



A Sisterhood of Anglers.

The Hip Pack/Vest Essentials:

If you were to pull five random fishermen/women from a river and ask to peak into their fishing vest or pack, you'd likely be shocked by how much the variation and volume of tools and gear carried by anglers can differ. Though some conditions or techniques may call for additional gear, here are the most common items that most fishers would agree are the essentials to carry:

Small scissors - For cutting line and trimming yarn

Fishing pliers - Use to add/remove split shot and in some cases for hook removal

Forceps - To safely and quickly remove hooks

Leader line/Tippet - It's best to carry various sizes in case you change fly sizes, fishing technique or need to change out or replace sections of your leader

Tackle box - Containing different sizes of split shot, swivels (if utilizing a dropper rig) and hooks (if fishing yarn, beads or bait such as spawn)

Yarn - This is a big staple among steelheaders!!! What it represents to fish is free-floating spawn (fish eggs) which is a prominent food source. Yarn can be very easily slid in and out of a snell knot, allowing the angler to switch colors quickly without having to spend time tying a new hook on!

Fly box - Always a good idea to keep a good variety of flies at your fingertips. For North Shore steelheading our recommendations include: Egg patterns such as glo-bugs in orange, pink or chartreuse, nymphs and stoneflies such as the springs wiggler, prince, pheasant tail and superior X-legs and streamers such as the wooly bugger and egg sucking leach. *Note- We primarily fish wet flies meaning they're fished in the water, not on top of the water like dry flies.

Indicators/Floats/Bobbers - You'll hear different folks use different terms but regardless of what you prefer to call them, they all do the same job which is provide you with a visual indication that you've had a fish strike (or that your hook is snagged on underwater debris). If you are trying to manage a difficult drift or slow water, utilizing a bobber can be the difference in hooking or missing a fish.

Hook file - Boulders are unavoidable in some of our streams. Periodically check your hook and file to sharpen as needed.

Waterproof pouch - In which to carry any documents such as fishing licenses or other items that could be destroyed should you take an unplanned swim!

Knife or leatherman multi-tool - You never know when or why you may need it but you're guaranteed to run into a situation where you'll be glad you have one.

Small baggy - Use to stash any garbage so it's easy to pack out with you. Even small snippets of yarn and spawn netting should be picked up to dispose of properly. Protecting the health of our rivers should be an angler's first priority.