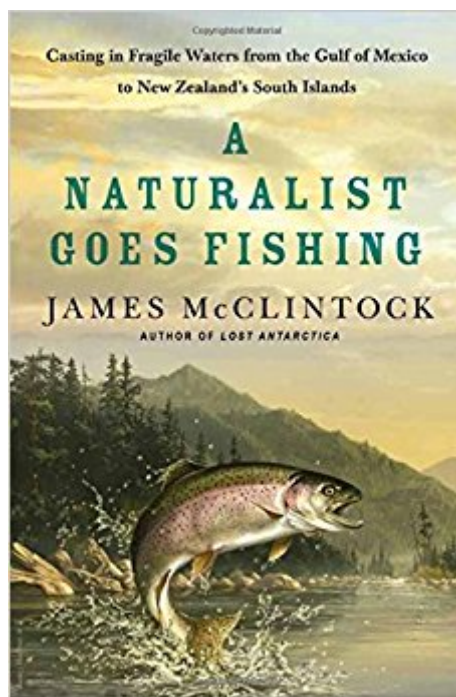




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A Naturalist Goes Fishing: Casting In Fragile Waters From The Gulf Of Mexico To New Zealand's South Island



Synopsis

In the tradition of fishing classics, *A Naturalist Goes Fishing* combines elements of the triumph between fisher and fish, humor and wit, and a passionate concern for the natural environment. James McClintock takes us to some of the most breathtaking waters the world has to offer while capturing the drama and serendipity in the beloved sport of fishing. We follow him and his fishing buddies and professional guides, as he fishes off the marshy barrier islands of Louisiana, teeming with life but also ravaged by recent disasters like the Deepwater Horizon spill. We travel to the remote waters of New Zealand's Stewart Island, where the commercial fishing industry is fast disappearing; fish for gigantic Antarctic toothfish through a drilled ice hole at McMurdo Station; and scout for spotted bass on Alabama's Cahaba River, which has the highest diversity of fresh water fish in North America. As we take this global journey, we see how sea level rise, erosion, pollution, water acidification, and overfishing each cause damage. This strikingly beautiful narrative is a must read for anglers and nature lovers alike.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's Press; First Edition edition (October 27, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1137279907

ISBN-13: 978-1137279903

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #499,273 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #224 in [Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Fish & Sharks](#) #298 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Nature Travel > Ecotourism](#) #761 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Hunting & Fishing > Fishing](#)

Customer Reviews

"The surprising ease which McClintock moves between description and narration is one of the delights of this book...belongs with the works of the Jacques Cousteaus and E.O. Wilsons of the world." [The Anniston Star](#)"Excellent...I can't think of a fishing book I've read that I've enjoyed more." [The Nature Conservancy blog](#)"Outstanding...you needn't be a fisherman to enjoy reading *A Naturalist Goes Fishing* and learning about fishes of the world, their natural habitats and human impacts on their environments and populations."

“Tuscaloosa News” People who fish will...relish [McClintock’s] detail.” Minneapolis StarTribune “An avid fisherman and conservationist romanticizes his beloved waterbound sport, while providing a stark reminder of the ocean’s need to be protected.” Coastal Living “As you read McClintock’s riveting accounts and imagine the thrill of the fish on the line, you barely realize how much information you’re soaking up. Don’t throw this book back. It’s a keeper.” Science News “McClintock, a marine biologist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, combines work and play as he brings together tales of his professional career studying underwater habitats and a lifetime of recreational fishing.” Publisher’s Weekly “Like all the best nonfiction, *A Naturalist Goes Fishing* is at once intimate and global. James McClintock shares with readers his immense knowledge of - and deep love for - the world’s increasingly threatened waters.” Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *THE SIXTH EXTINCTION* “In this unusual tale of outdoor adventure, the reader has a guide of outstanding quality: scientist, expert fisherman, and caring conservationist of the first rank.” Edward O. Wilson, University Research Professor Emeritus, Harvard University “A veteran scientist and adventurer, James McClintock writes with passion and knowledge of his love of fishing within some of the most beautiful yet threatened waterways on earth. He issues a stark reminder of what’s at stake if we fail to replace fossil fuels with clean energy sources.” Robert Redford “Enjoyable reading for sports fishermen and other outdoor enthusiasts.” Kirkus Reviews

JAMES B. MCCLINTOCK is an internationally recognized Antarctic Marine Biologist Professor of Polar and Marine Biology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has 25 years of research experience in Antarctica and over 230 scientific publications. He has been featured in National Geographic Magazine, Discover Magazine, Chicago Tribune, Wall Street Journal, and appeared on The Weather Channel. He lives in Birmingham, AL.

Entertaining for a fisherman/woman to learn something about conservation/biology/botany and fishing fun

Amazing that James McClintock not only explains fishing for different kinds and sizes of fish throughout most of the world, but also talks sensibly about global warming problems with the ecology as well as its affect on fish. How one man can be in so many places in a lifetime is somewhat of a miracle.

Great book. Adventure geography, oceanography, angling tales and advice, learn about some cool species. All in one. Great read. - Bullwolf

While the book is about catching it is also about our environment and the danger our waters are. Something we all need to start caring about not taking for granted.

I like the way the McClintock wove fishing with some incredible environmental disasters especially the Gulf waters.

I was interested in reading this book because there's a chapter on tuna fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, which is in my back yard. There's also a section about the Chandeleur Islands which are a haven for brown pelicans just outside New Orleans. The author is an "internationally recognized marine biologist" and a very engaging story teller to boot. These stories aren't just about the fish that he caught, or even about the ones who gave a good fight and got away to fight another day. Perhaps most importantly, as a scientist he witnesses the damage done to fragile fishing waters by natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, or environmental disasters like the Deep Water Horizon oil spill. Not to mention the damage caused by humans. The scenes he describes are sometimes heart wrenching. He describes the erosive impact that generations of overfishing have on species that are now approaching endangered status. Or worse, like the blue fin tuna that is all but gone from the face of the planet. He also documents those instances where there is work being done to right the environmental wrongs done to so many marine ecosystems. This is a very engaging book written in chapters devoted to specific regions and species. He expresses himself eloquently in layman's terms so it's easy to read without danger that you're going to get bogged down by jargon and ideas that are too sophisticated for the average American. First and foremost, you are aware that this is the voice of a scientific mind - and his messages should be heeded by all of us who love the natural outdoors. Chapters include the following locations and fish species: * Chandeleur Islands - Speckled Seatrout * Manitoba - Lake Trout * The Cahaba River - Spotted Bass * Gulf of Mexico - Yellowfin Tuna * Antarctica - Toothfish * New Zealand - Rainbow Trout * Bahamas - Bonefish * Costa Rica - Tarpon * France - Anchovies * Fishing for Solutions While each chapter is written to be free standing, I highly recommend that you be sure to read the final chapter, Fishing for Solutions. Here you'll find the hope you're seeking about the future of marine life on our fragile planet.

This book is a lot of genres rolled into a very readable book. While various fish species are the primary focus of each chapter, author James McClintock sprinkles the narrative with memoir, science, environmentalism, sport and a Who's Who in the world of Marine Biologists. One doesn't need to be a passionate angler to enjoy this book, although the fishing and nautical sections would perhaps be better understood. What McClintock is doing here is showing us how all these genres weave with one another, and how our role as humans has a direct consequence on the health of our fish. Unhealthy fish, like birds, are indicative of an unhealthy environment. McClintock is a renowned and passionate marine biologist. He shares nine stories of his various fishing expeditions from around the world. Each story is its own chapter. Each chapter begins with an expedition somewhere, whether it be the Gulf of Mexico, the Mediterranean, a North American fresh water lake or off the coast of New Zealand or Costa Rica. Each trip is a focus on a particular species of fish. His passion for marine biology shows when he starts talking about the fish's habitat, its eating and mating habits, and how best to bait them. Each story also talks about the changes occurring in these habitats that are causing the fish to grow smaller, live shorter lives, or change their eating habits, all which are direct results of environmental and climate change. Two direct threats to fish everywhere are ocean salinity and ocean acidification (when too much carbon dioxide gets into the ocean). All the chapters focus on environmental stresses on our fish species, but no chapter is more daunting than the one about the Antarctica and the toothfish. I had never heard of the toothfish! It's a species that lives in these freezing waters of Antarctica by producing anti-freezing molecules. However, with climate change the acidity of the ocean is slowly changing, and it's starting to have an effect on the toothfish's ability to produce this antifreeze. The final chapter, "Fishing for Solutions" summarizes the environmental issues of the previous chapters. It's not all bad, as McClintock does applaud various environmental changes that helped many fish survive and thrive. Fish are recovering after the damage of acid rain that was so prevalent before the passage of the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts of the early 1970s and the creation of artificial reefs. Regulations have been set to prevent overfishing. But another problem that is harming our fish is the toxins released from the oil rigs in our oceans; stricter enforcement of building codes of such rigs and deep underwater drills promises to curtail future disasters. While the end result is environmental, this is a thought-provoking book on our current oceans and the issues faced by its inhabitants. Fishing is a big past time in this narrative, but not the only one. One doesn't even need to be passionate about fish. One simply needs to be appreciative of our environment and its wildlife to appreciate this work.

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