

CATFISHING: THE SLIP SINKER RIG

BY DENNIS SEGURA, SPORT FISHING EDUCATION COORDINATOR

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SEGURA



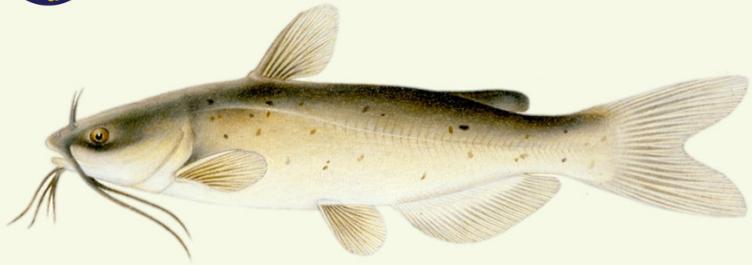
THE SLIP SINKER RIG

TARGET SIZE AND SPECIES, SMALLER TO MEDIUM SIZE CHANNEL CATFISH.

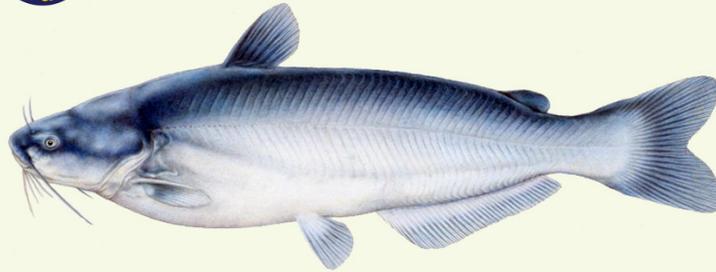
ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR RIGS FOR FISHING FOR CATFISH IS THE SIMPLE SLIP SINKER RIG. THIS RIG CONSISTS OF AN EGG OR BULLET SINKER SLIDING ON THE MAIN LINE. THE MAIN LINE IS TIED TO A LEADER CONSISTING OF 12 – 18 INCHES OF LINE, A SWIVEL AND HOOK.

THIS RIG ALLOWS YOU TO GET THE BAIT TO THE BOTTOM WHERE CATFISH ARE USUALLY FOUND AND IS EFFECTIVE FOR ALL THREE SPECIES FOUND IN NEW MEXICO, ESPECIALLY CHANNEL CATFISH. THE SLIP SINKER RIG CAN BE USED WITH MOST ANY SIZE ROD AND REEL, AND YOU CAN ADJUST THE SIZE OF YOUR TACKLE FOR THE TARGET SIZE OF FISH YOU ARE AFTER.

TARGET SPECIES: PRIMARILY CHANNEL CATFISH AND SMALLER BLUE AND FLATHEAD CATFISH.



Channel Catfish



Blue Catfish



Flathead Catfish

TACKLE FOR THE SLIP SINKER RIG – TARGET SIZE CATFISH SMALLER TO MEDIUM SIZE FISH.

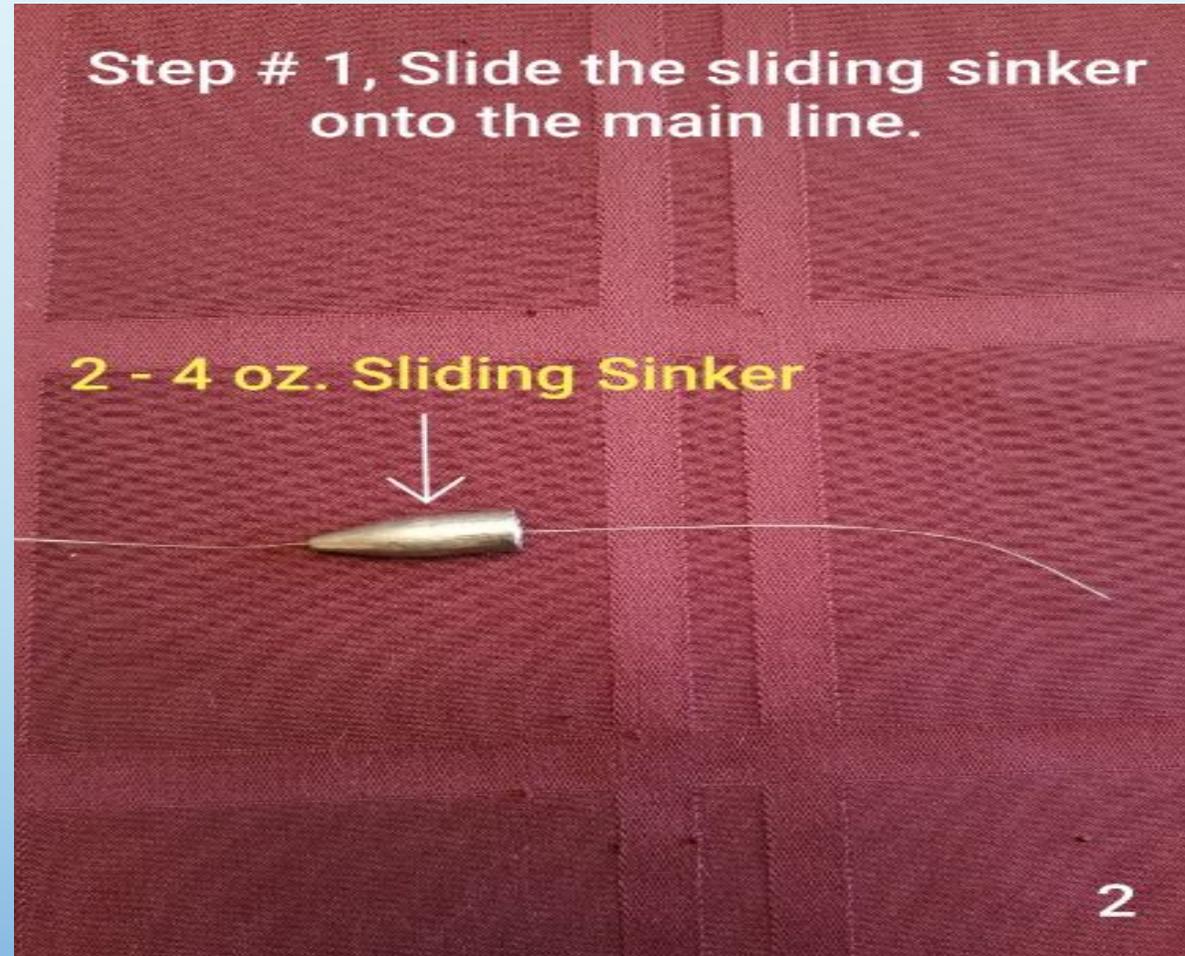
1. **SLIDING EGG OR BULLET SINKER** - SIZES 1 OUNCE, 1/2 , 1/4 AND 1/8 OF AN OUNCE. THE LARGER SINKERS ARE USED FOR DEEPER WATER.
2. **PLASTIC BEADS** - BEADS ARE USED TO PROTECT THE LINE TIED TO THE BARREL SWIVEL FROM BEING HIT REPEATEDLY BY THE SINKER. USE A SIZE 5 OR 6 MILLIMETER BEAD WITH THIS SIZE TACKLE.
3. **BARREL SWIVEL** – BARREL SWIVELS ARE USED TO CONNECT THE MAIN LINE TO YOUR LEADER. FOR SMALL - AVERAGE FISH USE A SIZE #10, RATED AT 30 LB. BREAK STRENGTH.
4. **LEADER LINE** - USE 12 TO 18 INCHES OF LINE. ALLOW EXTRA LINE FOR KNOT TYING.
5. **HOOKS** - USE CIRCLE HOOKS, SIZES 4/0, 5/0 OR 6/0. TREBLE HOOKS SIZES #4 AND # 6 AND BAITHOLDER HOOKS SIZE # 4 OR SIZE #6.
6. **ROD AND REEL** - A 6 FOOT TO 7 ½ FOOT MEDIUM - ACTION ROD WORKS WELL WITH A SIZE 30 / 300 TO 35 / 350 SPIN CAST REEL WITH SIZE 6 – 10 LB. TEST MONOFILAMENT LINE. A CLOSED - FACE PUSH BUTTON REEL WITH 6 TO 10 LB. TEST LINE WORKS GREAT.

TACKLE FOR THE SLIP SINKER RIG

- THE SLIP SINKER RIG REQUIRES LITTLE TACKLE AND IS EASY TO SET UP. THIS RIG IS GREAT FOR FISHING AT THE BOTTOM AND ANY NUMBER OF BAITS CAN BE USED WITH THIS RIG.



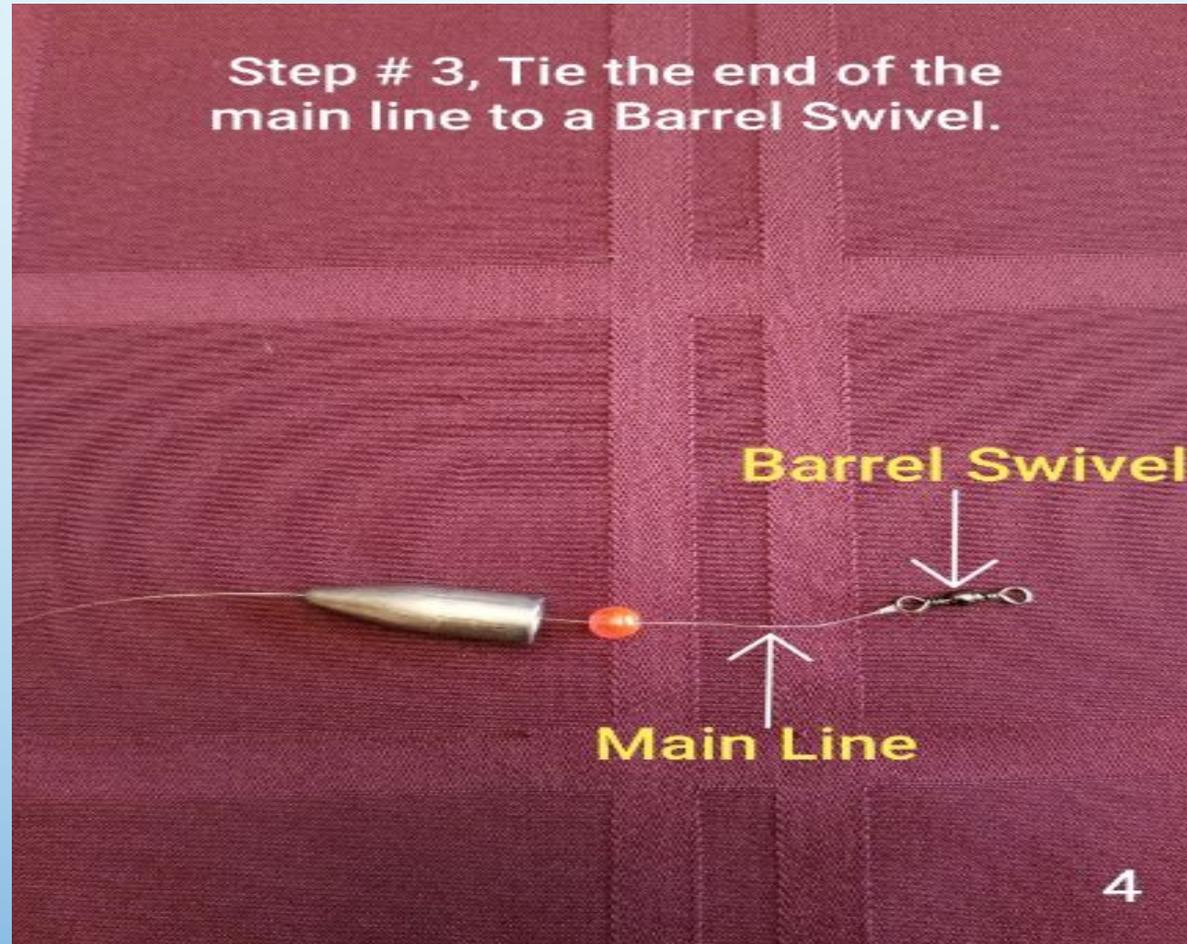
STEP # 1, SLIDE THE EGG OR BULLET SLIDING SINKER ONTO THE MAIN LINE. THE WEIGHT WILL TAKE YOUR BAIT TO THE BOTTOM.



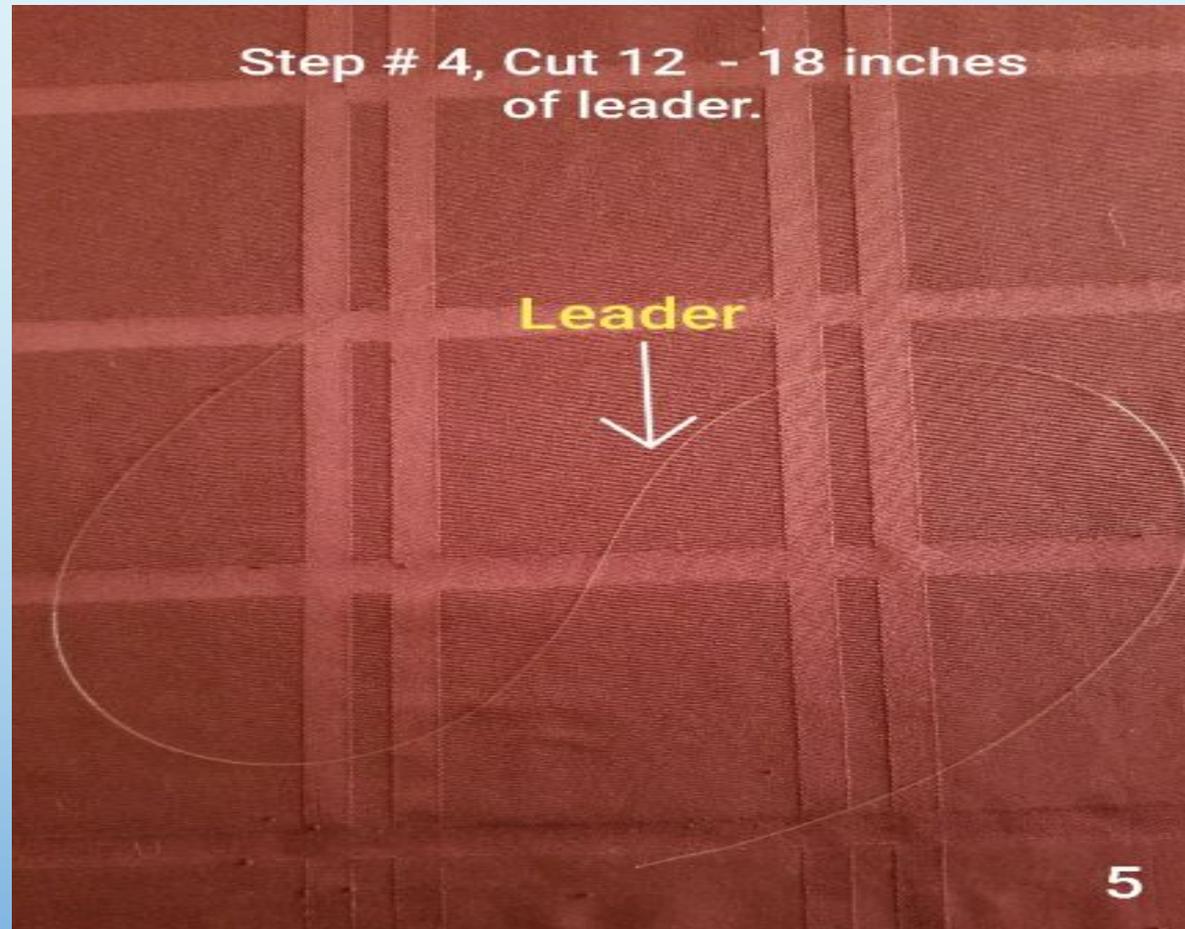
STEP # 2, SLIDE A PLASTIC BEAD ONTO THE MAIN LINE. THE BEAD WILL PROTECT YOUR KNOT TIED TO THE BARREL SWIVEL.



STEP #3, TIE THE END OF THE MAIN LINE TO THE BARREL SWIVEL. PUT YOUR MAIN LINE ASIDE.



STEP # 4, CUT 12 – 18 INCHES OF LEADER AND ALLOW EXTRA LINE FOR KNOT TYING. YOU CAN USE A SMALLER SIZE LEADER THAN YOUR MAIN LINE OR YOU CAN USE THE SAME SIZE LEADER AS THE MAIN LINE.

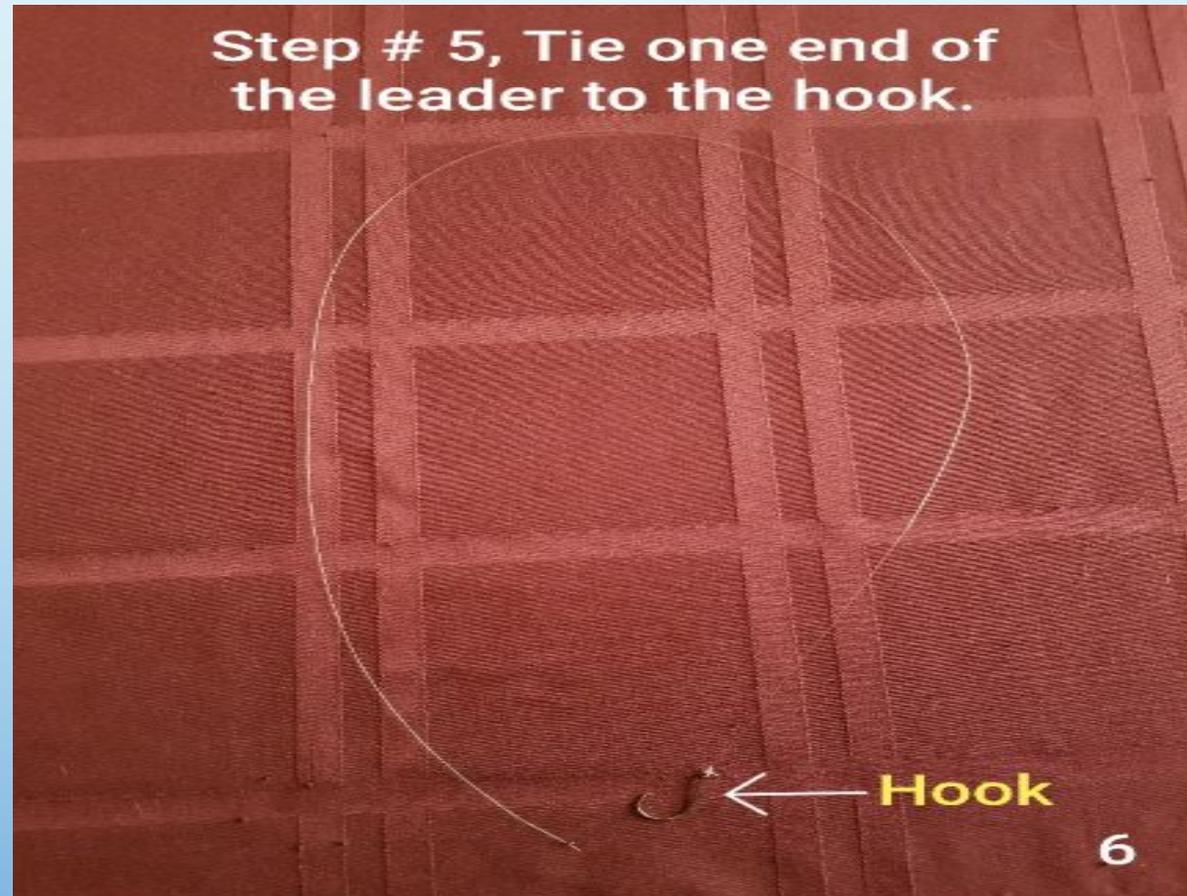


STEP # 5, TIE YOUR HOOK TO ONE END OF THE LEADER.
THESE HOOK SIZES ARE GOOD FOR AVERAGE SIZE CATFISH.

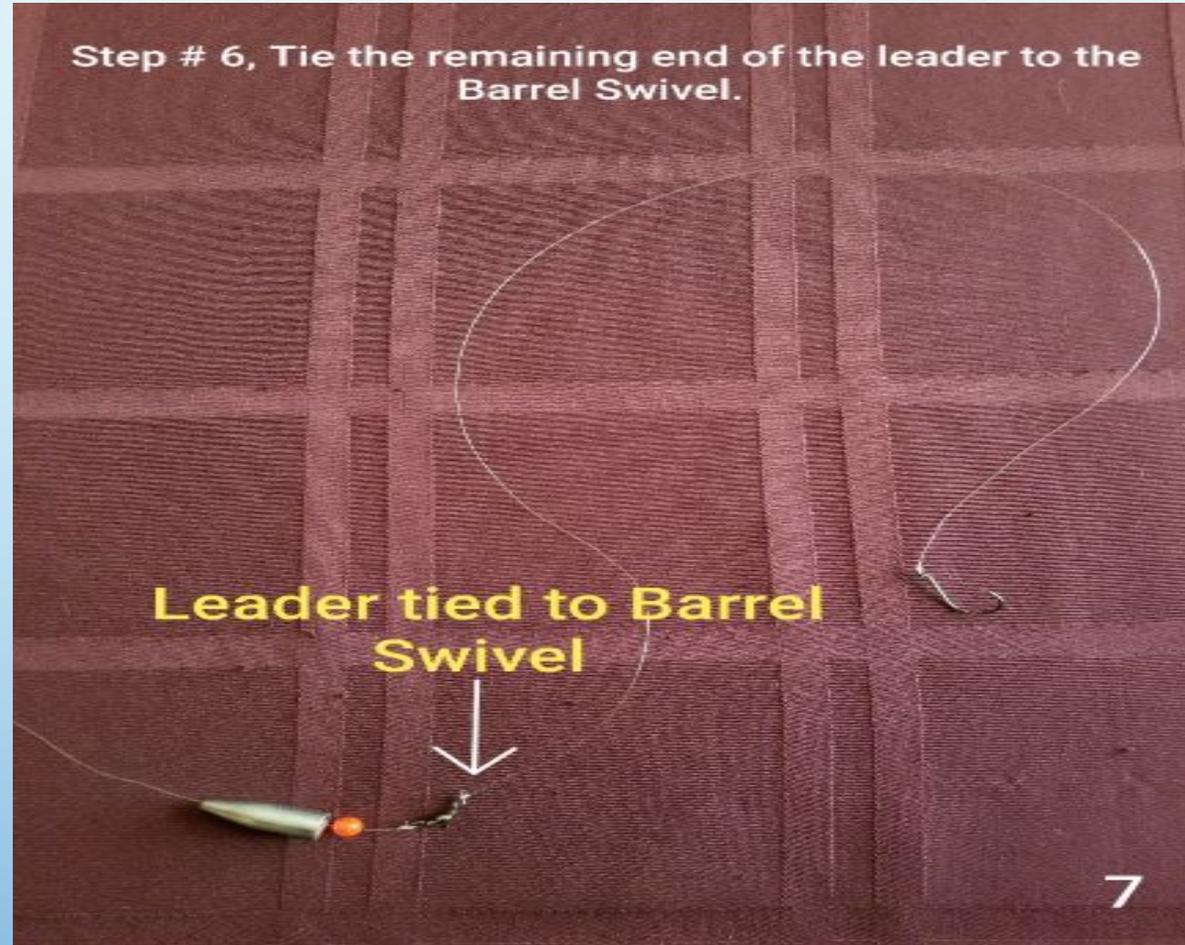
* CIRCLE HOOK SIZES #2, #4 OR #6

* TREBLE HOOKS, SIZES #4 OR # 6

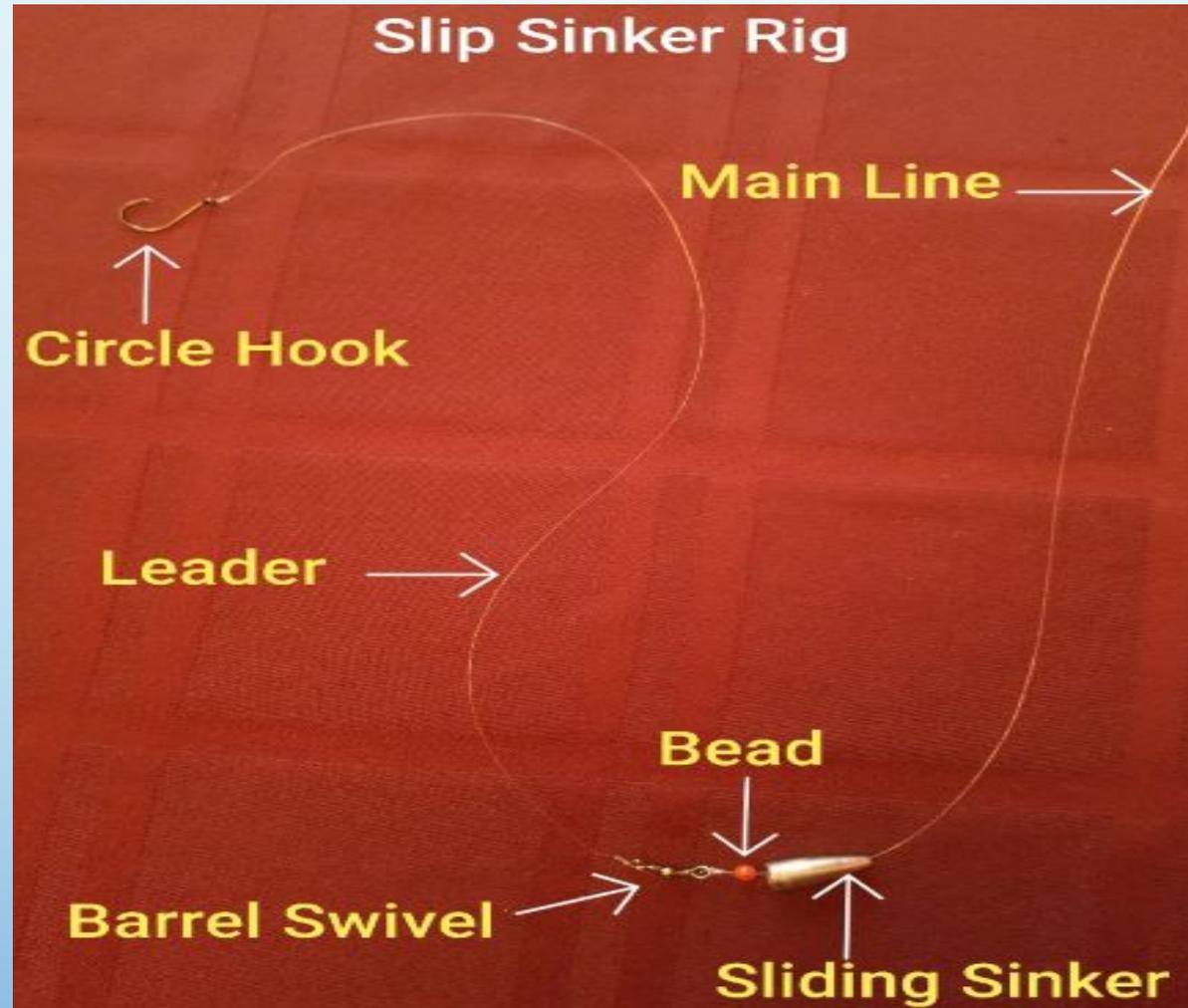
* BAITHOLDER HOOKS, SIZES #4 OR #6



STEP #6, TIE THE REMAINING FREE END OF YOUR LEADER TO THE REMAINING FREE END OF THE BARREL SWIVEL.



THE COMPLETED SLIP SINKER RIG.



ADDING A PEG – FLOAT TO YOUR SLIP SINKER RIG WILL SUSPEND YOUR BAIT IN THE WATER AND TURNS YOUR RIG INTO THE “SANTEE (COOPER) RIG.”

- THE PEG FLOAT IS ADDED TO THE 12 – 18 INCH LEADER WHICH GIVES YOUR BAIT ADDED BUOYANCY (ABILITY TO FLOAT) LIFTING IT OFF THE BOTTOM.
- THE PEG FLOAT PUTS YOUR BAIT IN FRONT OF AND JUST ABOVE THE CATFISH WHERE THEY ARE USUALLY HOLDING. A GOOD POINT TO REMEMBER, CATFISH USE ALL THEIR SENSES TO HUNT FOR FOOD, EYESIGHT INCLUDED.
- THIS RIG ALSO WORKS WELL WHEN CATFISH ARE FEEDING NEAR THE SURFACE, SIMPLY REPLACE THE LONGER LEADER WITH A SHORTER LENGTH FOR SHALLOW DEPTH.
- THE SANTEE RIG CAN WORK THE ENTIRE WATER COLUMN FROM TOP TO BOTTOM AND CAN BE EFFECTIVE FROM A BOAT OR THE SHORE.
- WITH A SECOND ROD VALIDATION YOU CAN FISH ONE RIG ON THE BOTTOM WITH THE SLIP SINKER RIG AND ONE RIG SUSPENDING THE BAIT WITH THE SANTEE RIG.

TO SUSPEND YOUR BAIT JUST ABOVE THE BOTTOM ADD A 2 OR 2 ½ INCH PEG – FLOAT TO YOUR LEADER AFTER STEP # 5, THEN TIE YOUR LEADER TO THE BARREL SWIVEL.

Step # 6 - Slide the Peg Float down the leader and peg into place 3 to 4 inches from the hook.

← Peg Float

7

Step # 7 - Tie the remaining end of the leader to the barrel swivel.

Leader tied to barrel swivel.

8

THE COMPLETED SANTEE - RIG



BAIT YOU CAN USE WITH THE SLIP SINKER RIG

1. **NIGHTCRAWLER WORMS** – THIS BAIT IS ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVE WITH CHANNEL CATFISH. THE BIGGER THE WORM THE BETTER. IF YOU HAVE SMALLER WORMS HOOK AS MANY AS YOU CAN, CATFISH DO NOT CARE ABOUT PRESENTATION.
2. **CHICKEN LIVER** – ITS STRONG SMELL WORKS WELL, ESPECIALLY FOR CHANNEL CATFISH UP TO 10 POUNDS AND SMALLER BLUE CATFISH. ALLOW THE LIVER TO GO BAD FOR MORE EFFECTIVE RESULTS. ADD SMELLY CHEESE AND YOU HAVE A GREAT COMBINATION.
3. **CRAWFISH** – A GREAT BAIT YOU CAN USE LIVE OR DEAD. LOOK UNDER ROCKS IN SHALLOW WATER TO FIND CRAWFISH. INSERT THE HOOK A HALF INCH FROM THE END OF THE TAIL.
4. **SPAM** – A FANTASTIC BAIT FOR ALL THREE SPECIES OF CATFISH, ESPECIALLY THE LARGER FISH. CUT THE CHUNKS JUST BIG ENOUGH TO COVER MOST OF THE HOOK FOR BEST RESULTS.
5. **HOT DOGS** – HOT DOG PIECES ARE A STAPLE OF CATFISHING. USE THE CHEAPEST BRAND YOU CAN FIND, EXPERIENCED ANGLERS SWEAR CATFISH PREFER THE CHEAPER BRANDS.
6. **SHRIMP** - CATFISH LOVE SHRIMP, ESPECIALLY IF IT HAS GONE BAD. THE STRONG STINKY ODOR ATTRACTS ALL THREE SPECIES OF CATFISH.
7. **STINK BAIT OR PUNCH BAIT**- THESE BAITS ONLY APPEAL TO CATFISH WITH THEIR VERY STRONG, STINKY ODOR.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CATFISH LOG ONTO THE N.M.D.G.F. WEBSITE AT WWW.WILDLIFE.STATE.NM.US

1. CLICK ON THE FISHING TAB.
2. A DROP BOX WILL APPEAR, CLICK GAME FISH AND REGULATIONS.
3. CLICK ON WARM WATER SPECIES.
4. CLICK ON CATFISH FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EACH CATFISH SPECIES, SPAWNING, FISHING FOR CATFISH, BEST CATFISH WATERS AND FISHING POINTERS.
5. YOU WILL ALSO SEE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER WARM AND COLD WATER SPECIES FOUND IN NEW MEXICO. GOOD LUCK AND GOOD FISHING.

