It's necessary to carry quite a bit of stuff when wadefishing. Some of the items aid in handling and releasing fish ethically, others provide back up or alternative gear, and still others allow for documenting what is caught. I no longer use a "wading" belt to help me carry equipment when I'm immersed in the brine, though I do wear a back support belt made by Simms.

I abandoned wading belts after using them for many years, primarily because I lost so many favorite lures when boxes slipped out of pouches and floated off. Today, I use a belt-free system which works best for me.

I carry my hat (baseball cap) on my head, even if it's dark or nearly dark, in which case I have a small light clipped to the brim. I carry my Costa Del Mar shades either on my hat, in a shirt or jacket pocket, or over my eyes, and I never leave the boat without them, unless it's dark or the sun is about to set. I keep my Power Pole remote around my neck on its lanyard. In my shirt or jacket pockets, I carry an Olympus Stylus Tough waterproof digital camera attached to a wrist-accessible flotation device, extra leader line on a plastic spool, lip balm, a flexible measuring tape, a rag for wiping moisture off my shades, and a bag (or bags) of soft plastics, with extra jigheads of at least two sizes inside. I clip the business end of my Boga Grip to a zip tie I've placed on the small loop beside the pocket of my shirt, so it hangs in front of my chest, if I'm wet wading. The zip tie prevents the "teeth" of the Boga from slipping off the shirt. When I'm wearing waders, I carry the Boga in the same manner, using the length adjustment clips on the shoulder straps. Attached to the expensive fish-handling scale is a small length of cord running through a float which will prevent it from sinking if it's dropped. I carry extra topwaters and twitch baits (normally about 5 to 8) in a small Plano plastic box, which I stuff into the top of my wading pants if wading wet and into the top of my waders if I'm wearing them. My stainless steel pliers are kept in the pocket of my wading pants in warm weather, in the pocket of my jacket or waders when it's cooler.

Normally, I don't carry a stringer, since I don't want to run the risk of losing a monster trout which becomes tangled in the cord. If forced to carry one, meaning I'm alone and I need one in case I throat-hook a fish, or because I'm fishing a tournament, I keep the stringer wound up and tucked away until it's needed, then I deploy it by placing its spike into a loop on my wading belt or poking it into the Styrofoam float on my Boga Grip. I never tie a stringer to me when wading, not because I'm afraid of sharks, but because doing so is an inefficient waste of time.

My system works for me; many others use wading belts and love them. Since I don't wear one, I can't really recommend a particular brand, but I believe any good wading belt provides back support, securely holds a small lure box, has a sheath for pliers and a slot specifically designed for stringer placement.

As for the rod holders many manufactures place on wading belts, I don't see a need for those. All experienced waders learn to hold their rod and reel under their arm when handling fish or changing lures. Carrying a second rod is not a good idea most of the time in my opinion, as its reel often winds up dunked in the drink. Another thing I have no need for is a landing net. I'm an

acknowledged net-hater. Those who intend on carrying and using a landing net will need to figure out a way to attach the thing to them when wading; a net lying in the back of the boat won't help a wading angler land a fish.

   In my book/dvd combo entitled *Inshore Angler's Blueprint for Success,* I've given a much longer, more complete dissertation on the topic of wadefishing clothing and accessories. I've also listed and described many other systems and specific items I use when fishing. To purchase the combo (or the book by itself), go to www.fishbaffinbay.com and order by credit card, or call me at 361-688-3714 if you wish to send me a check.