

# All About RODS & REELS

Anglers use a fishing rod to deliver a bait or lure to a specific target. The rod also serves as a lever when you set the hook and it absorbs the fish's energy during the fight.

The strength of the rod and the test weight of the line is critical since together those two factors determine how much pull can be applied to a fish without the line or the rod breaking.



Most fishing rods have a recommended lure and line weight range printed on the lower part of the rod.

Spinning and baitcasting rods are usually classified as follows:

- Ultralight: 2 to 6 pounds
  - Light: 6 to 10 pounds
  - Medium: 10 to 14 pounds
  - Medium-heavy: 14 to 20 pounds
  - Heavy: Above 20 pounds
- ...but fly rods are classified differently:

## SPINNING RODS

Rods are made from a variety of materials with the most popular being graphite and fiberglass. Graphite is lightweight and frequently combined with fiberglass or other materials such as boron, to add strength and sensitivity.

Some rods are made of two or more sections. Multi-piece rods can be taken apart for storage or transportation and are easier to keep intact than long one piece rods that can have their tips broken off in car doors and ceiling fans.

A spinning rod needs a minimum of five line guides and a tip. Line guides spread out the stress on the rod when the fish fights.

The frame holding the guide should be chrome or stainless steel. Stainless often has a blackened finish. Golden frames, while initially attractive, can be susceptible to corrosion.

On a spinning rod, the reel seat and its

guides hang below the rod. Because it is strong, light weight, and resists corrosion, graphite is the best material for a reel seat.

The handle of a spinning rod is usually made of foam or composite cork. Both are good materials that fit and cushion the hand. On larger rods it is desirable to have an additional gripping space in front of the reel seat. The handle should feel comfortable as it is used for long periods of time.

A 6- to 7 1/2-foot spinning rod is a good all-round size for fishing Charlotte Harbor and most open fresh-water in the county.

## SPINNING REELS

Spinning reels are easy to learn to use. After a brief lesson and a little practice, anyone can cast with reasonable accuracy and distance. Spinning reels are excellent for up to 30-pound-test line mono line or up to 60-pound braided line. Beyond that line weight, spinning reels do not hold line efficiently and must be excessively large to hold a large quantity of line.

### Important features on spinning reels

The drag mechanism is a system of flat washers system that create resistance when line is being pulled from the reel. The drag serves to tire the fish as it pulls line off the spool. Drag is adjustable

