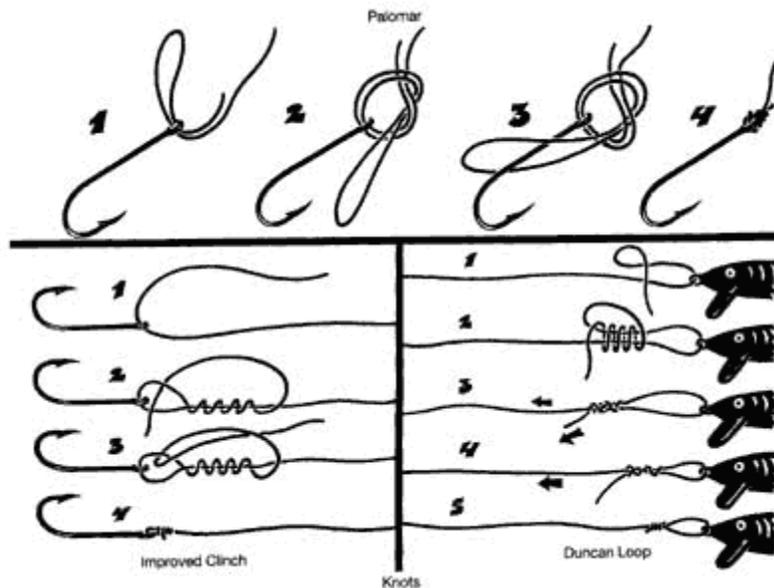


Fishing Knots

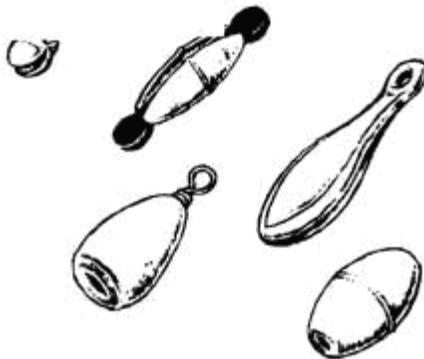
To connect your line to your hook you need to learn to tie fishing knots. Although dozens of fishing knots are used you only need to learn two or three good knots for most fishing. Here's how to tie three common knots:

The palomar and improved clinch knots are used by many anglers for attaching hooks and lures. They are both very strong knots.

The loop knot is used for minnow type baits and diving lures. The loop attached to the lure allows the lure to move more freely.



Sinkers



Sinkers range in size from split shot, the size of a BB, to weights of a pound or more. BB-size split shot to 1/4-ounce sinkers are most common. Sinkers allow you to cast your bait and help take it down to the bottom.

Bobbers

Bobbers are used to keep your bait at the depth you want it. They also help you to know when you have a strike. Use a bobber that's just large enough to keep your bait from dragging it under the water. Pencil style bobbers are more sensitive than round ones. Because of this it is easier to tell if a fish is biting. Round bobbers are easier to cast. Slip bobbers can be easily adjusted to allow you to



fish at different depths. Their main advantage is that they are easy to cast. They come in both round and pencil styles.

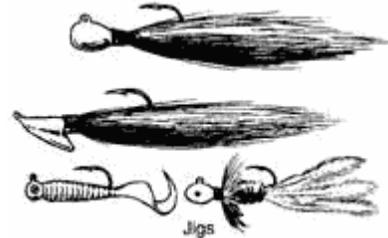
Many bobbers attach to fishing line with a spring clip and move up or down the line easily, depending on how deep you want to fish your bait.

Lures

Fishing lure companies make lures in many sizes, styles, colors, and patterns. Read the instructions in or on a lure package to learn how to use each lure. Below are a few types of lures.

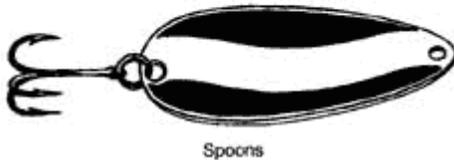
Jigs

Jigs have weighted metal heads and a "tail" made of animal hair, soft plastic, feathers, or rubber. Anglers sometimes add a minnow or piece of pork rind to the jig's hook. Jigs can be used to catch nearly every kind of freshwater and many saltwater fish.



Spoons

Spoons are metal lures designed to look like a swimming baitfish. Many spoons are made to be cast. Others are meant to be trolled behind a moving boat.



Plastic Baits

Soft-plastic worms, minnows, and crayfish are available in many sizes and colors. You can use them with or without a weight. Sometimes, plastic baits are used with a jig head, spinner or spinnerbait. Some plastic baits have scents attractive to fish built into them.



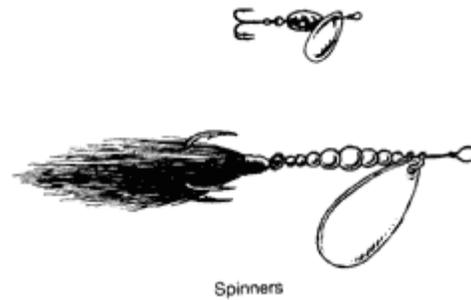
Plugs

Plugs have a body made of plastic or wood and are designed to be used on top of the water or at depths below the surface. Topwater or floating plugs are designed to float on the surface. Diving plugs have plastic or metal lips so they will dive to a certain depth. These diving plugs are often called "crankbaits" because they are often used with baitcasting reels that operate like a crank.



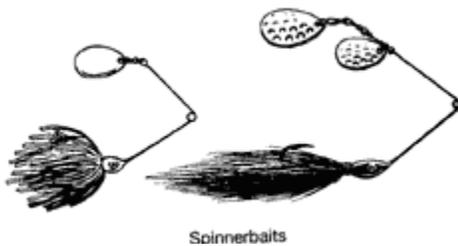
Spinners

Spinners have one or more blades that spin, or revolve, around a straight wire shaft. Some spinners have tails made of soft plastic or animal hair.



Spinnerbaits

Spinnerbaits are lures with one or more blades that spin around a "safety pin"-type shaft. Most spinnerbaits have skirts made from animal hair, vinyl, rubber, or other materials.



Poppers flyfishing and other bass. Fly



Poppers and Flies

and flies are small lures used with spincast and tackle. These baits are very good for panfish fish that feed on the surface such as trout and tying can be a very rewarding hobby.

As you understand more about the environment fish live in and how they behave, you will learn which bait or lure is best for specific fish during different seasons of the year.

Prepared Baits

For bottom-feeding fish like carp and catfish, bread, small pieces of cheese, and canned corn are good. You can buy commercially made baits. Many anglers, however, like to make their own bait for these fish. Below are two recipes for bait to catch bottom-feeding fish.

Carp Doughballs

1. Mix 1 cup of flour, 1 cup of yellow cornmeal, and 1 teaspoon of sugar in a bowl.
2. Take a 1-quart container of water and pour just enough of it into the mixture to make a heavy dough.
3. Roll the dough into balls about 1/2 inch to 1 inch in diameter.
4. Mix the rest of the water with 1 cup of molasses and pour it into a pan.
5. Put the pan on the stove and bring the molasses and water to a boil.
6. When the mixture is boiling, drop in several doughballs, but don't overcrowd them. Cook them for 2 to 3 minutes.
7. Cook the rest of the doughballs, a few at a time, in the same way.

You can store the cooked doughballs in the leftover water and molasses. When using doughballs or stinkbait (a smelly catfish bait) use small treble hooks. A treble hook has three points. Some have a spring wrapped around the shank to help hold the bait. Many manufacturers make a variety of "stinkbaits." Homemade stinkbait can be made using the following recipe.



Catfish Stinkbait

1. Fill a jar with pieces of a forage fish like shad.
2. Cover the jar with the lid, but leave the lid loose so gases will escape.
3. Put the jar in direct sunlight for a day or two.

When you open the jar, you'll know your catfish "stinkbait" is ready to use.

Natural Baits & Baiting Your Hook

As you learn more about fish behavior you'll learn more about how to choose the best bait for different situations. Several types of live or natural bait will help you catch fish. Always check your fishing regulations to make sure the bait you choose is legal for the lake you are fishing.

Some of the best baits for freshwater fishing include worms, leeches, minnows, crayfish, crickets and grasshoppers. Good saltwater baits include sea worms, eels, crabs, shrimp, strips of squid, and cut-up pieces of fish.

Worms

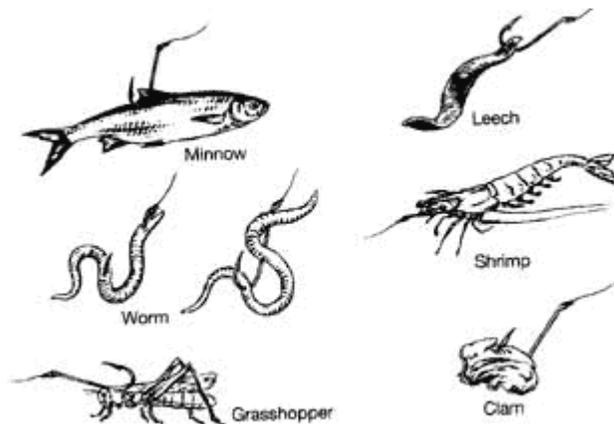
Worms are good bait for nearly all freshwater and saltwater fish, although sea worms are often used in saltwater fishing. You can find enough worms for fishing from a few shovels of dirt in your garden or from a shaded, damp area. Worms can also be purchased in fishing tackle stores and bait shops.

If you have small worms, thread the hook through the side of the worm at several places along its body. For bait-stealing fish such as sunfish, thread the worm on the hook until the hook is completely covered.

Minnows

Minnows must be stored in a minnow bucket with plenty of cool water to keep them alive. Never crowd them.

One way to hook a minnow is through both lips, beginning with the bottom lip. You can also hook a minnow through the tail, behind the head, or through the back.



Crickets and Grasshoppers

Both land and water insects can be used for bait. When using small insects, you should use hooks made of thin wire.

Bait Leeches

Leeches are excellent bait for many fish. They should be hooked through the sucker in the tail.

Clams, Mussels, and Sea Worms

These baits are good for perch, drum, sea trout, and rockfish. Completely remove their shell and thread onto the hook.

Shrimp

Shrimp can be used either alive or dead for saltwater fish. Hook the shrimp through the tail. You can also peel off the shell and thread cut up pieces of shrimp on the hook.

ⁱ Document Written By,
Raza Ullah Khan
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