

Maintenance of equipment is important to protect your investment and ensure many successful and fun fishing trips. See page 3 for specific tips for saltwater equipment.

## RODS:

- Always carefully transport and store rods to prevent damage. Many a rod has been broken in a vehicle door, trunk or tailgate, or accidentally stepped on.
- Inspect after every use, look for frayed guide attachments, damaged guides, damage to reel seats and handles. Wash with warm mild soapy water and rinse thoroughly. Dry fully, then store in open air or enclosed in a case.
- Rod tip replacement kits are available at sporting goods stores and are easily glued into place.



## REELS:

- Depending on use, reels need to be cleaned at least once a year or more, depending on how often and where they are used.
- Remove the reel from the rod to clean and lubricate.
- Different reel types require varied methods of disassembly and cleaning. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations – check their websites for info.
- Store reels only after they are clean, well lubricated and with the drag loosened. This prevents the washer drag systems from flattening out and failing to work properly.
- Never use water pressure to clean a reel as this will force contamination into critical parts of the reel.

*Spincast Button will not work OR rod & reel won't cast.*

Two common reasons a reel will not work properly:

### 1. Loops or tangles inside the reel.

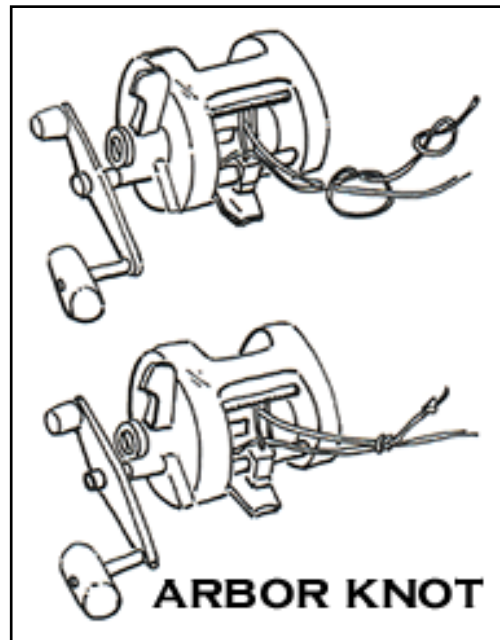
To fix this, pull line out of the reel. Often the line can be pulled out and will feel "tough" or "rough" to pull out until it gets past the tangle or loop, then it will feel easy to pull out. Next, turn the reel's handle to draw the line back into the reel – use your other hand to hold the line with some tension so that the line reels back in smoothly.

2. The line has too much tension on it.

Inside the reel is a tiny metal pin – a “release pin” and if the line is putting too much pressure on it, the pin can’t move and release the line. To fix, simply remove the reel cover, take the line off the metal pin on the edge of the metal spool/drum and then replace the cover.

LINE REPLACEMENT:

- All lines degrade over time and use. Exposure to ultraviolet rays of the sun will hasten the degradation of line. Replace line once a year.
- Choice of which line to use, composition, weight, color, etc., is dependent on the type of reel, species of fish sought, type of structure or environment to be fished. For most freshwater fishing, use 10lb., for saltwater use 20lb. line.
- Over-spooling of line is a major cause of reel malfunctions. Be careful put too much line on the reel.
- To replace line on a reel, remove the cover and the old line from the reel. Pass the new line from the spool that it comes on *through the line hole in the cover*, and then tie it on the reel’s spool. Many knots will work, but the Arbor Knot works best. Then turn the handle to wind line onto the reel, straight from the spool. The spool can be held by another person, or even left on the floor as you spool line onto the reel. When the reel is full, or has about 100 yds of line, cut the line, then thread that cut end of the line through all the eyes on the rod and tie on tackle. *Remember to recycle the old line.*



TACKLE:

- Hooks, swivels, lures, pliers and clippers can rust if stored while damp. Leave tackle boxes open until the contents are dry. (Use silicon packs, found in many items, to help absorb moisture.)
- Certain plastic lures react when stored together or exposed to extreme heat, they melt and can become a glob. It is best to store different soft plastics separately, in their original packaging away from heat.

## SALTWATER

Use of fishing equipment in saltwater requires a disciplined and detailed regimen to clean and protect the equipment due to the corrosive nature of saltwater (especially with metal parts).

Equipment should be gently rinsed after every use (do not use high water pressure). The object is to *wash off* the saltwater, so it is best to avoid submerging the

equipment. For Spincast reels, be sure to remove the cap and rinse inside. Allow rod and reel to air dry, and wipe with a soft cloth if needed. Then apply a protective coating of lubrication suitable for use in saltwater.

The sooner items can be cleaned and properly lubricated, the sooner they are returned to a protective state and the longer they will last. Corrosion and rust are much harder to remove than to prevent. Corrosion begins immediately, so do not leave items unattended for long, or better yet, take a gallon of freshwater for a quick initial rinse and do a more thorough job asap.

Hooks, steel leaders, lures (though plastic they have metal hooks) and virtually anything used in a saltwater environment should be cleaned and properly protected. Never put lures back in a tackle box after being used in saltwater before properly cleaning them. Those lures with small amounts of saltwater on them can ruin the entire contents of a tackle box.

Items made of plastic and other non-metals need to be thoroughly cleaned prior to storage. This should make them last much longer and perform better.

Light washing with a solution of baby shampoo or mild soap, followed by a gentle good rinse (do not use water pressure rinse) will prolong the life of rods, reels and other items used in saltwater.

