

TESTIFY

I fish because I love to;

**Because I love the environs where trout are found, which are
invariably beautiful;**

**I fish because I love to, because in a world where most Folks seem
to spend their lives doing things they hate, my fishing is at once an
endless source of delight and an act of small rebellion;**

**I fish because of all the television commercials, cocktail parties,
and assorted social posturing I thus escape;**

I fish because mercifully there are no telephones on trout waters;

**I fish because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or
bribed or impressed by power, but respond only to quietude and
humility and endless patience;**

**I fish because only in the woods can I find solitude without
loneliness;**

**I fish because bourbon out of an old tin cup always tastes better out
there;**

I fish because maybe one day I'll catch a mermaid;

**I fish because I suspect that we are going along this way for the last
time, and I for one don't want to waste the trip;**

**And finally, I fish not because I regard fishing as being so terribly
important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns
are equally unimportant – and not nearly so much fun.**