

Water Law Review

Volume 11 | Issue 2

Article 25

1-1-2008

Tackle Box

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Custom Citation

Gregory J. Hobbs, Tackle Box, 11 U. Denv. Water L. Rev. 379 (2008).

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Tackle Box

TACKLE BOX

A metal box,
splotched in watermarks,
big snap latches,
deep bottom,
several smaller trays
underneath the lid
can't hide what's hid.
Pop the latches open!

Tight with rust,
but ready enough,
those helping hands
slide you towards
a full array of line
of suitable strength
and necessary counter-
weight for handling torrent.

Feathered trailing spoons,
red and silver streamers,
mepps, daredevil, black panthers,
fishy plugs and wooly worms,
darting sinking things a skilled wrist
can place between bottom
and the leading edge of
whatever's hidden.

Now, boys, keep your lines in
the water and when you feel
a nibble, don't horse it.
Pull back and set your mark.
Stand on your own two feet,
your eyes always on the target
and may you love each other well
and your mother and your sister.