the Uni Knot in the workbook and practice tying it. If you can't put a hook on your line, you are not going to catch any fish, but don't worry, in six weeks you'll be doing it and catching fish too!

Now **Read** more about **Estuaries** in the Resource Manual online.

If you are already fishing:

LOGBOOK

Our motto is *Be The Fish*. Fishing guides and avid recreational anglers spend a lifetime watching fish behavior. Many good fishermen keep a journal or a logbook where they make notes about different 'fishy situations'. They note the place and date and time of course, but also the tide... is it coming in or going out? They will note the weather and might note the water temperature and some anglers even keep records of the level of salinity. Charlotte Harbor is an Estuary. We have fresh water and salt water mixing, and depending on the time of year, the flow of fresh water from the Myakka and Peace Rivers, and the line where it reaches the salt moves. In the old days anglers made notes using the place names you see in the front of your printed workbook. Save that page for reference. People are forgetting these names. Today many anglers use a GPS to mark their 'fishy spots.'

Anglers will also note if the fish were feeding or not, what they would be eating and even if they were active or lazy, so later on, they can look back and see what was happening on a particular day they had fished that spot.

In Charlotte Harbor there are often large schools of fish: tarpon, redfish, snook, ladyfish, black drum... the list goes on. By watching and making note of things you observe you get an 'edge,' and a better chance of being properly prepared and successful.

Now Read the **Wade Fishing Story** in the Resource Manual online. There are lots of good fishing stories to read there!

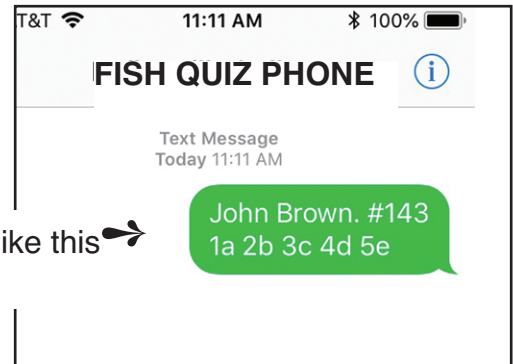
Online Class - Fish Quiz # 1

Please DO NOT GUESS! If you don't know the answer, just answer I DON'T KNOW

Answers are Due By October 15

**Text your: name and student number
along with your answers to
the FISH QUIZ phone number
provided in your WORKBOOK**

Your text should be like this →



1. **What is an Estuary**
 - a. A place with sandy bottoms
 - b. A place where tides meet the river
 - c. A place where the tide has no effect
 - d. A place with deep holes and big fish
 - e. I don't know

2. **Good Fishermen never leave home without first checking**
 - a. The tides
 - b. The gas
 - c. The fishing report
 - d. For messages
 - e. I don't know

3. **During periods of _____, fish tend to be more scattered and are present in areas where the water depths offer them safety.**
 - a. High water
 - b. Low water
 - c. I don't know

4. **What is an Ethical Angler?**
 - a. An angler who always has the right tackle
 - b. An angler who only fishes from shore
 - c. An angler who only fishes from a boat
 - d. An angler who does the right thing when no one else is looking
 - e. f. An angler who does the right thing when someone else is watching
 - f. I don't know

5. **What influences the tides the most**
 - a. The Sun
 - b. The Sun and the Moon
 - c. The wind
 - c. I don't know



Did You Know? This is a sand brim
they are found in Charlotte Harbor