



# SC REEL KIDS NEWS

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Volume 5 Number 3

## "Dan-Dan The Rigging Man"

The 'Carolina Rig' uses the main line threaded through a lead or brass worm weight, then a bead and tied to a #12 or #14 barrel swivel. Professionals prefer brass weights and glass beads when they want to maximize attraction. The leader length from the swivel to the hook will vary depending on fishing conditions. Typically, the leader length is 18"-24". This rig will allow you to fish submerged weed beds and weed lines with less snags.

There are two basic retrieves used with the Carolina rig. The first is a slow steady drag, many anglers set the trolling motor on low and slowly drag the rig along the piece of structure they are fishing. With this retrieve the bait will trail behind the weight just off the bottom.

The other method is slow drag with intermittent jerks, or a series of twitches. This will cause the bait to dart and glide with a very life-like action. This is the preferred retrieve. Many anglers have a difficult time learning the Carolina rig; they worry too much about the bait. Concentrate on fishing the weight, feel your way through cover and structure, slow your retrieve and shake the rig any time a difference in the bottom is felt. Good Luck and Happy Fishing.



## REEL ART



Grab your markers, colored pencils, watercolors, and canvas and get started on your Reel Art entry! You can download an application at [www.screelkids.com](http://www.screelkids.com) and you can check out last year's winners. For grades K-6, your artwork can be any kind of fish living in South Carolina's freshwater or saltwater habitats. If you are in grades 7-9, you must include habitat with your South Carolina fish. And the theme for grades 10-12 for this year is "South Carolina's Coldwater Trout". There are only 3 of these, so make sure you know what they are: brook trout, brown

trout, and rainbow trout. All of these are raised at our hatchery in Walhalla. You can view a list of all fish species and get the rules for the contest at the website above.



Prizes including fishing gear and art supplies are awarded to 32 winners in March and the first place winners also receive a \$200 savings bond. The best of show winner will receive a \$500 savings bond and will have their work in the *SC Wildlife Magazine*.

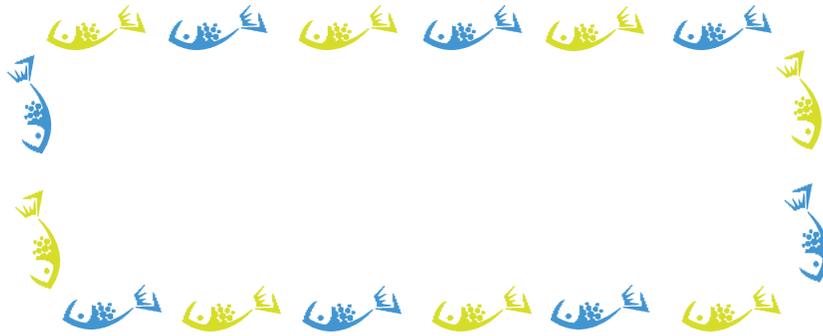


## FISHING & BOATING ITEMS... GREAT GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

- Stocking stuffers - lures, boat whistle, lake maps, how-to videos, gift certificates, etc.
- Gifts - rod and reel, tackle box, water skis, life jacket, coffee table books on fishing/boating, magazine subscriptions, weekend getaway packages to fishing/boating destinations, etc.
- No-cost originals - IOU's from kids to parents for "free boat wash," "free tackle box organization," "fishing and boating family photo album," etc.



(Courtesy of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, [www.rbff.org](http://www.rbff.org))



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## What do I do when the fish aren't biting?

- **C**hange your fishing technique. Experimenting with different baits, lures and fishing methods might change your luck in a hurry, and it's fun to try different things. If you're not catching anything by fishing on the bottom, snap a bobber onto your line a few feet above the hook and try fishing nearer the surface. Or, if you're not having any luck trolling, stop and still-fish with bait for a while.
- Simply changing one lure color to another is sometimes all it takes to get the fish biting. 
- Move to another spot. Changing scenery now and then makes any fishing trip more fun. More importantly, many fish species feed in particular places under certain conditions or travel in schools, and you may have to move around to find them.
- Watch other anglers. If someone else is catching fish and you're not, learn from their success. Maybe they're fishing deeper, trolling slower, using different bait or fishing a spot that's more productive. Don't be afraid to ask questions, and try to do what they're doing. Just remember not to invade their space.
- Fish for another species. If you start out fishing for trout and decide they aren't biting,  try for perch or crappies. All fish are fun to catch, but you may have to change your technique or move to a different fishing spot to catch what's biting that day.
- Take a break. Get out of the boat and stretch your legs for a while; raid the cooler for lunches or snacks; put your rods and reels in the car and go for a hike around the lake; break out the cards or coloring books; take a few pictures of fish you caught earlier or the of scenery around you; clean your fish; initiate some kind of game involving all your fishing partners. Taking your mind off fishing for a while is often all it takes to get the fish biting again!

(Courtesy of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)

