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McClane's Field Guide To Saltwater Fishes Of North America

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A.J. McClane

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Synopsis

A. J. McClane profiles more than three hundred North American saltwater game fishes in this authoritative and fully illustrated handbook.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

McClane’s saltwater fish identification guide is a must for every angler -- sunburned beginner or salty old pro -- who casts a line into our bays and oceans. The most outstanding among this guide’s many strengths are its clear, concise writing in the description of each fish, and the strikingly life-like, full-color artistic renditions of most of the fish. The fish are organized by family; so where there are related species on the Atlantic and Pacific sides (e.g., among sea bass), the book does jump somewhat to and fro. However, with its thorough index and vivid illustrations, any saltwater angler should be able to locate that "mystery fish" in McClane’s within less than a minute. This book accompanied me on every fishing trip in my years of angling in South Florida and the Keys; and many an unknown fish was revealed through McClane’s pages. With this book, the difference between sheepshead and spadefish (for example) is obvious -- in feeding habits, location, water preferences and any characteristic of appearance. Whether you catch a Spanish mackeral, ladyfish, jack crevalle or even the ugly (but tasty!) guitarfish, McClanes can teach you all the important information about it, quickly. It’s the perfect size for the tacklebox; but be sure to put it in a freezer bag to keep it dry.

This book has been a constant companion on nearly all of my fishing trips, regardless of location. I
am currently on my second copy- the first was worn out from repeated use! When a question arises about habitat, water preference, etc., we whip out the ole’ McClanes to settle the argument. The pictures offer a true rendition of the fish which aides in rapid identification. The descriptions give vital information, while remaining brief enough to allow the book to function as a true “field” guide. I highly recommend this book to any angler or saltwater fish enthusiasts in need of a pocket guide.

This is a decent guide for quick information, but I would not recommend it to those who are looking for a comprehensive guide. It is missing quite a few species, and has outdated information related to certain fishes.

This particular edition might be a bit dated, but “McClane’s Field Guide to Saltwater Fishes of North America” is still a handy portable reference guide to what may have turned up on the hook or in the net at sea. In just under 300 pages, McClane covers the major species with short, clearly-written descriptions and color plates. For the casual fisher, this book ought to be pretty useful, and at a good price if used. Those looking for more precision can buy an up to date edition. Highly recommended.

This is a pretty good field guide. There is a lot of information on alot of species. I wish there were pictures of every species, but in many cases the descriptions are good enough. I would recommend this book as a companion to “A Field Guide to Atlantic Coast Fishes : North America (Peterson Field Guides)”

This book is very useful in every facet of salt water fishing, from fish physiology and habits to tackle selection. A must for every salt water fisherman. This book is equally as good as “McClane’s Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of North America.”

I got this book expecting an encyclopedia of information on each species and was a bit disappointed to find that there was great information on every species covered, the major gamefish species were not focused on in extensive detail. That’s no fault of the book and it is exactly as described- a fantastic field guide to all of the salt water fishes and I plan on taking it with me in the future when I fish to put names of the whatchamacallits! So overall, I’d say it’s a great buy for interested marine enthusiasts or beginning anglers, but for more experienced anglers—maybe look elsewhere for information on how to catch fish (maybe try Vic Dunaway’s material)