

Saltwater Flyfishing Adventures

BAJA BLUE WATER PACKING LIST

This list is heavy on the equipment end- especially rod and reels- you *can* get by with less!

Rods, Reels, Lines and Flies

I usually get in the boat with three or four of these rigs ready to go (*with" rod wraps" at the top and bottom around them in a bundle*) after assessing the possibilities. Many people do with less. Some bring more. Typically, one would want an 8 or 9, a 10 and a 12 weight rod; or two 10 w and one or two 12 w. In the fall-or if you hear bigger tuna are around a 13 or 14w can be a real asset.

The Lines on these three or four rods should be some combination of:

8w or 9w with a 200 or 300 grain or intermediate;

10 w with a 400 grain sink tip and a rod with an intermediate or floating line;

12 w with a 600 grain sink tip (tuna and snapper) or intermediate or floating (larger dorado and roosters). One or two sinking lines and one intermediate and one floating will provide a very adequate quiver. If you are bringing a 13-14 w bring a 700 grain or heavier sink tip line. Also remember that rods break in these situations-nice to have an extra.

Note: The airport customs technically only allow four rods. They may ask for a about a \$50 fee for extra rods if they inspect you. You might say the extras are for a buddy who already passed through customs and was carrying less than four setups.

The Flies: I can provide a great selection of proven flies for this area. My *Baja Box* of big game flies is \$150 plus tax if applicable. It includes several colors of each of the following: Crease flies, Charlies airheads, Clousers, Ocean Minnows, Sardinas, Bulla's Tuxes and Murakoshi's Sardinas. You will be covered for almost any situation. It does not include big billfish flies, but they are usually eating sardinas (flat iron herring) also.

The Leaders: Bring 20, 25, 30, 40 and (optional) 50 pound spools of Flourocarbon. Prepare several tapered leaders with blood knots. Typical 9 foot leader formula:

Four feet of 40 lb+ 2 feet of 30 lb.,+ three feet of 20 or 25 lb. Add a shock (bite) tippet of 18" to 24" of 30 or 40 pound to the class tippet on rods 10 weight and above for larger dorado especially.

Or you could purchase 9 foot SALTWATER tapered leaders and add a bite tippet as needed.

Setups:

For Smaller Dorado and Smaller Rooster Fish

Nine weight or ten weight with floating or clear intermediate line or a clear sink tip in windy conditions. Rod length tapered leaders ending in 20 or 25 pound bite tippet. Use Crease Flies, Tan Sardinas, Alfs, Airheads, Clouser Minnows . This will be a "go to" rod.

For Smaller Tuna, including Skipjack and Yellow fin, Roosters, and Crevalle Jacks

Ten or eleven weight with 300 or 400 grain sink tip, class tippet of your choice, 25 pound shock tippet with a Tuna Tux (for yellowfin) or chartreuse clousers for black skipjack and Jack Crevalle. Crease Flies, Tan Sardina Tux or Papa Gallo for the roosters with a terminal 20 lb tippet.

For Marlin or Sailfish (occasional)

Eleven or twelve weight set up with class tippet, 60 pound shock and large sailfish double hook streamer. or any other fly. Matching floating or intermediate line with Gel spun backing. If you really want to target these fish bring a teaser rig - and be prepared to find a group member who is willing to troll the rig. What will most often happen is that you will suddenly be upon a billfish – so you might want to keep one rod setup for larger fish with a 40 or 50 pound bite tippet and intermediate or floating line. If he eats the thrown bait-cast at him!

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For Larger Rooster Fish (spring), Dorado(summer) and Tuna (fall)

Larger Tuna: Twelve or thirteen/fourteen weight rods with five to seven hundred grain head, and 300 plus yards of gelspun backing. I like Airflows Big Game Lines 500 and 700 grain. Hard Mono class tippet (if it is a bimini) with 40 or 50 pound Flourocarbon or soft mono shock. Tuna Tuxes or Sardina Tux with Tails for tuna to match bait size. I also have a weighted version of the Tux series.

Roosters. My favorite setup for the big boys on top is a twelve with a floating or intermediate line and a the new Papa Gallo, Charlies Airhead or Tan Sardina with no shock just a tapered leader ending in 20 pound..That said, I have caught many on a sinking line with the same setup on leader and fly by casting to where I think they are and letting it sink to a count of 5 or more.

Dorado: When these fish get over twenty five pounds they have teeth that can wear through a tippet during the long fight. Be prepared with a floating or intermediate line on a twelve, thirty or forty pound shock and crease flies or other fly fly.

I use Airflow Big Game Lines, Rio (especially the Tropical Outbound Short) and Scientific Anglers (Tarpon) on these rods, but there are other great lines made.

Other Equipment

Small tool kit for reels

Used most often: Flourocarbon leader spools (Seaguar or Rio) for tapered leaders and shock, bring 20, 25, 30, 40 pound test spools of 25 yds.

Used less often: Hard mono class biminis loop to loop on spools

Extra class tippets already with shocks (loop them to heavy butt sections

Long nose pliers for hook removal and knot tightening and testing

Nail knot tool for terminating fly lines

Hook files (I like the diamond type)

Scissors and pocket comb for grooming flies and adjusting fly lengths, etc.

Scale and measuring tape -there are world records to be set here

Extra lines and heads

Stripping basket

Line winding tool

Knots to know:

Blood Knot

Double Surgeon's,

Perfection Loop

Captain's Knot (see my site under Media>Videos)

Equipment care

Rods are setup on the day of arrival and are transported in our van in a pile to and from the boat launch. I will provide a "rod sock" to slip over them before they are loaded into the van. reel covers are recommended also. We usually spray our equipment off at the end of the day. It is a good idea to make sure your reels are well lubricate etc. before you leave home.

Clothing Notes

A straw hat that shields the face and ears, or a baseball type and a "Buff" or similar for protection is essential. I usually fish barefoot so I can feel it if I am standing on a line, but I bring Tevas or Crocs for the beach and stash them under my seat immediately. Repeatedly apply sun lotion. Feet are the first thing to get sunburned. I wear (depending on the season) nylon fishing shorts (like Patagonia Baja Shorts) or full length tropical fishing pants. Zip off legs work great also. Long sleeve tropical fishing shirts are the best. Bring a light waterproof jacket for running in the panga on windy wet days or possible showers. Put sun screen on in the hotel. I *always* wear fishing gloves and bring stripping tape or stripping guards and band aids.

Drink lots of water! Beer will dehydrate you if taken alone. Bring dried fruit and venison, turkey (they will often seize dried beef at customs), pistachios, trail mix and or other snacks to share with your boat mate and captain. Insect repellent is optional..the flies can get you when you are making bait at Cerralvo Island, although they are rarely the biting kind. There are very few mosquitos at the hotel, but can be present during the fall rainy season especially at dusk when the breeze dies.

Other

In the Baja heat, ice is great to have on board to keep your fish from deteriorating, especially Dorado. We can make our own ice or buy it locally. By the way, limit is two Dorado per person per day. You could bring a collapsible insulated bag and ice packs for keeping filets cool on the boat and for the ride back to the hotel. If you are planning on bringing fish home (direct flights only), bring a roll of vacuum bags-we have the vacuum machine here.