

Why doesn't anyone ever fish there?

As anyone that is married can probably tell you, fishing with your wife can be . . . well, sometimes trying. My wife Anna goes fishing with me quite a bit. She doesn't have the status of "fishing partner", she's my life partner.

When we got married thirty-five years ago I'm not sure she knew what she was getting into. Does anyone, ever really know?

Through those thirty-five years she has always been at my side no matter what I attempted. When I decided to take up downhill skiing, she learned how to ski. When I decided to make golf my passion, she started playing golf. Fishing, hunting, anything I wanted to try, she was a willing participant, and we have had many great times doing all of those things together.

One moment that stands out in my mind is a Saturday outing on the river. We have fished the river together countless number of times. I almost always catch more fish than her. At least that's how I remember it.

This one particular day we were not having a lot of luck catching fish. We had traveled up and down the river trying all of my favorite spots with very little success. As we moved from one spot to another we passed a stretch that seldom has any boats in it and Anna said, "why doesn't anyone ever fish over there"? I almost told her to leave the guiding to the experts, but I bit my tongue and politely told her that it was too shallow and the fish probably wouldn't like it over there.

One thing I've learned in thirty-five years of wedded bliss is when your wife asks the same question twice you might as well give her the answer she wants to hear the second time. When we went past this forsaken area again that day she said, "why don't we try that spot for a while". So, I shut the motor down and drifted to a halt in this part of the river that nobody ever fishes.

I deployed the trolling motor just to show her that even though there weren't any fish here I was going to make a serious attempt at fishing. She was already rigged up so she dropped her line into the water and started fishing. I had lost my rig at the last good spot we'd tried and hadn't put on a new one yet so I was busy getting ready to fish even though I knew it was a waste of time.

Before I got my line ready to fish the dead sea were in, wouldn't you know, she catches about a two pound walleye. I netted her fish for her, passed her another worm, and started to put my worm on. Of course, because I had been busy tending to her needs, she was fishing before I was and she caught another nice fish.

This time, before netting her fish, I made sure that I got my line in the water. I helped her land her fish, another nice walleye, and all of a sudden my rod started bouncing.

Grabbing my rod out of the rod holder I began reeling and sure enough I had a nice fish on.

In a matter of about ten minutes we had caught three nice walleyes out of a spot that nobody ever fished. I don't often admit to being wrong, as Anna will attest to, but perhaps this was one of those times where I wasn't the most right I'd ever been.

The moral of the story is, the next time you go past a spot that nobody fishes, you might want to ask yourself, "why doesn't anyone ever fish there" before your wife does.