# FAMILIAR FISH, THEIR HABITS AND CAPTURE; A PRACTICAL BOOK ON FRESH-WATER GAME FISH

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Familiar fish, their habits and capture; a practical book on fresh-water game fish by Eugene McCarthy

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# **EUGENE MCCARTHY**

# FAMILIAR FISH, THEIR HABITS AND CAPTURE; A PRACTICAL BOOK ON FRESH-WATER GAME FISH





How not to eatch fish,



AMERICAN ROOM ETHERE.

# FAMILIAR FISH

# THEIR HABITS AND CAPTURE

A PRACTICAL BOOK ON FRESH-WATER GAME FISH

BY

## EUGENE McCARTHY

AUTHOR OF THE LEADING OUTSANDCHE, A TALE OF LAKE ST. JOHN, ETC.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

DR. DAVID STARR JORDAN

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## PREFATORY NOTE

EVERY healthy boy, every rightminded man, and every uncaged woman feels, at one time or another, and maybe at all times, the impulse to go a-fishing. That is what fishes

> are for: to call us away from newspapers and counting rooms, school books and parlors and five-o'clock teas, out into the open of existence, where life is real and banks are green, skies are blue, and the birds sing in the branches over the water.

> It does not matter much what fishes are in the streams. Still less is it essential that we should succeed in catching them. The main thing



"Born beneath the Pish's sign."

is the breaking away, the going in search of them, the generous feeling of brotherhood, and that trusting of ourselves to the lap of our generous Mother, which we have inadequately called "communion with Nature."

Yet it is well to know in advance something of where we are going, what fishes we shall find, and with what means we shall call them forth to suit our pleasure. To give this is the purpose of this book. Its writer is a successful angler. He is a good fisherman. He would teach others to be successful. Not that he would train them to be "fish hogs," or teach them to make a longer string or fill a bigger basket than any hogs before them. These things are abhorred of gods and sportsmen. It is better far to lie about your great catch than to make it. The fisherman's lie is natural and sportsmanlike. His greed is not. It is, I am sure, the wish of the author that the reader should make his catch in sportsmanlike fashion, that he should learn to love the streams and their inhabitants, and that so loving, as the seasons go on, he should return to river, rod, and fly again and again, finding each year in the stream the fishes that his need demands. For it is written that to be "born beneath the Fish's sign" is to bear through life the subtle influence of the "happiest of constellations." DAVID STARR JORDAN.

Palo Alto, California, February 10, 1900.

# AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION



Studying augling.

That "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" is a saying the truth of which can not be denied, whether it be applied to boys of young or mature years. Occasional recreation is required to maintain good health, but it must not be

allowed to interfere with serious work of any nature. With the hope that those whose inclinations tend toward the harmless and health-giving sport of angling, and others who may become converts to it, may both find necessary and helpful instruction in the art from its pages, this work has been prepared.

The difficulties to be met with in endeavoring to teach one how to fish successfully through the medium of a book are best explained in the following passage from the introduction to Isaac Walton's Compleat Angler, published in 1653. The extract