



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

By Joe Cermele

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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.

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

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.

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#### **TIP 144- FLOAT-RIG FROM SHORE**

Here's a basic technique for tying a rig that is a standard for fishing from shore.

**STEP 1** Tie a # 8 bait hook on the end of your line.

**STEP 2** Slip a bell sinker onto the line and run it up 12 to 20 inches from the hook.

**STEP 3** Using a split-shot weight on the line, lock the bell sinker in place from sliding any closer to your hook.

When you cast the rig, the bell sinker goes to the bottom and your hook can float up the length of line between your hook and the split shot.

This technique uses the hook to present your bait up and off of the bottom. This presentation is important because a trout's eyes are positioned pointing upwards, making it easy for them to target a meal floating in the water column above them or sitting on the surface. Feeding mainly on invertebrates, trout cruise close to the bottom and keep a careful eye out above them for an easy meal.

In order to get your bait off the bottom you can use floating bait or incorporate a hook to lift your bait off the bottom.

Try fishing dew worms, and inflate them with a syringe. The air pumped into the worms make them look like a big meal and provide just enough buoyancy to lift them the length of line between your hook and sinker off the bottom.

Since worms are not always available or can be difficult to keep over several days in the field, you should experiment with the floating varieties of Berkley PowerBait and Gulp. They have several trout formulas available in a floating paste that are deadly. Knowing trout are visual feeders, actively looking for a meal, I like to use bright colours to draw their attention. The Berkley baits are ideal, as they come in chartreuse, orange, pink, yellow and combinations that are highly visible. Putting a small ball of the paste on a bait hook is just enough to float it cleanly off the bottom, providing the perfect presentation with colour, smell, and placement in the water column.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

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#### **Emily Sandlin:**

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