



## CHAPTER 4

### ENTICING A STRIKE (tackle and bait)

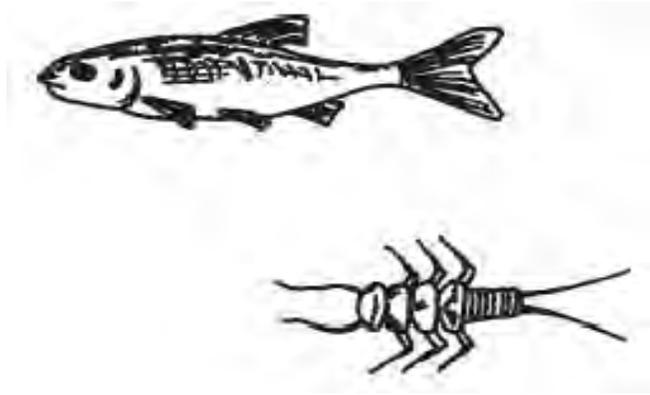
Now that the choices above water have been discussed, it is time to dive below and check the options for the business end of the line. The devices used to entice fish to strike are grouped together under the name **terminal tackle**. Lures, hooks, bobbers, and sinkers all fall into this category. Many lures can be used by themselves, whereas most hooks need some sort of bait. Often, combining lures and bait is the only way to get bites. Before deciding which technique to use, a beginner must have an understanding of what's available.

When you are fishing you must think about what fish like to eat or prey on. The most common diet for fish is other smaller fish and aquatic macroinvertebrates. **Aquatic macroinvertebrates** are water insects that are visible to the naked eye and have a skeleton on the outside of their body. Although fish are opportunistic feeders, they will eat other things when normal prey items are not available. Fish will eat salmon eggs and many artificial bait substitutes. One item you should not use is corn; even though fish will try to eat corn they do not have the ability digest it. What items fish can and cannot eat is an important consideration when choosing baits.

## LURE THEM WITH LURES

There are times when artificial baits out-produce natural ones. When fish are aggressively feeding, the convenience and speed of using a lure can improve your chance of enticing a bite.

Ice fishing lures are made to resemble small prey fish and insects:



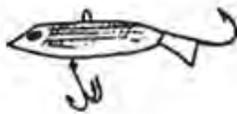
Lures can be divided into three basic categories:

### JIGS:

Lead Head



Swimming Jig



Football

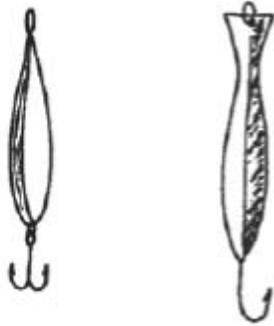


Dressed



## FLASH LURES:

Spoons



## TEAR DROPS/ICE FLIES:



**Bobbers:** Bobbers are important tools in addition to lures and baits. Bobbers keep baits suspended in the water at a known depth and alert anglers to a bite.

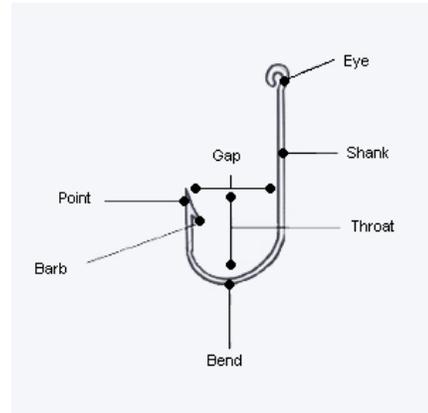


Lures and bobbers are important, but you won't catch anything without a hook. Hooks come in various sizes and shapes depending on what you are trying to catch.

## Hook or Hooks:

Hooks are made of a variety of materials and come in a wide range of sizes depending on the usage and the desired purpose. It is important to make sure to get the appropriate hook for your desired catch and legal hook type for the area.

Many sport fishing areas restrict the number of hooks or the type of hook a person can use. So prior to going fishing it is important to check the sport fishing regulation for hook restrictions. The statewide sport fishing regulations says sport fishing may be conducted only by

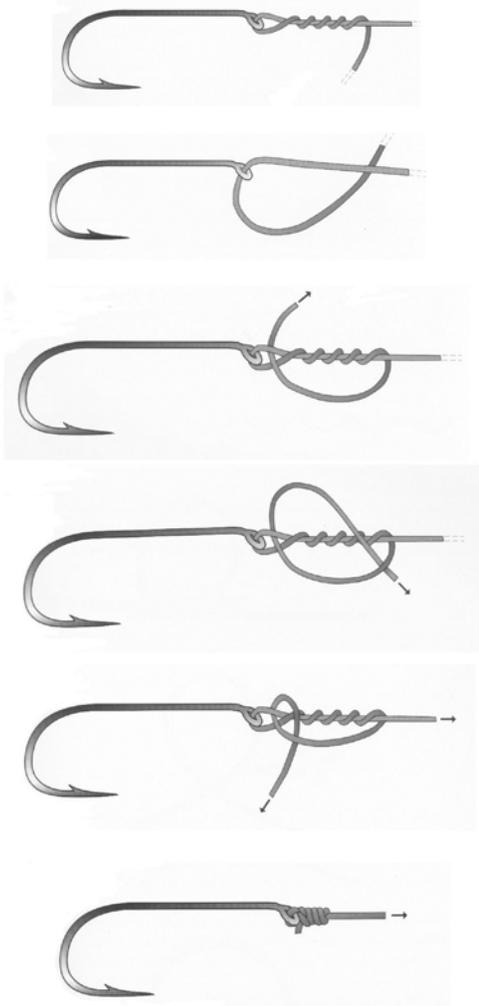


the use of a single line attached to not more than one plug, spoon, or series of spinners, or two flies, or two hooks unless otherwise provided in the regulations. Hooks can come with a single point or multiple points for a single shank. It is important to know not just how many hooks but what type of hook. The regulations will often refer to a single hook (a fish hook with only one point) or a multiple hook (a fish hook with two or more points). If the number of hooks or the type of hook is not specified in the area specific regulation then it defaults to the statewide regulation.

## Knots:

Anglers use a variety of knots to attach hooks to their lines. Poorly tied knots can cause fish to break away and escape. Here are two useful knots:

### Improved Clinch Knot



### Palomer knot



Knots should be wet before tightening to reduce friction and to keep from weakening the fishing line.

Possible extension activities:

- 1) (Skill Exercise) Take some line and hooks (or substitute eye bolts) and practice tying knots. Discuss with a partner what happens if water (lubricant) is not added to the line.
- 2) (Creative Project) Make lures out of construction paper and decorate the walls with the lures. Describe why you decorated the lures the way you did, and what you were trying to imitate and catch.
- 3) (Creative Project) Paint blank, unpainted jigs or lure and use them to go fishing.