

# Surf Fishing

## Quick Guide



TAKEMEFISHING™.org

*Tailored Tackle*®  
Fishing Kits & Combos

# License & Registration

One of the most important items any angler needs before they go fishing is their fishing license. Each state has their own regulations and offers daily, short-term, or annual licenses. [TakeMeFishing.org](https://www.TakeMeFishing.org) has a great tool to find out where to buy a fishing license, the types of fishing licenses available, age requirements, fishing regulations and online purchasing.

## 1 Click the button below

GET YOUR FISHING LICENSE

## 2 Select your state

## 3 Review the best licensing options to fit your fishing needs

### LICENSE INFORMATION BY STATE

Alabama	Illinois	Montana	Rhode Island
Alaska	Indiana	Nebraska	South Carolina
Arizona	Iowa	Nevada	South Dakota
Arkansas	Kansas	New Hampshire	Tennessee
California	Kentucky	New Jersey	Texas
Colorado	Louisiana	New Mexico	Utah
Connecticut	Maine	New York	Vermont
Delaware	Maryland	North Carolina	Virginia
District Of Columbia	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Washington
Florida	Michigan	Ohio	West Virginia
Georgia	Minnesota	Oklahoma	Wisconsin
Hawaii	Mississippi	Oregon	Wyoming
Idaho	Missouri	Pennsylvania	

North Carolina  
North Dakota  
Ohio  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania

Virginia  
Washington  
West Virginia  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming



 TAKEMEFISHING.org

[Learn To Fish & Hunt](#) [Where To Fish & Hunt](#) [About TMs](#) [Get Licensed](#) 

[Home](#) [Washington](#) [Alaska](#) [Fishing License](#)

## Get a Washington Fishing License

Purchase a fishing license Washington, then spend a day fishing for crappie with the kids at Potholes Reservoir or testing us prods off of the docks at Lake Stevens. Fishing creates an opportunity to teach kids about how to follow rules and identify different types of fish, buy your license, read the fishing regulations, and take a lot fishing in Washington.

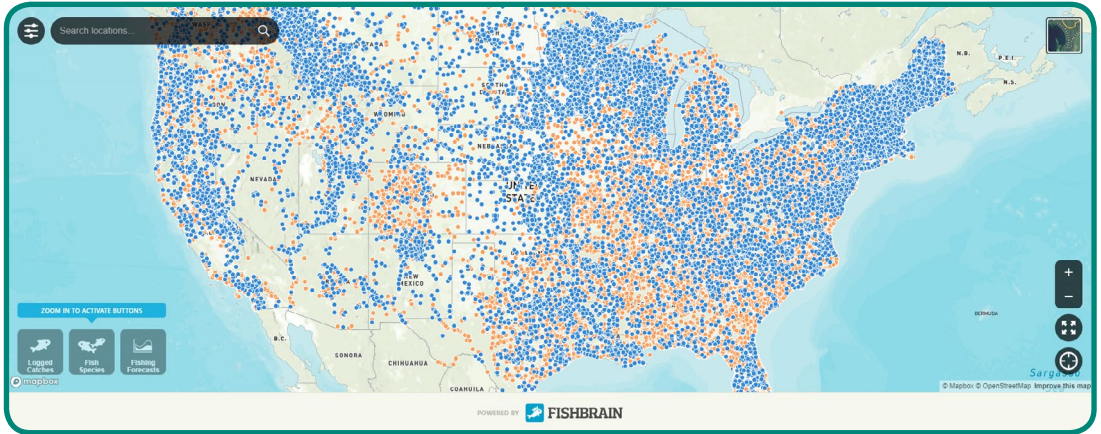
GET A WASHINGTON FISHING LICENSE



Your state's profile has links to resources where you can review the state **fishing regulations** and browse different types of **fishing licenses** available in your area. Many states allow you to purchase your license online and print out a temporary license to go fishing the same day. Remember to review the **age requirements** as children, seniors and veterans often receive discounts and unique opportunities for open fishing.

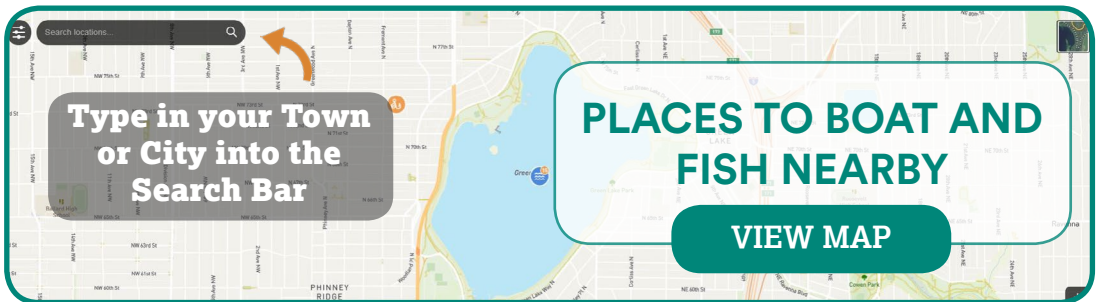
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# Places to Boat & Fish



Ready to get out on the water but not sure where to start?

Click the **VIEW MAP** below to find [Places to Fish and Boat](#) across the United States.

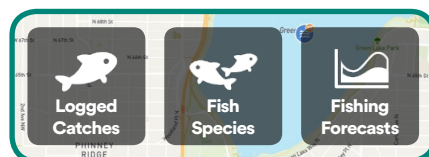


- Body of Water to fish and boat on
- Best Place to Fish and Boat with family-friendly amenities
- Boat Ramp to launch your boat
- Marinas, moorings and supplies
- Bait Shop to buy fishing bait & lures
- Fishing License Vendors
- Charter & Boat rentals
- Fishing Gear & equipment vendors
- Fly Fishing shops.
- Fish Refuge or Hatchery Facility
- Multiple Places of Interest

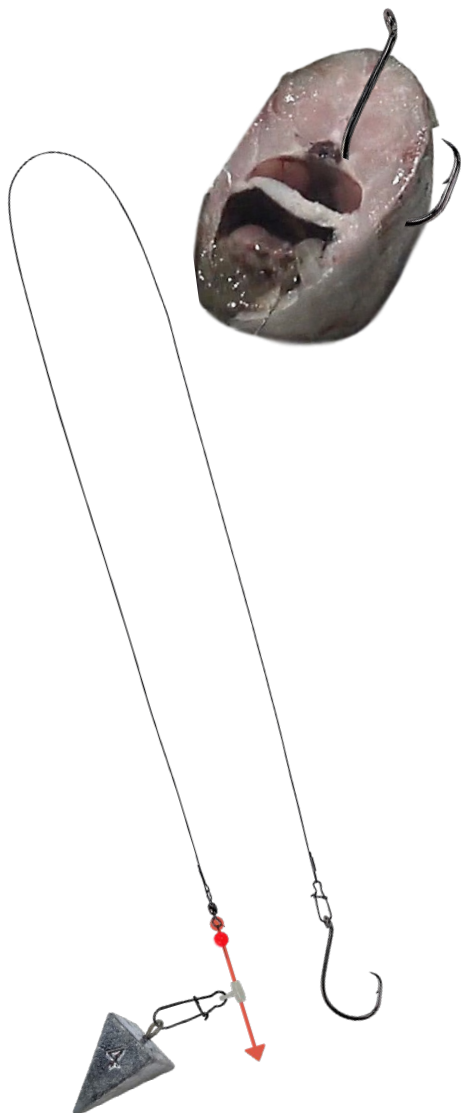
Use this list of **Key Symbols** on the map to find places to fish, bait shops, and hot fishing bites!

Click on a blue Body of Water icon on a fishing spot near you to:

- Review Logged Catches
- View Photos of Fish Caught
- Filter Fish Species in the Area
- Read Fishing Forecasts
- Get Directions to that Location



# Fish Finder Rig



## TACKLE

- Pyramid Sinker - 3-4 oz
- Sinker Slider - XL
- 8 mm Bead
- 36" Leader - 40lb
- Circle Hook - 5/0

## Species Bait

### GULF

Drum	Mullet
Snook	S. Mullet
Shark	All Cut Bait

### COAST

### EAST

Strip. Bass	Bunker/Clam
Bluefish	Bunker/Clam
Drum	Mullet
Shark	All Cut Bait

### WEST

Strip. Bass	Shad
Ling Cod	Lg. Squid
Shark	All Cut Bait

Drum Mullet/Bunker

## TECHNIQUE

Your big fish go-to! Load this up with any type of cut bait and cast it as far as you can. Keep the line taut and place it in a beach spike as you wait for a big hit. Let the fish peel your drag a bit before setting the hook hard.

# Fish Finder Float Rig



## TACKLE

- Pyramid Sinker - 3-4 oz
- Three Way Swivel - #3
- Duallock Snap - #4
- 18" Leader - 40lb
- 2" Peg Float
- J-Hook - 3/0

## Species Bait

### GULF

Shark	All Cut Bait
Drum	Mullet
Triple Tail	Ladyfish

### COAST

### EAST

Shark	All Cut Bait
Strip. Bass	Bunker
Drum	Mullet

### WEST

Shark	All Cut Bait
Strip. Bass	Shad
Lingcod	Lg. Squid

Small Shark All Cutbait

## TECHNIQUE

Keeping the pests away for mid-sized fish, adding a float keeps your bait elevated. Great for jetties and piers that get you out further. Otherwise, cast past the second break. This is a great evening shark rig as it keeps away from the rays.



# Pompano Rig

## TACKLE

- **\*PRE-MADE\***
- Pyramid Sinker - 1 oz
- 24" Mono Leader - 25 lbs
- Wide Gap Hook - #4



## TECHNIQUE

On the beach, fish high tide right where the swell meets the shore. Works great on piers, jetties and inlets if these conditions are not available. Make sure there is moving water, react quickly to bites.

## Species Bait

Pompano	Squid Strip
Croaker	Blood Worm
Surf Perch	Squid Strip

Pompano Squid Strip

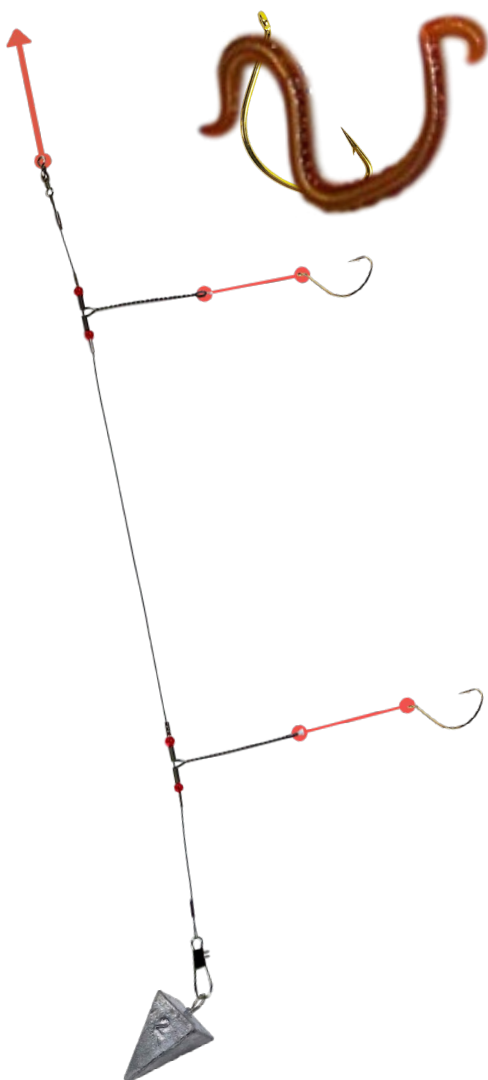
COAST

GULF

EAST

WEST

# Bottom Rig (Old Dominion)



## TACKLE

- Bottom Rig 18" - 40 lb
- Egg Sinker - 2 oz
- Tie 2x Mono Leaders 6"
- 2x Wide Gap Hooks - #4

## Species Bait

### GULF

Sea Trout	Shrimp
Croaker	Squid Strip
Sheepshead	Sand Fleas

### EAST

Weakfish	Blood Worm
Croaker	Squid Strip
Fluke	Squid Strip
S. Bluefish	Clam

### WEST

Surf Perch	Ghost Shrimp
Croaker	Blood Worm
Rockfish	Squid Shrimp

Weakfish Bloodworm

## TECHNIQUE

Great for rocky bottoms or turbulent surf, use this heavier rig to catch smaller surf species on the beach, piers, jetties and inlets. Cast over the first break in the surf or keep close to pylons and rocks when fishing platforms. Keep line taut and monitor small bites as the direct weight leaves no give for small fish.

# Ready Rig (Small)



## TACKLE

- \*PRE-MADE\*
- 1 oz Egg Sinker
- 24" Leader - 40 lb
- Wide Gap Hook - #4

## Species Bait

### GULF

Sea Trout	Shrimp
Croaker	Squid Strip
Snook	Shrimp

### COAST

### EAST

Weakfish	Blood Worm
Croaker	Clam
Fluke	Squid Strip

### WEST

Surf Perch	Ghost Shrimp
Croaker	Blood Worm
Rock Fish	Sand Crab

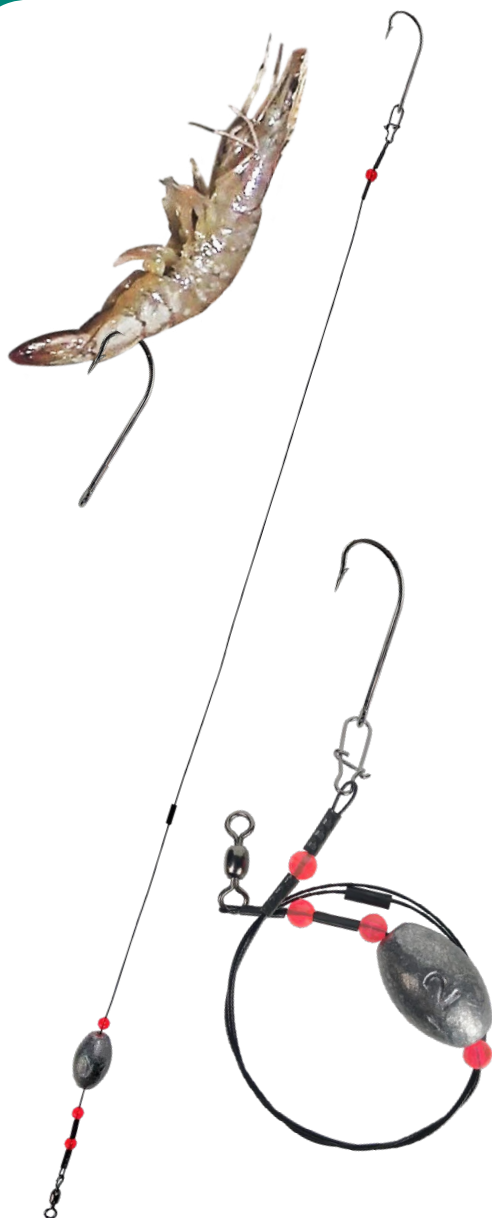
Surf Perch Squid Strip

## TECHNIQUE

Smaller fish at low tide. Fish the first trough, or the nearest drop in depth, typically 2-3 ft. Keep line taught and monitor for rapid taps. Can be fished on lighter freshwater gear.



# Ready Rig (Large)



## TACKLE

- \*PRE-MADE\*
- 2 oz Egg Sinker
- 24" Steel Leader - 40 lb
- J Hook - 2/0

## Species Bait

### GULF

Snook	Shrimp
Sea Trout	Shrimp
Croaker	Squid Strip

### COAST

### EAST

Weakfish	Blood Worm
Croaker	Clam
Fluke	Squid Strip

### WEST

Surf Perch	Ghost Shrimp
Croaker	Blood Worm
Rock Fish	Sand Crab

Snook

Shrimp

## TECHNIQUE

Smaller fish at high tide. Fish the first trough, or the nearest drop in depth, typically 3-5 ft. Keep line taught and monitor for rapid taps. Extra weight lets you cast over the first breakers and fish 2nd trough.

# Saltwater Lures

Saltwater lures are an advanced presentation used to target game fish and sort through smaller, less appealing species. Use lures when water clarity is high and surf conditions are moderate as they incite visual strikes. Refrain from the use of lures unless schools of bait-fish are prevalent or the target species is actively feeding.

## Silver Spoon

Wade into the first trough or stand on the first sand bar and cast the silver spoon laterally, in parallel with the shoreline. Steadily retrieve to reflect light in high clarity water. Tip the hook with the tail of a grub so fish target the hook-end upon striking.



## Grub & Jig



Cast into the second trough and bounce along the bottom covering all transitions through both troughs & sandbar. Pause often, allowing the fish to pick the grub up off the sea floor. Pitching a grub in moving water along jetties, passes and inlets is productive.

## Topwater Popper

Great for large swells with big pauses and strong water clarity as found on the East & West coast. Walk this lure like a dog on the top of the water through the suds left after a crashing wave. Look for seams or cut-off points where the length of a crashed wave expands and gives you more surface to cover.



# Essential Tools

The Tailored Tackle [Surf Fishing Kit](#) sports all the surf fishing rigs and lures from the Quick Guide.

**Bolt Cutters**

**Fillet Knife**

**Towel**

**Sand Spike**

**Fishing Pliers**

## Saltwater Tools

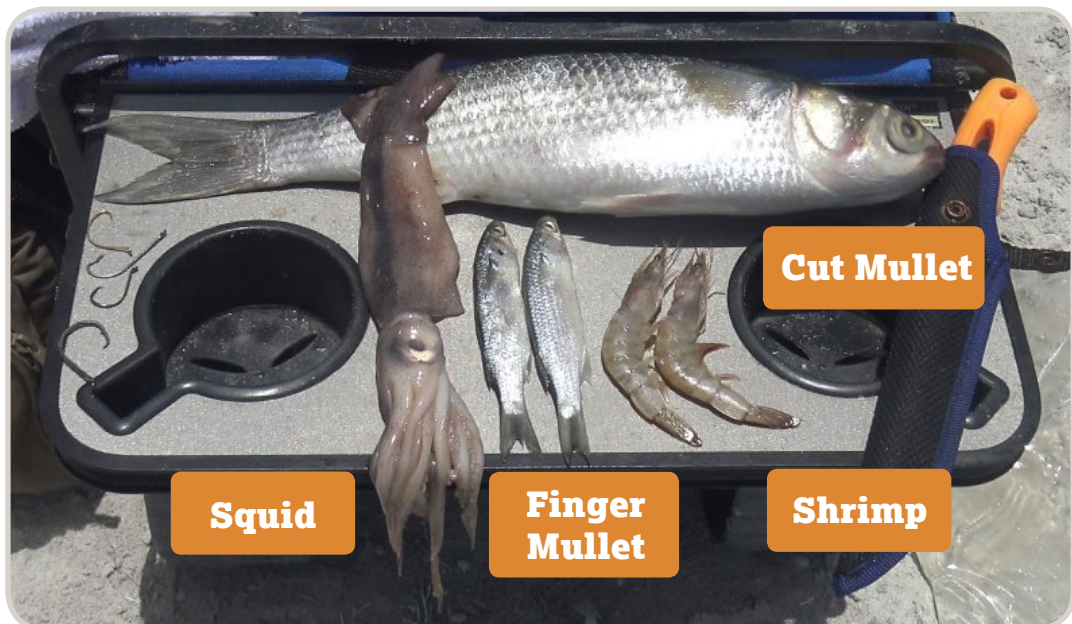
Heading to the beach with the correct assortment of saltwater fishing tools is critical. The most important tool to bring along is a **6" to 9" fillet knife** to cut your frozen bait. To remove hooks from toothy fish like shark, bring a pair of **6" to 12" fishing pliers**. We recommend investing in pliers with a line cutter, crimper, and wire cutter, like the 6.5" pliers from our [Freshwater Kit](#). These features help fix and maintain your surf rigs. **bolt cutters** are handy when handling hark and removing swallowed hooks on wire rigs. Lastly, bring along a **towel** to wipe off salt & scales.

**Sand Spikes hold your rod for convenience and are essential for fishing multiple rods**

# Frozen Bait

Frozen bait is the most convenient and accessible bait type for surf fishing.

While fresh bait caught with a cast net is ideal, frozen bait works just fine. The frozen bait we discuss is the most common assortment of Gulf Coast bait, simply convert the size of bait we discuss to the local bait available. For example, the methods on cutting and baiting mullet can be used for bait fish like bunker on the East Coast and shad on the West Coast. Shrimp and squid are universal and the most popular staple across all US coasts.



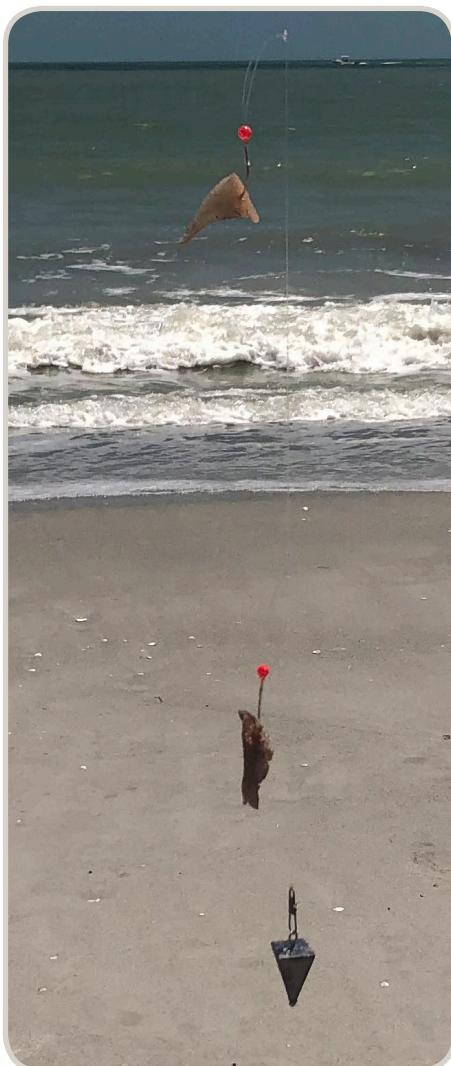
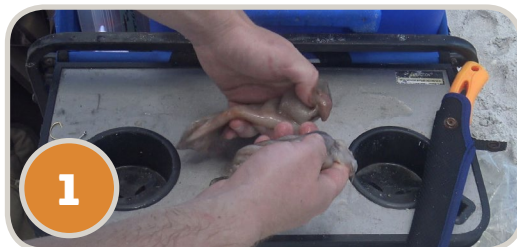
# Live Bait

Live bait like pinfish is a great option on the beach if your bait shop sells them or you can cast net. Make sure to store them in a cooler and supply them with oxygen through an aerator. Don't weight live bait with rigs or they will turn into dead bait. Either free-line them with a bare hook or drift them under a float for best results.

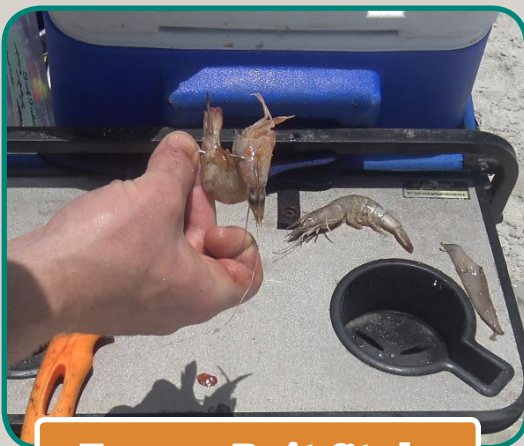




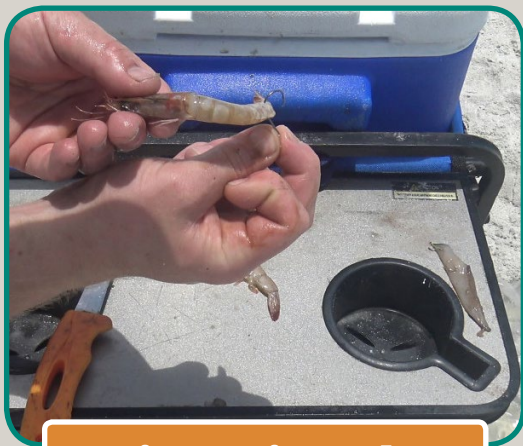
# How To Bait Squid



# How To Bait Shrimp



**Frozen Bait Style**



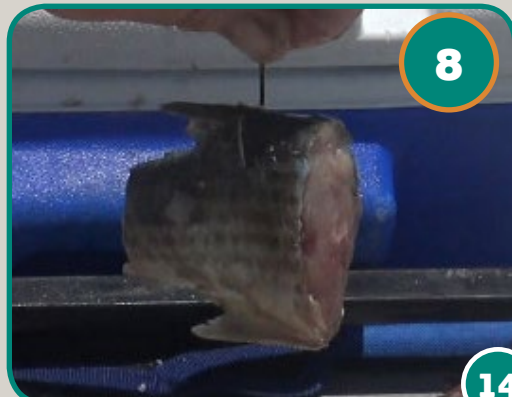
**Live Bait Style**

# How To Bait Sm Cut Bait





# How To Bait Lrg Cut Bait



# Surf Rod & Reel

The most important factor in selecting the appropriate surf fishing reel is the amount of line it can spool. At minimum, you need a reel that can hold 500 yds of 25 lb Braid. Many of the species you target will grow over 3 ft in length. Anything that large can peel off at-least 250 yds of line. A mid-level reel in the 6000-8000 size range will satisfy these requirements.

**SURF REEL** Size: 6000 - 8000



**SURF ROD** 8 - 10 FT

Your rod needs enough height so the line clears the surf breaking near shore when it is taut. 8 ft will work in the Gulf, but 10 ft is the minimum for the East & West Coast. A medium-heavy power rating with a 2-6 oz lure rating is needed to cast 4 oz sinkers and handle fish over 3 ft. Unlike a fast action freshwater rod, you want a moderate action surf rod to maximize casting distance as bites are heavier and easier to indicate.

**LINE** 25 - 50 LB BRAID

Braid is the preferred line type for surf fishing. You need as much line as your spool will take, and the smaller diameter of Braid maximizes capacity. If targeting game fish 3 ft or less, spool up 500 yds of 25 lb test. For anything larger, 500 yds of 50 lb braid is the minimum.



# Surf Casting

**Starting Position:** Walk into the water to maximize your casting distance. Cast from ankle depth if targeting the 1st trough or break. Proceed to casting from waist-high in order to reach a deeper section like the 2nd trough.

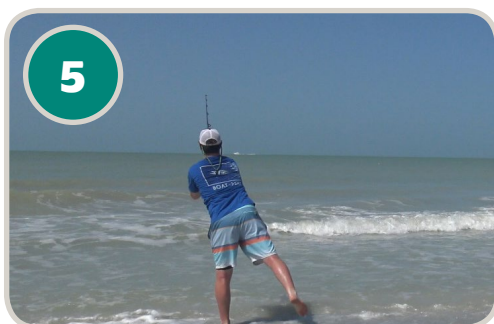
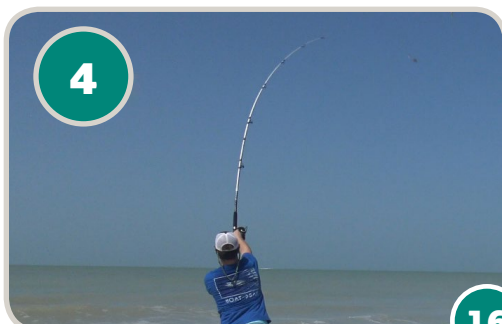
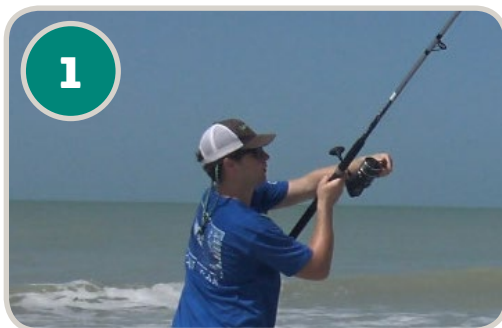
**1.** Hold the reel's shaft in-between your middle and index finger. Pull the line against the rod handle with your index finger and open the bail (metal half circle) with your opposite hand.

**2.** Gradually bring your rod over your shoulder, keeping an eye on your rig to make sure nothing is tangled.

**3.** In an long, steady, arching motion, swing your rod over your shoulder a full 180 degrees in front of you.

**4.** Release your index finger at the apex of your cast.

**5.** After your cast is complete, keep the bail open and pinch the line with your thumb and index finger. Walk slowly back, gradually releasing line through your fingers while keeping it taut so that the line doesn't catch in the waves. Close the bail and place in a sand spike.





# Reading the Beach

## Sandbar

A Sandbar is an underwater structure that causes incoming waves to break. During low-tide, sand builds up as new shoreline farther from the beach. During high tide, much of the sand build-up remains, creating an underwater “bar” where incoming waves break before they reach the new shoreline. Waves capping and rolling over, typically 20-30 yds out, will indicate the bar’s location. You will rarely target fish on a sandbar. Instead, you will use the sandbar as a reference point to locate the deeper channel that forms between the Sandbar and shore, as well as subsequent channels and drop offs beyond the 1st sandbar.

## Trough

A trough is a deeper channel that forms between the shoreline and the sandbar (1st trough), as well as subsequent channels that may form between two sandbars (2nd trough). Troughs are most often found in the first 10-20 yds between the shoreline and the first sandbar. Trough’s are your primary location to target fish as they corral schools of bait-fish and act as a highway for all species. The larger predator fish cruise through troughs and attempt to ambush prey near entryways (seams) and cut offs (points). Target game fish under 3 ft in the 1st trough and larger predators 20-30 yds past the sandbar.

## Seam

A seam is a separation between sandbars that causes water to flow into and out of the trough. Seams are one of the few entryways into the troughs, and the moving water sucks in and pushes out bait fish. Target the pools on the side of the inflow/outflow as predators stage here to ambush prey. A seam typically sports the largest number fish anywhere on the beach as it condenses traffic too and from the trough.

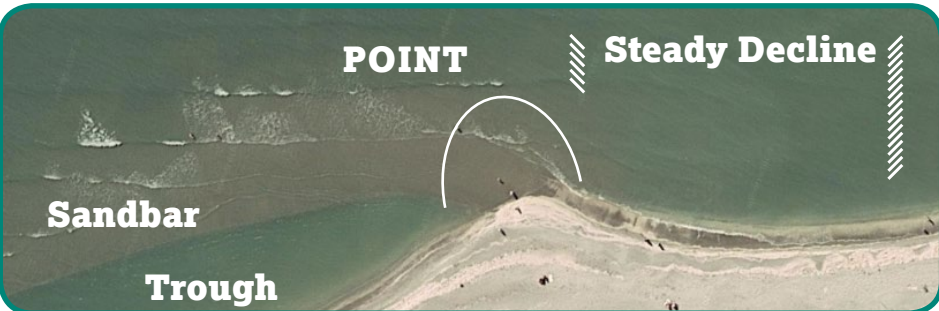
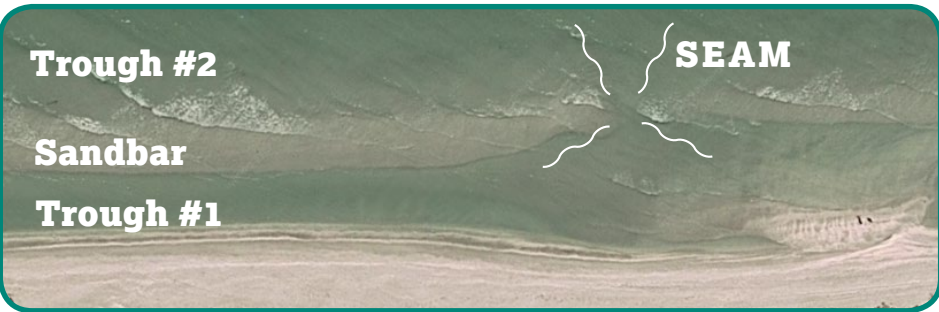
## Point

A point is a shallow area of the beach that juts out and gradually declines in depth at a much lower rate than the rest of the beach. Points close off a trough and naturally form deeper pools on either side. Bait fish pile up in confusion when the trough hits a point and they need to turn around. Larger predator fish wait in ambush. Target the sides of points where deeper pools form but do not target the point itself.

## Cover

Unlike freshwater fishing, cover that provides shade and protection is rare and challenging to find on the beach. Walk the beach and look for changes in the on-shore make up like rocks and jetties. Often times changes in the beach are reflected underwater. Low tide is a great time to identify these constructs. On high clarity days, you can identify cover by spotting pockets and lines within the water that maintain a darker color.

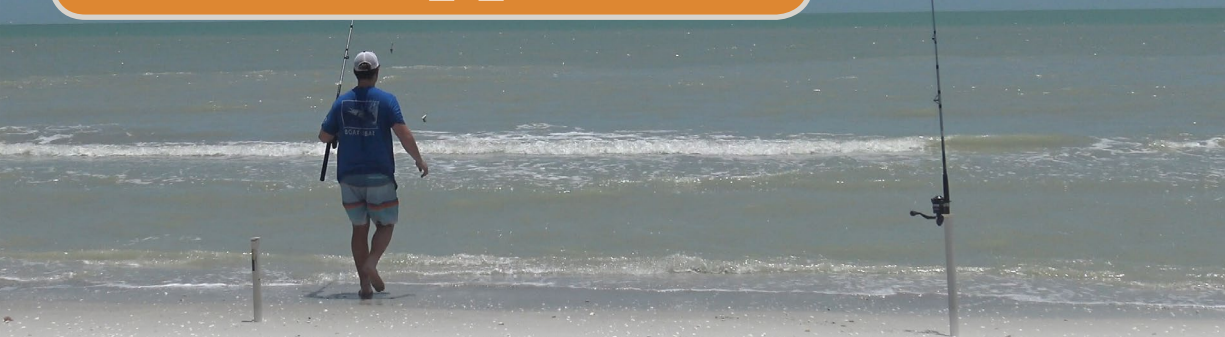
## Beach Structure



## Mapping Structure

The most effective method for identifying the structure of the surf is to watch the waves and locate where they break. If a sandbar is prominent, the surf will break at the apex of the bar, leaving a wash of suds over the trough. If multiple bars are in place, waves will reform and break again at a smaller scale as they near shore. Seams can be identified by a gap in the line of wave breaks, and are most prominent when the divergent waves break in opposite directions. Confirm the significance and depth of each structural feature by walking in a straight line out into the water until you reach chest height. This method typically works for troughs, sandbars and points. App based mapping like the Fishbrain app can give you a general sense of your beach's structure.

# 2 Pole Approach



Fishing with multiple rods on the beach improves your strike rate and allows you to effectively target multiple species at the same time. We recommend two poles per angler. Have one pole rigged up with a heavier rig and larger cut bait and one pole sporting a smaller rig with shrimp or squid. Use the larger rig to target larger species which often take longer wait times. While waiting, you can actively fish for smaller species to harvest table fair or bait for your heavy rigs.

Fish are attracted by the scent of your bait and the activity generated by pitching lures and catching fish. Hitting the beach with more anglers to manage more lines with more bait is recommended. Space out your spikes & rods roughly 5-10 yds apart to cover more water while still being able to reach a bite on time. Six poles total for two people is an efficient sweet spot for getting on a bite. Consolidating to 4 rods is the most manageable way to effectively bait and rig at a fast pace.





# Light Rig for Table Fair

Use light rigs with smaller bait near the shore to target the most common and best eating surf species. In a two pole approach, your light tackle will keep the day exciting as your heavy rigs average 1-2 hits per hour. Lighter tackle enables you to target snook, sea trout, croaker, small shark and more!

## Setting Up

Tie on a 1-2 oz Ready Rig or a Bottom Rig.

Bait with squid strips or shrimp. Cast into the 1st trough or the area between where the waves break and the shoreline. If the waves are breaking at shore, fish right in the breaking surf when the waves are less than 3 ft. If waves are greater than 3 ft, target an area roughly 10-20 yds past the wave break.

## The Bite!

Hold your rod while fishing light tackle as the bites are subtle. You should feel a tap-tap when the bite starts. Wait until there are 3-4 repeated taps or a hard tug before setting the hook. If you don't get a hit in 5-10 minutes, check your bait, move over 10-20 yds, and cast again. If you received light taps without commitment from the fish, reduce the size of your bait. When smaller fish become a pester, increase the size of your bait to filter them out, but know that the number of bites will reduce.

## The Fight!

Keep your drag loose but also tight enough to set the hook on a smaller bite. After a series of taps or a stronger tug, set the hook by raising your rod tip roughly a foot. Keep your line taught and consistently retrieve so there is no slack in your line. If it is a sizable fish, let the fish pull drag. If the fish runs left or right, walk with it and maintain a taut connection.

## Releasing Fish

Once the fish nears the shoreline, keep your rod tip high and gradually drag it to the edge of the water. Set your rod into a sand spike and bring a pliers over to remove the hook. Lift the leader of your rig with one hand and remove the hook with the pliers in your other hand while the fish is beached. Handle the fish with wet hands and avoid gripping the mouth until you can identify tooth sharpness by species. Walk into the water and submerge fish to release.



# Heavy Rig for Big Fish

## Rigging Up

Use heavy rigs with bigger bait to target fish over 3 ft such as shark, striped bass and bull sized red drum. A good heavy set up is the fish finder rig sporting a 4 oz sinker and baited with a 2" wide cut of mullet. If junk species like sea cats or crustaceans pick away at your big bait, add a 2" foam float to your leader a few inches away from the hook. While adding the extra float will likely reduce strikes, your bait will be lifted away from pests and available for a larger predator. Sharks don't seem to mind a little extra hardware. The larger species roam the depths on the other side of the sandbar since feeding in the trough requires too much energy. At their size, deeper water more adequately conceals predators from their prey.

## Casting Out

You typically want to get heavy rigs out as far as possible. Wade onto the sandbar and make your cast at waist deep so you can clear the surf. Keep your bail open and slowly feed out line as you walk back to shore to prevent the waves from carrying your slack line and moving your bait. Once back at shore, set your rod into a sand spike and reel in until the line is taut to your weight. Dropping your bait with a kayak or paddle-board is an effective way to get your rigs out deeper.

## Drag Setting

Turn your drag down fairly loose, so it is light enough to pull line out without removing the rod from the sand spike. When larger fish hit, they peel very hard and very fast. Your entire rod will bend over and if the drag is too tight your line will snap or the fish will drag your entire set up into the ocean.

## The Bite!

Watch your rod and listen for peeling drag. Check your bait every half hour and change your bait every hour to consistently provide fresh scent. Do not worry about light taps on the rod tip. Your rod will always display a lighter show of bending and tapping because of the waves and current. You will know when there is a fish on, as the rod will bend halfway over and your line will peel out. When this happens, you have a fish on. Run over to your rod and gingerly remove it from the rod spike.



The Tailored Tackle [Surf Fishing Kit](#) has all the surf fishing lures and rigs to get out and land fish on the beach.



## Setting the Hook

You want to let the fish make its initial run, so let it peel drag as you hold your rod and loosen the drag lightly if it pulls you forward at all.

Once the running slows down, turn your drag up 1-2 turns so that you can set the hook and turn the fish around. Set the hook by lightly tugging upwards roughly a half a foot. After the fish turns, rapidly reel in slack until the fish puts pressure back on. If the fish takes another run after the turn, wait for the fish to slow down before trying to turn it again.

## The Fight

Maintain a taut line without giving any slack. When the fish runs, let it peel line and

be patient. When the run slows down, lift your rod in a 90 degree arc from waist to eye level without reeling. Lower your rod back down and reel rapidly to avoid any slack. During the fight, a large fish will abruptly run. If you are reeling in at the time of this run, your drag will tighten up and your line will snap. Pulling the fish in by gradually lifting up and then reeling in slack reduces break offs during the fight.

At high tide, larger fish will often fight in the direction of a trough. Stay parallel with the fish as you fight, walking the shoreline to maintain coherency. If a fish takes off too far to your left or right, the angle will reduce your leverage and your line will cut on rocks and shells at the shoreline or sandbar. Always stay parallel.

Fighting a big fish from the shoreline at low tide will lead to a lost fish because your line will chafe against the sandbar as the fish pulls deeper. Walk out and fight your fish on the second sandbar. Tides change fast and fights can last over an hour. At low tide there might be only 1 ft of water halfway between you and a fish. You won't be able to land the fish if you are not standing on the sandbar to maintain leverage.

## Releasing Fish

Land larger fish with 2 people. Maintain tight slack until a second angler can grab the beginning of the leader and drag the fish near shore. If you are by yourself, do your best to land the fish by beaching it in the shallows and grabbing the leader with your other hand. Try not to drop your pole in the water as salt and sand are very corrosive to the reel. Place your rod in a sand spike while you remove the hook and release the fish.



Dirtbag Darling 2016

# Beach Conditions

## Winds/ Waves

Wind speed and wave height drastically effect the presentation of your bait. High winds, typically greater than 15 MPH, put pressure on your line as it fights to stay taut with your rig. Your line will yew to the wind pattern, making bite indication a challenge and drive your bait to shore. Strong winds rev up wave speed and move your bait too fast. In high surf or windy days, default to fishing larger sinkers and baits. Lures are rarely an option in these conditions. No winds and/or low surf are problematic also as your baits scent covers a smaller radius and the food chain is less active as a whole. The ideal wind range is 5-10 MPH. Ideal wave heights range from 2-3 ft in the gulf and 3-5 ft on the coasts.

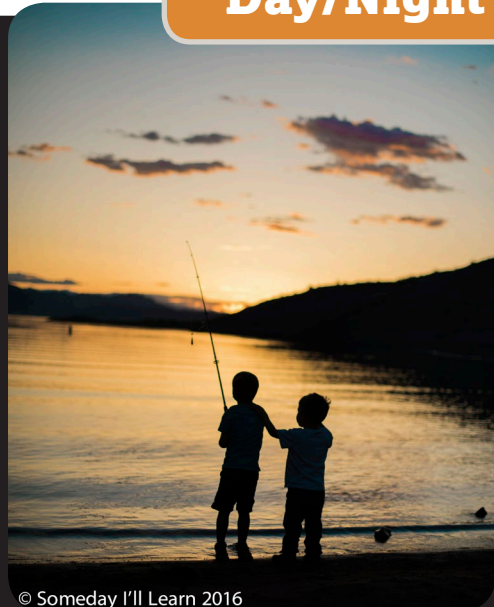
## Water Clarity

Wind speed and wave height often dictate water clarity. While coastal regions vary, surf fishing is generally more productive in higher clarity water relative to the region. Most game fish and table fare species rely on sight more dominantly than smell. High wind speeds create a choppy surf that kicks up sand and fogs the water. Less appealing species like sting rays, sea cats, and other bottom feeders feed heavily in these conditions due to their competitive advantages in scent predation. You will still have a fun day catching shark, but a trophy snook or striped bass is less common. Extremely clear water is a challenge on its own, as wave height is often too low to rev the food chain and fish are more timid. A well rounded mix of decent water clarity, moderate wind speed, and average wave height generate the best surf fishing conditions.

## Day/Night

Daytime is most conducive to game fish that depend on sight. However, some sport species like Shark are most active at night when they prey on inactive schools with a keen sense of smell.

Fishing dawn/dusk gives you access to the Shark bite as well as game fish species. When fishing at night, get set up at dusk when there is light to avoid any rigging mistakes. Make sure to bring a head lamp and reduce your time spent wading in the water.



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# LEAVE THE BEACH

**When There Are:**  
**Signs of Lightning**  
**High Surf Alert**  
**Winds over 20 MPH**  
**Hazardous Algae**

## Tidal Patterns

Tides are the rising and falling of the

ocean's sea level. An incoming tide brings in water and raises the sea level. An outgoing tide pushes out water and lowers the sea level. The moon's gravitational pull of the Earth moves water. When a coastline is closer to the moon's pull, water flows in causing a high tide. When that coast line is further away, water flows out causing low tide.

Tides are important for surf fishing because the flow of water moves the food chain. Algae feeds on sun, bait fish feed on algae, game fish feed on bait, big fish feed on game. The tides move the algae and everything else follows.

**INCOMING**



**HIGH**

**OUTGOING**



**LOW**

***GREAT!***

***FAIR***

***GOOD***

***POOR***

Incoming tide is often the best surf fishing as the food chain is getting pushed towards you. The rise of sea level also brings nutrients in from the shore and gives fish new access to fertile feeding grounds. Outgoing tide is comparatively poorer fishing, as the food chain is leaving you and fertile access is diminishing.

However, moving water is the most important factor. When tides go slack at peak high and bottom low, biology takes over and fish focus their energy on transitioning their location and appetite. The 1-2 hours at peak low & high tide are typically the slowest bite as fish are not actively feeding.