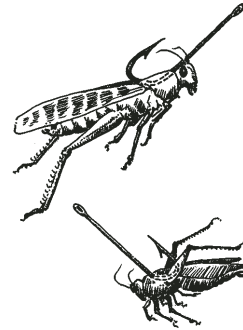


Always check current fishing regulations (see page 46) to make sure your choice of bait is legal.

COMMON FRESHWATER BAITS

Crickets and Grasshoppers

These are excellent choices for sunfish, bass and catfish. Both of these insects can be caught by hand or with an insect net. Look for them in thick, tall grass or at night under lights. Laying a cloth, towel, cardboard or newspaper on the grass will attract crickets. You want to use thin wire hooks for sunfish (#6-#10) and medium-sized hooks for bass and catfish (#1 or #2). Make sure the point of the hook is completely covered to increase bites.



Worms

Whether it's an earthworm, red wiggler or nightcrawler, worms are a favored choice for the majority of freshwater fish in Texas.



You can either raise your own in a compost pile, dig them from your garden or purchase from bait shops and fishing tackle stores. Remember to cover the point of the hook when fishing for sunfish to keep them from pulling the worm off the hook. Store live, leftover worms in the refrigerator for the next time you go fishing.

Minnows

Varieties of minnows are used to catch both fresh and saltwater fish. Keep minnows in an aerated minnow bucket and don't crowd them. Remember to change the water often to keep the minnows lively. Hook them through the lips or under the dorsal fin. Avoid hooking through the backbone because this will kill the minnow.



Crayfish

Crayfish, known as crawfish, crawdads or mudbugs, are used for catching large-mouth and smallmouth bass, white bass, catfish and freshwater drum. They can be



caught in small ponds, roadside ditches or where depressions hold water frequently and usually after a rain. These can be fished either live, dead or using just the tail. Hook through the underside of the tail so the point protrudes through the top. Catfish and freshwater drum don't mind if it's live or dead. Grasp the crayfish, and pull the tail away from the head, threading the hook through its tail or both sides of body. Freshwater drum prefer crayfish to any other type of live or dead bait.

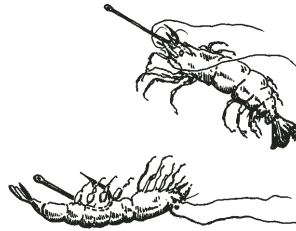
PREPARED BAITS

From homemade concoctions to commercially-made baits, these are primarily used for catching bottom-feeding fish like catfish and carp. Your choices include canned corn, stink bait, cottonseed cake, hot dogs, dough balls – the list goes on with this type of bait. Fishing with treble hooks works best to keep the bait from being flung off during casting.

COMMON SALTWATER BAITS

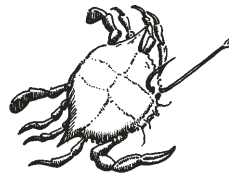
Shrimp

Shrimp are widely-used bait for saltwater fishing. Shrimp can be either alive or dead. Hook shrimp under the rostrum “horn” on the head to fish with live shrimp. You can either peel or leave the shell on fresh dead shrimp for fishing on the bottom. Many anglers fishing for freshwater catfish use dead shrimp for bait.



Crab

Different species are used for saltwater fishing to catch sheepshead, black drum, cobia and snapper. Sheepshead and snapper go after hermit and fiddler crabs hooked through the body. Black drum and cobia have a liking for blue crabs. Break in half or quarters for black drum and hook through the body sections. Use small, whole, live blue crab for cobia by removing the pinchers and hook through the body.



Squid

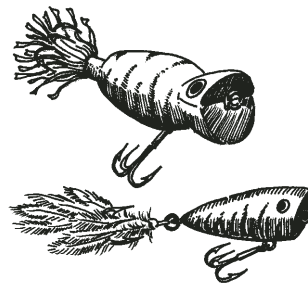
You can purchase dead squid for saltwater bottom-fishing. Fish such as gafftopsail, catfish, and snapper are good examples. Hook the squid two or three times in and out through body to avoid small fish stealing the bait.

Many companies make fishing lures in different types, patterns, sizes and colors. “How to” instructions are either on the package or inside with the lure. Both fresh and saltwater anglers use lures interchangeably to catch a variety of fish.

Plugs

black bass, crappie, striped, white and hybrid bass, seatrout, red drum, flounder and several offshore species

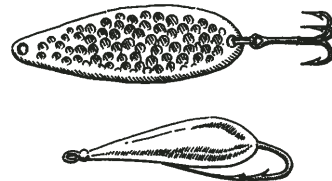
Plugs can be made of various materials such as plastic, wood and sometimes cork. Plugs are classified as topwater and crankbaits (shallow diving, medium diving and deep diving). Either two or three treble hooks are attached to plugs to cover the fish’s striking area.



Spoons

black bass, striped, white and hybrid bass, seatrout, red drum, flounder and several offshore species

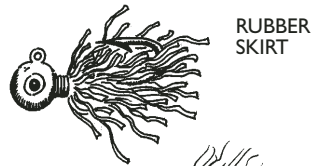
Spoons are metal, spoon-shaped lures made to resemble a swimming or injured baitfish. You can jig them (jiggle them up and down), cast and reel them in, or troll them behind a boat (let it drag on a fishing line behind the boat). Many anglers attach a swivel to the spoon to prevent it from twisting their line during retrieval.



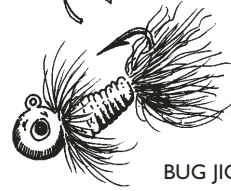
Jigs

black bass, striped, white and hybrid bass, crappie, seatrout, red drum, flounder and several offshore species

Jigs have weighted metal or lead heads with a body and tail made of rubber skirts, feathers, soft plastic or animal hair. Numerous sizes, colors and patterns are used to catch a large majority of fresh and saltwater fish.



RUBBER SKIRT

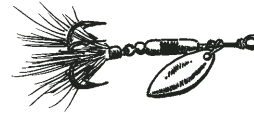
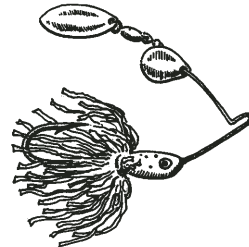


BUG JIG

Spinnerbaits

black bass, rainbow trout, crappie on small in-line spinners

Spinnerbaits have one or more blades that spin or rotate around a straight wire or “safety pin” type shaft. Nearly all spinnerbaits have tails and bodies made of rubber skirts, animal hair, soft plastic, feathers or other materials.



Soft Plastics

black bass, seatrout, red drum and flounder

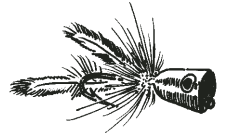
Soft plastics are pliable lures made into worms, grubs, lizards, crayfish, minnows, shrimp, crabs and many others, resembling what fish eat. Plastics are available in different sizes, colors, and some with fish-attracting scent. They can be used with or without bullet weight sinkers, jig heads or spinnerbaits.



Flies and Poppers

almost all common sport fish will strike a fly or popper of some variety

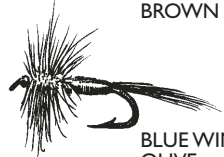
Flies and poppers are small, very light, almost weightless lures used primarily for flyfishing. A spincast or spinning rod and reel outfitted with a “bubble” (clear bobber) placed four to five feet above the lure works well if you don’t have a fly rod. These lures are excellent for sunfish and bass, but most any fish can be caught on these baits.



POPPERS



MARCH BROWN



BLUE WING OLIVE