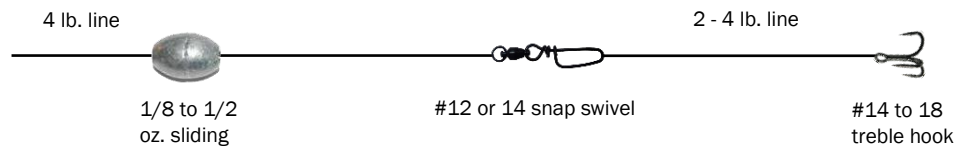




Floating Bait Rig for Catching Trout

The best method for catching trout here is known as the Floating Bait Rig.

We recommend this setup. The sliding sinker allows the trout to pick up the bait and not feel the weight, which might make the fish spit out the hook. The size of the weight depends on the time of year. In winter, use lighter weights because the trout are closer to shore (warmer water). In summer, use the ½ oz. weight because the fish are out in deeper (cooler) water.



The most important part of this setup is the length of leader. During winter, the length should be 2 ft. In spring and summer, the length should be 3 ft. and in summer, it should be 4 to 5 ft. Changing conditions make it important for the bait to float where the fish are. The best way is to ask the Ranger what length is best.

More fish are caught on nightcrawlers than any other bait here at the lake. Use ½ of a nightcrawler and wrap the cut end around a size 16 bronze treble hook. Gently blow up the loose end with a worm blower. Put worm in water to be sure that you have put in enough air so that it floats. The other option is to put the worm on 2 of the 3 hooks and put a plain white marshmallow on the 3rd hook. This works very well.

There are several other baits that work very well. Our #1 jar bait is Sierra Gold because it works better in very cold water. #2 is Berkley Power Bait. We also use salmon eggs, plain white marshmallows, and Velveeta cheese. Be sure to ask the Ranger what the hottest bait is right now.

Use scent to increase the effectiveness on these baits. Scent makes sense!

Where is the best spot to fish? Again, ask the Ranger because the best spots are always changing.

If you follow the Ranger's advice and use this floating bait rig, you have a good chance of catching trout!

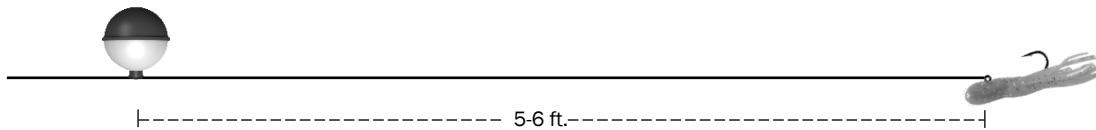
Important! Please keep every trout that you catch, even the little ones. No matter how careful you are in releasing the trout, they always die even though they swam away just fine. When you catch your limit you must switch to bass, catfish, or some other species. It is against the law to give your trout away and keep fishing for more or help your fishing buddies caught their limit of trout.



Fishing Trout Teaser Mini Jigs

The Trout Teaser mini jigs are one of the best “all purpose” fish catchers made. Not only does this lure work effectively on trout but will also catch bass, crappie, and bluegill. In fact, these little jigs were called crappie jigs until someone figured out that these were real trout slayers. The beauty of these jigs is that in southern California lakes you never know what might end up on your stringer.

These jigs come in various sizes from the 1/64 oz. to the 1/16 oz. These small weights require the use of light spinning tackle and line weights of 4 lbs. or less. Here at Lake Jennings we prefer to use 4 lb. test because of the larger trout that are regularly caught here. We also use the 1/16 oz. jig under the premise of “big lures = big fish.” However, there are many times when the small jigs will out fish the larger ones.



Unlike lures that have a built in action, these little jigs require that you give them action. This allows you more versatility. My favorite method is to cast the jigs out, count it down until I get to the depth that I want. Next I extend my index finger on my rod hand so that as the line is reeled, it slaps my finger. This gives a methodical jump to the lure that is absolutely deadly. The lake manager caught a 6 lb. 8 oz. rainbow during one of our fishing classes doing just that. If you have trouble casting a light jig attach a red and white bobber or rattle bobber 5 to 6 ft. above the jig and it will work as well.

Also deadly is a method which is known among bass fishing as doodling or shaking. Again the jig is cast out and allowed to sink to the desired depth. As the jig is retrieved the rod is shaken in little short shakes and using a stop and go retrieve.

Another effective method is vertically jigging the lure by quickly raising and then slowly lowering the jig. The strike almost always occurs as the jig falls. It is very important to follow the jig down. If there is slack when the fish strikes you will probably miss the fish. Here again try lots of different variations. Most fish cannot resist the enticing action of the Trout Teaser jig bouncing up and down. Sometimes I will raise the rod only 2 inches. Other times I might raise it 2 feet. Also be sure to methodically fish every depth from bottom to surface. When you catch a fish, repeat that same movement.

There are lots of different color jigs. Two all-purpose colors are pearl & gray and pearl. These will catch anything. However, the pink, chartreuse, and pearl & orange are the trout tamers.

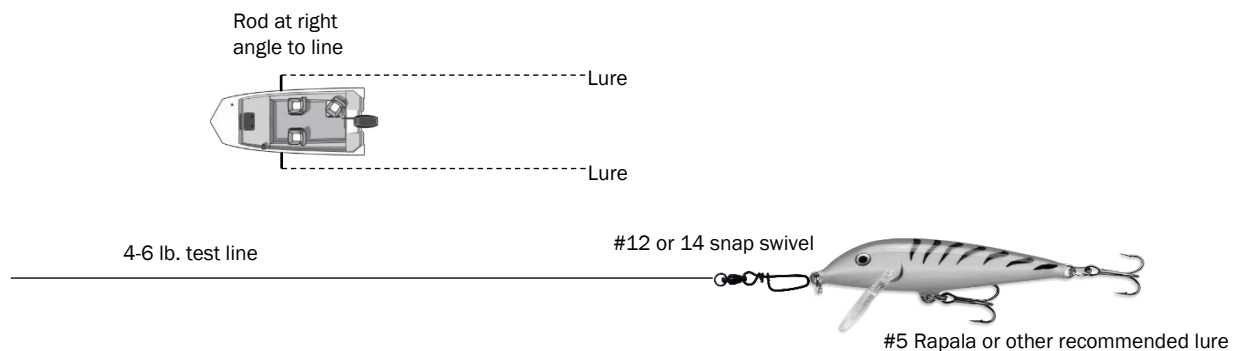
Use the scent to increase the effectiveness of these trout catchers. Scent makes sense!



Trolling for Trout

Trolling is one of the easiest, yet most effective ways to catch trout (bass too!). You cover a lot of water and your chances of locating the fish are much better.

A lure is cast behind the boat while the boat is moving, at a very slow speed. Ideally the lure should be 75 to 100 feet behind the boat. The rod should be out to one side of the boat or the other. It is not a bad idea to twitch the rod every minute or so. Quite often this will produce a strike.



One hand should always be on the rod to prevent the rod from being pulled overboard when the fish strikes. Turn off the motor as soon the fish strikes and is hooked. The next step is to enjoy bringing the fish in. Net the fish to bring him into boat. NOTE: If you try to lift fish into boat with your rod, 3 things are likely to happen: 1) the fish will wiggle off; 2) when the fish wiggles off, the hooks go flying, sometimes into parts of your body causing pain, discomfort or even serious injury; 3) you break your fishing rod.

IMPORTANT: When you catch a fish, note the spot where you found it and troll through the same spot a general rule is "find one fish and you'll find a bunch of fish."

If you troll around the lake without success then change to another lure. Every turn of the lake change your lure until you find one that works. Sometimes just changing the color will make the difference.

Our favorite setup is a snap swivel tied to 4 to 6 lb. test line and one of the following lures: # 5 orange, clown or firetiger Rapala, gold Little Cleo or Kastmaster, gold Panther Martin or a green, orange or brown Roostertail. These lures are ranked with our favorites first. **USE A SCENT.**

Trolling is useful in keeping kids occupied, who might otherwise get bored waiting for the trout to eat bait.

During May, June and July pinch on a large split shot 4 ft. from your lure **BECAUSE THE FISH MOVE TO DEEPER WATER.**