

Fishing from a kayak involves using some innovative tactics
By LEE TOLLIVER, The Virginian-Pilot
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He calls it the "Flounder Scoop."

The move was borne out of necessity for Kevin Whitley , a guy who fishes almost exclusively from a kayak .

Getting some fish onto the narrow strip of plastic he calls a boat isn't always easy.

Especially bigger fish that could easily cause him to roll his craft while landing them.

The "Scoop," however, isn't without its risks. It involves flopping one leg into the water. Whitley puts the leg under bigger fish and uses it to help lift the fish onto the bow of his kayak.

He has used the "Scoop" on plenty of his bigger catches, including his latest triumph - a 47 -inch red drum that earned him a citation from the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament.

He even got the fish out of the water for a photograph - without rolling the kayak.

"Good balance," Whitley said.

Whitley has "Scooped" all kinds of big fish, even a 38 -inch striped bass caught while trolling - paddling with a fishing rod in a holder - off Virginia Beach .

A 35 -year-old Norfolk resident who works at Taylor's Landing Marine Center , Whitley is one of the top kayak anglers around. Most know him as "Kayak Kevin."

"Yep, all my fishing is done in a kayak," Whitley said. "It really keeps me in shape."

There aren't many fish he hasn't caught from a kayak. The list includes just about every inshore species caught around South Hampton Roads and plenty found in the shallow waters of Florida.

It was down south where Whitley experienced one of his toughest challenges.

Whitley had hold of a large snook that was dragging him all over a populated shoreline.

"It took me toward a boat dock," Whitley said. "Then the fish went under the dock, and I had to go after him."

Reach Lee Tolliver at (757) 222-5844 or Lee.Tolliver@pilotonline.com