

Figuring out what gear and equipment to bring on a long distance fishing trip was not easy! I spent a lot of time packing and unpacking, and researching different travel rods etc.

I also had to work with a strict weight limit of 30 pounds for 1 checked bag and 10 pounds for my carry on.

Despite the challenging luggage requirements I chose to bring 3 different travel rods and 5 different spinning reels to cover a variety of different scenarios.

I also brought an assortment of plugs, lures, hooks and other fish catching equipment I hoped would work on different species in diverse environments.

In this post I will share with you the equipment and gear I packed for my trip to Costa Rica.

Travel Fishing Rods

The 3 rods I brought to Costa Rica are listed below. I also listed the intended purpose of each rod:

St. Croix 10 ft - for surfcasting the wide open beach and other situations where a long cast is needed \$259

Offshore Angler 7 ft - for kayak/boat fishing, fishing inlets, estuaries and other places where a long cast is not required \$159

Fenwick - for catching bait and small gamefish which are more fun to catch on super light tackle \$59

All of the rods came with a hard tube casing which I feel is mandatory to help protect the rod while in transit.

Reels

I chose to bring 5 different reels with me on this trip. They are listed below along with their intended purpose:

Van Staal 275 non-sealed - spooled with 100 lb hollow core I borrowed this reel from MFCC contributor and captain Cullen Lundholm. This reel will be used if I encounter huge rooster fish, tuna or big marlin and will be paired with either the 7 ft Offshore rod or the 10 ft St. Croix.

Shimano Ultra 10000 - spooled with 40 pound Samurai braid I will pair this reel with the 10 ft St. Croix rod. This setup will be used for any long-distance casting scenarios.

Van Staal 150 sealed - spooled with 30 pound PowerPro I borrowed this reel from MFCC member Matt Bach. This reel will be used with the 7 ft Offshore rod when fishing inlets, estuaries, and from the kayak/boat.

Shimano Baitrunner 8000 - spooled with metered 50 pound PowerPro I will use this reel when live bait or dead bait fishing from a kayak or boat. Odds are I will use this reel with the 7 ft Offshore rod.

Penn 440ssg - spooled with 12 lb test monofilament I will pair this reel with the 6.5 ft Fenwick rod for catching bait and for targeting smaller gamefish on super light tackle.

Plugs, Jigs and Lures

When packing I really had no clue what I was going to encounter, so I chose to pack plugs, jigs and lures to cover each spectrum of the water column.

Topwater

For working the surface I brought an assortment of 6.5 in and 9 in slow sinking Sebile Magic Swimmers, three different size of Guppy pencil poppers, two 6 inch Polaris style poppers, and 6 and 9 inch Slug-go's.

Midwater

To fish the middle of the water column I chose to bring 1/2-1 ounce deadheads which I can pair with white grubs or Slug-go's. I also brought several lipped swim baits and Storm shads.

Daddy Mac lures, Deadly Dicks and other metals will be used to work the middle of the water column. They also have an added benefit of casting extremely well so I should be able to reach fish located 75+ yards offshore.

Bottom

For imitating crabs and other bottom dwelling prey I brought bucktail jigs in the 1/2 - 3 ounce range. I can also use the Daddy Macs and other metals to bounce along the bottom.

Terminal Tackle

For situations in which I encounter toothy critters such as huge needlefish, I made sure to bring several 45 pound wire leaders. I also have 80 pound wind-on leaders in case I get an opportunity to fish for big tuna, trophy roosters, huge sailfish or marlin.

I also have 60 pound fluorocarbon, 30 pound fluorocarbon, 50 pound monofilament and back up soon of 30 pound Samurai braid. I will pair the leaders and lines according to the rod/reel setup and size of fish targeted.

I am downright sick of bent hooks and split rings so I beefed up my hooks to 4/0 Raptor heavy duty offshore trebles. I will use these hooks on the larger plugs such as the 9 inch Sebiles and 6 inch Guppys, along with 150 pound Spro Power Spit Rings.

For the smaller lures I will continue to use 2/0 Mustard 4x trebles, paired with 90 pound Spro Power Split Rings.

For live bait fishing I have 7/0 and 8/0 Gamakatsu heavy duty circle hooks as well as 6/0 Gamakatsu heavy duty live bait hooks. I have several different Sabiki rigs with branch test line strength of at least 15 pounds.

Miscellaneous

In this post I am going to stick to strictly fishing related equipment. Perhaps if there is interest we will publish another similar post outlining the camera equipment and other necessities which we brought along on this journey.

Below are several miscellaneous fishing items which I feel are important to mention here. In the captions I have included their intended purpose.

What do you think?