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# The Total Fishing Manual (Paperback Edition): 317 Essential Fishing Skills (Field & Stream)



## Synopsis

When it comes to fishing, nobody knows more than the writers and editors at *Field & Stream* magazine--unless it's the local guides, prizewinners, and other experts they interviewed for this book. The *Total Fishing Manual* is chock full of 317 field-tested tools, techniques and tactics, collected and written by the *Field & Stream* editors and accompanied by amazing photos and handy illustrations.

**GEAR UP** How to pick the best lures, baits, flies, and tackle for every situation and every style of water you plan to fish.

**Learn** how to customize your rod and reel, and to get the most out of your equipment.

**HIT THE WATER** From small streams to major rivers, ponds to big lakes, and bays to the open ocean, hundreds of field-tested strategies will help you catch more fish with or without a boat.

**FIND THE FISH** Professional fishing guides from across the country tell you how and where to find lunker bass, trophy walleyes, huge trout, and more - right in your home waters.

**SET THE HOOK** Whether you're bobber fishing for bluegills with the kids or heading out after the muskie of a lifetime, the techniques and tactics in this book will make your trip a success. Whether you're a beginner, a weekend angler or a serious sport fisher this book has the information you need to hook 'em.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Joe Cermele started his career in outdoor journalism in 2004, covering fishing tournaments for a local magazine in his home state of New Jersey. In 2005, while attending Rider University, he became an intern at *Salt Water Sportsman* magazine, joining the editorial staff full time that

same year after graduation. In 2008, he moved to sister publication *Field & Stream*, where he was named Fishing Editor in 2011. His writing appears monthly in the magazine, he blogs weekly on the magazine's website, and also hosts and produces *Field & Stream's* Hook Shots, an award-winning web-based fishing show with a punk-rock edge. Cermele has fished all over the country and abroad, but when he's not traveling on assignment, you can find him on his boat chasing tuna and striped bass off the Jersey coast, pitching tubes to smallmouth bass on the Delaware River, or flyfishing for trout in New York's Catskill Mountains.

153 ENJOY THE SUMMERTIME BLUES Don't give up on slab bluegills once summer heat drives them from the shallows. Here are three killer tactics to catch big blues in deep water.

**MATCH A MAYFLY HATCH** With the exception of the spawn, mayfly hatches mean the best opportunities to catch big bluegills. Cruise the lake and check any place where wind corrals the bugs into confined areas near deep water (A). "Target the banks that are closest to the channel, where the wind blows the larvae into the bank," says Ron Lappin, a retired Kentucky guide and panfish pro. "The higher the bank, the better the hatch is. Look for places where the wind can blow across a large area." Cast to the bank and use a slow retrieve, occasionally pausing to let a spinner or jig glide on a semi-slack line just above bottom.

**PITCH AROUND PILINGS** Bridge pilings across deep areas and large tributaries offer vertical current breaks where bluegills can rise from cooler water to feed near the surface (B). In these spots, Lappin fishes a drop-shot rig: He suspends a Brim Reaper bug on a No. 6 long-shank cricket hook 12 to 18 inches above a 1/16 - to 1/8 ounce cylinder weight. Lappin fishes it on a 9-foot float-and-fly rod and suggests keeping the line length no longer than the rod. "A lot of pilings have steel cross members between them," he says. "That's where you'll get the biggest concentrations of bluegills."

**CAST IN CURRENTS** Most reservoirs have manmade current sources, such as a dam, its turbines, culverts, and locks (C). These attract bluegills and are best if they are in deeper spots or have a large concrete structure like a dock piling nearby. "You'll see bluegills almost swarming in these areas after the spawn," says Lappin. He floats a live cricket, rigged on a No. 6 cricket hook, under an acorn-size bobber (Pinch two split shot onto the line between the cricket and bobber), starting on the sunny side of the structure, then shifts to the shaded side, casting directly against the dam.   
--This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Great book especially for fly fishers. The photos are great, colors are vivid and it is easy and fun to

read. My boyfriend loves it so much he wants to gift it to other fishermen he knows.

There is plenty of good information in this book. But it's written like they just has a bunch of random notes from pros and haphazardly through them into a book. A lot of repeat info too.

I didn't actually expect more. And honestly, there aren't a lot of good non-fly fishing books. While many techniques are the same, a lot of the books available are from the 70s and 80s and spend a lot of time discussing equipment of that era. So, this book certainly fills a gap in my library, and it is better than what I was forced to consider the previous best general use books (the idiots and dummies guides, though I would still recommend those as well). If you are a person who gets a lot of in-depth fishing technique info online, then this may not be the book for you. If you, like me, like to have reference books at home, then I think it may be a book for you. The main problem with the book is depth, everything is covered so lightly that it is like a sampler. If anything catches your eye you will likely have to look other places for an in-depth explanation of how to do it and how to adjust it to your choices of location and gear. There are other small issues. I would have rated it 3 stars if it were not for the fact that there isn't anything better.

Ordered for grandson new to fishing. Nicely illustrated and full of beginners info.

Got this as a gift for my brother. He likes it a lot. It's well made with nice illustrations

This is a good overview of tools, techniques etc for all kinds of fish!

The wife and I LOVE LOVE LOVE this thing. Good for sitting & reading but also great for a quick reference. It has definitely stepped up our fishing game. It also inspired my wife to try making her own jiggs, which has been pretty entertaining.

Very informative. Now if I can just catch a fish.

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