



Monte Burke

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Best Apps for Fishing

So I've spent some time recently checking out fishing-related apps for Apple's iPhone. Frankly I was not terribly impressed with most of the offerings, which seemed amateurish and not really helpful in any way.

But I did find two that I liked. The first is from venerable fly fishing company, Orvis. The **Ultimate Fly Fishing Guide** basically collates a bunch of things that one could put together or find on the Internet or in fishing how-to books. But its utility is that you have all of these things in one spot, and Orvis has done a bang-up job of presenting them in a graphically-pleasing manner.



An example is the section on knots. Trying to learn a knot from a book has always been a hollow experience. Orvis has put together a dynamic, quasi-3D (or at least, 2D) demonstration of the basic knots.

Same with the casting demonstrations. You basically have what you would get from top-notch casting videos, but right at your fingertips. It's the next best thing to having **Lefty Kreh** show you in person.

Orvis has also included a section that has fishing reports from all over the country, and a section for flies, where, in theory anyway, you could be on a stream, spot a hatching insect, and look it up to see if you had the matching fly.

(RANT ALERT...But I must digress here for a moment. I'm of the opinion that if you take your mobile device with you while you fish, hunt or hike, you should keep it off. Of course I understand the argument for having one handy in case of an emergency. But I do not understand the need to make calls or check emails while in the woods or on the water. It kind defeats the purpose of being out there, doesn't it? I was shocked to read the story in *Fly Fishing in Salt Waters* about Tom Evans, who caught a pending world record tarpon near Pine Island, Fla., a fish that was spotted by his guide. Evans initially didn't see the fish because he was too busy talking on his cell phone. Cripes!...END OF RANT)

As a whole, Orvis' app is very well done. It costs \$24.99, but with your purchase, you get a \$10 gift certificate.

The other app out there worth checking out is **FishMatePro**, which was put together by former professional angler-cum-radio personality, **Sammy Lee**. The app (\$19.99) has a ton of useful information for the angler who is preparing for a fishing trip, including moon phases, sunrise/sunset times and barometric pressure.

You can also use the app as a quasi-journal, where you can record and photograph your catches, then use Google maps and a GPS to mark your honeyholes. There's even a recipe section for cooking your catch. Saltwater anglers might want to check out one of Lee's other apps, **FirstMate** (\$39.99), which has all of the above, plus info on tides.

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ABOUT ME

I am a staff writer at Forbes, where I cover mainly sports and lifestyle topics. Some of my favorite stories I've done here include profiles of George H.W. Bush, Nick Saban, Joe Moglia, Robert Kraft and Yvon Chouinard. I like trying to figure out the "why" when it comes to the folks I interview and write about.

I've been at Forbes since late 2000, but I did take a one-year sabbatical to write "Sowbelly: The Obsessive Quest for the World Record Largemouth Bass." The book was named one of the best of the year by both Sports Illustrated and Amazon.com, and was chosen for Barnes & Noble's "Discover Great New Writers" program. It was a lot of fun to do.

I also co-edited "Leaper: The Wonderful World of Atlantic Salmon Fishing," an anthology that The (London) Times named one of the best sports books of the year.

I'm not a natural-born blogger, but I'm going to give it the old college try. "Flow" is meant to evoke the