



The Truth About Night Fishing

by Daniel Eggertsen

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Evening-Secret-Fishing

Why Night Fishing Beats Day Fishing Any Day of the Week

Without a doubt, night fishing is better than day fishing for many reasons. One of the biggest reasons is the size of the fish you can catch at night. In almost every circumstance, you will catch bigger fish at night than you can during the day. There are several reasons for this.

Bigger fish tend to feed at night.

Maybe the reason these fish were able to get so big is because they were smart enough to not eat during the day when dinner may include a fisherman's hook inside it. I like to think the big fish just sit around all day and take bets on which little fish is going to get caught by a fisherman.

OK, maybe that is a little far fetched, but it's fun to imagine. Bigger fish also seem to feed on baitfish in more shallow water than during the day.

Since the fish are less likely to associate night time to fishermen, they tend to take the bait with less resistance and hesitation. Almost like they are thinking to themselves "There is no way this is a fisherman's bait, it's midnight for crying out loud". This results in better hooking of the fish.

Maybe it's the fact that fish are more likely to feed based on sound and vibration at night, unlike the day when they can also use vision. Since you will be catching bigger fish at night, you can also use bigger bait. Personally, I find it easier to use bigger lures anyway, so it works out better for me at the same time.

You don't have to worry about all the other boats zipping around you at night, like you do during the day. This alone is enough to make some fishermen want to only fish at night.

The peaceful serenity at night is hard to beat. If you fish at night in the summertime, you will also appreciate the cooler weather compared to fishing during the day.

If you have never been night fishing before, you need to get out there and try it at least once. You may never want to fish during the day again!



The Major Benefit Of Night Fishing

Number One Benefit to Night Fishing

I think the best thing about night fishing is that the conditions are generally the same as day fishing, but the results are much better. If you find a good spot where the fish are really hitting during the day, you can go to that same spot at night and get even better results!

The fish seem to hit harder at night as well, so it is almost easier to hook them at night than it is during the day, even though it is harder to see the line. Places where you get a few nibbles during the day will often lead to many catches at night in the same spot.

Night fishing can make a bad daytime fisherman look good.

I always like to keep track of the lures that work at certain fishing spots during the day, and then try the exact same thing at night. Try it next time you are out. You'll be amazed at the difference a simple variable (time of day) has on your results.

Here is a simple way to keep track. On a piece of paper, write four column headings:

- Place
- Lure Used
- Number Catches
- Size of Fish

Then, write down your results from your day time fishing below the columns on your paper. After you try a few difference spots with a few different lures, do the exact same thing you did during the day at night this time.

Night Fishing Preparation, The Key To Success

Night fishing requires quite a bit more preparation than daytime fishing does. Even if you "think" you know the waters pretty well, you need to take extra precautions when fishing at night.

If you are night fishing from a boat, you have even more to think about. Make sure you have enough flotation devices onboard and that they are easily accessible. If someone falls overboard, it is much more difficult to see them at night, so you need to be able to throw a flotation device out to them quickly. Proper lighting on your boat is also essential.

Enough flashlights and batteries should be an obvious commodity, but you would be surprised how many times those batteries that you "thought" were new, die off within minutes of the trip. You should have a GPS monitor at all times (good compasses are better than nothing if you can't afford a GPS).

However, don't go out and buy a GPS right before your first night-fishing voyage. Buy one in advance and learn how to use it first! Trust me, it is no fun trying to read the manual when it's pitch dark and you're lost.

Not only are the tree stumps harder to see at night, so are the shallow waters. It definitely pays to learn the waters well before heading out at night. Before you venture out into the darkness, make sure you let someone know (back onshore) where you are going or are planning to go.

If you aren't back home at a specific time you suggest, at least others will know where to start looking for you. It's also a good idea to pack your insect repellent. Night fishing not only brings out the best fish, but also the meanest bugs. It's prime feeding time for many insects, and to them, you look pretty tasty on that open water.

Prepare your rods, reels and lures BEFORE you hit the water. There is nothing worse than getting out in the water and realizing you forgot to bring your favorite lure.

A little nap during the afternoon before you head out is also a good idea. Of course, if you are catching a lot, I doubt you will be tempted to doze off. And remember, safety always comes first.

I have yet to see a fish worth getting seriously injured or killed over..

Night Boat Fishing Checklist

Here is an easy checklist of items you will need before you head out for a night fishing trip.

- Two Flashlights with new batteries in each - Sure enough, one of those flashlights is not going to work when you get out on the water. Of course, this usually happens when you only have one flashlight with you.
- Pair of needle nose pliers - Since it is harder to see your line at night than during the day, you have a greater chance of hooking the fish deeper than usual with the delayed reaction time. The pliers will make your life much easier in these cases.
- Insect repellent - A good mosquito repellent is critical to your sanity on the water. We have used "Skin-so-soft" by Avon and I think it works the best out of any of them. Anything with deet is better than nothing at all.
- Plenty of lures, line, extra rod & reel, etc - This is an obvious one.
- Extra fuse for the boat - If you blow a fuse out on the water and your boat lights go out, you could be in trouble.
- Blacklight - Using a blacklight with a clear blue fluorescent line will really help you see those hits faster.
- Spare boat battery - Running all of those lights, blacklights, etc can put a strain on your battery. Better safe than sorry.
- First Aid kit - Whether you end up with a snake bite or get hooked by your buddy's cast, you will need proper medication, Band-Aids and peroxide, etc.
- Cell Phone - Although sometimes you may find it difficult to get a good signal on the water, a cell phone can literally save your life if you get into trouble.

There are many other things you should pack for your trip.

These are just some of the bigger items we have found useful in the past.

The Things You Won't Look Out For (But Should) When Night Fishing

5 Things To Be Careful of When Night Fishing

Night fishing can be some of the most exciting, rewarding and fulfilling fishing you ever do in your life. It can also be the most dangerous fishing you ever do as well.

Here are 5 quick things to look out for and be careful of next time you venture out...

One - Trees can make your trip miserable

We used to fish at the same lake every weekend for 6 months during the day. I knew this lake like the back of my hand, so it seemed anyway. One Saturday night, we decided to try our luck night fishing on this lake. Once we got out in the water, we were catching fish like no other.

Maybe it was carelessness or the adrenaline flowing, but we were whipping around the lake to get to our favorite daytime spot, anxious to see if we would get the same results.

What appeared to be open water was actually a graveyard of fallen trees and submerged tree stumps. I'm sure you can imagine the damage the boat received. Just goes to show you the waters are completely different at night than in the day. Sure we knew the water had trees throughout, but they were much easier to see during the day.

Two - Other boaters

While you have control over the lights on your boat, you don't have that luxury with other boats on the water with you.

Some people do not abide by the law and they choose to not use their lights when night fishing for whatever reason. Seeing another boat at night when they do not have their lights on can be a challenge.

Three - Insects

Big fish aren't the only things that come out at night. Expect to find more mosquitoes and black flies at night, eager to snack on your skin. Always bring some bug spray (deet) with you.

Four - Wildlife

Like insects, you may find an increase in animals out at night with you. One in particular are snakes. For some reason, we come across more snakes at night than during the day.

Five - Fishing with others

It is hard to see your partner's rod when he is casting at night. Many times have I been snagged by a lure being casted by my partner. Keep an eye out for your co-fishermen when you cast your line..

Special Night Lures How To Pick A Winner

When it comes to night fishing, do you need special lures? Yes and no. Depending on where you go, you may need to adjust the colors of your lures and plastics. In general, many fishermen like to use heavier tackle at night because it is easier to 'feel' the lure.

Also, by using stronger equipment, it will be easier to land the bigger fish you will come across at night. Here are a few lures you may want to try next time you are out at night:

- Hair or rubber jigs - 3/8 ounce or heavier
- Spinnerbaits.
- Poppers and wobblers topwater lures.
- Plastic worms.

We have found when using topwater lures, our best success is with black and deep purple lures. For other lures, we have the best luck with dark, non-black colors (red/purple/brown).

Of course, you will need to test various lure colors at your favorite fishing spot. Not all colors work at all times and at all places. Just take a handful of different colors with you until you see the one that works best where you are.

As obvious as that sounds, you would be surprised at the people who "read somewhere" that black lures work best at night for example, so that's all they pack for their trip. If they come home empty handed, they blame the person who gave them the advice. That is why it is a good idea to listen to others for advice, but also use a little common sense at the same time.

Another quick tip since we are talking about lures...

Single hook lures are usually a good idea to prevent tangles when fumbling around with rods and reels in the dark.

Why a Blacklight Will Take Your Night Fishing To A New Level

If You Have Never Used A Blacklight While Night Fishing, You're Missing Out. We all know the benefits of fishing at night - bigger catches and calmer waters are just two, however, night fishermen have several challenges that "day time" fishermen do not have to deal with.

One of the most difficult challenges is, of course, being able to see your line to find out if you have had a hit. Here is one way of easily being able to watch your line at night.

Use a blacklight and a fluorescent fishing line. When fishing at night, it may be a few seconds before you know you have one on the line. By this time, the fish could already be under your boat or have begun it's mad dash to the opposite shoreline.

By using a blacklight, your fluorescent line will glow in the dark, making it sometimes easier to see your line than during the day. You'll be amazed at how your line lights up in the dark waters. There are several types of blacklights on the market specifically made for night fishermen.

Probably the most popular is the "Stan Sloan" brand. Cabela's also has an Optronics brand blacklight they are selling for about \$50. Just as important as the blacklight is the type of line you use with it.

Berkley makes a great flame green fireline fluorescent line that works well with blacklight night fishing as well. The reason this particular line works so well is because the fluorescent coloring is not painted on the line, but rather is chemically mixed into the actual line during production, which means the color lasts much longer than other brands.

P-Line also makes a good fluorescent line that is clear. You will need to test to determine which one works best for you. The use of a blacklight during night fishing is a common debate among avid fishermen.

Some think the black lights may spook certain fish, others couldn't live without using them. Give it a shot and see for yourself. You may be pleasantly surprised with the results.

The Secret About Night Fishing Line

What is the best type of fishing line for night fishing? Here is a topic that is often debated between night fishermen. Depending on how you like to fish at night, here is what you should look for in general:

If you are going to be fishing with a blacklight, you will want to be sure you spool up a clear blue fluorescent line. The clear blue is especially made to work well with blacklight night fishing, so it is highly recommended. When you go night fishing, never use a line that is less than 20lb test.

20lb is the minimum weight you should even think about. You won't be dealing with those wimpy "day fish". Ideally, if you are blacklight fishing, you will want to use the 20lb clear blue fluorescent line.

When the blacklight hits that line, you will be amazed at how well that line shows up. Of course, if you do not need to watch your line closely (such as when you are using a spinnerbait) then the color is not as important.

Why do you need a minimum of 20lb test line? Simple, the fish you will be catching at night are going to be bigger! Sometimes we catch fish twice the size as those we caught during the day at the same spot. The bigger fish feed at night, so while your buddies are catching the little guys during the day, you can come in and take the 'monsters' at night.

Berkley makes a good clear blue line for night fishing. You should probably get a spool before you plan a night fishing trip. It is called the Berkley Trilene XT Fluorescent Clear Blue. You can pick up a pony spool for about \$2.50 and a filler spool for under \$6.00.

If you are not blacklight fishing, the color is not as important as the strength of the fishing line. Just make sure it is strong enough to handle the big boys you may come across out there at night..

Why The Moon Is Your Key To Night Fishing Success

Want to catch more fish night fishing,
Watch the Moon!

Sounds like a crazy idea, doesn't it? I thought so too, until I experienced it first hand.

Using the moon, you are able to learn several things about fish at night. During a full moon, you are most likely to find fish hiding in the shadows. Don't ask why it's true, but that's what we have seen.

When you find shadows on the water (from trees, etc), you know exactly where you need to cast your line. Keep in mind that if there is no moon, you aren't out of luck.

If the moonlight is not shining down on the water and there are no shadows, the fish will be much more scattered in the water, making your job of finding them much more difficult. On the other side of the coin, it seems like the fish are more likely to hit when the moon is hidden, either by clouds or a quarter moon.

So, the real trick is to use the moon to determine how you are going to fish that particular night. If you have a bright, full moon, head for the shadows on the water. If you are on the water and the moon is nowhere in sight, you can go straight to your favorite spot and fish like you normally do, but expect to get more frequent and harder hits on your line.

This tip is especially true for bass, but it works with virtually any kind of fish at night. Some fishermen swear they only fish during a full moon, others say no moonlight is best. I say, both are best, you just have to alter your style depending on how much moonlight you have that night.

Try it out for yourself and see if you get the same results. This one tip alone has helped me catch some of the biggest fish in my life. Hopefully it will help you do the same when you next go night fishing.

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