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# Some Fishing Basics

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# Some Fishing Basics

## Salmon Fishing Basics

Salmon is a name that's shared by several freshwater and saltwater fish species. They are all members of the Salmonidae family. Salmon are born in rivers, lakes and streams from which they migrate to the sea. When it is time, they return to their place of birth to spawn. Salmon migrate to both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and are a species that are fished by anglers all over the world.

There are several salmon species found in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Atlantic salmon is the main salmon species that all other salmon have been named after. Lakes in eastern North America are home to land-locked salmon. These fish never migrate to the sea, even if they have access. They prefer to remain in freshwater for their entire life cycle. They are known as non-migratory salmon species.

Another member of the Atlantic salmon family is the Brown Trout. Though most people refer to it as a trout, it is technically a salmon and is very closely related to the Atlantic salmon family. Essentially, brown trout is a closer relative of the Atlantic salmon than the Pacific salmon is.

The salmon species known as red salmon is Sockeye salmon. Sockeye salmon are fished off the shores of California, in the eastern Pacific, the western Pacific off the shores of Japan's Hokkaide Island and in the Anadyr River of Siberia. In the Canadian Arctic, Sockeye salmon are fished in Bathurst Inlet. Pink salmon, also known as Humpback salmon, can be fished in California, Korea, Canada's Mackenzie River and in the Lena River of Siberia.

Chinook salmon is also known as Spring salmon, Tule, Blackmouth salmon and King salmon. Chinook can be fished as far south as California and as far north as the Bering Strait. In North America, Chinook covers the entire Pacific coast. Chinook salmon can also be fished in Russia, Alaska and Canada's Yukon Territory.

There are a variety of baits that will help you land different species of salmon. Freshwater bait consists of flies, lures, prawns, crustaceans, plugs and worms. In saltwater use flies, streamers, lures, crustaceans and egg sacs.

If you are fly fishing for salmon in freshwater, you will need a 12 to 16 foot (3.7 to 4.9 meter) graphite or fiberglass rod, as well as a fly reel and a fly line. For bait fishing or spinning, use a 10 foot (3 meter) spinning rod and a baitcaster reel with 15 to 20 (6.8 to 9.1 kilogram) pound-test line.

If you are fishing for Chinook or Coho salmon, you will need a boat or trolling rod that has a star-drag baitcaster reel equipped with 20 to 45 (9.1 to 20.4 kilogram) pound-test line. Chinook and Coho are the largest and most sought after Pacific salmon species.

The most fished freshwater salmon is the Atlantic salmon. Most anglers fly fish for these species, but they can also be caught on spoons, plugs and natural baits. Pacific salmon are usually fished by trolling just offshore and in estuaries. They can also be caught with fly fishing equipment and spinning (landlocked varieties) when they move up rivers and streams to spawn.

If you need assistance with salmon fishing techniques or choosing salmon fishing equipment, seek out an experienced salmon fishing angler. This could be a family member, a friend, a neighbor, a salmon fishing guide or a staff member of any bait and tackle shop that specializes in salmon fishing equipment.

### **Trout Fishing Basics**

Trout is the name that's shared by several fish species. Trout are members of the salmon family. There are several species of trout, including brown, brook, rainbow, cutthroat and steelhead. There are also some species of sea trout. These species feed on insects, insect larvae, crustaceans and smaller fish. Trout are native to Asia, Europe and North America. During the 19th century, they were introduced to Australia and New Zealand by enthusiastic anglers.

Trout can be found in easily recognizable narrow areas in cool lakes, rivers and streams where fast, rapidly moving water meets slow, and where deep water meets shallow. They can also be found where rocks and rock shelves offer tranquil relief from the current. Rainbow trout feed in faster water that runs approximately six feet per second. Other species of trout feed in slower waters where water runs approximately one foot per second.

If you are fishing a stream where brook, brown cutthroat and rainbow are all found, you will find rainbow at the head of the pool and the other species in the middle and at the tail of the pool. They also like to hang around large objects that slow the current, such as rocks or rock shelves.

Trout like to rest where fast water meets slow and adjacent to the main current. Find the main current by watching bubbles and debris that moves through the pool or run. Look to the head of the pool and find where the faster water spills into it. Trace its path through the pool to find the places where trout lurk, waiting for prey. When a tree falls into the water at a right angle to the current and the trunk is still rooted in the bank, anglers call it a sweeper. The best places to fish are just outside of the branches, in front of the crotch where the sweeper meets the bank.

There are a wide variety of both live and artificial baits that will get you a good sized trout. Cured salmon eggs, earthworms, marshmallows, insects, insect larvae, kernel

corn, egg sacs, crayfish, artificial and live minnows, spinners, spoons, Mepps and wet and dry flies are all great when fishing for trout.

If you are still-fishing for trout, you will need a graphite or fiberglass rod that is between 6 and 7 feet in length and a basic reel. Use 8 to 10 pound-test line, a swivel, a leader and live or artificial bait as mentioned above. If you are fly fishing for trout, you will need a 9 foot graphite or fiberglass fly rod to allow you to cover the widest range. Add 75 feet of line to your reel if you plan to catch trout that is over 4 pounds. You will also need thigh or chest waders, a fisherman's vest with lots of pockets for flies, a knife and a fishing basket for your catch. Both wet and dry flies can be used to fish for trout.

If you need advice on trout fishing or help to choose your trout fishing equipment, ask a family member, a friend or a staff member of the local bait and tackle store. Experienced anglers can give you tips that will make your trout fishing experience a positive one.

## **Bass Fishing Basics**

Bass is the name shared by a wide range of fish species that are game fish. The sunfish family includes bluegills, spotted bass, pumpkinseed fish, largemouth, small mouth and rock bass. These bass are known as warm water or black bass. The striped bass, white bass and white perch are temperate bass. Bass are popular with both casual and tournament anglers.

The trick to successful bass fishing is to know where to find them. Bass can be found in lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. They tend to lurk in areas where bait fish are plentiful.

### **Lakes**

Natural lake bass fishing can range from mediocre to very successful. In southern areas, shallow lakes are the natural habitat of whopping largemouth. They glide through reedy and weedy areas close to shore. Northern natural lakes often contain a wide variety of landscape formations, such as holes, humps, rocky bluffs, natural reefs, islands and reedy or weedy areas. Bass hang out here, but are not as plentiful in these lakes because the water doesn't contain the algae and plankton that they like to feed on.

### **Rivers**

Rivers are great places to fish for bass. Oxygen levels in rivers tend to be the same from the surface to the river bed. Water temperatures in rivers tend to be more moderate and isn't as cold in winter or as warm in summer as water in lakes. Bass can be found just outside of the current's direct flow and on the downstream side of fallen trees, logs, stumps and weed beds. If there are boulders or logs in the direct current flow, that's where you will find largemouth bass lurking. It's very easy for them to feed in areas like this, as the current carries the food along. Bass tend to lurk around river bends and any

floating cover they might find. Bottom and surface fishing will make your fishing excursion a great success.

### **Streams**

Most anglers do not fish for bass in streams and this can be a huge mistake. Smallmouth bass tend to lurk in the cooler water of streams, especially below fast moving rapids, in holes, on the bottom and along steep banks and bluffs. Areas that are undercut by erosion are the perfect place to find bass because they provide good hiding spots, as are areas around large rocks and fallen logs.

Bass never stay in direct current flow, so cast into tranquil pools, eddies and in reedy and weedy areas and where objects break the flow of the current. Places where bait fish congregate draw bass to the area. Below a dam is an excellent place to fish for bass on an extremely hot summer day or on a mild day in the fall.

### **Ponds**

If you want to catch some big bass, don't count out ponds. Bass tend to stay near shore around fallen logs, rocks and in deep pools. Reeds and weeds are a natural habitat for bass. If a pond draws a large amount of anglers during the day try your luck at night. You might be surprised at the results.

There are many factors involved when fishing for bass. They tend to move with the season and water conditions. Factors include water temperature, time of year, water level, weather conditions, food availability, and amount of sunlight.

Still fishing using night crawlers, minnows, insects, insect larvae and other baits mentioned will bring good results. Spinning or bait-casting with artificial lures, trolling with live bait, or fly fishing are all very successful methods when fishing for bass. If you are using lures, you need a 5½ to 7 foot rod that will compliment live bait or spin and bait casting. Your line should be between six and ten pound-test.

If you are fly-fishing for bass, you will need a 7 to 9 foot fly rod with a fast taper, fitted with a single action reel that carries a floating # 7 to # 9 line with a 6 to 8 pound leader. If you plan on fishing for bass in reeds or weeds, always use a weedless hook.

If you have problems finding bass or are stumped over the tackle or technique you should use, seek out an experienced angler. This could be a family member, a friend or the staff of your local fishing shop.

## **Fishing Boats**

Fishing boats practically sell themselves. There aren't many people who haven't had pleasant and adventurous experiences coasting on a fishing boat. Some people say they if they could have any job in the world they would definitely choose to be a fisherman. Even if you're not into catching fish, a fishing boat is a great excuse to enjoy a relaxing day on the water. Having a fishing boat setup ready to go is the ultimate for any enthusiast.

Whether you enjoy waking up before dawn, or sleeping in at sea, there's a fishing boat that's right for you. There are generally two types of people who enjoy fishing boats-- hard-core fishers and casual vacation only fishing. Go online to see the latest in new technology, or to find the best quality used boats for sale as there is a boat for every type of fisherman.

There's nothing more relaxing than the gentle rhythm of the waves, and knowing that you've mastered the waters to a sufficient degree in your fishing boat setup- it's not difficult or challenging once you know the basics. Fishing boats are a fabulous way to immerse your self into boating. And you don't have to be a fishing expert nor do you don't have to be a member of a professional boat or yacht club to know how to operate a fishing boat. Get yourself good a good fishing boat, and it's easier than steering a car. The rewards of fishing are just as great, you just spend less time worrying about getting there.

Fishing boats offer durability that is simply unmatched. They allow you to discover the most extreme situations while enjoying comfort and convenience. With plenty of space and storage, your options are unlimited. You will find many uses for your boat, even relaxing with family and friends. All you need to do with your fishing boat setup is enjoy yourself.

## **Purchasing a Boat**

Fishing boats are a major investment, whether you're buying a small whaler to take out in the lake or a yacht to cruise the deep seas. They represent one of the best ways to declare yourself a hardcore fisherman, and the one surest ways to drop a lot of cash on fishing equipment. For all of these reasons, it's important to be sure you're making the right investment with your vessel.

First, consider all of the hidden costs of having a boat. There are the basic upkeep fees, such as keeping it fueled and cleaned. Then you have the fees for its storage and parking. If you're going to dry dock the boat during the off-season, you could be looking at a more than nominal fee. Even if you plan to store the ship in your own backyard under a tarp or in your garage, you are required to have a way to pull out and put in the

boat come winter and spring. This involves a trailer, a pickup, or at least friends who have them.

Once you have those fiscal chores figured out, now you can look forward to the fun part of buying fishing boats—choosing which one is right for you. There are as many makes and models out there as there are cars and SUVs, so you'll be up to your neck in options. But this fact also means that you can be sure to find the boat that's right for you if you look hard enough.

Bass Pro Shops is one brand-name boat model that offers quality at a decent price. The famous angling supply store created their first "fish ready" Tracker boat way back in 1978. Since then, they've mastered the design and technology of boats that are rigged as if all of them are for a pro. They come as a package with motor and trailer. Marine gear is optional.

Another big name besides Bass Pro Shops Trackers are the Charger boats. These crafts have a reputation for quality and performance. They're a no-nonsense company that believes in providing innovative and effective fishing boats.

### **The Charger Bass Boat**

A Charger bass boat makes fishing plain unfair, for your human competition and your opponents with the fins. They are professional-grade crafts that are affordable by even the casual angler, making them suitable whether you're touring with a professional circuit or cruising the water with your wife.

The beauty of a Charger is its unflinching quality. Unlike many other boats—or automobiles for that matter—these boats aren't concerned with matching all of the latest gimmicks and unproven technologies of their competitors. They stick with what works, technology and systems that they have mastered over three decades of innovation and advancement.

These features include a so-called triple-step hull and built-in jack plates. These features guarantee that you can achieve faster speeds more consistently no matter the weather or water conditions. Plus, the boat will be far easier to handle. For most other boats, you need to buy an aftermarket jack plate to get these benefits. With the Charger bass boat, though, you get it standard, along with a transom that's 4 inches thick and tougher than nails.

Add the ProAir Livewell System to your boat, and you have pure fishing performance, too. This optional feature filters the coolness from the ice in the ice chest, in order to keep the livewells chilled. That way, they experience less stress and stay healthier, and tastier, longer. You can also use the boat's catch and release pump system to filter the

livewell water through the ice chest through copper piping. Again, it's an added feature to keep your catch fresh and healthy.

Besides its ability to get you to the fish quicker, and keep your catch fresher once you're at your fishing destination, these boats just look good doing it, too. You'll stand out on the river or the lake in your Charger bass boat.

## **Fish Finders**

Fish finders are part of fishing, and there's no turning back. The whole sport has gone from a more traditional game of testing the waters to the technological wonders of outsmarting the fish. Finders allow you to get a bead on your prey, while checking the water depth and temperature, floor structure, and fish locations. There are as many finders on the market these days as cell phones, personal digital assistants, and other gee whiz wonders.

All of them work on the same principle: sonar. It's the same amazing sound-based technology that submarines use. The finder sends out electronic pulses to its transducer mechanism, which then shoots the pulse into the water. The pulse continues to travel until it is deflected back by the floor of the water body. Most other objects, such as fish, jellyfish, or other creatures, the beam passes right through.

When the beam bounces back to the finder, the computer then analyzes the results. Then it interprets the data to tell you the depth of the water, the number and location of other undersea objects, and so forth. It can even detail any sort of items that it found on the seabed, such as vegetation or on that one in a million sort of day, a sunken galleon full of gold bullion.

Beyond this basic technology, however, fish finders are all different. First off, they have different levels of power. The basic stats on a finder will tell you its wattage and its "peak to peak" power, which can tell you how strong a transducer it has on it. Obviously, with any sort of electrical equipment, it will have a better range, faster speeds, and better performance the more power it can crank out.

You should also check the stats on finder for their pixel quality. As anyone who has bought a digital camera knows, the higher the pixels, the better the resolution you can get. And resolution is crucial for figuring out what is on the screen of your fish finders.

## **Fish Finder Reviews**

As we said above, fish finders are now valuable tools for recreational fisherman because of they help anglers continually find fish, plus they are easy to use and very convenient. There are many manufacturers of these devices today, including companies like Eagle Electronics and Hummingbird. Fish finder reviews on the internet are usually the best way to determine which fish finder is the most appropriate for your needs. Each manufacturer offers its own fish finders from which you can choose.

Eagle fish finders come in many different configurations including the single frequency lines such as the CUDA and FishElite finders. Their dual frequency finders include the SeaCharter and SeaFinder finders. Finally, Eagle also offers two GPS-only IntelliMap finders. If you are buying a fish finder on a budget, the CUDA 128 is the entry level Eagle finder that provides a great service for a lower price. Read fish finder reviews on the internet for more information.

A Hummingbird fish finder is also something you might want to consider when shopping for fish-finders. Some of the Hummingbird products include the Matrix and SX series of finders. The Matrix 15 is loaded with a DualBeam PLUS 60-degree sonar, which delivers superior range and better coverage. It can detect fish for hundreds of feet, and an easy-to-read LCD monitor keeps users up to date as to the depth of the water and the locations of the fish. Read fish finder reviews on the internet for more information.

Fish finders are useful, easy-to-use tools for the fishermen who want to have greater success when it comes to reeling in the fish out of the water. There are many more types of finders available on the market, so it's a good idea to do some feature comparisons before buying one. Read fish finder reviews on the internet for more information before you make your purchasing decision because you will see what other people think of the product you are considering purchasing.

## **Hummingbird Fish Finder**

A Hummingbird fish finder is one of the most well known and appreciated brands on the market. No wonder. They've been in the fish finding business for more than 30 years now. That whole time they've been focused on producing one of the most innovative and useful electronic gear out there on the high seas. They also are masters of depth sounders, GPS systems, and radios made especially for your craft,

With markets and buyers in more than 100 countries, the maker of Hummingbird, Techsonic Industries, runs their main plant out of Eufaula Alabama. They started there in 1971, and have never left. Of course, when they first began, they didn't own the state of the art facility that they do now. Back in the 70s, they practically worked out of garage designing their first primitive fish finders.

It wasn't long, however, until the Hummingbird fish finder made a name for itself in the angling world. It was 1975. The company released the Super Sixty, the original and first waterproof depth sounder. It took the market by storm, and to this day, is still one of the highest selling models in the world. Not only did it put Techsonic on the map, it pushed them toward the number one spot on that map.

Innovation is what kept them on top, so Techsonic has always stuck with what got them there. It was in the early 1980s—1984 to be exact—that they released another one of the famous models. This one was the LCRs, such as the LCR4000 and LCR2000, followed three years later by the LCR4ID. The wonder of these machines were their displays, which started the trend toward liquid crystal display. The clearest images on the market made the LCRs huge hits, topping the sales charts in both the fishing world and the general boating world.

With such a pedigree, you can feel sure when shopping for a Hummingbird fish finder today.

## **Fishing Bait Basics**

Imagine heading out for a few relaxing hours of fishing. With rod and reel and tackle box in hand, you descend a hill and come to the edge of a swiftly moving stream. The sun reflects off the crystal clear water as you set down your tackle box and rig your bait. You cast into a tranquil pool or eddy and your bobber floats on the water surface. Suddenly, it disappears. Your reflexes automatically set the hook. The fish has taken the bait.

Bait is something, either live or artificial that attracts fish. When the fish 'takes the bait', you set the hook and skillfully bring the fish to shore.

### **Live Bait**

There are many live types of bait that can be used to catch fish. These include earthworms, also known as dew worms and night crawlers. Insects that can be used include grasshoppers, flies, insect larvae and crickets. Other live baits are minnows, chub, shad, crayfish and frogs. Live bait can be purchased at fishing bait and tackle stores, at some variety stores in popular fishing areas, on a dewy lawn after dark (use a flashlight to find dew worms), compost piles, around piers and boat launches as well as around campsites.

Live bait consists of the minnow, the shiner (or mullet), the goldfish and other small fish. Ponds of these fish are kept by those who furnish baits, and by some habitual sportsmen.

The frog is an ideal bait for pickerel. They are sometimes used whole, but in cases where the fisherman uses the hind legs only, they should be skinned.

For saltwater fishing, the shrimp is the leading bait. The shedder crab, in its season, is most effective, particularly for striped bass. The soft shell clam, cut in small pieces, is a good bait for many kinds of sea fish. The horse mackerel or small blue fish is an ideal bait. Where the tide runs swift, use the tail, leaving on the fins.

### **Prepared Bait**

Prepared bait is bait that has been previously prepared. These include kernel corn, bread balls, cheese balls, stink baits, salmon eggs, cereal balls, baked potato pieces, chicken entrails and hotdogs.

### **Artificial Bait**

Artificial bait is bait that is manmade. These include plastic worms and insects, flies, lures, small jigs, streamer flies, spoons, streamers and spinners.

### **Fish and Bait**

There are certain types of bait that work better for specific fish species. A few suggestions of bait to use for fish species are:

*Bluegill*: maggots, grubs, worms, crickets, grasshoppers, small flies, ice spoons or jigs.

*Bowfin*: worms, minnows, crayfish, frogs, spinners, spoons and streamers.

*Bullhead*: leaf worms, night crawlers, insects, insect larvae, crayfish and stink bait.

*Carp*: dough balls, angle worms, peeled crayfish tails, corn, cheese balls and cereal or baked potato pieces.

*Catfish*: night crawlers and prepared baits such as bread balls, hotdogs and chicken entrails.

*Crappie*: minnows, worms, insect larvae, insects, small flies, small jigs and small spinners.

*Gar*: minnows, suckers and frogs.

*Perch*: minnows, worms, crayfish, insect larvae, insects, small flies, ice spoons and small jigs.

*Pickereel*: minnows, chub, crayfish, worms, spinners, spoons and streamer flies.

*Rock Bass*: minnows, crayfish, insects, insect larvae and worms.

*Striped Bass*: shad, worms, shad, spinners and streamers.

*Sunfish*: maggots, grubs, leaf worms, insects, small flies, ice spoons and small jigs.

*Trout:* salmon eggs and lures.

There are several different types of minnows and some are better than others for specific fish species. A few specific fish that can be caught with different types of minnows are:

*Chub:* northern pike and bass.

*Golden Shiner:* northern pike and bass.

*Fathead Minnow:* bass, crappie, panfish and walleye.

*Bluntnose Minnow:* bass, crappie and walleye.

Bait is placed on the end of your fishing line. If you wish to change bait with ease, use a fishing knot to attach a swivel and/or leader, which you should carry in your tackle box. A hook or lure is attached to the swivel/leader with a pin-like clip. If you are using lures, you attach the lure, cast and work or troll it.

If you are using live bait, you attach it to the hook. When hooking worms, you can either start the hook near the head and thread it about three quarters of the way through the center of the body and exit near the tail, or hook it twice, about a half inch from the head and again about a half inch from the tail. Hook maggots through the blunt end very lightly to ensure it remains lively. If using slugs, use a large hook, about a size 2, and nick it through the body.

Prepared bait is also used on a hook. To bait a hook with cheese, bury the point of the hook inside the cheese. Sweet corn is slide through the end of the kernel. Bread can be mixed with a bit of water and made into balls. When using bread balls as bait, bury the point inside the ball.

### **What Not to Use as Bait**

Salmon (except for salmon roe) and trout should never be used as bait, as these fish can promote the spread of whirling disease, which is a type of parasite. If you don't know which bait to use for specific fish, or how the bait should be attached to the hook, ask a family member or a friend who is an experienced angler to help you determine which is best to attract the fish species you are hoping to catch. The staff at the local bait and tackle shop will also be happy to suggest certain kinds of bait.

### **Preparing Baits**

Salmon roe is actually an ideal bait for trout. The roe of large trout or salmon trout is just as effective. These are tempting baits for many other fresh water fish besides the trout. Old fishermen preserve it as follows: First put it in warm water, not hot enough to

scald much - then separate the membranous films - rinse it well in cold water and hang it up to dry.

The next day salt it with two ounces of salt and a quarter of an ounce of saltpeter to the pound of roe. Let it stand another day and then spread it to dry. When it becomes stiff put it in small pots, pouring over each some melted mutton tallow. You can then use a pot of preparation as you may want it for bait. This is ideal for trout, and indeed for almost any fry in fresh water.

Prepare, by waxing with shoemaker's wax, a piece of strong silk or thread; take your hook in your left hand between your thumb and forefinger, about as high up as the point of the barb or a little higher, as you may fancy; place the end of your silk under your thumb, take three or four random but firm turns around the shank of the hook until you reach the end (for the purpose of preventing the gut being cut by the hook, and moreover that your gut may stick firmly without the possibility of coming off;) now lay your gut or line (the inside of the hook, up) on to this winding, holding it with the end of the thumb, and commence whipping it around firmly and closely, occasionally pressing the turns to keep them even.

Continue this operation until you get within three or four turns of the finishing point; in order to fasten firmly - give three loose turns, then insert the end of your silk under them, and drawing it through, you have a secure fastening, called the hidden knot. Another method of finishing when you have arrived at the fastening point, is to make two or three half hitch knots; this is done by passing the end under one turn of the silk, making a loop, and drawing it down. The hidden knot is the better and most secure mode.

## **Fish Bait Recipes to Make at Home**

### **Curing Salmon Eggs**

If you are fishing for large game fish, cured salmon eggs are the perfect bait. Largemouth bass, pickerel, muskellunge, salmon, lake trout and other large fish species love them. Here's how to cure salmon eggs to use as bait. When you remove the eggs from the salmon you are cleaning, keep the egg sacs, also known as skeins intact. Cover a large, flat, moveable surface with 1/4 inch of borax. Cut the egg sacs (skeins) across the membrane in sections of 3 to 4 inches. Lay the egg sac (skein) sections 1 inch apart on top of the borax. Sprinkle more borax over the top to create a light coating.

Be sure all egg sacs are covered. Move the large moveable surface that the eggs are on into a sheltered area that has good air circulation all around. The eggs must not be in direct sunlight and must not get wet, so be sure they are protected from precipitation.

Allow the sacs to dry for two to three days, being sure to turn them every 12 hours. Pick the egg sacs out of the borax and shake any excess off them. Place them in plastic bags or storage containers. The egg sacs are ready to use when they are completely dry and feel leathery, but flexible. If eggs are properly cured, they can be saved in the plastic bags or containers to be used on your next fishing trip.

### **Cheese Bait**

Cheese bait can be used to catch bream, catfish, chub, and carp. In fact carp especially love cheese bait. So if you're looking to catch any of these species or a huge carp that's been lurking around your fishing hole, here's how to make your own cheese bait. Use 10 ounces (284 grams) of pie pastry and roll it flat on a cutting board or counter top. Smear the pastry with mature cheddar flavor. Add 6 ounces (170 grams) of grated mature cheddar cheese and 4 ounces (115 grams) of crumbled Danish blue cheese. Make sure it's crumbled to fine grains.

Fold the pastry over the cheese so it is completely covered and roll again. Continue this process until the pie pastry and the cheese are mixed thoroughly and the cheese is absorbed by the pastry. Form the paste into a large ball and knead by hand. Add ten drops of the mature cheddar flavoring to a freezer bag and place the cheese paste ball into the bag. Place in the freezer.

When it is thawed, this bait has a very appealing consistency and texture, and a very powerful cheesy smell. Roll the thawed paste into cheese balls and place into a container for your next fishing trip. When you place a cheese ball onto your hook, set the hook's point into the center, cast and wait patiently for the fish to bite. Optionally you may add a few drops of red food coloring to the paste if you wish, but it isn't necessary.

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