

Opening Lines

## CHARLIE MOORE IS OFF THE HOOK

After more than a year of doom and gloom, TV's favorite fisherman wants you to kick back, relax, and have some doggone fun this summer.

Seriously.

*By Jonathan Soroff*

Photographs by Scott Cook





**He has a flashy designer wardrobe,** a thick Boston accent, and a bright-yellow Lamborghini—in other words, not exactly what you’d expect from a typical outdoorsman. Then again, Charlie Moore, a.k.a. “The Mad Fisherman,” is anything but typical. The North Shore native, who started fishing as a kid in Boston Harbor, has transformed his hobby and his irrepressible irreverence into a mini media empire as TV’s most beloved “bruh.” Now in its 25th season, *Charlie Moore Outdoors* airs on NESN, while his other fishing program, *Charlie Moore No Offense*, is shown worldwide on Amazon Prime, both with celebrity guests ranging from Bobby Orr to Ted Nugent. Just in time for warmer weather, we caught up with the 11-time Emmy winner to talk local fishing holes, Lake Winnepesaukee, and what he’d wear for a day on the water with Kim Kardashian.

**Do you have a favorite place to fish?**

That’s like asking a chef his favorite food to cook. Lake Winnepesaukee is probably my all-time favorite. It’s got so many awesome things to offer, being so close to Boston. Obviously, I’ve fished all over the world, and it depends on what you’re going for, but overall, the atmosphere and the people up there, the vibe, the lifestyle. On a hot summer night in July, enjoying a few cocktails, a couple of cigars? It doesn’t really get any better than that.

**Saltwater versus freshwater: Which do you prefer?**

That’s like blondes and brunettes: It doesn’t matter what I prefer, because they’re both great. I like saltwater. I like freshwater. There are so many great things about being in Falmouth or Chatham, or down the Cape in general. The fishing is great. The lifestyle is great. But freshwater fishing is awesome, too. I love the boats, the lake. I love life on the big lakes, the atmosphere. So, if I had to pick one over the other, the answer is I can’t.

**The old trick of holding a fish out in front of you so that it looks a lot bigger in pictures:**

**How often have you done that?**  
Bullshit! What do you mean? Total bullshit. I’ve had fish that were 7 pounds and looked like they were 3 pounds, and fish that were 3 pounds that looked like 7. If you think I’m taking time to actually doctor a photo? C’mon, gimme a break. No.

**Single most important survival skill?**

Mental attitude. Mental toughness. The thing about surviving, even if you don’t know what you’re good at, and even if you don’t know what you’re doing, is the mental challenge. It’s important in any situation, being

mentally confident, really in any aspect of life. Some people call it common sense. Some people call it game awareness, knowing the playing field, whatever.

#### How would you do on the TV show *Naked and Afraid*?

Oh, God, I can't believe there haven't been any lawsuits filed against that show yet. But how would I do? I wouldn't do it. I just wouldn't. I'd be more afraid, mostly of those people.

#### Is there a celebrity you had on your show who made you star-struck?

Absolutely, no question, hands down, the number one guy would be Adam West from *Batman*. Bobby Orr is just a great guy and a great athlete from Boston. But Adam West? He's Batman! We were together for like three, four days, and he was just insanely funny. He knew everyone and did everything, twice, and when he would get up and take a piss off my boat, I'd be like, "Hey, everybody! Right now! Look! Batman is pissing off my boat!" It was hysterical.

#### Person you'd most like to go camping with?

I would probably say Jason Sta-

tham. I mean, something's gonna happen, right? You're just sitting there roasting marshmallows, having a good time, hanging out, and all of a sudden, like 16 friggin' Black Ops people show up from Russia, and Jason just takes them all out. And then he just sits back down and I say, "Jason, I love you, man. You're the best dude. Every time I go camping, you're coming with me."

#### Person you'd least want to go camping with?

That is a really tough question.

#### I would think you might say somebody like Kim Kardashian, somebody super high-maintenance.

Are you kidding? I'd love to take her camping! Holy shit. I'm a total fashion queen over here. I'm fishing in Hugo Boss and \$400 shoes! I'm the furthest thing from a friggin' outdoorsman. But you know who I wouldn't want to go camping with? A politician. Or anyone with a political agenda. It would be like, "Please leave now or get mauled by a mountain lion."

#### You're also the executive producer of the hockey shows *Behind the B and Bruins*

#### Academy. What's the biggest life lesson that hockey has taught you?

I hate to be a cliché, but the team aspect of it. I mean, the athleticism is amazing. These guys are super talented. They are so coordinated, so talented, so skilled, to be doing all of that. It's like playing basketball on skates. Crazy. But it's truly *the* team sport, because everyone on the ice contributes. A total team effort.

#### And the biggest life lesson fishing has taught you?

Just to have fun. I don't think people have enough fun in their lives. I don't care what you think of me, or my show, or whatever, but I've always had fun, and I've always wanted to make people laugh. When you go fishing? You're hanging out with your dad, your grandfather, your grandmother, your brother, your wife, whoever, and it's a bonding experience. Even if you don't catch anything, how can you say it was a bad time? Are you out of your mind? Like, what's wrong with you? People are just too uptight. They're wound super tight. I think everybody just needs a big old glass of chill.

#### Who would win in a wrestling match: you or Bear Grylls?

Me. Totally. Gimme a break. I'm from Boston. We don't lose at anything.

#### Grossest thing you ever ate?

Well, I'm Greek, right, so there's a lot of gross stuff that we think is really good. Oh, good Lord. I'd have to say, what do they call those things? The cow balls. Rocky Mountain oysters.

#### Who's the best fisherman you know?

I'm going to say the Gorton's fisherman. He catches the best fish sticks, man.

#### Was the almost-lifelike Mitt Romney any fun to fish with?

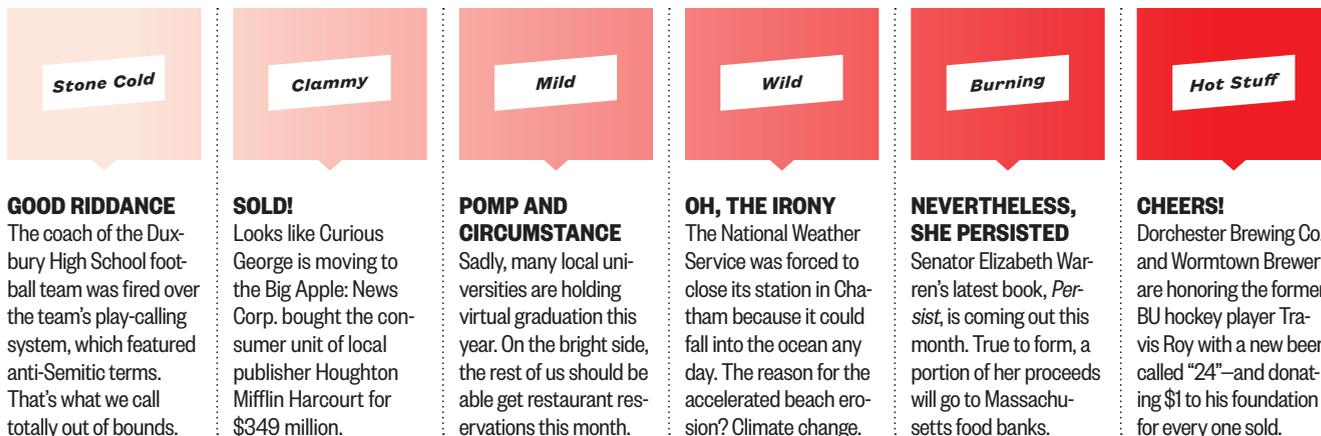
Actually, he really was. He water-skied, and he did a slalom ski, and he was just shredding it. We had a great time, which is amazing, because politics takes the fun out of everyone.

#### Would you ever fish with *River Monsters* host Jeremy Wade?

I think his show is good. It's fun. I would fish with him. I fish with a lot of people. I'll fish with anyone who enjoys the outdoors. But he's definitely a different cat than I

## THE LOVE METER

Charting the highs and lows of our new corona-normal.



am, and a lot of people can't hang with me because of my personality, you know? I'm a workout, for sure.

#### What are your thoughts about other fishing shows?

I've been asked to do a lot of shows on a lot of different networks. And to be honest with you, I'd rather go to Lake Winnepesaukee. I'm not going into the jungle. It's cool that they do all that, but my show is more of a lifestyle show, more about personality. It's 99 percent personality-driven, and I don't need to go to the middle of nowhere to showcase people. I can do that from the North-shore Mall.

#### Who's the funniest person you know?

Oh, no, there are too many. But there are levels of funny. There's naturally funny, and there's scripted funny, and 99 percent of comedians are scripted. If you're talking about the whole nine yards? I'd say probably Goofy, the Disney character.

#### Favorite fishing novel of all time? *The Old Man and the Sea*?

I don't read.

#### Ultimate piece of fishing equipment?

The line. Whatever doesn't break.

#### One indispensable piece of camping gear?

A Bic lighter.

#### So that you're not out there rubbing sticks together?

I can light a fire anywhere as long as I have lighter fluid. As for the guys making fire magically appear on camera? I can guarantee you that off camera, someone's got a Bic lighter.

#### You're a big car guy. What's your ultimate?

The ones that I own? There are two that are just super dear to me. One of them is the '01 Corvette, which was a limited production, but the other, that I always wanted growing up as a kid, is a Lamborghini. I have a Huracán Spyder in yellow and black. Those are the two that you'd have to pry out of my arms.

#### Do you ever get seasick?

I do. Growing up as a kid, I spent most of my time on the water, but your body changes as you get a little older. I think that with me, going out fishing is different than going out with a crew. It took me a little while to get my sea legs with a crew, because your adrenaline's pumping, and you get amped up. So the first couple of times, I was like, "Oh, my God." One of the crew started freakin' hurling, and I had never seen a man turn green. He was like Popeye's freakin' spinach. And once he went, it was just a matter of time before everybody was sick.

#### Where do you keep all of your Emmys?

I keep them in my bar, in my house.

#### Weirdest fan encounter?

Oh, wow, there's so many. But one time, we landed on this island in the middle of nowhere, in the Bahamas, some tiny place. Me and my crew were losing our crap. We felt like we were completely escaping from reality, and it was kinda like spring break, if you will. I said to the guys, "This is great! We can just pretend like we're in high school, and no one cares!" And right then, a family of, like, 18 came over, saying, "We're your biggest fans." They were from Pennsylvania, very nice, but you know, when you're on an island, you're there for the entire week. It's not like they're going away. It was like being on a cruise ship.

#### Favorite bait-and-tackle shop?

North Chatham Outfitters. It's an old-school, family-run business. They've been around forever. It's not like the big-box stores. You can talk to the guy, and they know what they're talking about. It's kind of like family.

#### Favorite clam shack near Boston?

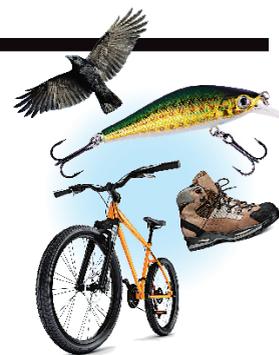
I'm not a big fan of fried food. I don't eat a lot of it. But Finz, in Salem, makes fried oysters I go to bed thinking about at night. They're phenomenal. And I've had people order fried clams there. I say, "Listen. Do me a favor, please. Get down off your high horse. Just try one of these."

#### Is there a secret to cooking bluefish?

Yeah: Don't. I'm a really good cook, probably a better cook than a fisherman. And people always say, "Oh, bluefish this, bluefish that. This is the way you cook it." The secret is: Don't cook it. It's just not good enough for me to go there.

#### What was the most surprising situation where you saw someone wearing "Mad Fisherman" gear?

We were in San Diego, just driving around after we had dinner. We turned the corner, and there were these two dudes walking down the street. One's got a big old jolley "Mad Fisherman" T-shirt on. So naturally, I pull over. I go, "Hey, what's going on?" He just looks at me. I go, "How you doing?" He's totally confused. I go, "Nice shirt, man. Did you pay for that?" I keep messing with the dude, and he starts getting itchy. I'm like, "Bro, do I look familiar?" He's like, "What?" "The T-shirt." He goes, "Oh, my God!" He just lost it. I enjoy making people laugh. I enjoy entertaining people. That's my job. I'm a natural-born entertainer.



#### By the Numbers

## Get Out There!

There's a lot to know about New England's great outdoors. This will get you started.

# 3,491

Altitude, in feet, of Massachusetts' highest peak, Mount Greylock.

# \$2,850

Docking cost, per night, at Fan Pier Marina for a 300-foot yacht—around the longest it has ever received.

# 27.5

Length, in miles, of the state's longest bike path: the rail trail between Dennis and Wellfleet.

# 1,324

Weight, in pounds, of the biggest fish—a shortfin mako shark—ever caught in Massachusetts, back in 1999.

# 283

Length, in days, of our longest hunting season—for crows—which spans from July to April.