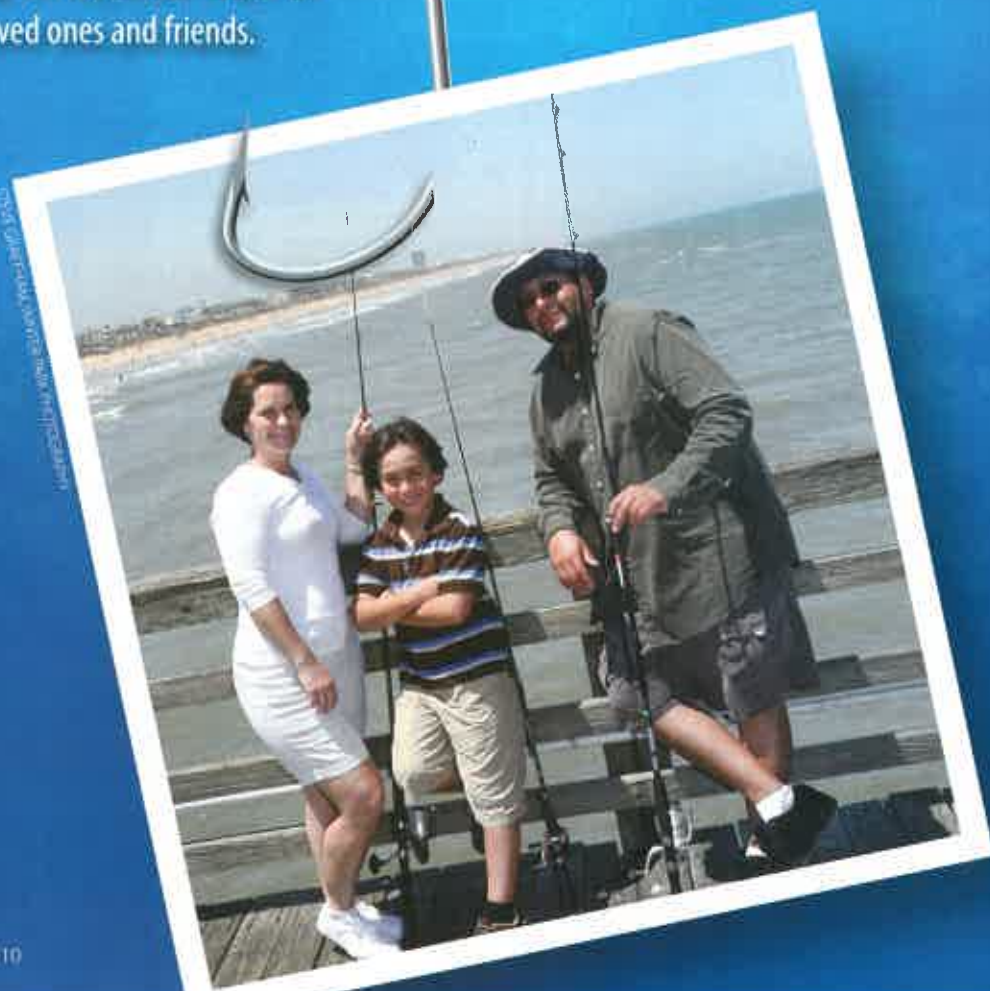


Tooked on Fishing

The Vasquetelle family has found that fishing is a great way to spend quality time with loved ones and friends.



Nydia, Izik and Israel Vasquetelle fish for family fun.

By Matt Bendell

For Israel Vasquetelle of downtown Orlando, childhood memories of fishing were not positive ones, but nevertheless, all of that changed in a surprising way after he married and had a child of his own. Vasquetelle remembers deep-sea fishing as a kid and says he had a terrible time. “I became extremely seasick,” says Vasquetelle. “Ever since then, I had always associated fishing with having a bad time.” Then his son received a Batman fishing pole from his grandparents and Vasquetelle thought he’d give fishing a try again: This time from a pier. It made all the difference in the world.

Rediscovering Fishing

When Vasquetelle’s son Izik began asking him to take him fishing with his new fishing pole, Vasquetelle kept putting him off. Eventually, he couldn’t put him off any longer and Vasquetelle decided to give it a try. Thankfully, he did because the experience turned into something so special, father and son now see it as bonding time. Vasquetelle’s wife Nydia comes along too sometimes. The Vasquetelles all agree that, as a family, fishing is a great way to enjoy nature together. “It’s

nice to be able to leave our worries behind, be together and enjoy the beautiful sunrise or sunset, depending on where it is we’re fishing,” Nydia says.

Getting Hooked

That very first time Vasquetelle fished with his son, he admits he had no idea what type of bait to use. Luckily, a kind, elderly man working behind the counter was willing to help. “After I thanked him, he said, ‘that’s why I’m here, to teach nice young men like yourself how to teach your kids to fish.’” Vasquetelle says if that man hadn’t shown interest in helping, they might have never kept on fishing.

Family Bonding

For Vasquetelle, fishing provides a unique opportunity to spend quality time with friends and family. “I’ve taken friends who’d never thought they’d fish. I’ve taken my mom, who would never dream of going fishing—and sure enough, I noted that look of excitement when she caught her first fish on a trip,” says Vasquetelle. “I’ve gone with my brother and my stepdad, who, by the way, I hadn’t fished with since getting sick



on that boat trip as a kid. It’s a special time to connect.”

Once while fishing with his son in Titusville, Vasquetelle recalls: “My son had something on the line. He was struggling to bring it in. Finally the line snapped. He was so sad. I saw a tear drop from his eye. I held him and said, ‘son, there’s more fish in the sea.’ I knew I would have to say that one day in the future, but didn’t realize it would be literally.”

For the Vasquetelle family, taking every possible opportunity to fish together is important. They seem to understand that it’s not just about catching fish. The true lure of fishing comes from absorbing the beauty of nature while spending time together. **L**

For more information on pier fishing visit our website at CentralFloridaLifestyle.com.