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The Carp



The Carp was introduced into England in the Middle Ages from the far east. It wasn't until 1897, that early settlers in the Cape found the local waters had so few indigenous fish that they decided to introduce them from Europe.

The carp has thrived in most waters in SA., reaching enormous proportions, the latest being 26,2 Kg from Klaserie Dam in Mpumalanga.

In the past, world records were held at times, by places such as Hartbeespoort Dam, Vaal Dam and Florida Lake.

Carp are normally to be found in still waters or slow moving rivers. In fast flowing rivers they can be found in those sheltered spots on the edge for the main current.

The three main species of Carp, Full-scale, Mirror and Leather carp can be found in the same environment, and their different names are solely attributed to their scale patterns.

Carp thrive in our waters and grow rapidly, attaining a weight of 1 kg in its first year.

There is even one report of a carp reaching 14kg after only 3 years, but the average carp being caught varies between 2 to 5 KGs.



The average age of these carp is difficult to judge as much depends on its feeding conditions, but they are known to reach ages of over 80 years.

The breeding season for carp is determined by water temperature, with the average period being from October to December. In areas where the water warms up earlier, it can be as soon as September.

During this time the paired carp can be seen on the surface of the water, prior to moving into the shallows to spawn. It has been scientifically that a 9kg Carp can produce around two million eggs in one season.

The young have a mortality rate of approx. 99%, due to birds, natural death and other fish especially Barbel, but that still leaves 20 000, from our 9kg fish to survive!

During this time the fish do not normally feed as well, but some can be tempted with a worm bait.

After the spawning the fish are generally very hungry, and some of the best fishing can be had after this time.



What you will need to catch Carp

Carp tackle has to be strong. Not only because of the strength of the fish but the environment that it is to be found can be full of snags, weeds and obstructions, and if it hasn't then the carp will do its best to find them

Rods

Must have through action, 10 - 11 feet being the minimum with 13 - 14 feet being the max.

There are many materials that the rods are made from these days from Fibreglass to High Carbon/ Kevlar composites.

Test Curve

Choose a rod with a T/C of 0.68 up to those with as high as 1.3 Kg to suit your planned type of fishing. Close range light baits or arm wrenching bombz, 120m out.

Reels

Initially Carp Anglers have two choices of reel, Centre-Pin or Fixed Spool, however users of these reels will tell you, you only have one choice and that is the same one they are using.

Centre-Pin

Should have a diameter of 7 to 10 cm, which will hold, usually, more line than a fixed spool, which does have an advantage if you are fishing 500m out into a dam. Some of the difficulties of centre-pins for beginners such as having no drag, line twist and difficulties of casting, have been taken care of, in many of the new reels on the market.



Fixed-Spool

The spool must have the ability to hold at least 300m of the line you will be using, as well as having a good drag system. The latest reels on the market have high retrieval rates of over 6:1, smooth drags, and added features such as bait-runners, ball bearings and special line laying spool action.

Line

The line you use should be specified with your rod as being the optimum line for that rods test curve, in terms of breaking strain. One thing which is important though, which you do have control over, is line diameter. A line of 5kg breaking strain can have various diameters, with the thinner the line, the better it is to fish with; longer casts, knots tie better and more line on your spool. So a spool with a capacity of 200m of 0.2mm line will have a capacity of 400m of 0.1mm etc.

Hooks

Sizes from No 3 to No 10 are being used, but the size should depend upon your bait and how you are going to present it. A dough bait may take a No 3 "skelm", where as a mealie pip will require No 10 short shank. In the Vaal Dam they are using sizes up to 2/0.

So a selection of these hooks in the bronze, with some having barbs for worms, will suffice.

Many new hooks have hit the market recently with the influx of imports from the UK and the USA. These include chemically sharpened, speciality hooks aimed at specific markets, such as carp. These hooks are excellent, although a little more expensive.

Sinkers and Terminal Rigs

This area has become so big over the last 10 years that all the usual rigs as well as new ones are covered in their own section.



How to catch Carp

One of the first things the Carp Angler needs to know is that he is dealing with one of the most sensitive, most cunning and perhaps the most difficult fish to catch.

A car approaching, children running or people playing music, all send out vibrations which are interpreted as a warning to all fish in the area. Immediately they will move away from the source, and will only return when all is as before. Even then they will be wary and will first survey the spot, swim round the bait, and only when satisfied that all is well, will they come in to feed.

Now that you've made your way quietly to the waters edge, now what. ?

First you must choose your angling spot, Do you have cover?, Are there any features in the water or on the banks? Is there any quiet areas of the river?, A secluded bay?, Are there any bubbles rising to the surface?, Are there any patches of discoloured water?.

These are all areas to look for and consider possible locations to catch carp.

You choose a spot with a gap in some reeds, no trees overhead to hinder your casting, and a nice fairly comfortable landing area at your feet, should you be successful, and you can cast out into a small bay, now you need to find out what is happening under the water.

Most anglers do not know what is under the water, nor how deep it is. They know that it is a bit weedy, as their line gets stuck sometimes and they lose a sinker now and again, but that's it.



*Most anglers don't catch as many fish as they would like.
Most anglers don't plumb the areas they fish.*

In fact a saying goes that, 1% of Anglers catch 99% of the fish.

Plumbing the water is perhaps the most effective way of targeting fish without putting on a wet suit or buying the latest fish finder.

The method I found best was to run your line through a heavy sinker and onto your most colourful float.

Mentally divide the water in front of you and start left to right, casting. Once the sinker has settled, reel in the slack until you feel the float tighten against the sinker.

Then having pre-marked 500mm on your rod (Reel to 1st Ring ?), hand peel line off your reel counting how many 500mm lengths have been stripped off until your float is visible on the surface.

Make a note then, reel in your line again until the float is tight with the sinker then by hand pull the sinker towards you 4x 500mm lengths, then repeat the process.

By doing this you can build up a contoured picture of the bottom of the water with the contours being 2m apart, while also feeling, if the sinker is being dragged through mud, weeds or across stones or sand.

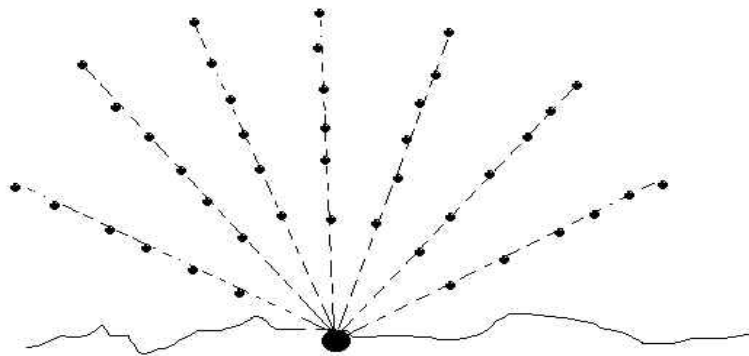
OK, now you've got your depth and an idea of the bottom conditions.

There are two avenues open in terms of which way to try and catch carp, both have times when they are the best methods to use, Ledgering and Float fishing.



Ledgering

This is by far the most popular method, and probably the most successful method of carp fishing.



The type of rig you use though will come from experience, but as a guideline, Rig #2 is a good basic rig to start off with, to get you catching fish. Not only can you determine the depth they are feeding at but you can also change baits until you find one which is working.

Float fishing

This is really divided into mainly two types, floating a bait on the surface of the water, e.g.: near a feature., or using the lift-method on the bottom.

Both of these methods are extremely exciting ways of fishing and can prove deadly when all else fails.



Freelining

This is when you are, usually, using a free-running ledger rig, with your line reeled in tight and your rod at the same angle to the water as your line.

You then release your bail-arm and wait for the Carp to run with your bait and peel your line off.

As the line is moving you, simultaneously, close the bailarm and strike. An excellent method, but difficult in windy conditions.



Carp Bait

Bait can be divided into two main types, Hook Baits and Ground Bait, but these two categories can be divided into many, too many types to mention here, so here are a few areas to consider.

Ground Bait

The purpose of groundbait is to attract the fish into the area/s where you are fishing and to keep them in that zone while you introduce your hookbait. Not all people believe in the use of ground bait, from a pollution point of view as well as from a practical point. That choice is yours to make.

You don't want to overfeed your fish, but on the other hand you don't want them to stray to another area. So you need to have a ground bait with a high attractant value, together with a low food content. In winter this is especially true as the fishes metabolism slows and it obviously needs less food, you don't want a fish full of groundbait and not hungry for your hookbait.

Carp are colour blind, although they can differentiate shades in the Black/White spectrum, (I am unclear whether they can detect the florescence in some of today's additives and the claims of others that they can see colours, bait it may be possible), so baits with the same shade whether Orange/ Red, light yellow/ White, Brown/Green, should not make any difference, so rather change the shade rather than the colour.



Types of Ground Bait

Ground bait can be either made up from a liquidated/ chopped up version of your hookbait, or of a bed of a high attractant source, then fished over with a particular hookbait.

Both types can be made to either sink rapidly, to form a bed, or to sink slowly to have some of the bait suspended and form a cloud while the heavier particles sink to the bottom. The method you use will depend upon what type of fishing you are going to be doing.

Groundbait Recipes

1 Ground Mealies mixed with a little binder and attractant, spread over a 2m² area.

2 White Bread, preferably stale, ground up into a fine bread crumb texture. Mixed with the water to be fished, added attractant and squeezed into tight handfuls.

3 Bran mixed with butchers meal or biscuit meal, and worked into a consistent texture, added to which could be chopped worm, or just a flavour of your choice.

4 Mealie grist or crushed yellow mealies left in a bucket for a few days, then introduced into the fishing area.

5 Residue of fermented malting of a beer brew, mixed with mealie grist.

When using groundbait remember that the fish will not rush over to your spot to feed immediately. All you are doing is, when they do come past they will stay a little longer in that spot.

It takes an average of 12 Hrs. for a feeding spot to become its most productive, depending upon the size of the water.



An initial baiting of 6 to 8 hand size portions followed hourly by 1 or 2

However, Carp may be skittish at these extra additions so adapt your method to suit each situation.

All of the above recipes have been used on many waters with good results, however Groundbaiting is not legal on all waters, so please check first.

Hook Bait

Fish feed on bait which they know and on that which they have no fear.

A fish will be caught a few times on one bait, but will soon learn that that particular type, flavour is associated with trauma/ fishermen/ fear (who really knows), i.e. they wont take that type again.

New baits can be devised which are very different from those on the market, and may be introduced to a Dam. (The effectiveness of doing this is diminished in rivers, and may take longer.) Over a period of a month add your new bait in fairly large quantities, three times a week. After this period you can fish that area with usually excellent results.

In the UK during the last century, many thousands of worms were fed into rivers, to accustom the fish to that bait. Anglers today are still reaping the benefits of those early fishermen.

Similarly, the Maggot transformed the fishing world with its across the board success, however, it was the Maggot farmers which produced tons of them and just fed them into dams and rivers over a period of time, even tying the carcasses of sheep into trees to allow a steady stream of bait into the area.

Now the Maggot industry is a Multi-Million Pound industry, and all fish have succumbed at some stage to the lowly Maggot..



Carp will be caught on many types of bait and the type used is a personal one and the list below represents many peoples choices, so no doubt anyone trying these will soon develop their own favourite and their own ultimate Carp catcher.

The truth is that most baits will work at one time or another and some will work most of the time while that same one will not work at all. Here are a few.

1 Mealie 'Pap' , Yellow or White.

3 Parts Mealie Meal

2 Parts Flour

5 Parts Water

Heat the water.

Mix the meal and flour well and stir in when the water comes to the boil. Cook slowly and do not burn. Stir until done.

To this base mix, a quarter portion of custard could of been added, as well as turmeric or egg yellow to produce the yellow colour.

Other flavours and colours could also be added.

2 Mealie Pip, green or from the tin, on the hook, then covered with either a version of the above or with one of the many mealie bomb mixes available.

3 Brown bread, mixed with the yolk of two raw eggs and the water at the fishing spot, mixed to form a good paste. This fished on the hook or over a mealie on the hook also proves deadly.

To the mix could again be added any other flavour. Curry is good with it.

4 Brown bread mixed with the water with custard and honey added, fished as above.



5 Boil a quantity of mealie grist until soft, then mince. Using one of the many bomb frames, squeeze the paste like grist onto the frame and attach a whole mealie onto the one or two hook trace

6 Grated cheese, mixed with red powder dye and caster sugar. Add garlic oil, one drop per 4oz cheese, and knead to a consistently coloured paste.

7 Bread Crust Cube

Take the crust off loaf of white bread.

Slice off most of the inside of the white, leaving a thin layer of white attached to the crust.

Slice the crusts into 10cm/sq blocks

Take a damp muslin cloth and lay the cut crusts on one half, then fold over the other half.

Lay the cloth on a flat non porous surface and place a large piece of board on top and weigh down evenly with a few heavy books.

In the morning remove the crusts, which will appear dry, and when at the fishing site cut up the large squares into 1cm/sq pieces. Hook them through the crust side.

In the water these flat squares will expand into perfect squares with your hook invisible in the middle.

8 Floating bread crust, either as above or torn from the fresh loaf, may be fished on the surface, either free-lining or by using a float and allowing the crust to float on the surface.

Crust may also be used in a weedy area by using a running sinker rig which will allow the crust to float above the weed, and you can vary its floating high by adjusting the trace length.



9 Cold Water Paste

50g Powdered Trout Pellet

25g Powdered Flavour

25g Fishmeal

Mix well

Continue Mixing while slowly adding Vodka

Mix until a stiff paste has been created

Should binding be a problem, use flour/egg or another good binding agent.

The vodka has a lower freezing temp, so the flavour will not be hindered as in the case of an oil, and should disperse freely in water.

10 Other

Other baits can be made from dog/cat biscuits, breakfast cereals may be added to paste baits to create floating paste baits, trout pellets, fish meal etc., can all be incorporated into your bait, maybe giving the edge over the conventional baits.

11 Boilie

The Boilie is a new bait in SA., but is responsible around the world for producing incredible catches of carp with all the big fish, 20kg+ being taken on Boilies.

The term Boilie is a term used for any bait which has been boiled.

The actual form of a boilie however has certain characteristics which are common to the term Boilie.

Most boilies are round (10mm to 30mm)

Have a liquid base of eggs.



Have a dry mix base which has a HNV, (High Nutritional Value)

The HNV mix is made up of ingredients such as; Semolina (base), Fishmeal, Soya flour, Brewers Yeast, Maize Meal, Trout Pellets, Whey Proteins, Liquid/Powdered Liver, Corn Flour, Peanut Flour, Marmite, Milk Powder etc.

Flavour

To your base and protein enhanced mix, you need to add flavour.

Common flavours are similar to the common dips and additives which are on the shelves locally.

Additive/ Attractant.

Oil based additives can be destroyed during the boiling process, and during winter the oil can solidify and will not disperse well in the water.

Water based additives also can be destroyed by heat, but in cold water do dissipate better.

Aromatic Oils tend to be good, as the oils and esters are somewhat resistant to solidifying to a degree, while their polarity makes them mix well with water.

Colour

As in local baits, colour plays an important role and all the colours used for paste baits can be used for boilies, however during the boiling process some of the colour is lost.

Natural Baits

Worms, Flying Ants, Crickets and any other garden insects have all caught Carp at some stage, however worms remain the bait which can be really called a regular taker of Carp, especially just after rain.



Hooking the worm through its collar with a No 10 or smaller worm hook is best, and this may be fished singularly or with a few together or with a dough combination.

Special Dips

There are many dips or additives available, too many to mention here but here is one recipe which is apparently one, which provincial anglers use at the beginning of the season.

Spring Almond Dip

Almond dip 125ml

Cherry Concentrate 50ml

Red Powder

Mix half the Almond with the Cherry, well. Add red powder until it turns a dark red colour.

This works well with a worm on the hook point with a white dough on the hook shank.

Dip your hookbait into the mix.

This recipe is reproduced with permission from Great Outdoors.



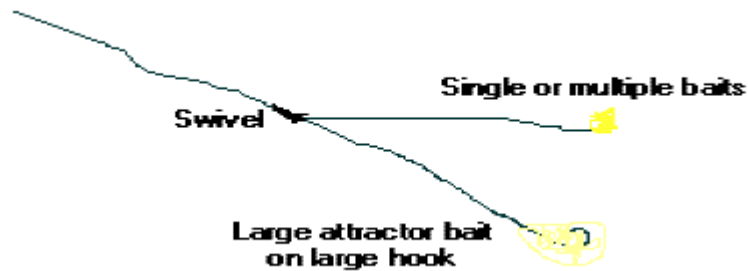
Carp Rigs

Rig or Terminal Tackle refers to the end section of your line encompassing , sinker, hook length and type of rig. I will first deal with the more well known and used, then onto more specialised designs.

Beads

Beads are used for a variety of reasons. Soft beads are used as a buffer between sliding components of the various rigs. This can prevent baits from being knocked off during casting and on impact with the surface of the water and the bottom of the water. They also allow smaller split shot be used to reduce the weight of the line while increasing the diameter of the stop. Recently beads are being used as attractants in a variety of colours, used near the hook as well as in the trace.

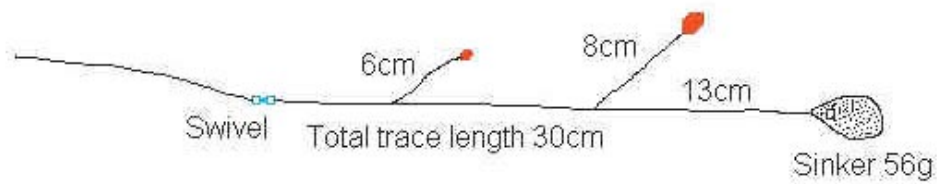
1 Simple Two Hook Rig



This rig can be adapted to suit various conditions by removing the large hook and adding a sinker or adding a sinker above the swivel.

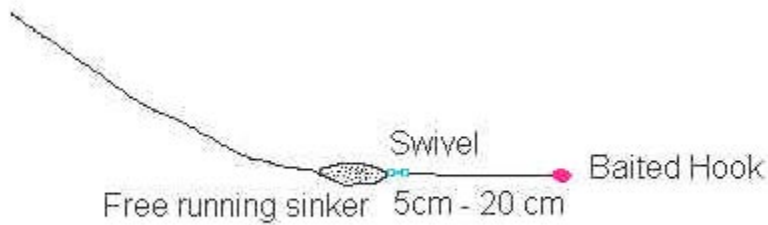


2 Popular SA. Rig



This rig is very popular with fishermen and can be used with good effect. One adaptation is to remove the sinker and replace with a Mealie bomb holder and encase with various mixtures and attractants.

3 Running Sinker



Can be used with one or two hooks and a variance in trace length can be adapted to suit the biting conditions.



4 Mealie Bomb Rig

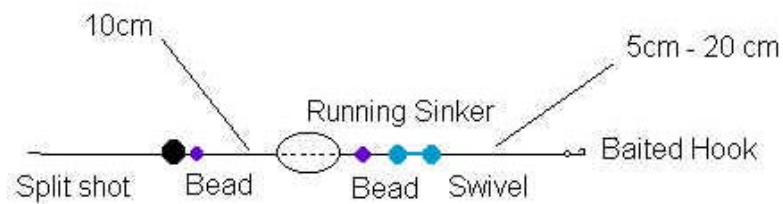


This is one of the most popular methods used , and has many adaptations, here are just three,

1. Two hooks maybe used, one above the bomb the other below.
2. Two hooks below,
3. A three-way swivel in place of the other swivel, with a trace (10cm) running through two legs of the swivel, while the third goes through the bomb to your reel. The trace is not attached but can move freely between the two open swivel eyes. Hooks are attached to the ends of the trace and baited. When a pick up is made, the remaining hook is pulled tight against the swivel preventing a possible snagging point during the fight. Remember to use as small a three-way swivel as possible.



5 Bolt Rig

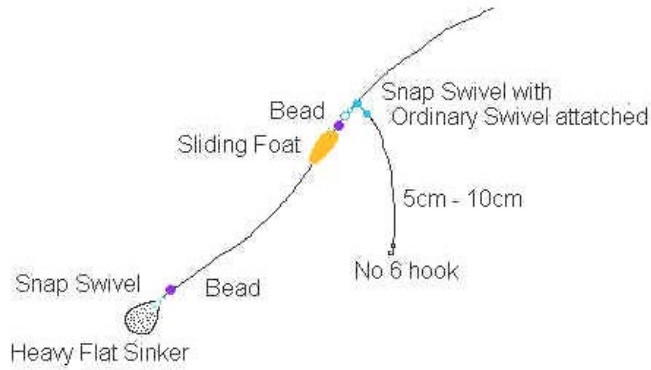


This rig is responsible for many a lost rod.

In order for this rig to be effective the most important aspect, is the sharpness of the hook. If the hook is not sharp the fish will be able to drop the bait the moment resistance is felt. However, if the hook is sharp, the point is already slightly imbedded in the fishes mouth, which causes it to bolt, as it takes fright at being unable to release the bait. All you have to do is set the hook.



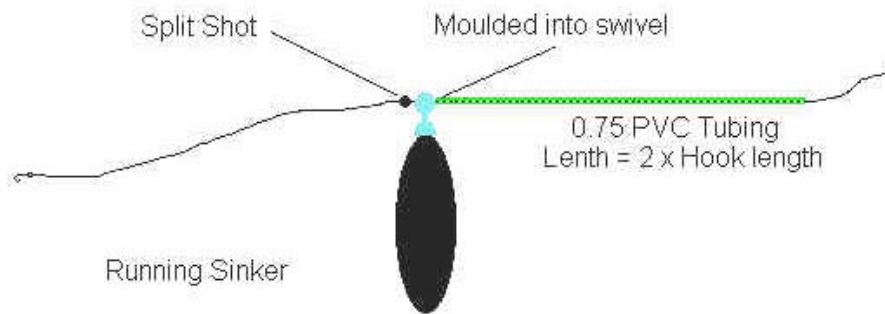
6 Sunken Float Paternoster



This rig can be fished where weed, rough bottom or obstructions are a problem. The float lifts the hook bait out of the problem area and stops at the swivel. When the bait is taken the bite registers with the bite indicator as there is no other slack line to be taken up as the float/sinker trace is fairly taut. The size of the float should be just enough to raise your bait rig.



7 Anti-tangle Running Sinker



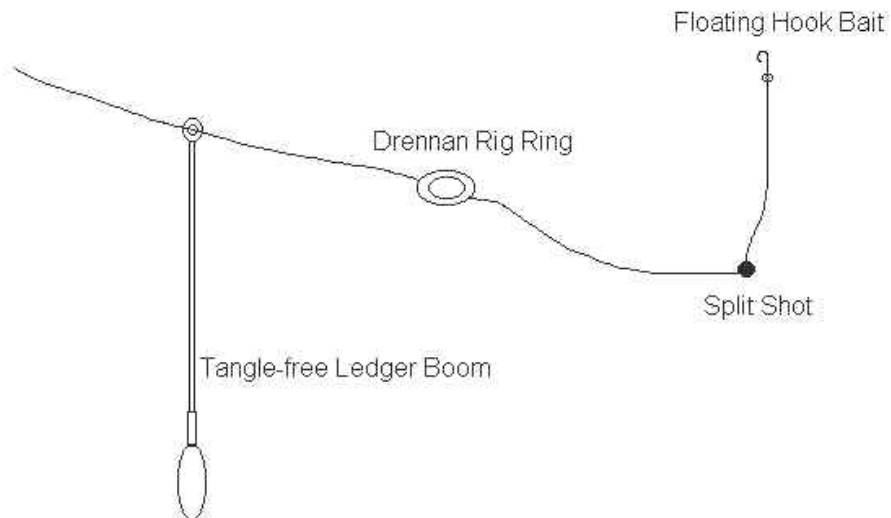
Very similar to the running sinker , except that by using PVC tubing on one side, the hook and bait are prevented from fouling. A split shot may be attached 5cm above the PVC tubing to create the Anti Tangle Bolt rig.



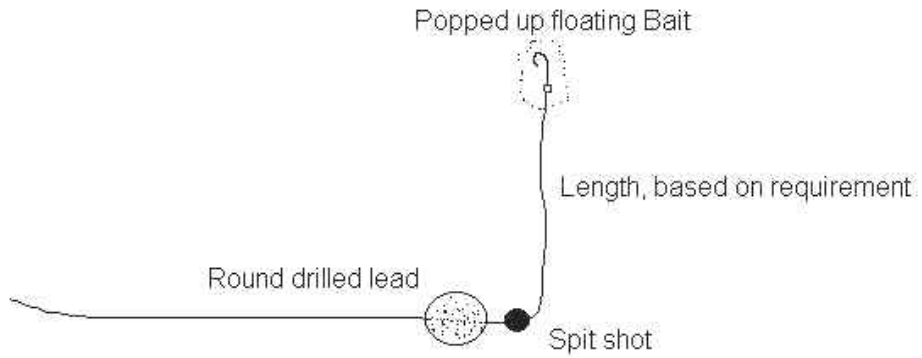
8 Tangle Free Ledger Boom

This method is used to present a floating bait just of the bottom, and uses a ring rather than a swivel or split shot as a stop. The split shot in the diagram maybe removed, but it is useful to move up and down the trace to determine the correct feeding depth for your floater.

An effective rig in weed.



9 Standard Running Sinker Using Floater

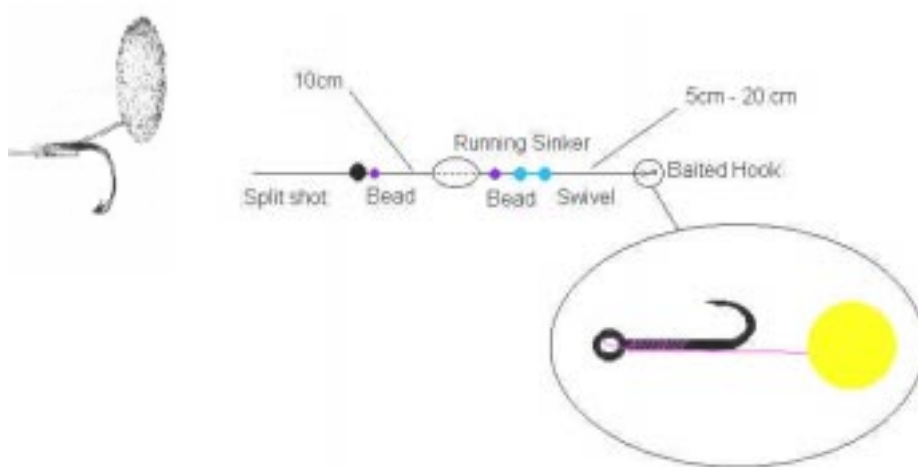


This rig is similar to #8 and is suitable if the bottom is fairly clear



10 The Hair Rig

Due to the carps habit of sucking and blowing its food, normal methods of presenting a bait have had a high rate of failure. The fish are prone to be very suspicious of a hook bait which behaves differently to its unanchored neighbours. To combat this wariness, many different types of bait presentation have been tried, with varying degrees of success. The stiff monofil hooklink is now normally exchanged for Dacron, or a soft multi-strand hooklink. Many rigs have evolved based upon the "hair-rig", in which the bait is not actually mounted on the hook, but instead is tied to it by a short length of fine line. Used together with the self hooking bolt rigs above, these tactics have accounted for many big carp in recent years.



Yellow Fish



The term Yellow-Fish covers nine species which are found in South African waters.

The Large mouth (*Barbus kimmerleyensis*) and Small mouth (*Barbus holubi*) species are the two main angling species.

The Clanwilliam yellow-fish (*Barbus capensis*) is another one of the species fished for but is mainly found in the Olifants river and its tributaries near Clan William in the Cape is the only area in the world where it is found, but it is such a magnificent fish that it is worth more than just this small mention here.

The Large Mouth Yellow Fish The Large Mouth Yellow is not exactly yellow, but is more of a silvery colour, hence the name silverfish, as it is sometimes known.

The Large Mouth can also be distinguished from the Small Mouth by a hump on its back. This hump is more pronounced in the larger specimens .

The Largemouth is the largest of the species , but its numbers have declined as they only reach sexual maturity after eight years. By this time it has only reached a mass of half a kilogram. The taking of fish from our rivers and dams seriously damages the number of mature species capable of breeding.



The Smallmouth, is a beautiful deep golden-coloured fish. In clear waters the fish not only sports this rich colour but has sticking black spots effecting a perfect contrast.

In waters that are mostly discoloured, the fish has a dull yellow appearance, without the spots.

Yellow Fish breed in early spring, usually after the first rains. They are similar to trout in their habit of travelling up rivers and streams, over obstacles like weir and waterfalls to reach gravel beds to spawn.

Tackle

Rod

A long fairly flexible rod is a good choice. Some people use an extra long rod to get the extra distance to the deeper water.

If fishing smaller waters then a smaller rod with a medium action would be suitable.

Reel

A large centre pin or fixed spool reel, fully spooled up with line, with a minimum quantity of 200m, and a breaking strain of 6 - 7 Kg. The thinner the line the better.

Hooks

Sharp, long shank hooks, slightly twisted with sizes ranging from #4 to #1.

Use chemically sharpened hooks where possible, as generally the fish will hook itself , so you don't want to give it a second chance.

Sinker

The waters you will be fishing will either be fast-flowing or still water. For fast flowing water a flat sinker of 115g should be sufficient while in dams one of 50g will be fine.

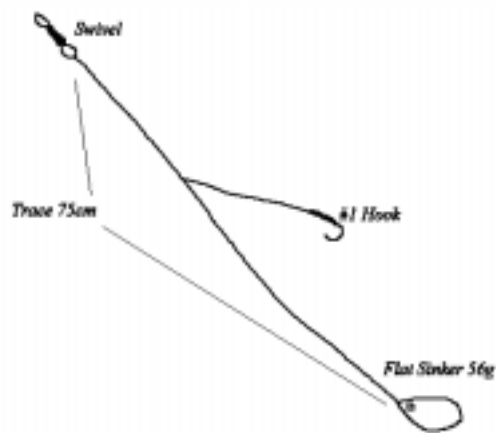
Always use a flat sinker as it will plane up out of and rocks or crevices where it may become stuck. In waters where you often lose tackle consider moulding clay around a swivel, or washer. If stuck the swivel/ washer will just pull through the clay.



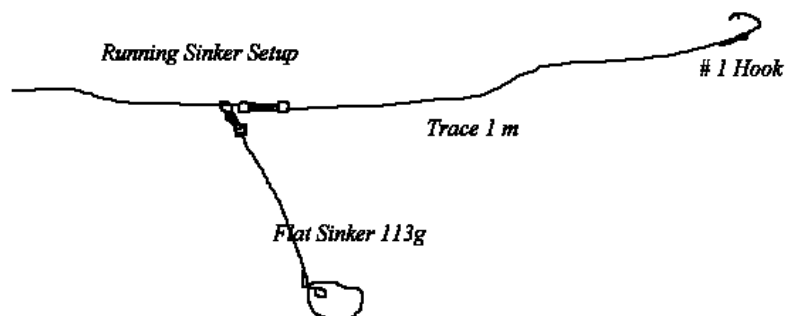
Rigs

Both of these rigs are responsible for good catches of yellow-fish. One variation for the river set-up it to have a cork placed half-way along the trace, which will lift the bait off the bottom and make it possible for the fish to easily see your offering.

Dam Set-up



River Set-up

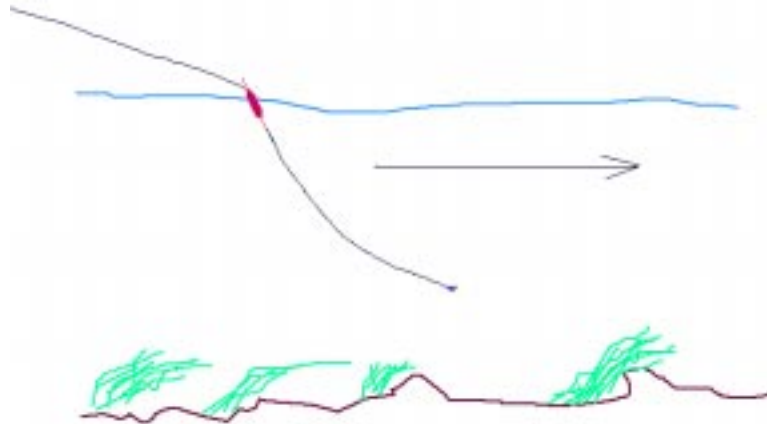


Float Fishing

Trotting

Generally speaking fish that are found in fast flowing water need to have their food taken to them, rather than them searching for food.

Trotting is the name for using the current to take your bait down the river, covering large areas and accessing those areas out of casting range.



When trolling, after the cast, just check you float a little until it tilts at +/- 45o to you and then allow the line to peel off your reel. This ensures that you bait is floating ahead of your float, making it possible to register any movement at the hook, while should you get a bite, take out the slack allowing the strike to be highly effective. You can allow it to run with the current to cover the area, or you can do the same but just stop the line enough to check the float and hold the bait in a certain area, before allowing the float to continue. This can be done in a series of stops down its journey.

This may be enough to entice a fish in the area to strike at a bait as opposed to a bait floating by.



The Method

A Yellowfish outing requires much preparation especially when it come to the various baits you may need.

A large supply of small crabs, platannas, crickets, earthworms, brown bread and different preparations of pap including the pap with curry or custard or onion.

Next where to find the fish.

Any areas where a feature, whether it is fallen tree, surface weed next to a fast flowing part of the river or by reeds where the flow will brush past, shadows of large trees, all these areas could hold fish, as food will be caught within these traps. Any other similar areas could also to be probed for any response to your offerings.

In discoloured waters lookout for the dorsal fins breaking the surface . Cast a few metres in front, with a float and small trace with a worm and drift it down to the fish.

If using one of the river rigs with crabs or platannas use two rod rest with the rests at 90° to the flow of the river, this way the initial run of the yellow will pull the rod tip down towards the fish but will recoil, almost immediately, setting the hook.

When fishing for Large Mouth the best times seem to be between midnight to 8.30am, then come back on the bite again at midday until 3pm.

Small Mouth however would come on the bite at about 2pm until sundown and come back on early in the morning.

So as largemouth's go off the feed then maybe switch to small mouth then back again at the next stage for the largemouth.



While minnows and crabs are the first choice for Largemouth's, the Smallmouth will go for your softer baits, brown bread, pap, crickets, grasshoppers, beetles and earthworm, whilst a small crab would also work.

These best times are obviously not cast in stone and there are no hard and fast rules about fishing times for any fish, there is always an exception.



Bait

The best bait is.....

This question is a very much debated one for all fish. Generally the Yellowfish will give preference to natural baits. When these are not available the bread or paste baits work well.

Crabs

An excellent bait for big yellows. The crab can be tied on with ghost cotton or elastic. Break off the pincers and a few of the larger legs, and crack a small hole in the back to allow the juices to flow out. Scrubbing the underside of the crab with an old toothbrush and river sand will made its underside nice and white.

Crickets, Earthworms, Locusts, Flying Ants, Pumpkin Beetles, freshwater shrimps and small fish all catch Yellowfish.

Paste

White flour mixed with the yellow of an egg or with the water being fished.

Mealie Pap mixed with turmeric or Egg Yellow, or curry.

Bread Paste mixed with onion juice, with an optional red food colouring added.

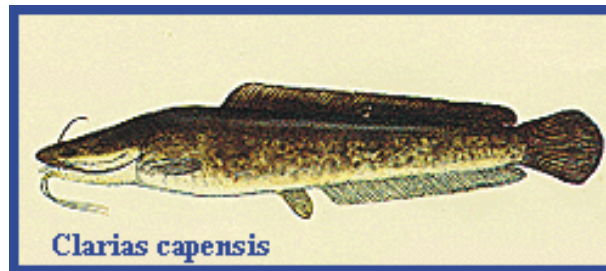
Artificial Lures

More and more Yellow fish are being caught by using lures, spinners or plugs.

Lures used for bass will do just as well for yellows, while trout flies have taken large catches of yellows even up to 9pm.



Barbel



The Barbel, is in actual fact the common name for a member of the catfish family.

The Barbel is the largest of our freshwater fish, often with catches over 22kg's, although the normal catch is between 1,5Kg to 3Kg.

They are well distributed throughout South Africa and represent a family of fish that are well adapted for life in our rivers which are so often affected by flood and drought conditions.

These fish have normal gills for breathing underwater but also have an auxiliary breathing organ which enables the fish to breath pure air when the oxygen content in the water drops through excess sediment in times of flood as well as during drought conditions. Barbel can survive, and regularly do, in thick mud with the crust dry, such as in water holes.

Barbel are often found in water where no record of their existence was recorded before. For sometime it was assumed that eggs were carried on water birds legs, but studies revealed that the Barbel is capable of travelling overland if need be, wriggling through the grass, after rains or when a heavy dew has fallen.

During the day Barbel can be mainly found in the deeper water of a dam or river, but at night the prowl the edges of reeds, lilies and the bank. On warm nights, if the frogs and crickets are quiet, you can here the Barbel sucking in gulps of air. During the day Barbel will also come to the surface from the deep to take gulps of air.

Barbel have that nickname because of the sets of barbels around their mouths. These are used for locating food, and in rivers Barbel will travel from far downstream to your bait, by using these sensors.



Rod

A long stiff rod, capable of casting large baits out to the deep areas of a dam or river. If you want to try the Artificial lures available, then a set-up similar for Bass, but using the stronger type rod. The carbon rods on the market are more than adequate.

Reel

Here you have a choice of quite a few. The common reels used are the fixed-spool and Centre Pin, both are suited to general Barbel fishing especially if the water you are fishing does not have any giants.

Dedicated Barbel hunters seem to prefer the multiplier as their choice, with its high line capacity and good casting ability combined to a good gear and drag system, it makes this a very good choice.

Line

A line with a breaking strain of about 5,5Kg should be adequate for most waters, but when hunting the big ones, with a small chicken as bait one could use line up to 10Kg.

Use the thinnest line available for the breaking strain that you wish to use. Not only will this improve your casting but it will increase your spool capacity.

Hooks

Size of hooks depends upon the size of bait being fished.

A good selection of # 4/0 to # 8/0 should be adequate. Two smaller hooks # 1/0 can be used also in the one bait. The V/d Merve hook is a good option, as are the chemically sharpened imported hooks now available.



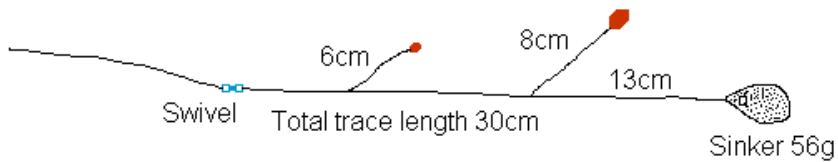
Sinker

In rivers a 50g sinker may be necessary to keep the bait stationary, but where there is no or little movement then just the bait would be suitable.

When using platannas or crabs for bait, a float could be used in conjunction with a trace to keep the bait out of the mud/stones/grass and in view of the Barbel.

Trace]

A running sinker trace or the Vaal Dam trace are suitable, as is using no sinker, just the hooklength attaches to the main line with a swivel.



The second hook is optional.

This running sinker rig can be used with the sinker or with just the swivel.



The Method

Good spots for Barbel are at inlets to dams and rivers, under overhanging branches, amongst weed beds and lily/hyacinth beds.

In spring large numbers of Barbel will be found in the shallows, feeding upon the spawn and hatchlings of the other fish in the water. In Hartbeespoort Dam the Barbel have been known to herd shoals of Kurper into the shallows and decimate the shoal, in a boiling feeding frenzy.

Barbel are not shy when it comes to feeding, the moment a bait is found it will be immediately engulfed and if not careful many a rod has been dragged in, on their initial run.

Because of this very fast take it is rarely necessary to strike but merely to set the hook. Once set the fish can be played and given line if required.



Bait

Barbel will eat literally anything, from soap to bread dough.

But like all fish they have preferences, with platannas and the head of a Carp/ Mudfish being in my opinion, the top two.

The Plattie is hooked through its two lips and fished live, or it can be fished dead with cuts across the back and stomach to allow the flavour to spread.

Carp or Mudfish head is another good bait. The head of a 1Kg Carp or Mudfish is broken up slightly with a rock and threaded onto either a one or two hook trace and taken out to the deep part of the dam or river. Some say that a Carp head is better as it has a certain smell which the Barbel cannot resist.

One bait claimed to be a super bait is the embryo of a chicken in its last stages of development. The almost developed chick is left in the sun to mature. It's said that for every chick fished, there is a Barbel caught.

Other baits to try can be, Snails, Whole Fish, Dead Birds, Chicken Entrails, Liver, Crickets and even Blue Soap, either in a paste or neat moulded into a paste. The soap works best in rivers as the current washes the fragrance down stream.



Mud-Fish

The name Mudfish includes the red-spotted Mud-fish, Orange River Mudfish, Red-Nose Mudfish, Silver Mudfish and the Mud Mullet. For the purpose of this page we will concentrate on the Common Muddie (*Labeo capensis*).

Mud fish are strong fighters, with a Muddie of 2 to 3kg giving a good account of itself on light tackle.

The Muddie is a bottom feeder with the mouth of the Muddie being small and lies under its nose, opening at an oblique angle which make the hooking of this fish quite tricky.

The species we are dealing with has a black lateral line and its body is dark-grey, though in clear waters they can be silver-grey. The larger specimens have a large hump behind the head, which becomes more developed as the fish grows. The hump is similar to that of the Yellow-fish.

They reach a weight of over 3,4kg and reach an age of about twelve years.

Mudfish Spawn in the Spring, and large quantities are found in the Vaal Dam and also in the Vaal River below the Barrage.

Tackle

For good sport with these fish, a medium to short rod, with a small fixed-spool, fully spooled with about 1 to 2kg line will be more than adequate.

Hooks should be on the small side with #10 to #14 being suitable.

If float fishing, then a porcupine quill or other light float around 15cm in length.



Bait

Good bait for Mudfish is flour mixed with egg yolk, into a sticky paste which will adhere well to the hook. Other colouring can be added if a stronger yellow is required, such as turmeric and egg yellow.

Larger fish will take dough mixed with curry, Mealie Pips, as well as Maize Meal.

Small amounts of dough are pinched onto the U bend of the hook, just covering the point. Larger amounts may be added but one must be cautious as if its too big then the Muddie will just suck at the bait.

Earthworms are also a good bait, but in cloudy water it is difficult for the fish to see so they rely purely on the smell or taste.

Method

One can either fish with a Float, usually a porcupine quill or with a Ledger Rig

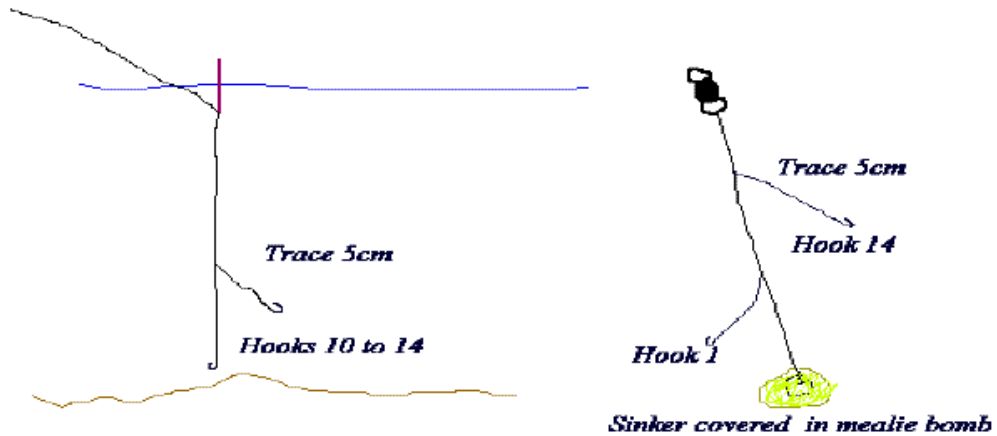
Float Fishing

If fishing shallow water close in then float fishing can be an exciting way to fish, with two hook trace and a sinker on the bottom and adjust the float so that it is lying at a 45° angle. Once the float is at this angle reel in and remove the sinker. You can ground bait the area you are going to fish, while you bait up.

Re-cast your baited rig over this area and wait for the action to begin. If your float is lying flat you can pinch a few small split shot on the line, just enough to “cock “ the float. When fishing with light tackle the added resistance of the float lying flat together with the waters surface tension can fail to detect very small bites.

It seldom happens that the float is pulled completely under, but rather moves sideways or backwards, this is the time to strike!





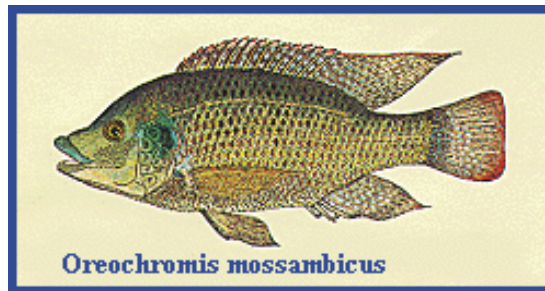
Ledger Fishing

It is not always possible to fish with a float (deep water, water running to fast, too much wind etc.), so one must use a trace similar to the one above, and fish fairly close in. Fishing with the ledger is not as sensitive as the float so the strike must be very quick, otherwise your bait will definitely not be there when you reel in.

The short traces will register the bites much quicker, while the Mealie Bomb or other ground bait will attract and keep the fish in the areas fished.



Kurper



The Blue Kurper is one of four species found in South African waters. For the purpose of this page however, I will only deal with the Blue.

The Blue Kurper or large-mouth is actually the common name for the male of the species, the female is much lighter and has a smaller mouth than the male.

Blue Kurper are warm water fish and generally speaking, are found above an imaginary line drawn left to right under Hartebeesport Dam. This is not exactly true as some waters below this line do contain Blues, but in waters which drop to 8°C and below, the Kurper will die.

North of this line there are many good waters which provide good Kurper sport.

The Kurper season runs from the beginning of October until the end of April, with the best months for fishing being from February to April.

As spring sets in, the Kurper begin preparing a nest for the spawning period. The male scoops out a bowl-shaped hole of about 23cm deep and 38cm wide, in the soft mud.

Kurper are mouth breeders and once the spawning period is completed, the female picks up the eggs from the bowl and keeps them in her mouth until they hatch.

Once hatched her mouth then doubles as a retreat until they have grown enough to fend for themselves.

Kurper are more at home in dams. In Dams they have fewer natural enemies, their development is better and they attain bigger weights.



The Tackle

Rod

A light Fibreglass/Carbon rod, long or medium-short is suitable. Fly fishing is also a popular and fruitful method, as well as with a bass fishing rig, using small spinners.

Reel

Fixed-spool, centre-pin, or baitcaster if spinning.

Line

Thin line in the region of 2 - 3kg is fine, but try to get the thinnest line possible, as your casting distance will improve.

Sinker

If necessary a light sinker of 7g would be more than enough.

Hooks

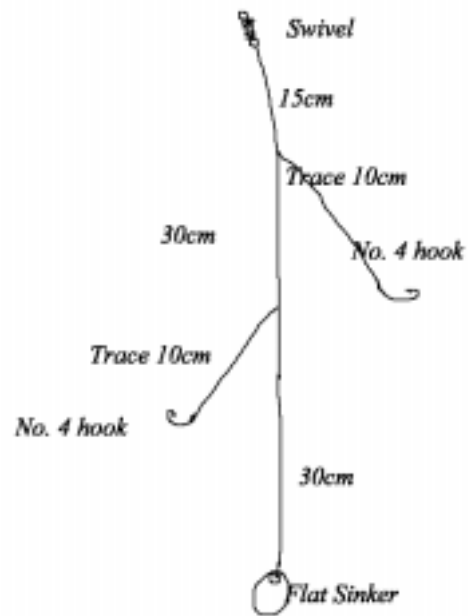
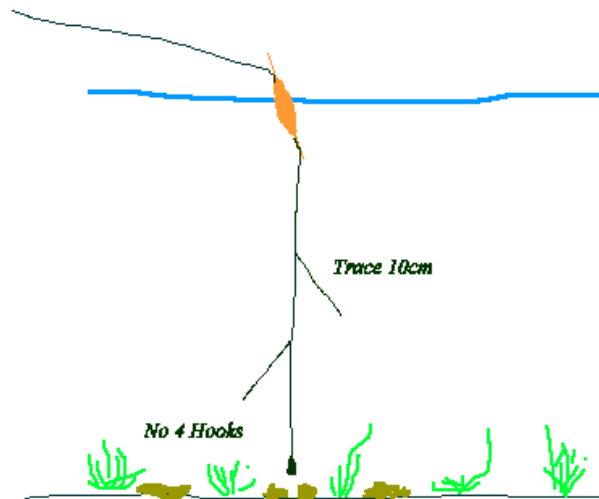
Large Kurper have large tough mouths, so a larger very sharp hook is necessary, up to #1 , while the smaller fish would do better on a #4. Should the bigger fish be biting shyly try reducing the hook size.

On the market now are chemically sharpened hooks which are deadly. Try making your own V/d Merve hooks from these and your hooking rate should improve.

When using worms use the long shank, double barbed hook.



Terminal Rig

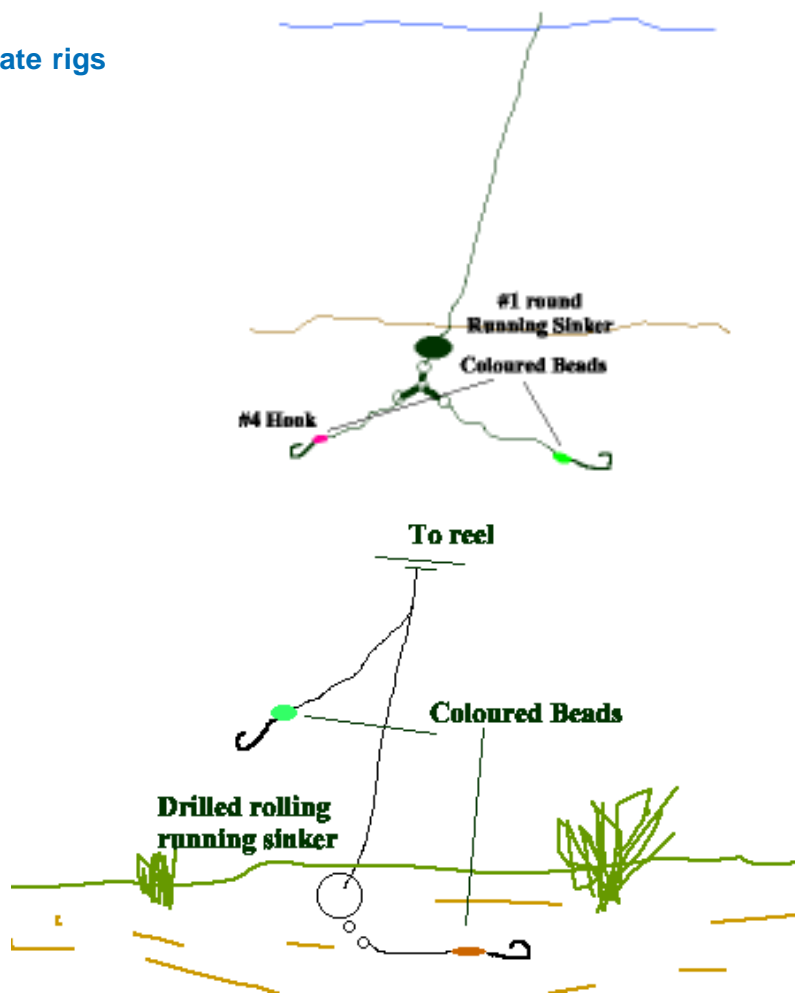


Not only are the large Kurpers mouths tough but they are also rough, so a hook length needs to withstand the rasping it will take, so a minimum of 3,6Kg would be required.

If using a float, a porcupine quill is excellent if fishing close in but a float with more body will be required for longer casts.

A bubble float could also be used but it is not as sensitive as a quill float.

Alternate rigs



In early spring, Kurper will be found in the shallows, soaking up the heat on the day before retreating to the deeper water as the temp gets too hot.

This is the lead up to the spawning season, October to January, and during this time they seldom feed until this time is over.

At this stage Kurper are generally not found in shoals and must be searched for. As they spawning or have just finished they are likely to be found rooting in the shallows and weeds. Here a floated worm will work well.

Later in the season binoculars are a handy accessory as the shoals can be see on the surface.

Kurper can be caught at night, but will usually be found at areas where a groundbaited area was created the day before.

The ideal temp is 21°C, and if the water is clear and and the sky is clear the scene is set for some good fishing.

Kurper seldom run with the bait, so the first sight of action should be taken as a time to strike. Kurper will keep tugging your bait until it has stripped your hook so either by feeling your bites on your line with your fingers, or by watching your float tip, will give the best results.

If the Kurper are stripping your bait without you knowing, try reducing the length of your trace down to 5cm.

Artificial Lures

Kurper are often taken on a spinner or fly.

Using a flexible rod with either a baitcaster or fixed spool reel , loaded with 1,8Kg nylon , and a selection of spinners, the Abu Droppen, dam Effsett or one of the Mepps range will all take fish.

Lures can be used in the early season with good results, maybe though more of a defensive reason that out of hunger, as in the case of the Black Bass.



Bait

Earthworms

Kurper will always be attracted by earthworms, especially the reddish species with plenty of kick. The large veldt worms are OK but they tend to be flabby and lifeless.

One method to fish a worm is to feed your area with a cocktail of chopped worms and maroek. Feed in small handfuls in an area where you know the Kurper are, and watch the results.

Mealie Pap

Consisting of two parts mealie meal, two parts of flour, and four parts of water. Cook and use when just cooked and still soft and pliable.

Dough

Brown bread mixed with the water to be fished, and kneaded into a dough, and mixed with either turmeric or egg yellow, to give the yellow colour, or with sorghum beer, works well. If bites are a little shy try mixing a little honey.

Dough baits have resulted in some of the bigger Kurper being caught.

Another good dough can be made from mixing only the egg yolk with brown bread to form a stiff paste.

GroundBaiting

Groundbaiting was banned in South Africa some time ago, but in recent years the tackle shops have been selling the Maroek which was responsible for the ban in the first place. It is expensive but it is supposed to be one of the best attractants around.

One variation of the Maroek is to place a quantity of this sorghum by-product into a container with two cakes of yeast and leave for about two days to become sour. Put some chicken feed on the boil stirring until cooked. Then add three cups of mealie meal and boil again until the mixture begins to bind. Now add the maroek and leave for a few hours for the sourish flavour to permeate the preparation.

This concoction can be mixed with your pap bait, or used as a ground bait.



TigerFish



This fierce predator is undoubtedly one of, if not **the** finest freshwater gamefish that Africa has to offer and maybe the world. Its fight on rod and line, especially on light tackle, can only be described as outstanding.

Tiger fish are found through-out most African rivers from the Limpopo in the North, and running from the Komati River near the border with Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa in the East, up through Mozambique.

It has been said that they are only found in rivers which run East, which may be true in South Africa, but does not apply to the rest of Africa.

In South Africa they occur in the Limpopo, Olifants, Sabie Great and Little Letaba, Crocodile, Komati, Lomati, Usutu rivers, as well as some pans in Zululand.

In Zimbabwe they occur in rivers which run at 600m or less above sea-level, with the only exception being the upper reaches of the Kafue River.

They are also found in the Nile, the rivers of West Africa, as well as the Okavango and Kunene Rivers in South West Africa and in the lakes and rivers in the Caprivi strip. They are also present in most rivers in Mozambique.



Tiger fish spawn during spring, and will spawn twice during a season if the water temperature rises sufficiently early in spring. They migrate up stream and spawn in the shallows amongst aquatic growth, however with so many dams and water irrigation projects throughout Africa blocking this natural migration, Tiger fish are not found in the upper reaches of some rivers, in the same quantities they were once

Tiger fish, because they are warm water dwellers, always bite better where the water temperature is on the warmer side, hence the regions that it is found in.

The Tigerfish is a shoal fish, with the size of the shoal decreasing with age and the increase in the size of the fish, with the larger fish moving in groups of between two and five.

It has been suggested that there are a number of sub-species, not least the Goliath Tiger, but I am unsure if they are valid, so will continue to research the topic and add any findings, later.

Tackle

Rods

A 6-8 foot rod, fairly light, with a reasonable amount of play in the tip, is ideal. Rods used for general freshwater fishing in South Africa are acceptable as are the stiffer Bass rods used. Light surf rods may also be used.

Reels

When fishing for Tigers one usually spins or trolls, both which can be improved if a reel is used with a retrieval rate of 4:1 or more is used. This rules out the centre pin reel, and the constant casting and retrieval at speed can make the multiplier difficult to master, even to experienced anglers, with over 40 to 50 casts an hour. Therefore, either the fixed-spool reel or the newer bait-caster reels are more suited.



Line

Whichever reel you choose it must be able to hold at least 180m of between 4 and 8kg line, and even more, as you are sure to encounter snags, foul-ups and major line twists. If the angler is astute, he can purchase line with a very fine diameter, without losing its strength, and in some cases the line capacity of a spool can be doubled in this way.

Hooks

Hooks should be between 4/0 and 6/0, where drift fishing is to be employed, where as when one is either trolling or spinning, the hooks on the lures should be sufficient.

Very sharp hooks are, as in all fishing, of utmost importance. If possible use the chemically sharpened hooks now available on the market.

Traces

As with other fishing where traces are involved, #7 or #9 Multi-strand Nylon coated wire is the best. It does not kink, fray and is easy to manipulate.

It should have a B/s of between 10 and 15kg, and may be as long as 45cm. Sleeves should be of the highest quality and be firmly crimped in place. A swivel 1/0, should be attached at one end, with the Berkley range being one of the most reliable currently on the market.

Lures, Spoons and Crank Bait Lures

There are numerous makes and types of spoons and lures which have been used over the years, very successfully to catch Tiger fish. It is believed that the old tried and trusted methods and equipment should not be forgotten, and should complement and not replace ones tackle.



Other Bait

In some cases tigers will be pre-occupied with natural baits and will not take any of your offerings.

One case in point is in the Upper Zambezi region, where they will only take a Bulldog, a small species of the Barbel family. Any angler who knows this will adapt his method to suit the local conditions.

Upper Zambezi

Bulldog at certain times & normal Tiger fishing methods.

North of Vic Falls

Rapala type lures and fillets

Mid Zambezi

Spoons and Kapenta Strips and even Kapenta chummed

Lower Zambezi

Fillets drift fished

Plugs and Rapala type lures.

Times

Generally fishing is good throughout the year, but March and April are probably the least productive times, due to the rising water and the dis-coloured water from the rains.



How to Catch a Tiger

An Insight

In the past anglers fished with very heavy tackle, using 15kg+ line, stiff fibre-glass rods and an assortment of terminal rigs.

This tackle was used over the years to catch the very first Tiger fish and resulted in, the now legendary, leaping and violent head shaking of the hooked Tiger, giving spectacular shows of acrobatics, all in an effort to dislodge the spoon or hook.

However, in recent times, either due to anglers looking for the ultimate challenge or tiger fish becoming more difficult to catch on heavier gear, anglers began fishing with much lighter tackle, using tackle similar to that of the bass anglers.

When using the lighter tackle anglers were catching more fish and having better sport than before, but the interesting thing however, is the fact that when the tiger is hooked on lighter tackle, they do not leap and covort the same as they did on the older heavier gear, which begs the question, why?

One theory is that, when using heavier tackle, it was the angler who was jerking the fish around, and the fishes leaping was merely a response to the anglers own actions and not in fact an effort to dislodge to hook and the fact that the hook was dislodged was a by-product of the fishes response to the anglers actions on the boat or shore.

I do not know if this is true, but why should a fish hooked on heavy tackle respond differently to that of a fish hooked on light tackle.

An angler playing a fish on light tackle will not jerk the fish around purely because he/she does not have that as an option, where as those using heavier tackle has that extra strength to try and force the fish into submission, before its ready, therefore creating the tail-walking dances, as well as those head shaking leaps, which maybe contributed to those empty hooks and lost rigs.



Catching Tigers on Fly

When to Fly fish

Given the opportunity to choose a time of year to fish the Zambezi system, this would certainly be the period from late October through early November. At this time the air temperatures are often above 40 degrees centigrade. This is the end of the dry season, the water is clear and low and its temperature has risen to summer levels of 27 - 28 degrees centigrade.

Under these conditions the large female fish become very active and move up the river in search of spawning sites. Males are also around and can often be found together in small shoals of ten to twenty individuals.

Dirty or even milky coloured water is a complete 'turn off' for Tiger fishing, so when fishing the Zambezi above Vic falls, one finds that late November or early December brings the rainy season , so the water becomes dirty and un-fishable.

Conversely Lake Kariba and Cahora Bassa are clear and fishable throughout the year, with October to February being the better months.

Suitable Fly's

Fly fishers can be assured of excellent sport, hunting the tiger with artificial flies; with the big flies or streamers, tied from white or black neck or saddle rooster feathers, and also flies made up from a tuft of hair from a kudu tail, tying in the brown or dark hair on top and the white hair underneath.

This type of fly has been found most satisfactory.



The black artificial fly has been found most suitable for fishing the Zambezi, because it simulates the chessa or kurper, both the favourite prey of the tiger fish.

The black fly is made up by wrapping a strip of silver-gloss cello tape around the shank of a straight #2/0 hook and to secure it a thin copper wire or fuse wire at the top, near the eye of the hook and down on the shank. Next comes a long black tail-feather from a rooster. This feather is tied to the shank of the hook at short intervals, allowing about 12mm of the feather below the hook to resemble a little fluffy tail. The feather, having been tied at the end of the shank, is now twisted around the shank of the hook, until the hackle stands out in all directions and away from the shank. Tie off with a half hitch.

A 15cm nylon-wire stranded cable is tied to the hook, and when the nylon is tied to the wire, a small ordinary knot must first be made at the end of this length of wire.

Thread the nylon leader through this knot eye and pull the wire knot as tightly as possible. Now the nylon leader is tied with a blood knot and in parallel with the wire, making at least six turns. The loose ends are now cut off and the rig is now ready.

The best results are obtained in a stream that is not too fast running and not deeper than 1 to 2,5m. Your method would be to cast the fly diagonally upstream and watch, as it gradually sinks, for the line to drift downstream until it straightens. Hold steady for a while, giving it a little tug at short intervals.

Then quickly start retrieving with fast, long pulls up stream. It often happens that the tiger grabs the bait just as the line "comes to life".



BASS



The most important aspect in all forms of fishing is finding the fish. If you don't know where the fish are, then how can you expect to catch them, unless you want to spent hours searching the entire area until you get a hit.

Nowadays a lot of anglers have one of the many fish finding devices on the market as well as fancy bass boats to go with them, but most of these fishermen still have the basic knowledge on habitat, water temp and feeding patterns.

Structure and cover are the key words in a bass-fisherman's lingo. The fisherman who does n't understand the importance of these words in Bass Fishing , is doomed to catch only the odd tiddler, instead of experiencing the thrill of landing this marvellous game fish.

Structure and cover play a major role in regulating the habitat and behaviour of a Bass, and the bigger the bass, the more important these concepts appear to be.

Structure usually refers to the variations in the topography of the sides and bottom of a dam or stream. It embraces natural features like points, rocks, rock-piles, shelves and crevices and man-made objects such as submerged buildings, bridges and roads, bridge pylons, jetties and boat houses. Anything that drastically changes



the form of the sides and bottom of a dam, causing humps hollows or sudden changes in depth leading to drop-off s, is considered structure.

Cover, on the other hand, refers to the various objects found on the top or underneath the water and comprises largely of live or dead plant material in the form of floating water lilies, grass mats and general flotsam, underwater pond weed, water-grass beds and brush, standing bulrush and reeds and standing or fallen trees and stumps. Static boats also come under the heading of cover.

Generally , bassers talk about structure in quite a loose sense of the word and could be referring to either structure or cover.

Bass are fairly light sensitive, which means that they are more at ease in a dim surrounding than a bright sunlight. Structure provides the low lighting conditions which bass prefer.

The process of photosynthesis means that the water surrounding aquatic plant material is more oxygenated than open water, thus providing an environment preferred by bass.

So, structure or cover generally provide an environment for the black bass which is safe, enables concealment for hunting its food (mostly small bait-fish); and has the shadow and low light conditions, slightly lower water temperature and somewhat higher oxygen content that add up to ideal conditions for bass peace of mind and metabolism.

This is where you look for bass - especially big bass.

It is here, in or next to structure, that the bass lies suspended, its huge mouth and gills scarcely noticeable as they open and close, the translucent fins barely stirring the water as the fish waits to ambush its prey.



Surface Lures



Lures

Different lures have different actions, but being classed as a surface lure means that they will act within the surface zone of the water. When surface fishing you may notice the bass following the lure, (especially when using Polaroid sunglasses), right up to your feet, other times you will notice a disturbance under the water moments before a hit , while at other times you won't get any warning.

Sometimes the treble hook on your lures can be a hindrance as it does not have the same holding power as a single hook, so if good hooking becomes a problem try a single or a small treble, and this should solve the problem. Also remember that a blunt hook is practically useless, carry a small whet stone to keep points sharp.

The plug should be retrieved dead slowly, if the fish is merely following the lure, try altering your action, quick tugs, drop-backs, left to right and back again retrievals, one of these usually does the trick.

Sometimes you will find a spot where you know the bass is their but will just not take, so by keep landing the lure practically on its head will annoy it enough just out of frustration and irritation to take the lure.

Diving Lures

The uses of diving lures are many and varied. They can be fished depths and also be brought in very slowly on the surface. The Palsa and the Abu Killer, which resemble minnows, are excellent examples; and amongst the best diving lures is the white and red bass plug with the diving-lip in front and hair at the tail end.



It is sometimes rewarding to cast this lure and then to retrieve quickly for two metres, stop until the lure has surfaced, then give it a hard pull with the rod, thereafter reeling in fast again.

] reap this method if no results are being had the first time. Sometimes the bass will grab the lure when it is brought in fast and jerkily. At other times better results are obtained by retrieving slowly and intermittently.

Bottom Lures



When bottom-fishing, make sure that your lure is moving along on the bottom. To find the fish on the bottom is not easy and this method of angling is usually for deep waters around mid-summer, when the fish move into cooler waters.

Fish are not necessarily right down on the bottom all the time and then it is for you to ascertain at what depth they actually lie. Sometimes you have to count up to ten, after casting, sometimes more, before starting to retrieve.

When your lure is taken, do not, in the excitement, forget what the count was, for that would determine at what depth you took the fish and you will need to remember this for the next cast. Once you have established where the fish are, concentrate on that spot, but vary the method and change the lures as may be necessary.

When fishing deep waters you may find your treble hooks become snagged more often, so change over to single hooks or weed-less hooks.

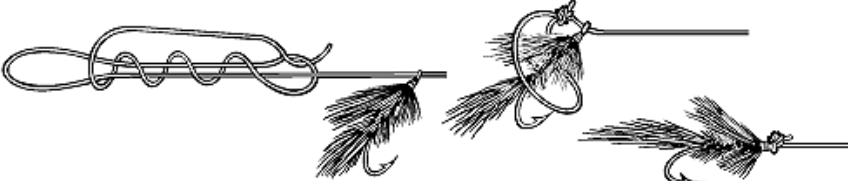
Small lures with a wobble or zig zag action, should be fitted with a small ring or a loop in the nylon, as if tied directly to the lure it will hinder its designed



Knots


Here are a few knots which are commonly used

Specialist Fly Knot
The Specialist fly knot is used to attach the fly to leader.



1. Place leader through fly eyelet and slide fly up the leader out of the way before beginning knot.
2. Make an oval loop and hold each end while wrapping the leader around the loop center 3 or 4 times.
3. Stick end of leader through loop closest to fly and cinch knot snug.
4. Trim tag end then place the fly through the loop and pull snug.

Berkley® Braid Knot
This special knot has been extensively tested by the Berkley R&D staff and has proven to be one of the best for use with the new braided lines.

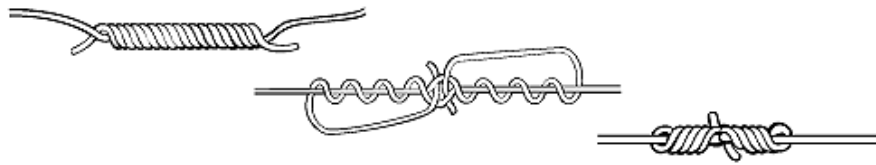


1. Run double loop through eye of hook or lure.
2. Loop around end of line and standing part of braided line 8 times. Thread double loop back between the eye and coils.
3. Tighten knot with a steady, even motion without hesitation. Trim double loop and end of braided line leaving about 1/4".



Improved Blood Knot

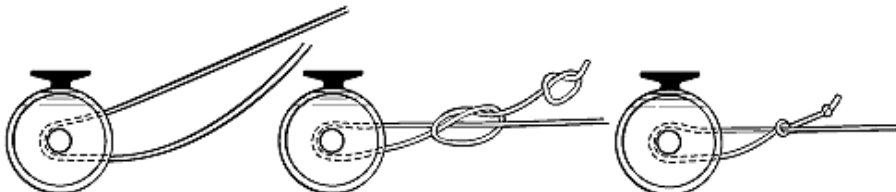
The Improved Blood Knot is used for tying two pieces of monofilament together of relatively equal diameters.



1. Overlap the ends of the two strands that are to be joined and twist them together about 10 turns.
2. Separate one of the center twists and place the two ends through the space as illustrated.
3. Pull knot together and trim off the tag ends.

Arbor Knot

The Arbor Knot provides the angler with a quick, easy connection for attaching line to the reel spool.



1. Pass line around reel arbor.
2. Tie an overhand knot around the standing line. Then tie a second overhand knot in the tag end.
3. Pull tight and snip off excess. Snug down first overhand knot on the reel arbor.



Palomar Knot

The Palomar Knot is a general-purpose connection used in joining fishing line to swivels, snaps, hooks and artificial lures. The double wrap of line through the eyelet provides a protective cushion for added knot strength.



1. Double the line and form a loop three to four inches long. Pass the end of the loop through hook's eye.

2. Holding standing line between thumb and finger, grasp loop with free hand and form a simple over-hand knot.

3. Pass hook through loop and draw line while guiding loop over top of eyelet.

4. Pull tag end of line to tighten knot snugly and trim tag end to about 1/4".

Trilene® Knot

The Trilene Knot is a strong, reliable connection that resists slippage and premature failures. This knot can be used in joining line to swivels, snaps, hooks and artificial lures. The knot's unique double wrap design and ease of tying consistently yields a strong, dependable connection.



1. Run end of line through eye of hook or lure and double back through the eye a second time.

2. Loop around standing part of line 5 or 6 times. Thread tag end back between the eye and the coils as shown.

3. Tighten knot with a steady, even motion without hesitation. Trim tag end leaving about 1/4".



King Sling Knot

The King Sling Knot offers the angler an easy -to-tie end loop knot which is used primarily as a connection for crank baits. This knot allows the lure to work freely, making it more lifelike, and resulting in more strikes.

1. Insert tag end of line through artificial bait so that it extends eight to ten inches.
2. Hold the tag end and the standing line in your left hand, and form a loop.
3. With the bait in your right hand make four turns around the tag end and the standing line above the loop.
4. Bring bait down and through the loop.
5. To tighten, hold line above the loop length and pull the tag end and the standing line at the same time. Trim tag end.

Double Surgeon's Loop

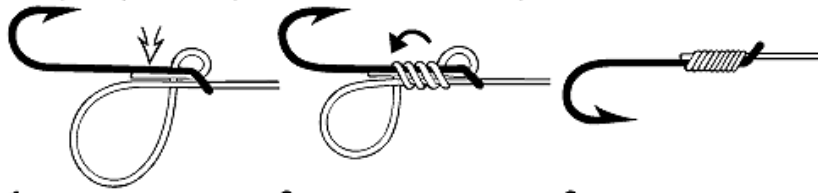
The Double Surgeon's Loop is a quick, easy way to tie a loop in the end of a leader. It is often used as part of a leader system because it is relatively strong.

1. Double the tag end of the line. Make a single overhand knot in the double line.
2. Hold the tag end and standing part of the line in your left hand and bring the loop around and insert through the overhand knot.
3. Hold the loop in your right hand. Hold the tag end and standing line in your left hand.
4. Moisten the knot in water and pull to tighten. Trim tag end to about 1/8".



Snell Knot

The Snell Knot provides a strong connection when fishing with bait and using a separate length of leader. You can only use a snell with a leader.



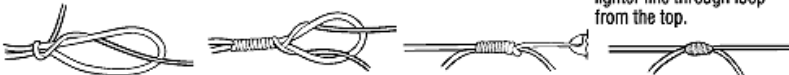
1. Insert one end of the leader through the hook's eye extending one to two inches past the eye. Insert the other end of the leader through the eye in the opposite direction pointing toward the barb of hook. Hold the hook and leader ends between thumb and forefinger of your left hand. Leader will hang below the hook in a large loop.

2. Take the part of this loop that is closest to the eye and wrap it over the hook and shank and both ends of the leader toward the hook's barb. Wrap for 7 or 8 turns and hold wraps with left hand. Grip the end of leader that is through the eyelet with your right hand and pull it slowly and steadily. Hold the turns with your left hand or the knot will unravel.

3. When the knot is almost tight, slide it up against the eye of the hook. Grip the short end lying along the shank of the hook with a pair of pliers. Pull this end and the standing line at the same time to completely tighten the knot. Trim the tag end.

Albright Knot

The Albright Knot is most commonly used for joining monofilament lines of unequal diameters, for creating shock leaders and when Bimini Twist is tied in the end of lighter casting line. It is also used for connecting monofilament to wire.



1. Bend a loop in the tag end of the heavier line and hold between thumb and forefinger of left hand. Insert the tag end of the lighter line through loop from the top.

2. Slip tag end of lighter line under your left thumb and pinch it tightly against the heavier strands of the loop. Wrap the first turn of the lighter line over itself and continue wrapping toward the round end of loop. Take at least 12 turns with the lighter line around all three strands.

3. Insert tag end of the lighter line through end of loop from the bottom. It must enter and leave the loop on same side.

4. With the thumb and forefinger of left hand, slide the coils of lighter line towards end of loop, stop 1/8" from end of loop. Using pliers, pull tag end of lighter line tight to keep coils from slipping off loop.

5. With your left hand still holding the heavier line pull on the standing part of the lighter line. Pull the tag end of the lighter line and the standing part a second time. Pull the standing part of the heavy mono and the standing part of the light line.

6. Trim both tag ends.



How to tie a Knotless Knot, for use in a hair-rig.

Step #1



Thread a piece of Braid/Dacron with a loop tied at one end through the hook eye.

The hook length can also be mono, and should be about 60cm long

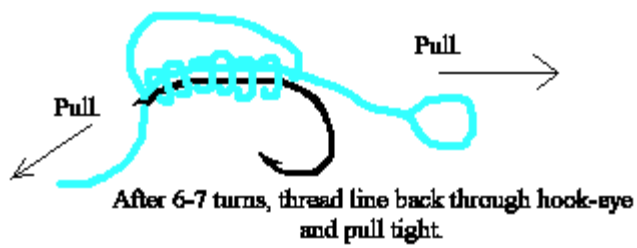
Step #2



Take the end which goes to the swivel and wrap it around and down the hook shank, and around the braid/dacron line



Step #3



Step #4

The length of your hook length depends upon the rest of your terminal tackle, so trim accordingly



GALLERY

The World Record Carp 82Lbs(37.27kg's)



The world record carp of 82lb 3oz (37.4 Kg's) and measuring 46 inches. The fish was caught on May 27, 1998 from Romania's Lake Raduta, which lies +/- 50km South of Bucharest and was caught by Austrian carp angler Christian Baldemair. His bait was a single fish-meal boilie fished over a bed of maize.



Boilies for Africa have sent in the following magnificent photos from some of their field testers recent trips. All fish were caught on BFA Boilies, using European methods. Some of you may recognise the anglers, Willie Smit and Martin Davidson, some of this countries big fish takers. The fish range in size from 22 LB's up to the big full scale weighing in at 36lb +, and have all been caught since the beginning of winter.

