

THE ULTIMATE BEGINNING ANGLER

GIFT GUIDE



By Brooke Vallaster
MARINE EDUCATOR
and
Ryan Harrell
MARINE BIOLOGIST

Does holiday gift giving have you floundering? Are you fishing for holiday gift ideas? The countdown to the holiday season is on, and while the temperatures have cooled and daylight hours are slim, it's a perfect time to make fishing plans for 2025. Even better? Invite a new angler to join you next year by giving the gift of fishing and hook them up with all the items they'll need on the water.

As you consider the perfect gift for your friend or family member, here are some gear suggestions for targeting trout and drum species on the coast.

1. Rod/Reel Combo:
7-foot rod with 2500 to 5000 spinning reel

2. Hooks: Light wire Circle Hooks (2/0 or 1/0) for bottom fishing red drum & black drum; Kahle Hooks (2/0 or 1/0 for red drum or spotted seatrout using a float

3. Line & Leader:
15 - 20 lb braid mainline, 15 - 20 lb fluorocarbon leader

4. weights: 1/2 oz to 1 oz egg sinkers for bottom fishing, 3/8 or 1/2 ounce trolling sinkers for float fishing



1



Tackle Box



cooler



3



Lifetime Fishing License

Georgia Lifetime Sportsman's License



Filet Knife



PDF if you're on a boat



Net



Bait bucket with aerator



Pliers



Polarized Sunglasses



Measuring Tape



Fish Grip



swivels



4



Paddletail with jig

You may opt for natural bait (shrimp or fish). If you prefer to stock them up with artificial lures, soft plastics such as paddletails, curly tails, and shrimp imitations are effective for trout and reds. And don't forget jig heads for artificial lures.

Keep in mind, weights and gear may vary depending on tidal conditions and the size of the targeted fish. But this starter kit is Santa-approved for those on the good angler list.

Before you head to the fishing gear aisle at your local sporting goods store, be sure your new angler properly outfitted with a fishing license and free Saltwater Information Permit (SIP) for Georgia's coastal waters. Consider giving them the gift that keeps on giving: A Lifetime Fishing License! Anglers 16 and older will need a Georgia fishing license.

Best wishes to you and yours this holiday season. And let us know if you reel in a big one in 2025!

Scan this code with your phone for information about buying a fishing license

