

TOOLS



Yak-Gear Yak-Stick Mud Anchor

\$40-\$55
www.yak-gear.com

Everything that you need in a stake-out pole. Solid 7/8-inch PVC with a stainless steel shackle, the business end sticks firmly in the mud. The top, crowned as it is by a high-viz comfort grip handle, isn't likely to impale anything soft—like your hand. Pairs perfectly with the Click n Go Yak-Stick Leash, five-feet of shock absorbing double-braided 1/4-inch nylon.

Promar LN702 Trophy Series Collapsible Landing Net

\$35 / www.promarnets.com

A kayak staple, Promar's collapsible, telescoping nets don't take up much space until they're needed. The latest version features a dependable solid alloy yoke that opens with a couple of quick flicks of the wrist. Even better, the frame is more rigid; the 20-by-20-inch net bag is deeper, with coated snag resistant material for confident catch and release.



Ardent Reel Kleen Saltwater Reel Cleaning Kit

\$30 / www.ardentreels.com

For reels, kayak fishing is a contact sport. Keep 'em ready for action with Ardent's new Reel Kleen line-up of maintenance products. This kit is an all-in-one package, stuffed with cleaner, corrosion inhibitor, Reel Butter oil and grease and cleaning tools. Smooth.

FISH BLING

[SPIN TO WIN]

SHIMANO STRADIC CI4

www.fish.shimano.com

Shimano's latest prize winner is a gem of spinning reel. Like a diamond, this beauty is built primarily of carbon—reinforced carbon fiber in this case. The frame, sideplate and rotor are non-metallic, making the Stradic CI4 a kayak angler's dream, impervious to rust and incredibly lightweight and strong. Shielded anti-rust bearings and a waterproof drag system highlight a feature set too long to list.



\$200

BANG FOR THE \$

ABU GARCIA CARDINAL 500ALBI

www.abugarcia.com

A go-anywhere performer at a modest price, the Cardinal 500ALBI series is equally at home battling hard-charging saltwater gamesters or up at the lake plunking for bass. Instant anti-reverse and a drive system studded with nine ball bearings make for smooth going and confident hook sets. There are cheaper reels out there, but those below this class don't last long in the harsh world of kayak fishing.



\$70-80

[FLY SWATTERS]

NAUTILUS NV 8/9 FLY REEL

www.nautilusreels.com

A high-end fly reel is an expensive investment. But when it does double duty, dialed in for bass one weekend and salmon the next, you've got the rationale to fork over the extra dinero (and win over the wife). The reel in point is the Nautilus NV 8/9, fitted with the new, whisper light, large arbor G-7 spool. Run this combo in your favorite seven-weight rod AND your nine-weight! Now that's some serious versatility! —Rob Lyon



\$620

TEMPLE FORK FLY RODS MINI MAG KIT

www.templeforkflyrods.com

At a fraction of the price of a designer rod, we get a solid fishing instrument from TFO. Their Mini Mag combo rod/reel takes that value a step further. The three-piece Bluewater series rods are designed for fishing in heavy cover. All are eight footers, a sweet kayak length, and made from a blend of high mod carbon fiber and S Glass. And as for the reel, the Prism large arbor reel comes with a cork disk drag and powder coating, lightweight and ready for salt water. —Rob Lyon



\$300