

If you borrow it, it will break

Never use your friend's equipment. If you borrow it, it will break. If you don't have a boat and your friend says take mine I'm not using it, don't take him up on it. Not unless you are prepared to fix it when it breaks down on you or heaven forbid, buy him a new one when you run it aground on those rocks that are about two inches below the surface.

If you are willing to risk that, why don't you just take that money and go out and buy your own boat and you won't have to borrow his. The same goes for rods, reels, nets, anchors, trucks, or anything else. It's funny, but it seems like the more expensive the item the more likely it is to break.

I once went out fishing walleyes with my fishing partner Scott, who is one of the best walleye fishermen I know, and he suggested that we should try for some Muskies one day. I told him that I didn't have any of the right gear for that type of fishing. I'm a walleye fisherman remember? Well, he talked me into trying it. He said I could use one of his rods and he had all of the plugs we would need to land one of those monsters of the sea known as the "Muskie".

We motored up river to one of his favorite spots. There were weeds floating on the surface all over the place, it was a totally calm, hot, late summer day. Perfect for catching a Muskie, so said he. Scott explained to me the method used in making the ultimate cast with this rod that had the flex of a pool cue. First you put on a big old top-water plug that weighs about a pound. This of course is tied onto 80 lb. Test Dacron line that soaks up water like a sponge. Next he said that all you have to do is reach back with the rod, put the spool in free spin and throw it towards the shoreline right into all of those nasty lily pads.

The next part is the easy part. Reel like the dickens, stopping once in a while to make the fish think that the lure was some kind of injured fish or animal. He said it was like waving a red flag in front of a bull. They get mad and just attack this invader of their territory. Sounded easy enough.

I watched him do it a couple times and thought that even a dumb old walleye fisherman could do that. Not much trouble I could get into, right?

Reaching back as far as I could, I let the thing fly. It must have gone fifty feet in the air and landed right in the middle of all those weeds. Reeling as fast as I could, resting every now and then to catch my breath, I made what I thought was a perfect cast. After retrieving my lure, I think it was a black top-water jointed something or other, I was shocked that a Muskie hadn't grabbed onto it and tried to pull me into the water.

I asked Scott what I had done wrong, I didn't get a bite? He said, "oh, you may have to make a thousand casts like that before you get one to even follow it". I was ready to go walleye fishing.

Being the good sport that I am however, I reared back to let it fly again. I was going to show him how to catch a Muskie in just two attempts. He must be doing it wrong if it takes him that many tries to catch a stupid fish.

In the previous attempt, I hadn't noticed, but that Dacron line soaks up a lot of water. Like the sponge I mentioned earlier. My hands were wet from the swamp-water we were fishing in that had been soaked up by the line. Well, in my eagerness to show him how to cast a muskie plug, I must have forgotten the part about putting the reel in free spin when you make a cast.

Do you know what happens when you are trying to throw a pound of fishing lure fifty feet with wet, slippery hands and you forget to release the spool? The lure, the rod, the reel, everything goes flying through the air into the river. Never to be seen again.

Scott's new rod cost about \$75.00. The new reel with the new Dacron line cost another \$75.00. And to top it off, those black jointed top-water something or other's are about \$30.00 a pound. If you borrow it, it will break.