



Microfishing

Created by Adam Comer, 2019 TPWD Angler Education Area Chief Meeting

What is Microfishing?

Origins are traced to a Japanese style called “tanago”, named for a fish species the size of a penny to a quarter.



What is Microfishing?

The pursuit of
catching fish
species less than 6
inches long with a
pole and line.



What is Microfishing?



3:37

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SPORTS

Little Fish Tales: Micro Fishers Focus On The Species, Not Size

October 27, 2016 - 4:42 AM ET

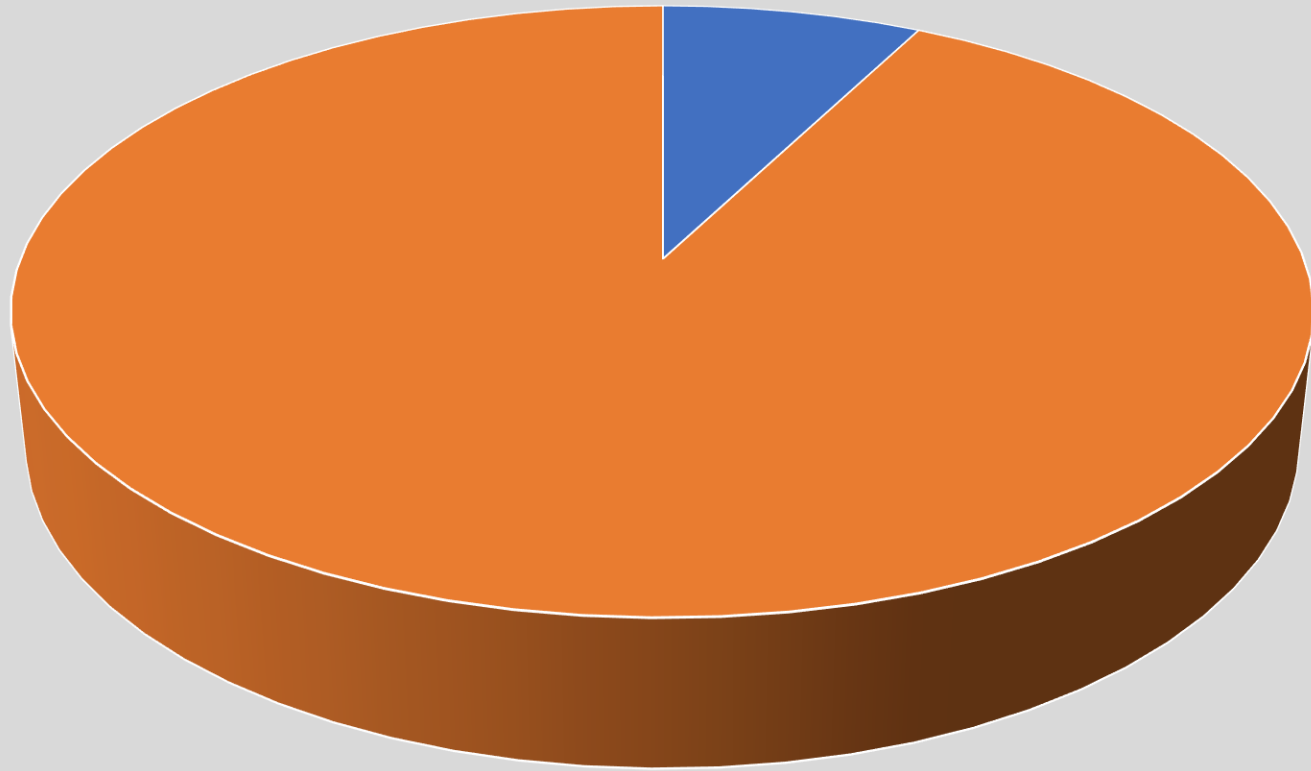
Heard on Morning Edition

SEBASTIÁN MARTINEZ

FROM



Texas Inland Fish Species



■ Game/Sport ■ Non-game

■ TPWD Inland Game Fish Species (17 out of 224 species)

Bass: Alabama, Guadalupe, largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, striped, white, yellow

Catfish: blue, channel, flathead

Crappie: black, white

Trout: brown rainbow

Walleye

*Alligator Gar

WHY MICROFISHING?

Timothy Aldridge

Waxhaw, North Carolina

I'm often asked why I microfish. I asked myself that question last fall when I retired my dip net and seine and picked up a fishing rod. At the 2017 Missouri NANFA convention I witnessed a few NANFA members microfishing and I was intrigued. I thought about the idea for weeks following the convention, until I decided to give it a try. I purchased a ten-foot collapsible pole and the appropriate micro-gear and went to work in the fall of 2017. The most challenging part was tying the small line to the extremely small hooks. (I later learned to appreciate pre-tied snelled hooks.)

In a backyard creek, I quickly caught Eastern Mosquitofish (*Gambusia holbrooki*), Rosyside Dace (*Clinostomus funduloides*), Bluehead Chub (*Nocomis leptocephalus*), Creek Chub (*Semotilus atromaculatus*), Green Sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*) and Bluegill (*L. macrochirus*). It was just like fishing, except, well, smaller.

Everything in microfishing is small, as the name implies. The appeal to me was the fact that the fish had to take the bait, it wasn't trapped or netted. Microfishing takes some skill on the part of the angler to maneuver into position and present the bait to the fish without spooking it. It also takes a bit of luck. It's more of a challenge than traditional fishing.

Microfishing is a phenomenon that has recently gained more attention and is on the rise. To outsiders, microfishing may look like a combination of fishing and bird watching, and that may not be a bad way to picture it. Microfishing is more popular with "life listers." This would be the equivalent of birders keeping a bird count list. Lifelisters usually have specific goals to reach, as in a certain number of species. I decided to

in the winter. I was surprised at how quickly my lifelist grew and before I knew it, I was a microfisherman and lifelister!

As I experimented more with microfishing, I learned what gear did and didn't work. Hooks are the most important piece of gear in the microfisherman's tacklebox, and I found the pre-tied snelled ones to be the best option. Today there are a variety of options, but several years ago the only small hooks available were from fly tying shops. In my experience, the Owner brand "Smallest" hook and the Gamakatsu Ultimate Tanago hook are the two best options. Both are pre-snelled and are easily tied to a main line or swivel (Figure 1).

For rods, my advice is to go simple. Specialty "Tanago" rods are a lot more expensive, but I've always used a collapsible Crappie pole. B 'n' M Poles (www.bnmpoles.com/) sell 10-foot



Why Microfishing?

This is Micro-Fishing: Big Interest in Tiny Fish

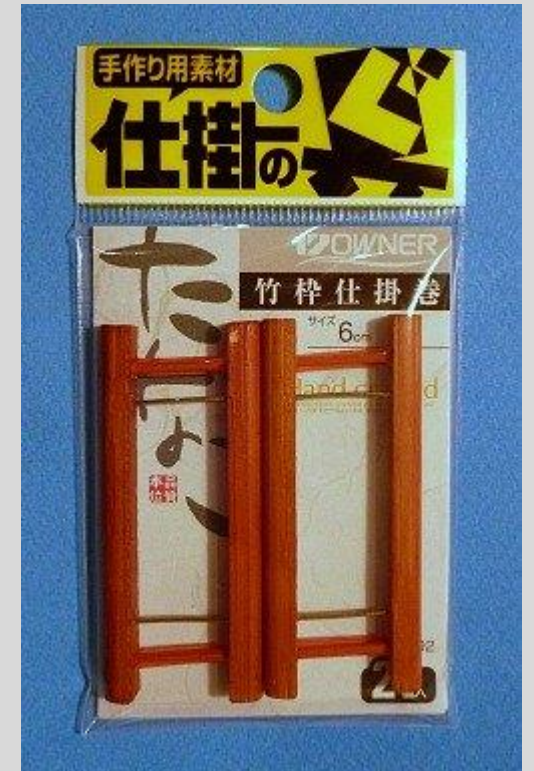
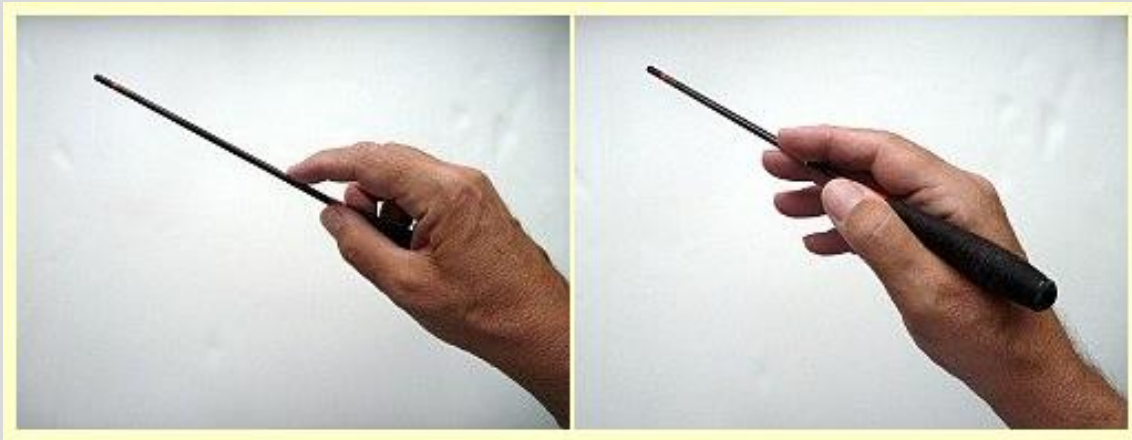
P. J. Perea - April 12, 2018

- **It's inexpensive.** Most outfits are less than \$50 to get started.
- **It's effective.** Anglers can catch hundreds of fish in a day.
- **It's easy to get the whole family involved.** Kids will love the non-stop action.
- **It's incredibly addicting,** with thousands of species to catch and add to a life list.
- **It's very sustainable,** as it is primarily a catch-and-release sport.
- **It's practical** for those who live near small streams and ponds, which are everywhere and are filled with fish.
- **It's different.** For millennials and anglers looking for an eco-conscious, low-impact, inexpensive and challenging sport that communes with nature, this pretty much fits the bill.

Gear - Hooks



Gear – Rod



Bait



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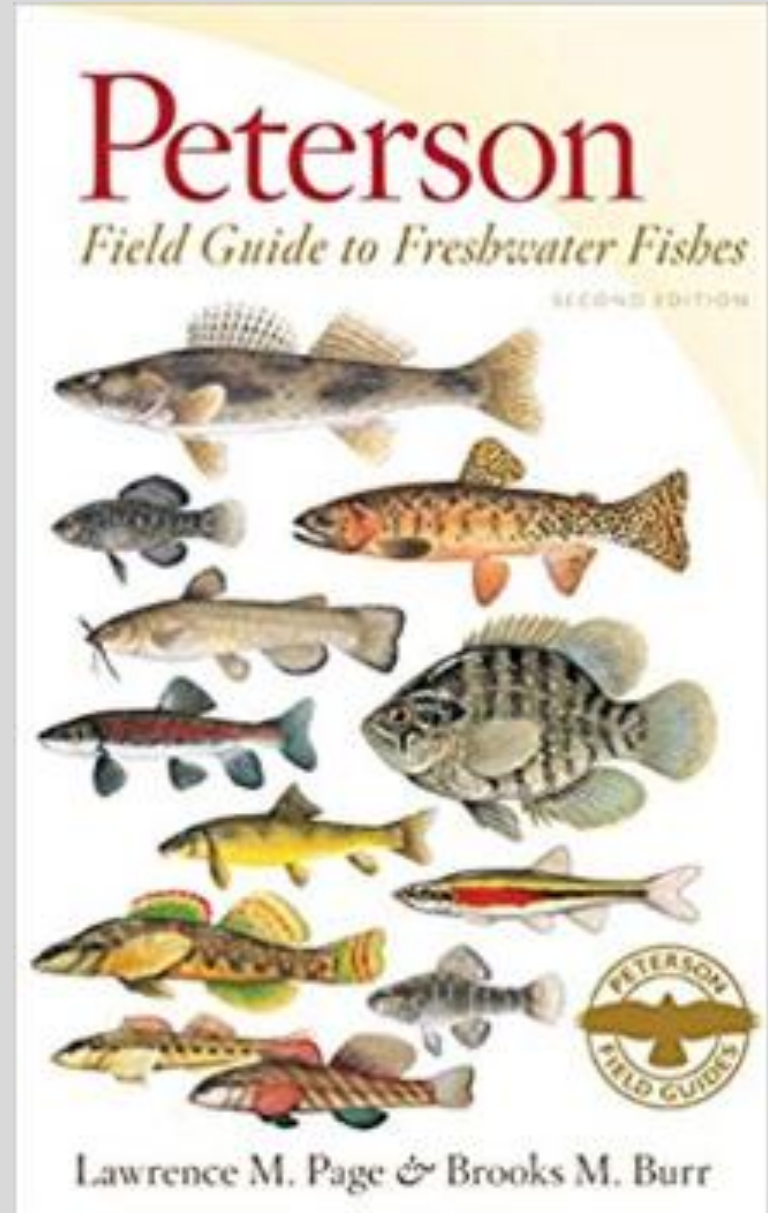
Gear







Resources



Resources

<http://microfishing.com/>

<https://www.tenkarabum.com/micro-fishing.html>

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=microfishing