

## **Fishing Tip – “Rod Care”** *by Frank Przybylski*

I am sure we've all heard that old adage... “Take care of your tools and they'll take care of you”. Your fishing rod is a fine example of a tool that you rely on to do a job... “cast your lure/bait, fight and land fish”. Rods can be an expensive purchase, but no matter what you have spent to obtain one, they all deserve a little tender loving care.

If you do the following inexpensive preventative maintenance steps, you will extend the life of your rod exponentially.

- 1.) At the end of each days fishing, rinse the rod with cold water to remove the salt accumulation from the finish and guides then wipe dry with a clean towel.
- 2.) Spray the rod (**handle excluded**) with a light coat of Pledge furniture polish. I am sure you have some around the house. Be sure to get the Pledge on the guides and around the guide seat. Let it sit for a moment then wipe off the excess polish. This will place a coat of wax on the rods finish, and help to stop the corrosive affect salt water has on the guides and guide seats. It also acts as a lubricant on the guides and reduces friction on the line as it passes through the guides.
- 3.) Repeat this process every couple of months (depending on usage of the rod) and your rod will last so much longer.
- 4.) Are the corks on your rod looking a little “grungy” from sweat, fish slime, and dirt? It's easy to make them look new again by using a household product called **Soft Scrub**, and a small kitchen brush. Simply apply the soft scrub onto the cork and use the brush to loosen the dirt. Rinse the cork with clean water and remove the excess moisture with a clean towel.

The above is a very simple thing to do, and does not require a lot of time or a lot money. Remember to always rinse your equipment with water at the end of your day of fishing. Do this and your gear will not only look better, it will last longer!