

Ultimate Surf Belt

We were wondering if our eyes were deceiving us on a Memorial Day weekend in Montauk Point, New York, the self proclaimed Surf Fishing Capital of the World. Yes, we expected crowded conditions and yes we even expected to see a few newcomers to the sport take their maiden dunking from the slippery rocks that dot the shore. What we didn't expect to see was so many surfcasters not wearing surf belts with their waders! We can only tell you what we know from our personal experience. That experience tells us to never, ever set foot in the water, onto a rock or in a marsh without a belt encircling around our ever-expanding waistline. Surf belts serve two purposes. First, and most important, it stops the water from filling your waders should you fall into the surf.... and fall you will! The surf belt should always be worn over your jacket and waders and tightly cinched. Second, the belt also serves as a great place to attach your gripper tool, pliers, camera, pork rind, small lure bag, bottle of water and yes, even that peanut butter sandwich your grandma made for you.

So why do so many chose to fish without one? We can only guess it's because they never drove a hundred miles naked on the highway like one of our friends did when he got soaked far away from home, and did not have any dry clothes to change into. We are sure he drove the speed limit and not a mile faster because being asked to "step out of a car" would have been challenging to say the least for him and the police officer.

There are many belts on the market today and we like a lot of them including Commando, MAK, Rock Hopper and many others. But we heard a lot of chatter about a surf belt with name "Ultimate Surf Belt" made on Long Island, NY by a local sharpie, Steve Knapik. At first we were put off by the name because everything we ever tried that was called ultimate something-or-other eventually proved to be average at best, but after using Steve's Ultimate Surf Belt, we are starting to think that the name fits the product. We'll be brief but to the point. To put it simply, what this belt is, is what a lot of belts on the market are not. It's made out of stiff Scuba Belting and will fit most two inch sheaths, attachments, D-rings or other contraptions we use on our belts.

The star of this belt is the 304 Stainless Steel compression spring dive buckle. Holy crap, do we like this buckle! First, the 304 Stainless Steel resists corrosion. Second, it's spring loaded so when you load up on Bush Baked Beans before your fishing trip, the buckle will expand along with your flatulence. We are not



kidding about this! This buckle actually expands and contracts slightly which means you will never be uncomfortable on a rock again. The portion that goes through the buckle and the area immediately after the buckle both feature stitched Velcro. What does this mean? It means that once you attach your belt, even before you close the buckle, the threaded part of the belt folds up to the attached Velcro on the opposite side. So if you are standing on a rock and need to adjust the belt, all you do is open the buckle and adjust it, but your belt is still attached via Velcro. Trust us, we lost our share of belts over the years and even worse, we broke our share of flimsy, plastic buckles. We can almost guarantee that if you use the Ultimate Surf Belt as it's designed to be used, your chance of losing your belt are slim to none. So stop using crappy belts with plastic buckles to carry your ultra expensive pliers, and your even more expensive digital cameras. There are a lot of good belts out there, but the Ultimate Surf Belt website should definitely be one of the first places you visit when you are doing your research.

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