

# Checklist of Equipment, Bait and other Gear

by Dennis Tubbs

Before going fishing, make sure you have everything you need. Here is a checklist of items you need:

✓ **Fishing rod and reel.** Spincasting outfits are good for beginners. NOTE: There are a few places where you can borrow fishing rods and reels, as you would borrow a book from the library. Visit the Fish & Boat Commission's web site [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us).

✓ **Line on the reel.** Check it for twists, nicks or knots. Change the line, if necessary. Use 6-pound test as a good all-around size.

✓ **Tackle box** with lots of hooks, sinkers, bobbers and any other lures you can find. Many sporting goods stores now sell tackle boxes already stocked with these items.

✓ **Lucky fishing hat and vest.**

✓ **Sunscreen.**

✓ **Live bait** such as red worms, nightcrawlers, maggots, mealworms and grasshoppers. Bait can be bought at a local bait shop. Bait can also be found in your garden. Dig around the plants with your parents and find your own worms.

✓ **Kitchen baits** such as chicken livers, cheese, bread and dough balls.

✓ **Plenty of drinking water,** especially necessary on hot days.

✓ **Snacks.**

✓ **Insect repellent.**

✓ **Waders** if you have them, old sneakers if you don't.

✓ **Rain gear** (just in case).

✓ **A fishing buddy.**

✓ **Mom and/or Dad and your brothers or sisters.**

✓ **Family members 16 and older need a fishing license.** A license can be bought at most stores that sell fishing equipment. Licenses are also available online at the Fish & Boat Commission's web site [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us).

✓ **Good Luck!**

*Have a great time fishing with your parents!*



photo: Art Michaels