It has been a good many years since I fished in the Atlantic Ocean, but this well-illustrated text certainly whets my appetite to try it once again. It is well known that North Carolina’s 175 miles of outer coast offers some of the best fishing on the entire Eastern Seaboard. Stan Ulanski discusses the entire outer coast of North Carolina, as well as the Pamlico Sound which separates the Outer Banks from the mainland.

The author seems to touch all the bases from north to south and east to west. He describes in detail each of the ways that a fisherman can land his catch. There are six main types of fishing. One can fish from the shore and this is called “surf fishing.” The other types are for the most part, self-explanatory: they are Pier fishing, Sound (Pamlico) fishing, Offshore fishing, Inshore fishing, and last but not least, Reef, Ledge and Wreck fishing. The North Carolina coast with its Outer Banks and the Pamlico Sound offers all of these types. Ulanski, without being too wordy, details each of these types of fishing. I’m sure that experienced fishermen may have at one time or other, tried one or all of these types. When I was young, I remember family outings off the shores of Long Island, NY. It was a day on the high seas; once you passed through a little spell of seasickness, the rest of the day was pure pleasure. Those were days to remember.

Two chapters are devoted to the various types of fish that inhabit these waters and include pictures of fish that are native to these environs. Sometimes a fish may appear slightly unattractive, but as the main course in your dinner you are able to savor the day’s efforts. As a special bonus the author includes several delicious recipes at the end of the book.

Also at the end of the book, Ulanski provides lists of fishing piers, marinas, kayak outfitters, and stores, up and down the coast selling the gear one needs and offering advice on where the best fishing in the area exists. Although one might consider this book almost a text book, it would be welcome in any public library system. Stan Ulanski is a devoted angler and his passion shows through in his story of fishing the Outer Banks of North Carolina. He is a Professor of Geology and Environmental Science at James Madison University.