

The Art of Finding a Good Fishing Partner

by Nick Sannicandro



Last season was spent mostly fishing solo and exploring new places. This year however I spent more time fishing with others and sharing the cool places this state has to offer with other fisherman, both from shore and boat.

Throughout this season I fished with over a dozen different people and it became clear just how difficult it is to find the right fishing partner, but also how important having that person can be toward making the trip enjoyable.

My dad will always be my first fishing partner, growing up fishing freshwater ponds, and lately trying to introduce him to salt water. But since he is not always able to keep up with my insatiable need to constantly fish, I did get out with many other individuals.

Finding the right fishing partner is comparable to a woman trying to find the perfect dress for a wedding; some are too loud, some just don't fit your style, but once you find the right one, you'll know it!

I met most of the potential candidates for fishing partner through random conversations and chance meetings at fishing locations. Some I knew from work, others through friends. Each got an equal chance (and some second/third/fourth chances). Sometimes you don't realize how good a fishing partner is until you experience the bad ones (which I will usually text the good ones directly after and thank them for being who they are).

A good partner should fit your personality. For me, I am quiet and reserved and fish to find peace and solitude. So, when fishing with boisterous people, yelling at other fisherman does not fit in well.

I fish to get away from the real world, so talking about politics, your job and other such life events while fishing are

usually a strike as well, especially when I'm trying to concentrate on the water.

But the one thing in a fishing partner that I have found to be most important is having people who are on the same page as I am.

I have fished with people who quit after two casts and called the place dead, standing on your casting side pressuring you to see it the same way. One even sat on the rocks and packed it up as false albacore were blitzing just mere feet away. This is practically heresy to me!!!

So once I gained experience with the bad partners, I grew an appreciation toward the good fishing partners, the ones who could enjoy the rush of blitzing fish with you, and have the drive to push "just ten more minutes" to luck into one more school, to know when to call it a day.

This article is in appreciation to the good fishing partners I have found this year - to Xay and Mike specifically - after experiencing the bad I truly appreciate how enjoyable it is to fish with these two.

So in summary, when trying on new dresses, or finding the right fishing partners; the same rules apply:

1. **Don't be afraid to be picky.** You may be stuck on a boat for hours this person, and throwing them overboard is frowned upon
2. **Try on multiple choices.** Sometimes you don't realize how good a partner is until you have tried out others, and
3. **Once you find them, don't let them slip away.** Treat your newfound fishing partner right; show your appreciation; offer to pay for gas; lend equipment when needed, etc.

A special thank you to all the awesome fishing partners out there!

New life jacket labels: what you need to know

Life jackets, also known as PFD's (Personal Flotation Devices) all have US Coast Guard approved labels, now with icon graphics to identify the type the PFD is designed for.

- All USCG approved PFDs have an approval number
- Older type jackets may have a label with "Type 1" etc. As long as in good condition, these may still be used.

New labels ID whether suitable for "50" & "70" near shore calm waters or "100" & "150" offshore (waves)

Turning ability means if unconscious person will float face up or if PDF will not turn an unconscious person to face up

New labels, icons show warnings such as not suitable for water skiing, tubing, personal watercraft, whie water paddling

A website has been created that explains the changes at Wearitlifejacket.org

For more information on proper PFD use contact the Coast Guard via email at typeapproval@uscg.mil

