Lindy Rigs

Lindy Rigs are used to catch a variety of fish from perch to catfish. They can be constructed with a floating hook, or a float and a hook, or a plain hook. The idea of the Lindy Rig is to allow the fish to take the bait and swim away without feeling the weight on the line. To tie the rig, a plain hook is attached to a piece of line approximately 30 inches in length. A Palomar, improved clinch, or snell knot can be used to fasten the hook. A floating hook can be placed on the line to keep the bait off the bottom of the lake or one can use a plain hook. A double surgeon’s knot can be used at the end of the Lindy Rig that will fasten to the fishing line. Next, the angler will need to put a sliding weight on the fishing line and tie a swivel to the end. The snap on the swivel is used to fasten the rig to the line. A good starting weight for the sinker is ¼ ounce but they are available in all sizes.

Rigging Slip Bobbers

Clip-on and slip bobbers are provided in various sizes. The small bobbers are for panfish with the larger ones used for walleyes and other fish. The advantage of slip bobbers is that they can be easily adjusted for any depth and be able to reel up the line without the bobber interfering. Split shots in 1/16 or 1/4 ounce are used to weight the bobbers so they can be casted and are easy for the fish to pull down.

The premade knot is put on the fishing line first, and the knot is carefully pulled off towards the fishing rod. The loose ends of the knot are pulled off and trimmed down. The small plastic tube is slid off the line. A small bead is placed on the line and then the slip bobber. One or two split shot are placed about 15 inches above the hook. They are crimped on the line by hand. Do not crimp too tight as they will damage the line. The hook, either a small long shanked hook for panfish, or a #10 Octopus for walleye, is tied with on using a Palomar fishing knot and the loose end trimmed.
Jig Painting

Jigs are used for casting bait and on bobber rigs. They come in many sizes large enough to sink to the bottom in strong current for river fish to 1/32 ounce for fishing crappies. They can be bought in a multitude of colors to attract all variety of fish species. Jig painting is a quick simple way to get more enjoyment from the fishing hobby.

Supplies Needed:

- Jars of different colors of powder paint
- Plain leadhead jigs to color (1/4 ounce recommended)
- Needle nose plier
- Heat source
- Tooth picks or something to put in hook eye
- Two large jars or pepper shakers to paint with

Powder paint is one popular way to paint jigs and is available from most popular sporting goods stores. Pink, chartreuse, yellow, orange, and green are good starting colors and the size of the jig to learn painting is ¼ ounce. It is suggested that a large pepper shaker or pint size mason jars with holes in the lids are used to hold the paint for the painting process and colors are done separately. A heat source of a candle, Sterno, or pen torch will heat the jig for painting.

1. The powder paint is removed from jar and put into shaker. I use two large pint-sized shakers and just shake the paint from one to the other. This saves time refilling the shaker and works well for youth.
2. A drop cloth (if needed) is put under the shakers.
3. The heat source is set up in a safe manner for painting.
4. A needle nose plier will be used to hold the jig by the hook for heating.
5. A piece of wire is put into the eye to keep paint out.
6. Light the heat source and pick up the jig to be painted by the hook with the needle nose plier.
7. The jig is heated for approximately 13 seconds or until it changes from a shiny color to dull. Next, quickly hold the jig over the empty shaker and shake powder paint over the jig moving it to be thoroughly covered. Overpainting or painting the jig too cold will result in clumpy results.
8. The jig is held until it is cool, then can be set down. Once the jigs are painted, they can be used or put in an oven at 350 degrees for 20 minutes to harden the finish.
Resources

While a person might not have a favorite fish, the species that is fished for most often may be more easily caught if one studies their habits and tests baits and lures to see what can be learned from the results. In this activity, youth will choose a fish to study. Of course, there are many ways to study fish and how to catch them. One general fishing resource is a website: takemefishing.org for those new to fishing. For information specifically about the fish in North Dakota, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website gf.nd.gov has all the necessary information on licensing, fish identification, a lake listing by county, what species are in those lakes, the whopper club, and first fish certificates. For fun fishing facts and activities, the 4-H Sport Fishing curriculum, Take the Bait (grades 3-5), Reel in the Fun (grades 6-8), and Cast into the Future (grades 9-12) are can be ordered through your local extension office. Cost of each manual is $8.

jannsnetcraft.com, is a good catalog company with lurecrafting supplies. Scheels also has some supplies.

Infisherman.com is a great source of information for multispecies. They have books and DVDs available. https://www.in-fisherman.com/

Angling Edge TV hosted by the Lindner family has a great video library. https://fishhead.tv/

References

Binkelman, William; Malz, Carl; Pazik, George; Petros, Spence: Lunkers Love Nightcrawlers, 2000


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