

Fishing Methods For Survival



THE MOST EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES TO CATCH FISH
SURVIVAL SITUATION WITHOUT FISHING EQUIPMENT

Kurt Smith

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***The Most Effective Techniques To Catch Fish In A
Survival Situation Without Fishing Equipment***

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Introduction

In the endless battle for survival you will find no protein as simple to acquire as that which dwells in the water, but without traditional fishing equipment, you may believe that you're out of luck.

The good news is that there are a multitude of different ways to catch fish in a survival scenario without a traditional fishing pole and bait.

That's what we're going to talk about in this guidebook.

In this book, we are going to discuss the following simple and yet highly effective techniques for fishing in a survival situation:

1. Makeshift Fishing Pole Technique
2. Multiple Fishing Lines Technique
3. Fishing Wall Technique
4. Weir Method Technique
5. Fishing Net Technique
6. Spear Fishing Technique

As a bonus, this book will conclude with a chapter on how to prepare the fish you have caught in a survival situation.

Let's get started!

Technique #1 – Spear Fishing

Probably one of very first ways we caught fish was using a spear. The spear came long before the ability to weave and create things like nets. Spear fishing requires a bit of cunning but it is very much a possibility for you in regards to making a catch. Obviously, the first thing you will have to do is create a spear.

What you need to do is develop a strong and pointed spear from hardwood. This process is far from difficult assuming you have a sharp blade such as a knife or machete with you.

To build a fishing spear, follow these steps:

- Seek out a pole about an inch to an inch and a half thick and at least four feet long.
- Begin by carving a long and fierce point on the edge of this stick.
- This next part is crucial and should take much of your focus.
- Split this spear point, using your blade, in half and then in have again. Turning your spear point into four points at the end of the hardwood.

- Wedge a small twig between the first splitting cut of your spear point and then another between the next cut. This should flare your four points.
- Finally sharpen each point with your blade and you will have a four-pronged spear for taking fish quickly and easily

The rest of the process will rely on your cunning and understanding of the fish you are after. Look for a high bank from which you may perch yourself in the midday sun. When the sun is directly overhead you will be able to see into water as though it were merely glass. Stay close to the bank and hunt these fish. However, if they see you first or if you make any loud noises your chances will be cut substantially.

Once you have targeted a fish, spear it in the thickest part of the body and hold it against the bottom. Do not risk pulling it up to you and having the fish shake loose.

You may be able to wait for the fish to calm down after taking your first and take another. Either way this method will get you the fish you need.

Technique #2 – Makeshift Fishing Pole

Fishing tackle has come a long way in the last 100 years. Even so, you'll notice still sell cane poles in tackle shops across America. The reason is because they work, even if they cannot hold a candle to the power and accuracy of a graphite rod like today's best and most modern models.

In a survival situation, you will not have the luxury of creating a rod from graphite. Rather, you will want to seek out a strong sapling that can be used as a fishing pole. This sapling can be heated over a fire at full length to strengthen it. Chances are you won't be hauling in anything massive but you also don't want to lose a big fish due to a weak pole.

We are not going to modify the pole beyond maybe some sparse trimming of knobs from the wood itself. This is a very simple method for creating a fishing pole and we want to be able to make this thing in a hurry and get fish

on the end of it.

You could also search for bamboo, which is about the easiest material to create a fishing pole from. You will really hit the jackpot if you stumble into a patch of bamboo. Most of the time it grows near water and it's a great building material. Bamboo is super strong and will be incredibly effective for you as a fishing pole. Not to mention, you also get to choose your size based on the hundreds of various sizes in a bamboo patch.

In the end, you should look for a sturdy pole that is easy to hold and light enough to carry. If you decide to go with this method be sure to spend your time looking for comfortable and light pole. Don't waste your time trying to make it look like a graphite fishing pole.

Technique #3 – Making Fishing Tackle

It won't do you any good if you have a fishing pole without any line to catch a fish with. But when you're stuck out in the middle of nowhere, you may think it is nearly impossible to get your hands on fishing line. You may also think the prospect of happening upon some ultra-thin filament is also not too favorable. Indeed, chances are you aren't going to find anything like actual clear fishing line lying around.

The good news is, whether you realize it or not you are surrounded by great options for fishing tackle. In fact, there might be fishing tackle on your body right now! The reality is you will have to get much more creative when survival fishing. Unless you have packed a bag with some spare fishing line, hooks and bait.

LINE

Survival fishing line can be pulled from various sources. For example, you can use regular shoelaces, or you can take paracord and unravel it into smaller strands.

If you were truly pressed for some sort of line or cordage I would recommend carefully unthreading some string from your clothing. You would be surprised at how easily you could get a few feet of material from

your socks or any other articles of clothing. If you cut compression gear relatively thin you could use that as fishing line as well.

Finally, you could turn to nature for your fishing line. Your best bet would be to seek out strong, tall grasses. Even better is to look for aquatic plants with long stems. Things like kelp, seaweeds, or vines hanging from trees are also great options.

HOOKS

Maybe the most important part of a fishing tackle setup is having a hook that will allow you to catch a fish in the first place. Without it you will merely be dipping line into the water. It's very important that you hone a quality hook. This is where you should spend much your time when crafting together your makeshift fishing tackle. That said, let's talk about the several types of items we can use as hooks.

While it's not a natural source, should you ever come across a used soda or beer can you can use the tabs on the tops as fishing hooks. In fact, these are by far the easiest and most efficient hooks that you should be able to find.

First, break the tab off of the soda can. Then, use a pair of pliers or a multi tool to pry it into the shape of a hook. Attach this makeshift hook to whatever you are using as fishing line, and then stab a piece of bait onto the point of the hook. Just like that, you have everything you need for fishing: line, hook, and bait.

You can also use paper clips or bobby pins in a similar fashion, though I would try to sharpen the hooking edge of these. Both versions will need to be bent and manipulated a bit to be effective.

Finally look for those giant medieval stickers or thorns on falling vines or on berry bushes. If you take a length of the vine itself with the thorn attached, you can have yourself a hook that could work well.

BAIT

We all have memories of digging up worms or turning over rocks and finding worms. Do that! This is a great method to getting your hands-on bait. It's certainly not the only route to bait in the wild. There are options all around you and its best to use the easiest thing to get your hands on.

Worms work great but you can also seek out food scraps from your pockets

or even hack at a carcass and put small pieces of carcass meat on that hook.

Also, think about bait as eye appeal as well as actual food for the fish. Fish are extremely aggressive to unknown things in their environment. Two things that are all around you that can be used as bait are feathers and leaves! Hook them first or bunch them and tie them to your hook. It may seem foreign but all fly-fishing baits are comprised of feathers or furs of some kind.

The tackle is all there. It's on you, it's around you. You must merely get creative and put it to use.

MULTIPLE RIGS

Now that you have your rigs (i.e line, hooks bait) set up and ready to go, you can employ multiple rigs to increase your odds of success. It's important to get as many hooks in the water as you can manage. A good number of rigs to start with is about four.

You can bury sticks in the ground and tie lines to these, checking them regularly for activity. You can also attach these lines to tree branches.

One of my favorite places to fish in a survival situation is a high bank. It offers so much by visibility. Often there are also strong roots growing out of that bank that faces the water. This is a great spot to tie lines. This efficiency will take less calories to gain calories and that's the power of survival fishing.

Technique #4 – Fish Wall

The fish wall is an efficient method that takes less finesse than traditional fishing. It's much more of a forceful move to get fish in your hands and (later) over your fire. The fish wall is a basic construction project to dam a stream up to block in the fish. You come behind this dam and spear these fish to get them out of the water.

Depending on how you are equipped a fish wall can take a lot of work or be very simple. Let's look at the various options for building a fish wall.

LOGS, STICKS, AND BRANCHES

You can collect lots of logs, sticks, and larger branches to dam up a waterway. This works well and often is the easiest method on your back. Of course, you must physically transport all this material from one place to another. The downfall to this method, however, is that you could potentially be wasting wood that could otherwise be used to start a fire. Therefore, only use this method if you are plenty of sticks and logs around you (meaning this method would be suitable for a forest environment but less so for the desert).

FALL A TREE

If you have the hardware to pull it off and you can find a tree, doesn't have to be a big tree, on the bank. Using a machete, survival hatchet, or axe to fell that tree across the stream. This will take some work upfront but once its felled you will restrict the flow of water on that stream and prevent any fish from continuing on.

ROCKS

Rocks are a great way to back up a river. They allow small amounts of water through while trapping the fish. The big deal with rocks is hauling them. Keep in mind you are going to burn a ton of calories lifting and moving big rocks to create a fish wall.

SAND

The very sand on the bank can be used to dam up the river. If you have a shovel this will be easier. Look for larger plastic bottles, cups or other types of litter (that unfortunately are prevalent everywhere). Begin dumping sand from the banks into the thinnest part of the stream near you.

Once you have created your fish wall, set up your makeshift lines and abut around it. Get your spear ready and wait for fish to come corral around the new blockage. From there you can pick them off.

Technique #5 – Weir Method

There is another powerful technique that modifies the stream or lake you are fishing in by building a structure inside of it. The weir method is an old and

highly productive method of corralling fish and often times trapping them in an area where they can either be speared or easily harvested.

1. *FISHING WEIR*

noun

A fishing weir, fish weir, fish Garth or kiddie is an obstruction placed in tidal waters, or wholly or partially across a river, to direct the passage of fish.

At the time of first contact in North America, English settlers were blown away by the various methods of fishing used by the Powhatan Indians of New England. They utilized several techniques to get the job done and most was done by canoe. There are harrowing tales of these Indians spearing giant sturgeon and entering a day long fight that threatened life and limb.

The fishing weir was one such tool used in the daily efforts of these Indians. It is still highly effective today if placed in the right location. Look at the rendering below and it may help you understand how to create your own fishing weir in times of survival.

Technique #6 – Fishing Net

When I first started fishing for catfish I couldn't believe how effective the use of a gill net was. When using, a gill net you basically stretch a net across a section of water and catch fish in this net. It's the equivalent of creating a fish wall with a net.

Nets work so well it's hard to understand how the creation of the fishing pole ever came to be!

The trouble comes when you are in a true survival situation. Finding the right materials to create a net can be the challenge as well as your having the skills to create a basic net. These aren't massive challenges and you must get creative to make it happen. What I will say is netting fish takes little to no effort once its dropped in the water.

You can utilize several items in the wild and on your person to make a net.

CORDAGE

If you are fortunate enough to have some paracord utilize the cordage inside of the cord and you will have a great net making material.

CLOTHING

The use of compression clothes is very effective in net making. You can even just cut through one arm and side of a compression shirt to have a nice big splayed out piece of material. Rather than weave simply cut small holes into this piece of material. This will work as a net as well.

VINES

Weaving vines is an ages old process. With vines, you may need to go into a more basic weave and you will not have a net as effective as cloth or chord options.

STURDY GRASSES

People are still making grass mats to this day. If you braid these sturdy grasses together you find yourself with a powerful material perfect for making a net. Though it's a much more difficult and time consuming method than simply tying vine together, it can still work if no other options are available and as long as you are patient.

Once you have gathered your materials you will need to create a basic weave method. One of the easiest ways is to model your net after a basic metal fence. If you think about it a fence is little more than a human and animal net!

The basic weave may seem complicated to start but once you get started it will begin to take shape. It helps to tie or affix the lengths of your materials to something stationary. Don't forget to create a perimeter to your net first. In other words, a nice big circle or rectangle of material that you can build the netting within.

The net is one of those things that really seems complicated but if you get solid materials and find the rhythm you can start pulling fish out of the water quickly and easily.

I would attach the net to either sides of the stream or at least to one side and attach weight i.e. rocks to a couple the bottom portion of the net. You are

trying to create a wall that covers as much of the water from the bottom to the surface.

How to Prepare and Cook Fish In the Wild

After you have employed one or many of the strategies described so far, you may find yourself with quite a harvest of fresh fish. These fish will provide you with some delicious and precious calories as well as body building proteins that will keep your hopes of survival alive.

The dilemma comes when you are looking over these fish and realize you have no idea how to cook them properly! Fortunately, there are several ways to both cook and preserve the fish you spent time harvesting. In addition, you have a healthy amount of fish I would recommend preserving some so you can save them for later.

First, you must understand how to dress a fish. The great thing is these fish are so easy to gut is almost silly.

Using the tip of your knife insert it into the white belly of the fish just behind where the gills end. Use your razor-sharp tip and just split the belly all the way to where the tail begins to thin out. From here you can open the fish up and scoop out everything. You will see hearts, intestines and everything else in there. After that this fish is ready to cook. I often rinse out the inside as well.

Now we will look at some methods on how to prepare these fish.

LARGE FISH

With larger fish, you have the option to cook them in many more ways than those small fish you catch. You will need a fire in all of these applications to be successful. No matter the application used cook your fish completely before eating.

Any type of metal grate can be used to turn your fire into a grill. Which is great method for larger fish. I have seen shopping carts turned on their side and used as a grills over a fire. Get creative with what you find or what you pack and you can create an impromptu grill.

Another great method of prep in the wild is to wrap these fish or their filets in leaves. Look for nice big leaves that have little resin on them. The Powatan Indians would have no doubt used the leaves of the Pawpaw tree. These leaves would have been wrapped around the fish and the fish then dropped in or around hot coals. This would effectively steam the fish.

SMALLER FISH

Smaller quarry are great for kabobs an skewering. It may sound harsh but you can string a bunch of fish on one kabab or sharpened thin stick. You can plunge the kabab right through their eyes and hang them a few inches over the lick flames of the fire. Eat them once the flesh is white and firm.

PRESERVATION

With small fish, however you will want to take advantage of smoke, salt and some form of preservation. Let's assume you don't have salt and must rely on smoke. It will help to build some sort of cover for the area in which you will do the smoking though this is not entirely necessary.

You can soak some smaller pieces of wood in water or just continuously add fresh wood to your fire as you smoke the fish. Use the smaller fish because they will dry faster. I prefer a longer, slower smoking method as it will truly dry the fish out eliminating any chance of bacterial survival.

A makeshift spit works well and can mimic the method used with the kabob for affixing the fish to the stick.

Smoke the fish for at least six hours until they are good and dry.

Don't eat any of the fish you catch raw even if you are in a very remote area. Fish contain parasites that could kill you if not treated quickly. In a survival situation, this is a risk you cannot take. Be sure you cook the fish all the way through to kill bacteria and parasites.

Conclusion

At this point I hope you have realized just how possible it is to catch fish

with natural resources in a survival situation if you are around a body of water. Fish meat is packed with lifesaving and body building proteins that hours of foraging just cannot make up. Fish truly are the survivalists best friend when it comes to food.

Whether you are taking on the creation of a small spear to kill fish or going as far as putting together a whole tackle system including line, hooks, bait and a pole survival fishing is possible. You don't need modern day technologies created in a factory get your belly filled with powerful finned protein

From this book, I would encourage you to act. Take the time to practice the time consuming and yet staggeringly effective method of creating a fishing weir. This technique is incredible because once it's built you can walk away from the project and leave it to work on its own.

Remember, the less calories you burn procuring food the better. These great methods go a long way to doing just that. Whether its stopping up a stream with your fish wall or baiting several lines to place in the water at once survival fishing is about results.

You will become a more thoughtful and broadened survivalist by becoming an expert on these techniques. Beyond just reading this guide be sure that you also get out and give some of these techniques a try. To master anything, you must do it many times. Of course, this all depends on your goals.

Stay safe and prepare yourself with a balanced and varied toolkit of skills.

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About The Author

Survival Nick is a highly accomplished outdoorsman, survivalist, and professional writer with a fiery passion for teaching everyday people how to take steps to become more prepared for unexpected survival situations and extraordinary circumstances.

Nick's mission is to help everyday people understand the critical importance of being more prepared for disaster, and to also understand that they can become more prepared without having to turn into a doomsday prepper.

Nick has written thousands of articles on disaster preparedness, wilderness survival, and personal defense for the following survival websites and publications:

- Survival Intent
- Off the Grid News
- Gear Hunt
- Legally Concealed
- Survival Sullivan
- Reloader Addict
- Outdoor Rated
- Homestead and Prepare
- The Truth About Guns
- Urban Survival Site
- Outdoor Revival

- Survival Know How
- Homestead Survival Site
- Clark Armory
- White Knight Supply

Nick's books and articles are written based on both his wide knowledge and personal experiences that he has accumulated over the years, and have helped thousands of people across the world become more prepared for disaster scenarios that could strike at any time.