EDUCATION

Ocarina Of Time Fishing Guide

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Introduction

Few side activities in the **Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time** have captured the hearts of players quite like the fishing minigame. From the moment you can wander Hyrule Field as an adult, a detour to the tranquil Fishing Pond offers a welcome respite from the relentless pressures of saving the world from Ganondorf. This isn't simply a casual diversion, however. The pond hides mysteries, a legendary prize, and one of the most sought-after items in the entire game. This **Ocarina of Time fishing guide** will take you from a novice angler to a master who can catch every fish type, break every record, and claim every reward. Whether you are revisiting the game on Nintendo 64, GameCube, or the 3DS remake, these strategies hold true.

This comprehensive **Ocarina of Time fishing guide** covers everything you need to know: where to find the pond, how to use the rod effectively, how to identify every fish species, and the techniques required to land the legendary Hylian Loach. We will also explore the conditions that affect fishing, such as weather and time of day, and detail the rewards that make the effort worthwhile. By the end, the only thing you'll be missing is your tackle box.

Overview: The Fishing Minigame in Ocarina of Time

The fishing minigame is accessed once Link reaches adulthood. It is located near the Lost Woods, on the east side of Hyrule Field. You need at least 10 Rupees (or 5 Rupees as a child, though the child-only fishing is not in the original N64 version and is instead a feature of the 3DS remaster). The pond is run by the friendly proprietor known as the Fishing Guy. He will lend you a Fishing Rod and provide you with a bucket of water and a container of green bait (which is actually a type of frog or fish food, depending on who you ask).

The core challenge is simple: catch the largest fish you can. But the nuances are deep. The fish have AI, react to light, shadows, and the position of the lure or bobber. The pond has different zones with varying depths, and each species prefers specific areas. Your **Ocarina of Time fishing guide** must therefore address both basic mechanics and advanced tactics.

Location and Access

To reach the Fishing Pond as an adult, exit Hyrule Castle Town through the main gate into Hyrule Field. Head north-east, past the large tree and the ruins of the Temple of Time (visible as a child). You will see a small fenced area near a tree line. The entrance is a small opening leading to a wooden door. Pay the proprietor 10 Rupees to begin. As a child, you can visit the pond in some versions (most notably the 3DS remake) but the fishing mechanics differ slightly and the rewards are not as significant. For the purposes of this **Ocarina of Time fishing guide**, we focus on the adult Link experience.

Important Note: Save and Reload

If you accidentally leave the pond or find that the fish are not cooperating, save your game by pausing and selecting "Save" (or using a nearby save point outside the pond). Reload to reset the fish positions and the weather. This is a critical technique for any serious angler.

Equipment: Rod, Bait, and Controls

The Fishing Rod

Link automatically uses the Fishing Rod when you step into the pond. You can cast the line by pressing the designated button (B on N64, or the corresponding face button in later ports). The further you press and hold, the further the bobber (or lure) travels. The rod's line has a fixed length, so you cannot outfish the far bank – but that is not an issue.

Fishing Bait Types

There are three types of bait available in the pond:

- Green Bait (Frog Bait): The default bait. It floats on the surface and attracts many fish, especially Hylian Bass.
- Red Bait (Sinking Lure): You can acquire red bait by catching a fish of a certain type (a Hylian Bass) and showing it to the Fishing Guy. He will allow you to use the red sinking lure. This lure dives deeper and is essential for catching the Hylian Loach, as it reaches the bottom.
- Blue Bait (Worm Bait): Not available in all versions; in the original N64 game, the third bait option is not present. However, the 3DS version adds a blue bait that mimics a small frog, which can be effective for specific species.

For this **Ocarina of Time fishing guide**, we will focus on the standard green bait and the red sinking lure, as these are the primary tools for adult Link.

Controls Summary

1. Cast: Hold the fishing button to power up the cast, release to throw.
2. Reel: Use the control stick (or d-pad) to reel in the line. Reeling slowly is usually more effective than fast reeling.
3. Bobber/Lure Movement: After casting, you can move the bobber left or right by tilting the stick while reeling. You can also lift the rod tip to make the lure jump – this simulates a fleeing creature and can attract aggressive fish like the Loach.
4. Hook a Fish: When a fish bites, a visual cue (the bobber sinks under water) and a sound alert occur. You have a short window to press the fishing button to set the hook. If you are too late, the fish will spit out the lure. Timing is everything.
5. Reel the Fish In: After hooking the fish, you must hold the button to pull it in. The fish will struggle. If you reel while the fish swims away, the line will break and you lose the catch. Instead, wait until the fish stops struggling, then reel rapidly. You can also lift the rod (press up on the stick) to tire the fish faster. It's a battle of patience.

Fish Species in the Fishing Pond

Understanding the different fish is the cornerstone of any successful **Ocarina of Time fishing guide**. The pond contains several species, each with its own behavior and size ranges.

Hylian Bass

This is the most common fish. It is grey with a dark back. Hylian Bass can be caught anywhere in the pond, but larger specimens (over 20 pounds) tend to lurk in the deeper parts near the fallen tree and under the dock. Use green bait for best results. Hylian Bass are not aggressive and will nibble cautiously. The world record Hylian Bass is considered to be around 30+ pounds, but you will need precise timing and a bit of luck.

Largemouth Bass

This species is similar to the Hylian Bass but has a larger mouth and a more yellowish belly. They are slightly rarer. They respond well to both green and red bait. The largest Largemouth Bass can exceed 35 pounds, making it a trophy catch.

Loach (Hylian Loach)

The legendary Hylian Loach is the pinnacle of the fishing minigame. It is a long, eel-like fish with a spotted body. It is extremely fast and easily breaks the line if you are not careful. The Loach can only be caught using the red sinking lure, and it resides exclusively in the deep area beneath the fallen tree trunk near the waterfall. The Loach is also very sensitive to noise and movement. It will ignore your lure if you cast incorrectly or if you have the wrong bait. The Loach is the only fish that can unlock the secret fifth catch in the pond's record book. Catching it is the ultimate goal of this **Ocarina of Time fishing guide**.

Other Fish (Not Catchable)

There are also small fish (like minnows) that appear but cannot be caught. Ignore them.

Records and Rewards: Why You Should Fish

There are two primary rewards for your fishing efforts: a Heart Piece and the Golden Scale. Both are essential for completing the game (the Heart Piece for full health, and the Golden Scale for diving deeper in the Water Temple and other locations).

Heart Piece

To obtain the Heart Piece, you must catch a fish weighing at least 14 pounds or more. This is relatively easy with a bit of practice. The pond's record book in the fishing hut will register your largest catch. Once you bring in a fish that beats the record (the default record varies by version, but is typically around 9-13 pounds), the Fishing Guy will give you a Heart Piece. This is your first major goal.

Golden Scale

The Golden Scale is the premier reward. To earn it, you must catch a fish of at least 20 pounds. However, this is not the only condition: you must also have caught every species of fish (including the Hylian Loach) to fill the record book. Once you catch a 20+ pound fish *and* have all species registered, the Fishing Guy gives you the Golden Scale. The Golden Scale increases your diving meter by one level, allowing you to reach underwater chests and secrets you would otherwise miss.

Other Minor Rewards

- Rupees – The Fishing Guy will sometimes give you a prize of 50 Rupees for catching a very large fish, but this is not guaranteed.
- Fishing Record Bragging Rights – The record book in the hut will display your best catches. This serves no gameplay purpose, but it is satisfying.

How to Catch Every Fish Type: Detailed Strategy

Strategic Fishing Spots

The pond is divided into three main zones: the shallow near the entrance, the middle area with lily pads, and the deep end near the waterfall and the fallen log. For the largest Hylian Bass and Largemouth Bass, fish near the fallen tree (the large brown trunk that extends from the waterfall area into the water). Cast your line so that the bobber lands just beyond the log, near the darker water. This is where the big fish cruise.

Use green bait. Cast as far as you can toward the deeper water. Wait with the bobber still for 10-15 seconds. If

nothing happens, reel in slowly, occasionally stopping. Big fish often investigate a stationary lure. When you see the bobber twitch, prepare to set the hook. Do not reel immediately; wait for the bobber to sink completely. Then press the button firmly. Once hooked, keep the rod tip up and allow the fish to tire itself out. Reeling too fast will cause the line to break. This is especially important for fish over 20 pounds.

Catching the Hylian Loach: Step by Step

The Loach is the hardest fish to catch, and this **Ocarina of Time fishing guide** dedicates special attention to it. Follow these steps:

1. Get the Red Sinking Lure: First catch a standard Hylian Bass (any size). Take it out of the water and show it to the Fishing Guy. He will comment and then unlock the red lure for you. You must have completed this step before you can even see the Loach.
2. Go to the Deep Log Area: The Loach only spawns in the area directly under the fallen tree trunk, near the waterfall. Stand on the small wooden dock or the shore near the tree.
3. Equip the Red Lure: Press the item button to cycle to the red sinking lure. You can also switch bait in the pause menu.

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