

### **Fish & fish habitat photography:**



photo by Paul Gregory

this can be done using a single lens reflex camera, video camcorder, or digital camera, which then opens the door to

computer imaging and graphics.

### **Embedding specimens in plastic resin:**

small fish specimens can be fixed in alcohol and then dehydrated in acetone, placed in a mold, and embedded in liquid casting resin which makes permanent, collectable specimens.

**Rod building:** one of the most rewarding hobbies of anglers when the fish aren't biting is building fishing rods. You can buy top quality parts from tackle stores and build a beautiful fishing rod for a fraction of the retail price.

**Shell collecting:** this is a favorite hobby for beach combers. Very extensive and valuable collections can be accumulated by avid shell collectors.

**Creative cooking:** what better way to fully enjoy your fishing outing than preparing a gourmet meal from your catch?

**Fish printing:** Japanese artists have developed the art of Goyutaku or fish printing. A dead fish is covered with water soluble print ink and the ink is transferred to rice



print by Ron Warner

paper which has been placed on the inked fish by rubbing or patting. The image reflects the size of your fish and can be developed into a work of art.

**Field record compilation:** aside from the power of observation, the best attribute of a naturalist is the discipline to record these observations in the form of field records. Keep track of the kinds of fish you catch, sizes, bait, weather conditions, and anything else you might think is important. Analysis of these records over the years reveals patterns of abundance of fish species from season to season. This is how anglers learn which months are best to catch certain species of fish. Just like birders keep a record of the kinds of birds they see throughout their lives, you can keep a record of fish you catch or see underwater.

**SCUBA diving:** skindiving with mask and snorkel or SCUBA gear is a very popular way to explore the underwater world in both fresh and salt water.

**Fly tying:** artificial flies and lures are another expensive part of fishing that are fun to make. There are many books about fly tying and it is very rewarding to fool a fish with a fly you created. Most flies imitate a fish's natural food, so you learn to play close attention to fish feeding habits.

**Fish illustration:** exercise your powers of observation and artistic talent by drawing or painting pictures of fish and their habitats.

**Fish skull collection:** collect a series of interesting fish skulls by



prepared by Paul Gregory

saving the heads of the fish you catch, boiling them to remove the flesh, cleaning the bones with a tooth brush dipped in a weak bleach solution,

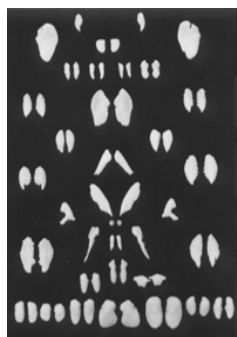
and reassembling the bones with glue. This is a great hobby if you enjoy building plastic models.

**Keeping aquarium fish:** this is an easy hobby to start small and then really get involved. Watching aquarium fishes helps you understand fish behavior and how anticipate fish behavior in the field.

**Taxidermy:** modern fish mounts are made by making a plaster cast of the fish and then making a fiberglass replica. The replica is then painted, usually by air brush, to make a realistic trophy.

**Antique fishing tackle collecting:** many people collect old fishing lures, rods and reels to trade or sell.

**Otolith collection:** collect the otoliths



collection by John Fitch

(ear stones) of fish and display them in a butterfly display case (Riker mount). Why is this interesting? Each species' otoliths are uniquely shaped and some of them are so unusual that they are used in jewelry. See if

you can learn to identify a species just by examining the otoliths.

**Fish "decoy" carving:** an extension of duck decoy carving is the carving of other birds, fish, and mammals.

**Bait ranching:** raising angle worms and meal worms can provide a plentiful supply of bait for you and your friends

These hobbies can lead to careers in the following fields: museum worker, marine biologist, professional competition angler, fishing guide, party boat crewmember, nature photographer, outdoor journalist, ichthyologist, scientific illustrator, aquarist, aquaculturist, taxidermist, bait rancher, custom rod builder, fishing fly tier, or fishing tackle salesperson.

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## Hobbies Related to Fishing



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