

DIY Fishing Project Planner

Use this before cutting, drilling, tying, gluing, pouring, or modifying fishing gear for Canadian water.

1. Choose the Project

- Beginner: tackle labels, hook files, knot cards, rod cleaning.
- Intermediate: lure tuning, leader kits, fly tying, kayak crate layout.
- Advanced: rod repair, electronics mounts, complex molds.

2. Check Safety First

- Use eye protection for cutting, drilling, wire, hooks, split rings, and epoxy.
- Keep hooks covered and sharp tools away from children and pets.
- Ventilate adhesives, paints, solvents, resins, and heated materials.

3. Plan Materials

- Avoid lead where safer alternatives make sense.
- Use stainless, brass, tungsten, tin, steel, glass, silicone, or reused containers.
- Buy only what solves the project, not every tool at once.

Build, Test, Adjust

Good DIY gear is useful, durable, safe, and easy to fix. Test every project before trusting it on a serious trip.

4. Build Notes

- Project name: _____
- Tools required: _____
- Materials required: _____
- Known risk: hooks, blades, heat, lead, fumes, drilling, sharp wire, or boat stability.

5. Test Before the Trip

- Pull-test knots, snaps, split rings, hook hangers, and rod repairs.
- Float-test lures in safe water before relying on them.
- Shake-test storage and kayak crates before launching.

6. Field Log

- What worked: _____
- What failed: _____
- What needs trimming, sanding, sealing, replacing, or simplifying?
- One improvement for the next build: _____

Before You Fish It

DIY should make fishing simpler, safer, and more personal. It should never bypass rules, damage fish, or create boat risk.

7. Rule Check

- Check province, zone, waterbody, species, bait, hook, and possession rules.
- Confirm whether the project changes how you fish or where the gear can be used.
- Use official sources before relying on forums or videos.

8. Boat and Kayak Mods

- Do not weaken hulls, block drains, overload one side, or create snag hazards.
- Keep PFD, paddle, light, phone, whistle, and landing tools reachable.
- Dry-fit layouts before drilling or permanently mounting anything.

Field Rule

- If a project adds clutter, sharp edges, fumes, instability, or rule confusion, simplify it before taking it onto Canadian water.