

IGFA SCHOOL OF SPORTFISHING

FISHING THE REDI RIG: LIVE LINING FOR STRIPED BASS

One of the benefits of traveling and fishing different areas is that it allows the traveling angler to learn techniques and tactics that can be applicable to the areas that the person commonly fishes. On a recent trip to the Northeast United States I came across a rig called a Redi Rig employed for live lining bunker or menhaden for striped bass. The rig was highly effective for large striped bass and something that I thought would be a good tactic to pass along to the anglers worldwide.

The Redi Rig Release Float by Redi Rig Tackle in Northfield, Ohio (330-467-3849) www.redirig.com) offers fishing floats of various sizes designed for fresh and saltwater fishing; from largemouth bass fishing to models big enough for striped bass, shark, tuna and swordfish.

The Redi Rig Float features a hollow tube and spring-loaded column that runs through the middle of a Styrofoam float. A pair of rubber stoppers act as a release-clip attached to your mainline on one end of the rig while a stainless steel snap-clip attaches to the same mainline on the other end of the Redi Rig.

Pushing down on the top of the spring-loaded column near the stainless snap-clip opens the release stoppers on the bottom of the rig. The stoppers are not tension adjusted but hold the main-line securely enough to withstand strong currents and the pull of large live-baits like menhaden (bunker), yet release or detach from the mainline on the strike from a larger game fish. (note: placing the mainline closer to the center of the two stoppers will add more tension to the mainline for a harder release, vice versa)

For striped bass the rig can be fished with or without a weight. If a weight is employed it is usually fished as a sliding egg sinker in the 3-6 oz range above a swivel. From the swivel, tie on your desired length of leader and a circle hook which can be bridled or inserted



Photo by Adrian E. Gray



Illustrations courtesy of Diane Peebles and Duane Raver

into the live bait. The float can be attached to the mainline at any desired distance from the bait when targeting certain depths or bottom topography. When a fish strikes your bait, the float detaches from the mainline and slides independently up and down the line through the stainless snap-clip. The release of the float is paramount when trying to minimize dropped baits from wary fish that might otherwise feel the tension from a balloon or fixed float. This tactic is most advantageous in deeper water as it allows a means to visually monitor the activity of your bait at all times and easily identify strikes from larger game fish. The rig usually “runs” through the water when attached to the mainline but lays flat when a fish strikes and releases the clip.

The Redi Rig float can be adapted to the fishing situation at hand. The possibilities are as numerous as the waters you fish and the species you target.