

Description of *Achieving a Tech-Savvy Angler*

In *Achieving a Tech-Savvy Angler*, I've created a document which attempts to make using various devices and software easier and more effective, with the end goals of increasing angling safety and productivity. I've broken down the processes into two related components—research/study and implementation strategies.

I've provided detailed advice on how best to use the cell phone, the personal computer and the GPS in ways which allow the devices to communicate with each other to facilitate improved knowledge of the anatomy of the waterways. The document includes information related to storing, using and transferring GPS data back and forth between the computer and the unit, and ways to use Google Earth and Garmin Homeport to create digital fishing logs.

The document also mentions new, exciting products like the Garmin Quatix3, which essentially works like a FitBit with a GPS installed in it. This product can be used in conjunction with others to generate track lines of wading excursions, including the precise locations where fish are caught.

I've also included advice on using sonar equipment, hydraulic anchors and trolling motors in the text of the document. And, I provide a page with hyperlinks to websites useful for downloading software, learning about new gadgets, monitoring weather systems and many other things. Overall, *Achieving a Tech-Savvy Angler* includes approximately 20,000 words. I've copied and pasted the introductory chapter of the product here:

“For about a decade now, people all over the planet, from the richest to the poorest, have shared one thing in common. We all possess and use one of the most amazing devices ever invented—the smart phone. Nearly every human being walking the face of the earth today does so with a remarkably capable, miniature computer in hand. This truth has once and forever altered the social, political and other landscapes which comprise our complex, evolving world.

Smart phones perform many useful, even incredible functions, taking pictures and videos with clarity and definition exceeding all but the best cameras available only a short time ago, and allowing for multiple types of communication, using access to the internet and other technologies. Singularly, these devices can perform functions which would have required multiple devices in times past, and they do these things efficiently, with high quality. Some people use their phones more than others; all of us rely on them to some degree. Because of their unique, profound capacities, these gadgets have made life better and easier.

Only a fool would cling to the notion of the superiority of all the old ways of doing things. Snail mail moves like a slug. A pen and paper can't compete with the seeming magic of Facebook. A hefty phone book makes tedious work of looking for things compared with the slick ease of an app like Yelp. Similarly, a modern GPS renders a compass about as obsolete as an astrolabe.

Most folks realize the potential benefits of dazzling new devices and technologies and attempt to use them to positively influence their lives and livelihoods. Anglers, like other people with different priorities, can choose to use technology to enhance their efforts. Doing so makes perfect sense, requiring little more than a conscious choice. Taking advantage of

current technologies and using them to make fishing safer and more productive proves quite easy in some ways.

Numerous tools, technologies and programs have the capability to help anglers navigate the waterways more safely and efficiently, and also to catch more fish. For the purposes of this document, I divide these things into two categories: those held in hand and used in the home or in everyday life, and those kept on the boat and used while on the water.

In the first category, I place the cell phone and the personal computer. As stated above, a smart phone is, in essence, a miniature version of a personal computer. But a computer has a bigger screen, allows for typing documents more easily, stores more data, and in the end, provides a better format and context for studying and learning. So, I advocate the use of both devices to enhance angling efforts, and will provide details related to the use of each in the chapters that follow. The cell phone becomes a bridge to the second group, since it travels with us everywhere we go.

In the second category, I place GPS units and their related devices, a hydraulic anchor and a trolling motor. All of these tools offer an angler ways to fish more safely and productively. And that's the ultimate goal of this product, to help the consumer navigate and operate with greater peace of mind and to catch more fish!

The process works best when the person attempting to implement the concepts and strategies contained in this document and in the websites and other sources to which it provides links takes seriously the need for a multifaceted and disciplined approach. Only by breaking the process down into two major components can one expect to maximize results. These two components, research and implementation, both contribute mightily to the potential success of the endeavor.

Research works best when done in the home, in a quiet setting, far from hull slap, thunder clouds and the promise of the next bite. The cerebral acts of studying data, scrutinizing images, making plans, recording and reflecting on outcomes, all serve to increase knowledge, first and foremost of the anatomy of the waterways, but also of the impacts various natural elements exert on the attempt to catch fish.

Implementation must occur on the water, and ideally involves the intelligent execution of well-designed plans. Essentially, using technology to enhance angling safety and productivity means using all available resources to facilitate a maximum level of control over the elements within our command. At the highest level, implementation involves making adjustments, whether moving the wheel of the craft in attempt to maintain contact with a track line, finding a new place to fish when one doesn't produce a desired number of bites or altering a lure choice or presentation to account for a change in weather, tide movement or some other aspect of the fishing situation.

People who effectively adjust locations, choices and strategies do so because they accept a basic fact about life—changes aren't permanent, but change is. As a primary force, change provides an inescapably complex reality. In order to grow and improve, one must constantly adapt and evolve. Embracing new technologies and working to include them in the formulation and implementation of angling strategies can provide major assistance in the never-ending quest for consistency."