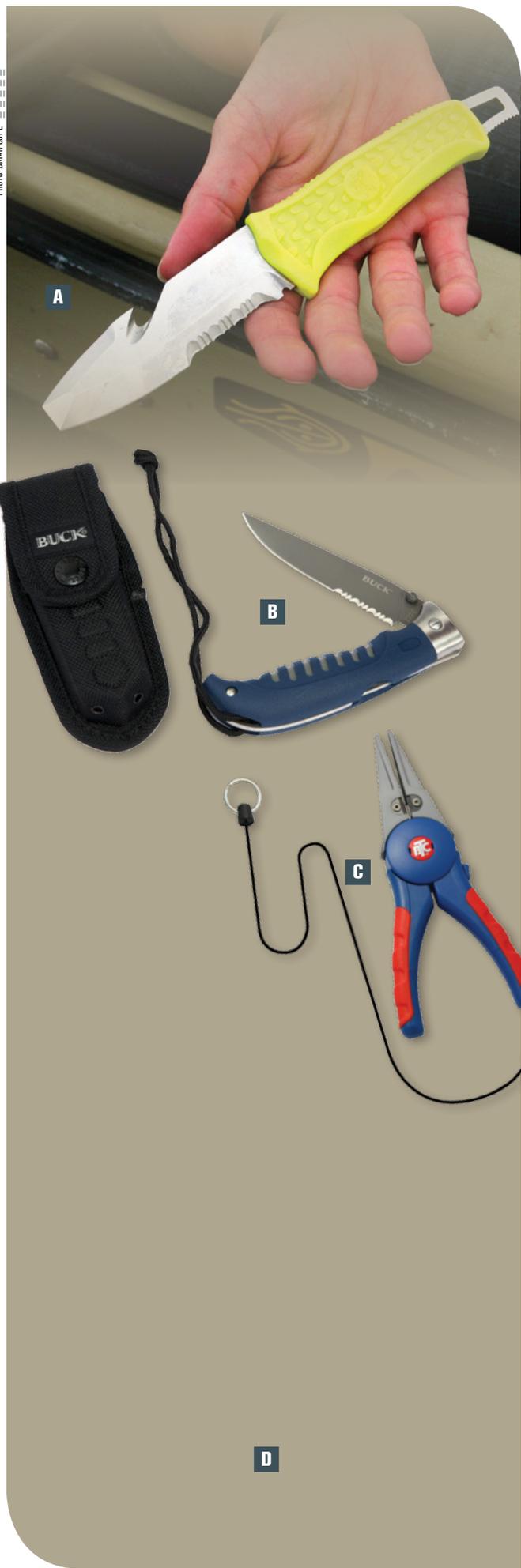


PHOTO: BRIAN COPE



{Tools}

A
**BENCHMADE 110H20
 FIXED KNIFE**

\$100 / www.benchmade.com
 Benchmade's 110H20 was born for water. The handle is Santoprene, which is fancy talk for grippy as hell even when wet. The corrosion-resistant blade has a blunt tip—a nice safety feature and handy for prying. Cutting is easy with the partially serrated blade, and a super sharp notch on the backside can whack an anchor rope or lashing strap lickety-split (it doubles as a bottle opener too). Plastic molded sheath with PFD clip included.

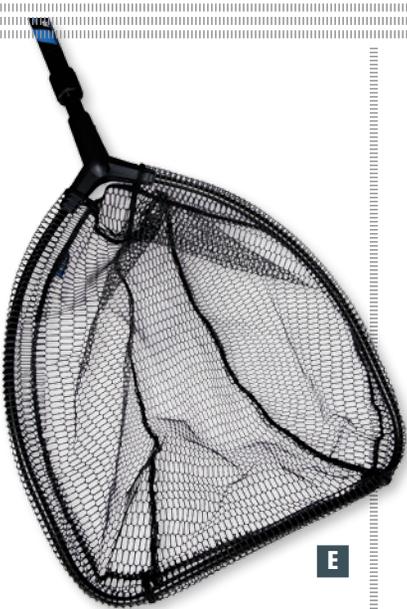
BRIAN COPE

B
**BUCK KNIVES
 SILVER CREEK VERSA 222**

\$40 / www.buckknives.com
 Buck's multi-purpose folding slicer is equally at home on the water or back at camp. Slip it in a pocket or stash the sheath on your belt—the titanium coated partially serrated blade will section a sandwich or snick right through lines. A stainless steel guard protects against premature dulling, and the rubber handle adds no-slip confidence. There's even a lanyard. PAUL LEBOWITZ

C
**BOOMERANG TOOL COMPANY
 FISHING PLIERS**

\$30 / www.boomerangtool.com
 The first forever fishing pliers, Boomerangs feature a bounce-back 36-inch spring-loaded Kevlar cable retractor. No more tool overboard. The package is nice and nicely priced, featuring anodized solid aircraft-grade aluminum handles and jaws, and silly-sharp carbide cutters—replaceable if they get tired. There's even sure-grip padding on the handles. PAUL LEBOWITZ



D
THE FISH GRIP

\$15 / www.thefishgripandmore.com
 There's no better bang for the release tool buck. The Fish Grip is compact and lightweight, easy for stowing. If it ever finds its way out of your kayak, no need to worry, it floats! The locking plastic jaws won't injure your catch—the hold is secure and safe. The only downside is the non-swivel jaw. When bringing a green fish aboard, avoid twisting the fish. JOSE CHAVEZ

E
**PROMAR PROMESH SERIES
 LANDING NET**

\$30-60 / www.promarnets.com
 Land that lunker kindly. Promar's latest telescoping net offers a deep catch and release basket formed by an exclusive coated knotless mesh. Densely spaced, it's easy on fish fins and slime coats and highly hook resistant, yet much lighter than comparable rubber-coated alternatives. The tested LN-651 has an 18- by 20-inch hoop with a 36-inch telescoping anodized aluminum handle with a soft EVA foam grip. It's good and rigid, allowing better control—and that means fewer lost fish. PAUL LEBOWITZ