



FISHING TIPS

Cast An Eye On These Cleaning Tips

By Bill Dance

(NAPSA)—Before the lure of fishing hits is a good time to take care of those cleaning chores. This means getting rods, reels and tackle ready before you spend the next several weekends on the water.

First, give your reels a good cleaning in soap and water, then re-lubricate them. Remember, it's "oil on bearings, grease on gears."

Next, spool up with fresh line. Full reels cast better, and new line gets rid of last season's memory-coils and weak spots.

Check your rods for loose or broken tips and guides. These can hamper casting and damage line during the retrieve, possibly costing you a big fish.

Organize your tackle, too, so you can spend your time fishing for fish, not for misplaced items. You might want to use a tackle system that's compact, yet accommodating, such as the new 44 Magnum box by Plano. The system has an over and under design that offers storage flexibility and efficiency. I put my crankbaits in the top so I can visually make my selections through the amber lid even before opening it. Everything else is conveniently organized on the inside in the two halves.

I keep my bags of soft plastics, spare spools of line, my pliers and other items in the bulk area of the lower half. There's even a place to hang spinnerbaits.

The upper half has two more storage areas. First, is an independent, full-width, shallow, see-



When the fish are biting you want a fishing box that keeps your tackle organized.

through box with adjustable compartments and a lid of its own. It's just right for storing hooks and sinkers. Releasing this box lets it swing away to reveal more storage compartments underneath. This is where I keep my favorite soft plastics ready for action.

In reality, this is like having four tackle boxes in one convenient carrying case not much larger than a regular-size briefcase. Plano calls it the 44 Magnum. I call it a smart choice.

Now, let's go fishing.

Bill Dance is host of the "Bill Dance Outdoors" TV show and can be seen every weekend on TNN.