

The
Poor Man's
Rod Holder



2017

Brag
Board

Kids
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Constrictor
Knot

Carp Boilies

Ultralight
Fishing
Adventure

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With You

FISHING THE PHILIPPINES

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On The Cover; Large Threadfin Salmon or Mamale as they are known here can be caught right in Manila Bay. Anglers most often hire boats out of Navotas to chase the boils of feeding salmon and jacks.

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Issue

Editor in Chief

Benaiah J Fogle

Contributing Authors:

Charlie Bing, Kenny Ong, Bong Chua,
Benaiah Fogle, Franz Villamar, Edwin
Rondina,

Contributors:

Luigi Beja, Anthony Barcenas, Andrew
Leighton, Ron Cortez, Andrei Seivert,
Joesan Amaranto, Kenny Ong, David
Harris, Franz Villamar, Jake Alejandre,
Elijah Invento,

Contact Us:

Benaiah.fogle@gmail.com

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From the Editor

I would like to personally thank all the contributors and authors who were a part of this issue of our FTP Magazine. It is because of your help that we are able to provide the Sports Fishing community here in the Philippines with yet another piece of reading material to keep them busy during this rainy season when they can't be out fishing.

This past year in sport fishing here in the Philippines has seen a boom in deep water jigging. Anglers have been successful all throughout the islands with both high speed techniques as well as slow jigging techniques. Jigging tackle has also become more accessible thanks to the growing number of new shop and sellers.

At the same time, we have seen a growing number of new anglers joining the ranks of the many existing groups and clubs around the islands. Many of these newbies have taken to lure fishing and have had good success. It has been neat for us here in Cebu to see the newbies from a couple years ago now become the skilled veteran anglers here. These guys have been proactive in organizing events and teaching newcomers technique and skills they have learned. We need more of this. Keep up the good work guys!

We hope you enjoy this issue of the FTP Magazine. Please feel free to send us your feedback and or contributions for upcoming issue.

Take Care and Tight Lines!



Ultralight Fishing Adventure

By Kenny Ong

After the New Year's day festivities, we decided to take the ultralight lure casting experience to Sinacaban, Misamis Occidental on January 2, 2017. Having contacted local boy Mr. Roi Palao Jabonan to arrange a boatman to take us to the shallow reef areas near Dolphin Island in Sinacaban, I packed up my essential ultralight fishing gear into my SUV and proceeded out of Dipolog on the early morning of January 2, 2017.

After 2 hours of driving, I arrived at the municipality of Jimenez in Misamis Occidental and met up with Roi Jabonan who has already made contacts with the local *bankero*. Initially we agreed to board the boat at the Misamis Occidental Aquamarine Park area but however park staff refused us entry because of the policy that only accredited *banca* operators are the ones only allowed to pick up passengers at the park jetty. As I have already unloaded and had my fishing gear already set up, I have no choice but to pack everything again into the SUV and drive to another pick up point location. The delay however forced us to have lunch early and let the *bankero* have a lunch break back at his home.

Finally, we were able to board the *banca* at around 2pm. The shallow reef spot was just about 15 minutes cruise from the shore area and as we arrived we found out to our chagrin that the area is littered with floating debris brought in by the wind from the shoreline. This has made things complicated since snagging into heavy floating stuff would be a strain on our ultralight gear.

For gear set up, yours truly had prepared an Abu Garcia Salty Style Mebaru 802LTKR rod paired with a Daiwa 14 Exceler 2506H reel spooled with the thin but strong Varivas Light Game PE 6.5lb braid. For fluorocarbon leader I used a Toray 6lb FC leader.



Above: *Thumbprint Emperors like this are abundant throughout the islands. They are most often found around sandy bottoms near shore and around the edges of reefs. They can grow to over 1 kg in size and are very good eating.*

Lure of interest I used was a Duo Spearhead Ryuki 45S. For Roi's set up, he had an Angler's Republic PAGS81 paired with a Daiwa 15 Revros 2000 reel spooled with YGK X3 small game PE. Roi's lure weapon of choice is the Bear King 42S micro minnow.

After the *bankero* tied the boat to an abandoned off shore outpost near the reef and we proceeded to drift slowly into the reef environs. First cast and fish on!!! The Salty Style Mebaru 802LTKR quivered and shook under the furious little run of the fish. After a brief battle I landed a lizard fish and the reef was full of them! I landed lizard fish after lizard fish after lizard fish with an occasional long nosed emperor thrown in for variety. The Duo Spearhead Ryuki 45S seems to have an affinity for lizard fish and seems to collect them.



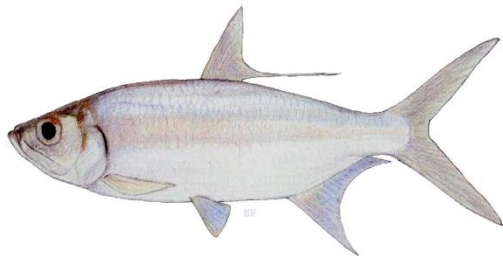
Roi however has a different story, his second cast towards the edge of the reef produced a resounding scream on his reel and the fish peeled line fast. Roi being a consistent veteran of the UL game, masterfully played the fish with his PAGS81 rod and maneuvered the fish to tire it out. The battle was like a tug of war with the fish suddenly darting to an opposite direction and Roi thumbing on the spool to control the sudden bursts of speed. Then the blue hue of a good sized Rainbow Runner came into view and Roi carefully led the fish near the *banca*. The *bankero* jumped into the waist deep water and landed the fish with a landing net. It was a good sized Rainbow Runner which indicated that the shallow reef system of Sinacaban is still healthy. The *bankero* even told us that illegal fishing is frowned upon by the local populace and the local government unit strictly implements the local fishery laws.

As the hours dragged on, we managed to position ourselves near Dolphin island and managed to elicit several hits from bigger fish but failed any decent hook ups since the fish would always spat out the lures. We finally called it quits at 4pm and headed to shore for to pack up and have some delicious snack at the locally popular Shanghai Noodle House known for its *Lomi* and "*ngo hiong* " or Chinese spring rolls. Jimenez is a quaint sleepy town full of old colonial era houses. It seems like a walk right back into the past. As we partook on the delicious *lomi* and *ngo hiong* we wonder and ponder on the second trip back to this place. And when that time comes, the bigger ones would be waiting for us.

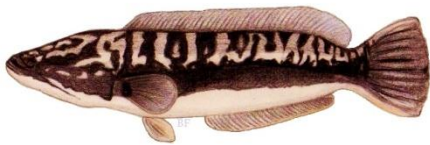


Collectable Fish Mug

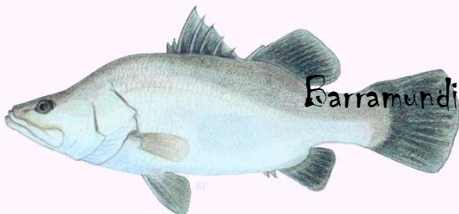
Get your very own fish art mug now available from Fishing The Philippines! All mugs feature original artwork from FTP. Pictured below are the choices for this issue's mugs. Contact us to purchase!



Indo Pacific Tarpon



Giant Snakehead



Barramundi

<>< Fish Be With You

Surprised By Grace

By Charlie Bing

Once a year, I have a fish fry attended by about a hundred people. The tradition started as a way for me and some fishing buddies to eat our catch together, and it grew from there.

I was telling my younger youth pastor, Anthony, about the fish fry, which prompted him to say, "I want to come!"

"Fine, but you have to bring some fish," I said jokingly.

He replied, "OK. Take me fishing!"

So I did. One afternoon we walked up the river to a favorite spot for white bass. He didn't have any fishing gear, so I had loaned him mine.

We were just starting to fish slightly apart from each other when we heard a motor heading up the river. Soon two Texas game wardens beached their boat. They asked to see my license, so I showed them. Then they moved over to check Anthony's. He didn't have a fishing license! I assumed he knew he should have one, but he had not even thought about it.

The wardens made him lean against a tree so they could check his pockets. I was thankful that he had not caught any fish! They explained how he was breaking the law and wrote him a \$250 citation. Then they explained that they could also confiscate his (my) fishing gear, but that they would not. He would, however, have to stop fishing. Dispirited, we both began our hike out.

After walking a while, we passed a fisherman who was just finishing up. He saw us, held up a stringer of a half dozen bass, and said to Anthony, "Hey, you want these fish?"

"Sure!" Anthony replied. As he took the fish from the man, he looked at me and said, "Now I can go to your fish fry!"

In one day, Anthony had experienced justice, mercy, and grace. Justice, when he got what he deserved—the citation; mercy, when he didn't get what he deserved—he got to keep his (my) fishing gear; and grace, when he got what he did not deserve—fish!

We expect justice. We hope for mercy. But we are surprised by grace!

There is something of more eternal value we learn from Anthony's adventure. As humans, we have all sinned against God. We can expect His justice—eternal punishment for our sins. We might hope for mercy—that God would choose not to punish us. But we are surprised by grace—God not only pardons us, but gives us new life and an eternal presence with Him.

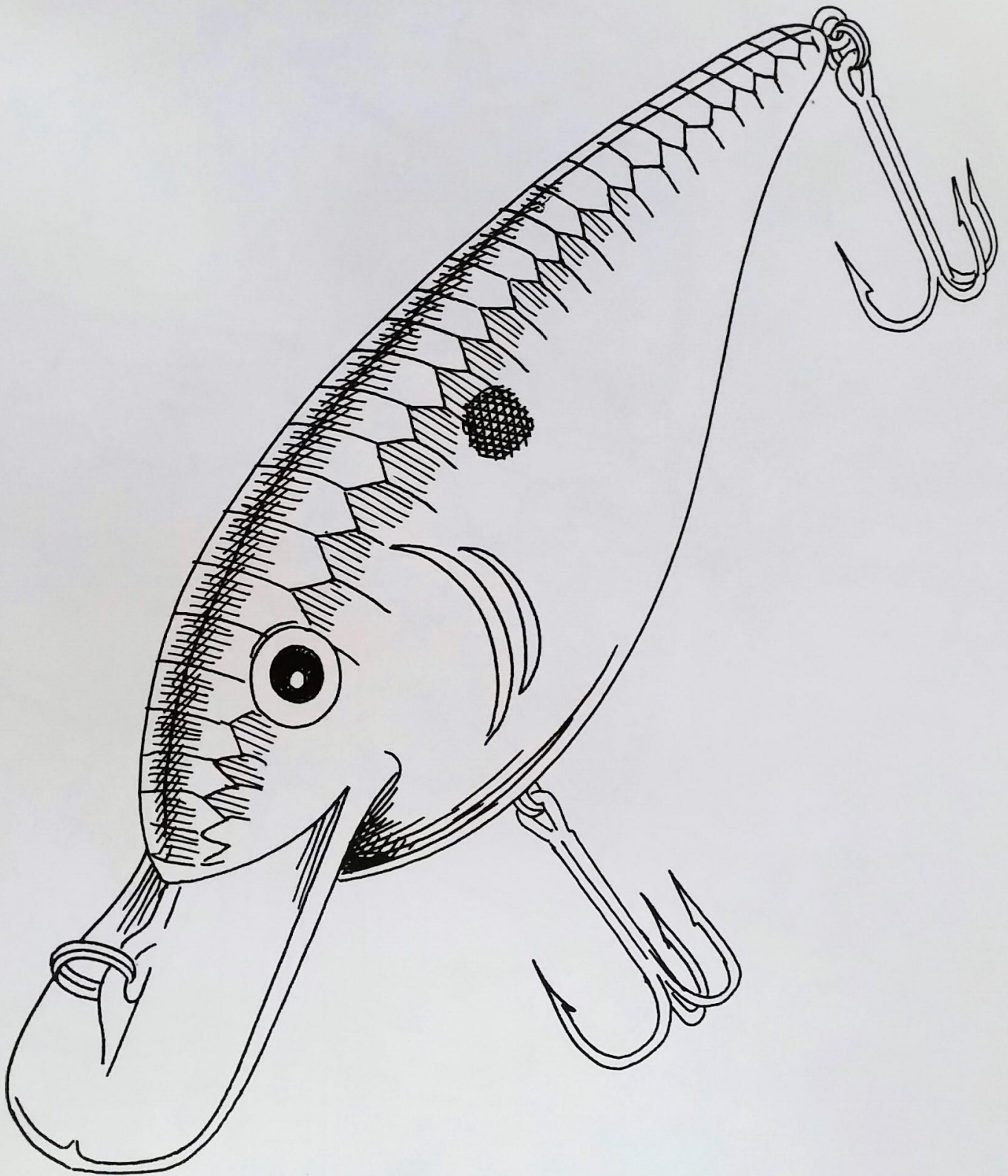
We live in a world that does not know grace. We usually get what we deserve. We hope, but rarely receive, mercy. But we are surprised if we ever get something for free that we do not deserve. That is what the grace of salvation is, a free, unearned gift from a loving God. The only reason it is free to us is because it cost God His own Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty we should have paid. Then he rose from the dead to offer us the free gift of eternal life by simply believing Him for it. To believe means that we accept God's offer as true and trustworthy.

God's Word says in Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." You, too, can be surprised by grace!

Amberjacks!

Amberjacks are a first class gamefish! Powerful fish are most often found in deeper water and because of that are usually caught by anglers who are fishing in deep water with Jigs and bait. Joesan here caught this monster while deepwater jigging. Amberjacks are related to other species of jacks or Talakitok, but can be distinguished by their amber color lateral yellow line and often a dark line above the eye. Amberjacks also have a more elongated shape when compared to other jack species.





Have your mom or dad print this coloring page out then color the lure to your favorite fish catching color!

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FREEDIVING AND SPEARFISHING GEARS PHILIPPINES

THE MINNOW CRANKBAIT

The best all around lure for casting



By Benaiah Fogle

If you are looking for a great all around lure to keep in your tackle box, one of the best is a small floating crankbait. These little lures have diverse applications and can be used to catch just about any predator fish in both saltwater and fresh.

A couple things to consider when choosing one of these lures for your box is which size crankbait would be best for you to use. First determine what size of lure your rod and reel can handle. Rods often have optimal lure sizes printed on them. For best performance choose a lure that is within the specification listed.

Next you need to consider line type and weight. Smaller diameter and softer braided line can cast smaller lures easier than thicker monofilament lines. My own medium lure casting setup has 12lbs braided line with a short monofilament leader. I can cast small to medium size lures quite far.

Once you figure out what size crankbait

You need; you can then choose what color and brand lure to you. My personal favorites are Yo Zuri Pins minnow lures that are flashy silver and gold colors. Another great lure is the red head Wobbler Minnows available [here](#).

Here are some final things to consider when deciding on a crankbait for your tackle box;

Floating lures are less prone to snagging and are therefore a better choice than sinking lures for beginner anglers. There is nothing worse than losing a new lure to weeds, rocks or other snags.

Salt-proof? Some lures are made for freshwater and not for saltwater. They work fine for one or two uses in saltwater but then will quickly rust and be unusable. If you plan on using your crankbaits in saltwater then be sure you choose a lure that corrosion resistant split rings and hooks.

Good luck and tight lines!

The Poor man's Rod Holder

For years I dreamt of owning a boat rod holder that is appropriate for our native *banca*, motorized or not. Often what I see in YouTube, fishing magazines and websites, and everywhere else are the rather conventional hard rubber or plastic rod holders that are mostly suitable for no-outrigger boats. They are either fastened to the gunwales by screws and are not portable without any fuzz in removing from or attaching to the boat.

Then I saw a style which can be easily adapted to the *banca* gunwale with a few attachments and modifications, and after thinking about it for quite some time I made a prototype. It can be produced easily and cheaply, easily removable for taking home or using in another boat without doing damage to the boat itself, and its size may be varied arbitrarily according to need. *(See images below.)*

The rod holder's construction consists of several pieces of wood, a metal, preferable stainless steel, rod, three carriage bolts of the right size plus washers and wing nuts, and some short pieces of rubber or plastic hose, which may be replaced with rubber or plastic tape, or even some small cord, because its purpose is simply to prevent chafing the rod handle on the metal.



Essentially, the bent metal rod holding the rod has a closed end and an open fork on the other. In my prototype, I used a plastic Y-fork I removed from a pole used in picking out clothes hanging high in stores, but the metal rod itself may be bent to form the fork where the rod rests, then tied with stainless steel wire, plastic cord or anything that don't rust so the tines don't separate.

The rod is attached to the wooden base using a short carriage bolt whose wing nut is loosened to adjust the rod's angle and orientation, and tightened to secure it. *(In the pictures, the wing nuts are still absent; hex nuts are used instead).* The wooden base is clamped to the boat gunwale via pieces of wood adjustable by bolts, fixed on one end towards the boat, and adjustable on the other end towards the water, so it can be attached securely to varying gunwale widths.

I don't think I need to make here an instructional on how to make it; anyone can have an idea how it can be fashioned just by looking at the pictures and diagrams alone.

So, make it and improve on it to suit your needs. Taut lines, guys!!



Red Tide Warning!

In a recent shellfish bulletin dated February 2, The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said the following areas are still testing positive for paralytic shellfish poison that is beyond the regulatory limit:

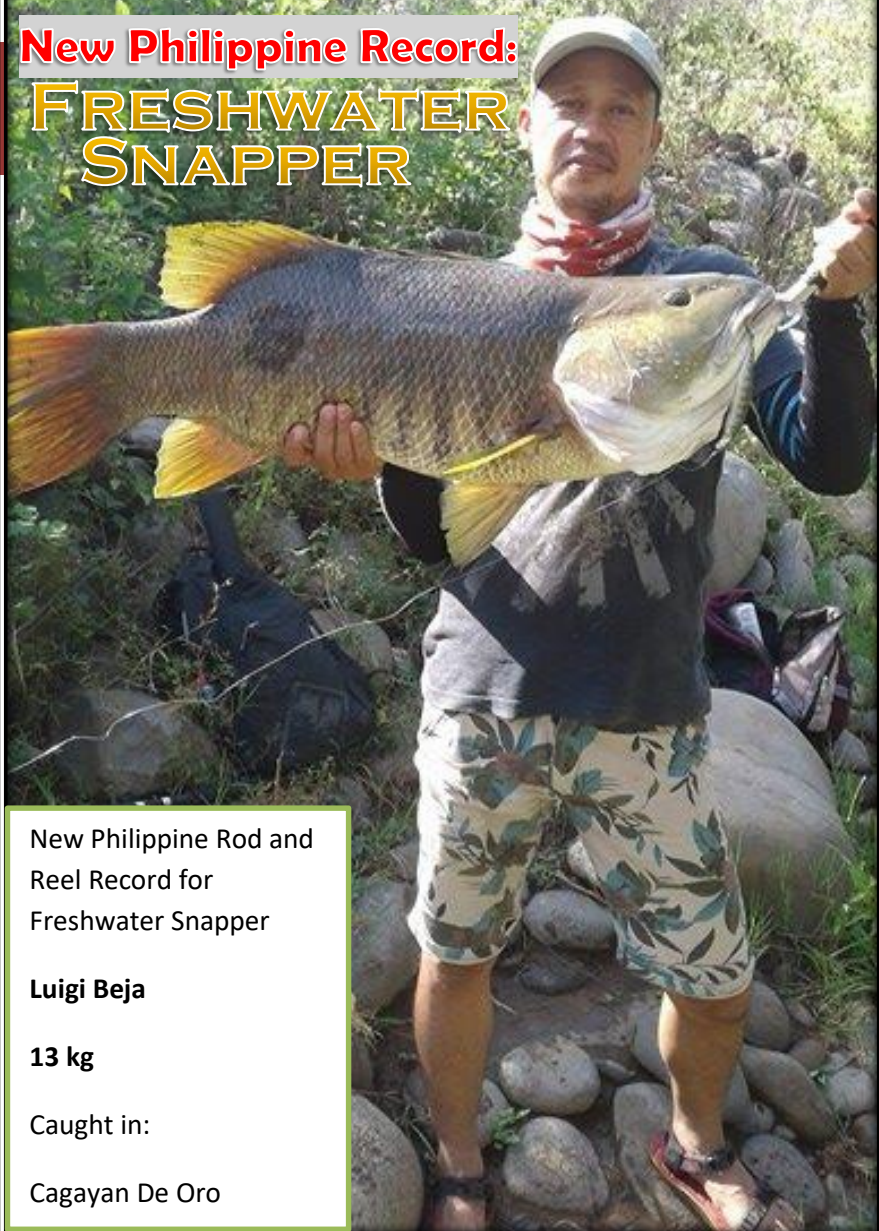
- Coastal waters of Daram Island, Irong-Irong and Cambatutay Bays in **Western Samar**
- Coastal waters of **Leyte**
- Coastal waters of **Biliran Province**
- Coastal waters of **Gigantes Islands in Carles, Iloilo**
- Coastal waters of **Dauis and Tagbilaran City in Bohol**
- Balite Bay in **Davao Oriental**
- Puerto Princesa Bay in **Puerto Princesa City, Palawan**

“All types of shellfish and *Acetes* sp. of alamang gathered from the area shown above are not safe for human consumption,” said the BFAR. Anglers and other people living in these areas should exercise caution when collecting and buying shellfish for consumption.

Mamana Ta Bai Spearfishing Competition

Spearfishing as a hobby and sport is fast growing in popularity here in the Philippines. Thanks to groups like the Visayan “*Mamana ta bai*” (English: Let’s Go Spearfishing). People interested in this challenging but fun form of fish can get together with other more experienced people and have fun and compete in friendly

New Philippine Record: FRESHWATER SNAPPER



New Philippine Rod and
Reel Record for
Freshwater Snapper

Luigi Beja

13 kg

Caught in:

Cagayan De Oro

Competition. This group, along with the help of the town of Sibonga, Cebu, hosted its 3rd invitational tournament which turned out to be a phenomenal success. 50 Spearos (Spearfishermen) showed up to compete and many many other came along to enjoy the comradery and event.





The winning fish from the MTB tournament; Tabtab's Emperor Fish just shy of 5 kgs



Participants enjoyed great food, shade and music thanks to the efforts of volunteers from Sibonga and some of the clubs founding members.

Wanted

Discus Fish Breeder

(Doha, Qatar)

Job Requirements:

- Experience breeding fish, preferably Discus fish.
- Ability to understand the life cycle of different Discus fish breeds.
- Ability to select the best nutrient programs for each type of fish
- Ability to detect sickness and identify problems promptly and to determine the best possible help that can be given the fish.
- Ability to participate in championships worldwide.

Interested applicants may send their CV to: pr@privateoff.com. Interviews will be scheduled with applicants who pass the initial screening.

Diver / Fish Collector

(Doha, Qatar)

Wanted

Job Requirements:

- Ability to assess the environment, its fish and other marine life.
- Ability to choose the right tools and equipment to dive according to each project (fish catching)
- Take responsibility of catching a required type of fish without endangering oneself nor the marine environment.
- Extensive knowledge of aquarium fish, their environment and their way of life.

Interested applicants may send their CV to: pr@privateoff.com. Interviews will be scheduled with applicants who pass the initial screening.

Here is a monster Ladyfish caught by angler Ron Cortez. This is an exceptionally large specimen of a ladyfish. Ron's was also lucky to land this beast on light tackle making it quite an accomplishment.





BLOOD RED DRY BAGS



www.bloodredclothing.com

Brag Board



Above: Luigi hold a whopper of a Jungle Perch taken from his favorite fishing spot in Cagayan De Oro. This species of Flagtail are an excellent estuary species to hunt.

Below: Andrei caught this ferocious looking needlefish in Surigao using bait. Needlefish can be caught on bait and lures though landing them can prove to be a challenge. They thrash about violently when hooked and that is sometime enough to dislodge hooks from their toothy mouths.



Top of Page: Joesan's monster wahoo is a true trophy. This is one of the two species of fish known throughout the Philippines as Tangingue. These fish are most often caught trolling large plugs of squid skirts.

Above: Rohu Carp are an introduced species that have become established in some parts of the country. One such place is central Luzon where the Carp-A fish club hunts them.



The Constrictor Knot

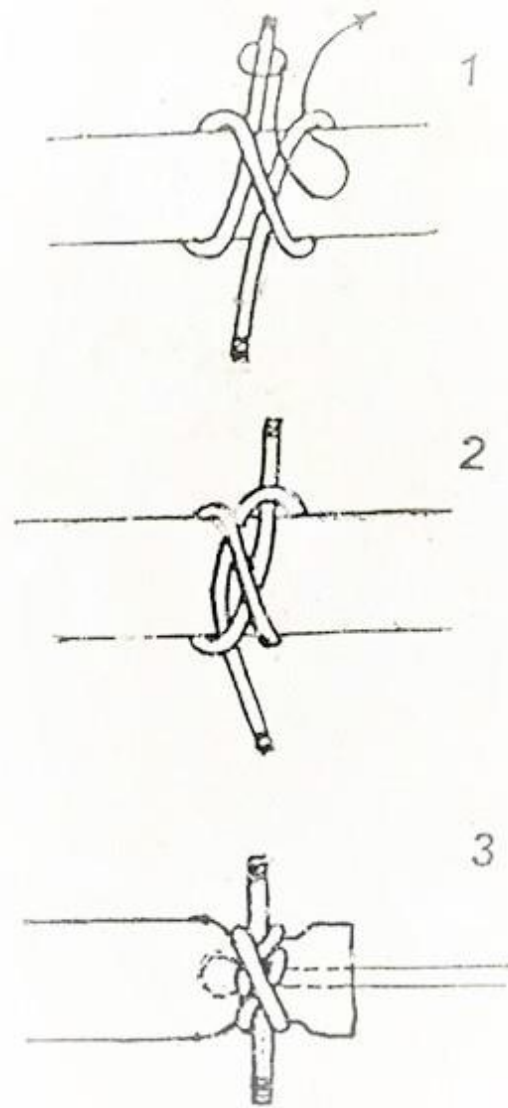
Knot In Focus

When you need a knot that won't come loose to tie something off the Constrictor Knot is the perfect choice. This self-locking knot works great to lock speargun or slingshot wishbones inside rubber tubing or if you need to seal the end of a hollow core braided top shot.

To tie this knot, you first loop the line around what you are securing it to. Be sure to pass the tag ends under the loop then one end must pass under the opposite line of the other tag end so that the knot locks on itself when pulled tight.

Lastly, pull both tag ends in opposite directions to lock the knot in tight. If you are using braided line you might one to use small wooden dowels, pliers, or forceps to protect your hands. Pull the knot as tight as you can then you can cut the tag ends and melt them to form little beads that will add even more protection against slippage. If you are working with a very thick rubber such as 16mm or 20mm, you may want to tie a second constrictor knot beside the first to add additional safety.

Give this knot a try and be sure to check out some videos on you tube if you can't figure it out. <><



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INGREDIENTS

- 250GRAMS FLOUR
- 80GRAMS CHICKEN FEEDS
- 100ML WATER
- 1 EGG
- 2-3PACK OF STRAWBERRY JUICE POWDER





Baking Boilies!

By Franz Villamar

Boilies are a special bait that we use to catch carp and other species of fish that feed on plant based material. Boilies are prepared in advance and then boiled in order to last longer on the hook when carp fishing. Here is one of our favorite recipes that we have perfected in our Carp-A fishing group; Strawberry Boilies! Follow these simple steps to make your own and feel free to play around with the recipe in order to find the best recipe for the fish in your place.

First, prepare all your ingredients. Then mix all the dry ingredients together (the flour, feeds and juice powder).

From The Kitchen

Next, mix in the egg and water. Be sure to mix the ingredients together well. Continue to mix until the wet and dry ingredients are thoroughly mixed. You may have to knead the dough like mixture until you achieve the desired dough like consistency.

Once your giant dough ball is ready take a knife and cutting board and cut it down into small pcs. Next, roll each little pc into a small ball. The little balls should be around the same diameter as a 25 centavos coin. Once all of your little pieces have been rolled into balls prepare a small pot of boiling water.



Once the water is boiling carefully drop the balls into the boiling water being careful not to have them stick together. Boil them for 2 to 4 minutes or until the boilies begin to float to the surface.

Next carefully remove them from the water and place them in a strainer until they are cool enough to handle. It is best to let the boilies dry for a day or two before you use them.

To use them to catch carp you will need to select a "carp rig" and rig it up. Then attach your boilie and hit the water!

Don't worry if it takes a while for the carp to find your boilie. Carp sense food in the water and move towards it. That is why boilies work great, they last a long time on the hook and give the carp time to come and have a bite. :-D





SMALL BUT TERRIBLE

Crescent Grunters or *Bagaong* as they are known in Filipino are one of the abundant saltwater and estuary species found throughout the islands. Though generally small in size these aggressive little fish can reach over a kilo in weight.

Their English name, grunter, comes from the grunting or croaking sound they make when handled. They have a defense mechanism when caught and will hold their body rigid in a crescent shape with all their fins, spines and gill spikes extended in hopes of deterring whatever has caught them.

Anglers catch these guys on all types of bait and lures. Though these are by far one of the least sought after gamefish in the Philippines, they can still bring a smile to the face of an angler. Credits to Tony for sending this photo in ☺

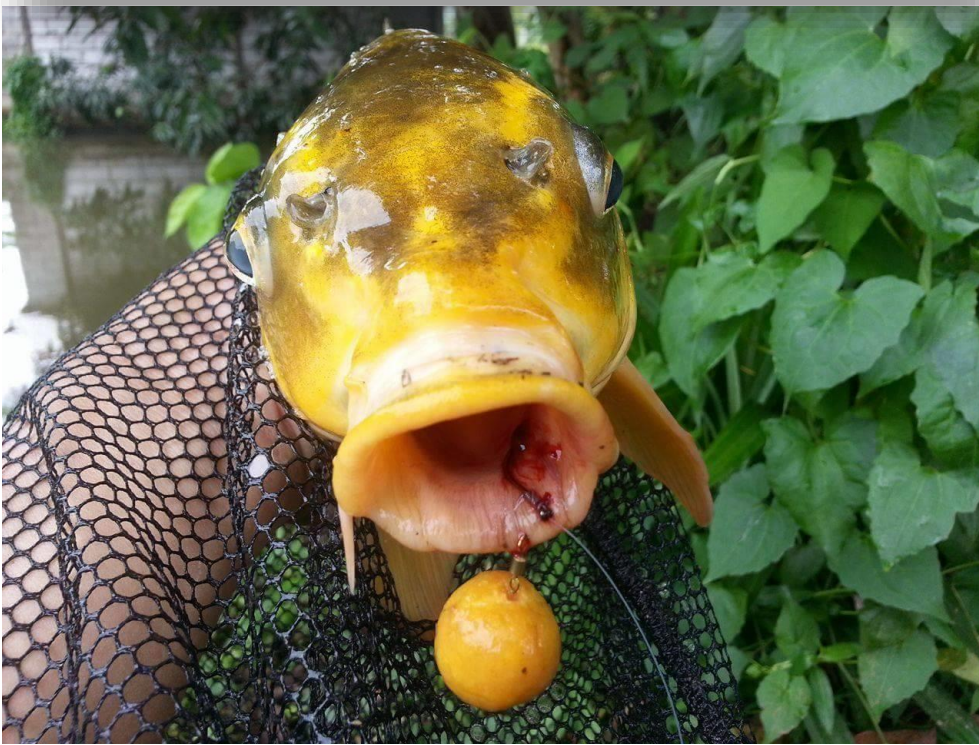


What are you waiting for? Grab your ingredients and make your first batch of boilies! Then you too can experience the thrills of Carp fishing!

Check out these fish I caught on my homemade boilies! Tight lines!



Article Author Franz caught this monster Carp on a home made strawberry boilie! Boilies are an affordable and effective bait for luring Carp.





Anglers Marketplace

