

SMALL GAME CLUB
BOWFISHING 101
Hello members!

It's that time of year again, when the carp and tilapia are roaming the banks of your favorite lake, river, canal, or delta.

Most of you have been bowfishing since you first got your bow, but for you Newbies, here is some helpful hints to get you started for an adventure that will hook you for sure!

First of all, it DOES NOT take expensive high dollar equipment to enjoy. You can spend whatever is comfortable with the sky being the limit. Normally I look for a bow on sale or one someone doesn't want anymore and has a long axle to axle length since you will be shooting with fingers. You can shoot from the bank, or shoot from a boat. When the fish are spawning they come right to the edge of the shores, swimming in the reeds. A simple recurve is all you need. Regardless of the bow you choose, either a compound or a recurve, you can set up as simple as a drum reel that either tapes to your bow riser or screws into your stabilizer hole, or go with the AMS Bottle, or even a short piece of fishing rod with a close face reel.

GLASSES:

This is important if you want to SEE fish. Get yourself a pair of Polarized glasses. You can get cheap pair at Walmart for around \$9.00 without them you won't see the fish swimming below the surface.

ARROWS:

You should use a "Fiberglass" fishing arrow with the proper fishing arrow tip. The fiberglass arrow is heavy, allowing the arrow to penetrate the water straight and go thru the fish. The fish arrow tip will keep your fish on the arrow as you pull him back to you, then you unscrew the tip, shake off the fish, screw it back on and shoot again! I would recommend a "slide" on your arrow to attach the string to, as this will allow the string to be at the front of the arrow at full draw, sliding back when you shoot. As far as tips go, there are several to choose from. Muzzy has a simple 2 Barb tip that works well. There are 4 Barb tips, as well as "harpoon" tips, it's just a matter of preference once you've tried them. You can buy these completely made up at your Archery Pro Shop.

STRING:

The string you use is specific also, being very soft and strong so that there is not a lot of friction when the arrow flies. Bowfishing String comes in anywhere from 150lb test to 600lb test with the 150-250 being the most popular for Carp and Tilapia. Reels generally come with the string already attached.

RESTS:

Using a heavy fiberglass arrow can play havoc on your regular arrow rest, so I would strongly recommend a roller rest to shoot from. There are other types of rest available as well, all are made very heavy duty to resist the wear from the heavy arrow.

REELS:

As I mentioned above, a simple "Drum reel" will work, these attach to your bow riser either taped on or screwed on, and you hand wind them back on after you shoot. You can actually get pretty quick at this after a few tries. When you're ready to spend a couple more dollars on your reel, the AMS Retriever Bottle is very popular. These hold about 30 yards of line in the bottle and shoot Great! Then you just squeeze the handle and reel it back in. The last style is a closed face reel on a short fishing pole that screws into your bow riser. You just have to remember to release the reel before you shoot! After the shot, just reel it in like your fishing!

SIGHTS:

Most of us don't use sights, we just pull back to our cheek, look down the arrow at the fish and shoot! You can put one pin on if you want, but your shots are generally only going to be a couple of yards. One thing you need to know, the fish isn't where you're looking! It's called "Refraction" if you put a pencil in a clear glass of water and look at it from the side you will see how it looks offset. The fish you're looking at is the same thing. You need to aim UNDER the fish to hit them, unless their backs are out of the water. If you aim right at them, you will see your arrow go right over the top under water. The deeper they are the farther below you need to shoot. A little practice and you will figure it out!

I have attached some pictures for reference of: Arrows, Tips, Rests, Reels, and Bows .

This should be enough to get you started and you can call me anytime you like for more information!

Good luck, don't forget your fishing license and sunscreen and have fun!!!

Bret Scott



**SMALL GAME CLUB
HOW TO WEIGH YOUR FISH IF YOU
ARE NOT AT A CBH SANCTIONED
TOURNAMENT**

-By: Bret Scott

Here is some helpful advice on how to get a "Certified" weight of your Carp or Tilapia if you're not at a sanctioned CBH event, taken from our 1987 Big Game Record Book, as written by Burt Malech.

"Fish can be weighed to the closest whole ounce, on a scale bearing a valid California Division of Measurements Standards seal. Weight must be witnessed by the owner of the scales, owner or manager of the business owning the scales, CBH Officer, Regional or Club Officer, or an active member of the Golden Eagle Society."

A Certificate of Weight or a picture on the scale showing the seal and weight together will also suffice

For Sharks, we only record length, so the same basic rules apply. A picture of the tape measure on the fish, showing the whole fish, along with a witness signature must be provided with the application.