I think fishing as a culture in Philly is similar to just about any other activity about which people are passionate. Since fishing overall is a very popular past time in the US it's bound to draw from a wide spectrum of social strata and also have subgroups within the culture, whether driven by socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or species preference. I've fished along side rich and poor guys in the city, and along side virtually every culture. I dig that. I wish more Philly anglers showed concern for the fisheries that we have here. But more often than not they don't, which is frustrating and maddening. They treat fishing spots like garbage dumps.



2) Hmmm, balancing work and fishing. I'm self employed, so if I don't work I don't get paid. That said, sometimes I have the flexibility to grab a quick lunchtime fishing session if it's nearby. I'm also a family man, so I can't just disappear to go fishing whenever I want—which is often. Fortunately, both my kids are interested in fishing, so that helps me both get my fix as well as spend quality time with my kids, and instill appreciation of fishing and the environment.



3) My overall favorite fishing spot in Philly would have to be the Schuylkill, both tidal and non-tidal sections, because of its easy accessibility and the broad range of species it offers.



4) If you've got what I call the fishing "virus" you're going to fish no matter where you are, city, surburbs, country side or coast. I've always loved fishing and never really had the chance to fish as often as I wanted to. Memorial Day weekend of 2014 marked the beginning of my full-blown obsession with fishing—I was at a friend's place in NH and caught my first game fish (LMB and pickerel) on lures and that changed everything. I brought that excitement (and obsession) back to Philly, and try to wet my lines whenever possible. Whether in Philly proper or the surrounding area. There is definitely good fishing to be had here. Our waterways may not be pristine, but whose waterways are these days. Even if I'm doing dawn patrol on the non-tidal skuke, it still gives me great pleasure being outdoors and taking it all in.



Favorite fish species? That's a tough one because I'm a multi-species angler. But if I had to pick one, I'd have to say smallmouth bass. They fight like hell. (I'd have to give a close second to brown trout that are caught on spinners—I landed a couple at the Wiss this year that put up spectacular fights).