



# fieldtested and approved

**To become a Field Tester...** you must complete the free Field Test Profile form, available by calling the NAFC toll-free at (800) 843-6232, or by visiting the Club website. The information you provide is used to match a product to your location, species preferences and skill level. After testing, complete the product evaluation form and keep the product free of charge. At least 67 percent of Field Testers must approve a product before it can earn the exclusive NAFC Seal of Approval.—J.J. Reich, Senior Field Test Coordinator

Rating 1-poor, 10-excellent

Total number of NAFC members who tested products for this issue



## Deals & Discounts

The  icon signifies a special "NAFC Members-Only" offer on Field Tested products. Visit the Member Store page at FishingClub.com for details on each offer.

TOP RATED CATEGORIES: ACTION, QUALITY, DESIGN

SIZE PRICE: \$179.99

OVERALL RATING 9.8



## Kistler Top Water Jerk Bait Rod

This 6-foot, 8-inch rod is designed for fishing topwater baits like poppers, walkers and buzzbaits. The fore grip was eliminated to reduce weight while the exposed reel seat and split rear grip enhance sensitivity. The moderate-fast action, medium-power rod is rated for 1/8- to 1/4-ounce lures and 8- to 15-pound line. Contact Kistler Custom Fishing Rods at (281) 259-8033; kistlerrods.com.

**Peter Yee, Wilmington, DE:** "It's easy to see this is a high-quality rod. It's lightweight with plenty of backbone, and I like the comfort and feel of the split grip." **Brad Henson, Overland Park, KS:** "This is my first topwater rod and it will not be my last. It lets me give my baits a new, effective action."

TOP RATED CATEGORIES: QUALITY, APPEARANCE, ABILITY TO STAY SHARP

PRICE: \$26.99

OVERALL RATING 7.5

## Dogfish Neck Knife

The "skeletonized" flat design of the Dogfish Neck knife minimizes weight and bulk while allowing for easy handling and a secure grip. The knife features a combined standard and triple-point serrated blade, secure finger coil, and friction grooves at the thumb spine and near the butt. The pommel acts as a lanyard attachment and bottle opener. Contact Columbia River Knife & Tool at (800) 891-3100; crkt.com.

**Ryan Huey, Omaha, NE:** "I keep this knife in my boat for cutting braided line and bait. The best features are the snug-fitting sheath and its ability to maintain an edge." **Paul Griffin, Castle Rock,**

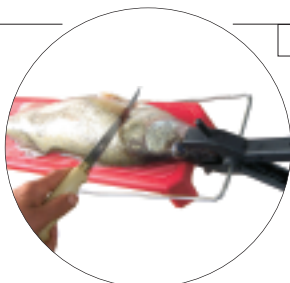
**WA:** "I liked being able to wear this knife around my neck. It held an edge really well and I liked the handy bottle opener!"



TOP RATED CATEGORIES: EASE OF USE, PERFORMANCE, DESIGN

PRICE: \$19.95

OVERALL RATING 8.3



## Flip-Flop Fillet Board

This durable, high-impact plastic fish-cleaning board features a swinging clamp that secures a fish's head or tail, then lets you flip the fish over to fillet the other side. The 7-by-24-inch cutting board is portable, but can be permanently attached to a cleaning table. Its grooved surface makes clean-up easy. Contact Rockhill Products, Inc. at (330) 753-9500; rockhillproducts.com.

**Stanley Quick, Fishkill, NY:** "The jaws on the clamp held fish firmly in place. The trout and pan-fish I cleaned did not slide or cause a mess. It's well worth the price." **Ron Lasky, New Berlin,**

**WI:** "The Flip-Flop Fillet Board is pretty slick. It was like having an extra hand holding down a slippery fish, which let me do a better job of filleting."



TOP RATED CATEGORIES: EASE OF USE, FISH ATTRACTION, DURABILITY

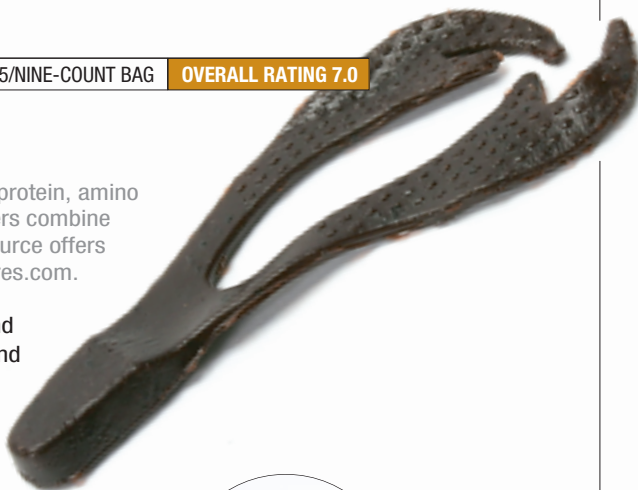
PRICE: \$4.95/NINE-COUNT BAG

OVERALL RATING 7.0

## FoodSource Craw Chunk

Made from 100 percent real food, these biodegradable baits are high in protein, amino acids, salts, calcium and other nutrients fish crave. Craw Chunk jig trailers combine the appeal of textured pincer arms with natural scent and flavor. FoodSource offers the bait in six colors. Contact FoodSource Lures at (866) 375-8737; fslures.com.

**Sean McCarthy, Covina, CA:** "This product is very durable and stays on the hook. The scent attraction is effective. I definitely recommend it to fellow NAFC members." **Douglas Briggs, Stoughton, WI:** "The Craw Chunk's action and scent worked great on bass, northern pike and catfish. I think it's as effective as live bait."



TOP RATED CATEGORIES: DESIGN, EASE OF USE, VERSATILITY

PRICE: \$39.99

OVERALL RATING 8.5

## Jig Making Kit

This kit lets you customize jigs to match fishing conditions. It includes one skirt-expanding device to assemble and install jig skirts and collars, 50 collars in assorted colors, two weedless football jigs, three weedless Arkie-style jigs and 25 strips of skirting material. Contact Naked Bait Co. at (907) 506-1656; nakedbaitco.com.

**Ryan Wussow, Green Bay, WI:** "I really enjoy using this product. I can make the perfect jig every time, and it's so easy."

**Matthew Barnwell, Aiken, SC:** "With this kit you can easily create virtually any color combination to match any fishing situation."



TOP RATED CATEGORIES: APPEARANCE, EASE OF USE, QUALITY

SIZE PRICE: \$9.95

OVERALL RATING 6.5

## MaxiSwing Casting Aid

Designed to improve casting distance, control and accuracy, the durable MaxiSwing locks your fly rod into the correct position and allows for a more comfortable grip. The device reduces torquing the rod handle when casting and eliminates wrist and hand fatigue caused by gripping too tightly. Contact MaxiSwing Products at (973) 720-8530; maxiswing.com

**Darlene Posluszny, Ellicott City, MD:** "I loved the improved grip it provided. My wrist wasn't sore after a full day of casting." **Daniel Paulin, Ewing, NJ:** "This product is excellent for increasing fly-casting range and reduces strain on my wrist and arm. I also tried the product on a spinning rod and it worked well."



TOP RATED CATEGORIES: QUALITY, PERFORMANCE, VERSATILITY

PRICE: \$19.99

OVERALL RATING 9.1

## Reel Kleen Cleaning Kit

Ardent's cleaning kit has everything you need to easily maintain any reel. It includes degreaser, oil, grease, a multi-tool screwdriver, silicone-treated cloth, synthetic foam swabs, a cleaning brush and an allen wrench. All are conveniently stored in a durable plastic case. Contact Ardent Outdoors at (660) 395-9200; ardentoutdoors.com

**Randy Aymond, Port Barre, LA:** "This handy kit contains excellent products. The oil, grease and degreaser work great, the tool is very useful, and the case is compact and durable." **Charles Wise, Independence, OH:** "I recommend this kit. It contains everything you need, and the oil and grease seem to work better than others I've used."



TOP RATED CATEGORIES: ACTION, QUALITY, DESIGN

PRICE: \$24.49

OVERALL RATING 8.1

## Salmo Giant Chubby Darter

The Giant Chubby Darter is a sinking, high-density foam bait you can fish vertically, troll or cast like a lipless crankbait. It is 5½ inches long and weighs 3½ ounces, making it ideal for big predators in both fresh- and saltwater. Salmo offers the Giant Chubby Darter in a variety of realistic patterns, and each bait is guaranteed for life. Contact Salmo USA at (952) 224-3649; salmofishing.com.



**Jason Avery, Springfield, MA:** “The action of this lure is excellent. I fished it in fresh- and saltwater, and I’ve never owned another lure that has caught such a variety of large fish.” **Dylan Wixom, Sarasota, FL:** “This lure is very versatile! It can be jigged, cranked or fished on a steady retrieve. It is heavy enough to get down to the bottom and it casts well, too.”

TOP RATED CATEGORIES: PERFORMANCE, EASE OF USE, SHARPNESS

PRICE: \$7.99

OVERALL RATING 8.3

## Shakespeare Two-Knife Set

This fillet set includes a 6- and a 7¼-inch knife. Both feature surgical 420-stainless blades with composite handles. The comfortable, non-slip grip and easy-to-sharpen blades make it easy to clean fish. Contact Meyerco USA at (214) 467-8949; meyercousa.com.

**Ian Starinovich, Auburn, MA:** “These are flexible, high-quality knives, and the handles are non-slip, even when wet. For the price I don’t think they can be beat.” **Jon Tullos, New Lenox, IL:** “The two knives come in handy for all sizes of fish. The stainless blades sharpen quickly.”

TOP RATED CATEGORIES: EASE OF USE, QUALITY, EFFECTIVENESS

PRICE: \$15.84/16 POUCH PACK

OVERALL RATING 7.0

## Hydro<sup>2</sup>max Recovery Drink

This energy drink is formulated to quickly replenish your body’s vital nutrients. It’s an excellent source of electrolytes, vitamins, minerals, amino acids and more. The powder-based drinks are packaged in convenient individual packets, making them easy to transport and mix in a water bottle. Thirty-serving tubs are also available. Contact Wilderness Athlete at (800) 752-0133; wildernessathlete.org.

**Lynn White, Seatac, WA:** “Hydro<sup>2</sup>max’s flavor is excellent and the powder mixes easily with water, leaving no grit at the bottom of the glass.”

**Rick Ford, Iowa Falls, IA:** “I used the product on the hottest day of the year. It was very refreshing, and my energy level stayed high.”



TOP RATED CATEGORIES: EFFECTIVENESS, QUALITY, HEALTH & SAFETY

PRICE: \$14.99/10-OUNCE CONTAINER

OVERALL RATING 8.3

## Sure-Life Catch And Release

This stress-reducing livewell or weigh-in tank additive prevents shock, boosts oxygen, protects against infection, and provides other benefits that keep fish healthy in the livewell and after release. One teaspoon of the formula treats 10 gallons of water. Contact Sure-Life Laboratories at (800) 846-6524; sure-life.com.

**Alon Dotan, Pinehurst, NC:** “I fish three or four tournaments a month, and I sometimes hold fish for weigh-in for over six hours. When using this product, I’ve never seen the fish healthier upon release. It’s perfect and works great!”

**R.H. Hudson, Bremerton, WA:** “I tried the formula not only on bass, but also on trout and salmon with great results. I noticed a reduction in stress and an increase in survival rates.”

