

**Rick's "Top Ten" List of Best Fish Books** (books that mesh interesting fish biology with the intricate relationships among the social, economic, and political aspects of human society, fish and fisheries)

1. *Cod. A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World.* Amazing story of humans and cod over the last 1,000 years. From Vikings, to slavery, to one of the greatest examples of squandering of an immense biological resource. Also a sampling of 600 years of cod recipes. **Mark Kurlansky**
2. *The Founding Fish.* The biology and history of the America shad and its influence on the likes of George Washington and Henry David Thoreau and the development of the US eastern seaboard. **John McPhee**
3. *A Fish Caught in Time.* Compelling story of the rediscovery of the coelacanth(s) a fish once though extinct for 65 million years! **Samantha Weinberg**
4. *A River Never Sleeps.* Seasonal account of the salmon and trout of British Columbia (with the occasional foray to the chalk streams of England) and the rivers that sustain them by a famous British Columbian angler, naturalist and conservationist (before it was fashionable). **Roderick L. Haig-Brown**
5. *The Old Man and the Sea.* A classic novella written in Cuba in 1951 about an epic and ultimately tragic battle between man, a poor Cuban fisherman named Santiago, and beast – a giant marlin (with sharks in a villainous role!). **Ernest Hemingway.** If you watch the movie, make sure you see the original with Spencer Tracy. The more recent remake is pretty sad!
6. *Cannery Row.* Not about fish *per se*, but about a feeling of a place and time and an unforgettable cast of characters including the heroic biologist, “Doc”, and the madcap “Mack” who live along Cannery Row in Monterey, California after the collapse of the great Pacific sardine fishery of the late 1940s. **John Steinbeck.** Again, the movie starring Nick Nolte and Debra Winger is a great rental.
7. *Reeling in Russia: An American Angler in Russia.* Compelling read of Russian people, culture, and landscape as seen through the adventures of an angler who fishes from the White Sea (for Atlantic salmon where he runs into the Russian mafia) to Lake Baikal (for grayling where he witnesses some environmental degradation on a true Soviet scale) to Kamchatka (for HUGE steelhead) and drinks lots (and I mean lots!) of vodka in across 11,000 km and 10 time zones. A terrific read. **Fen Montaigne**
8. *Freshwater Fishes of Canada.* Ok, so it's not exactly a page-turner, but it is the “bible” of Canadian freshwater fishes. All you ever wanted to know about the distribution, biology, and human uses of Canada's 185 or so freshwater fishes. **W.B. Scott and E.J. Crossman**
9. *Basking Sharks. The Slaughter of BC's Gentle Giants.* Another sorry tale of misunderstood animals and their mis-management. **Scott Wallace and Brian Gisborne**
10. *Your Inner Fish. A Journey into the 3.5 Billion-Year History of the Human Body.* Insights into human anatomy and development through the fins of fishes (and other animals). Explains why we look like we do! **Neil Shubin.**