

**WORKBENCH TIPS.....**

# MAGNET BARS

by Richard Reich

Richard makes many of his own jigs, and found a handy way of holding all of his pliers, scissors and tools on his work bench.

He tried standard kitchen magnet bars, but they are just not strong enough. Then he found that the magnet bars from Harbor Freight are strong enough.



“You can lay the flat bar on your work bench or hang it from a nail on the wall,” he said.

And it costs less than \$5.

And when attaching the eyes (on jigs) they need to be level to put clear Gorilla Glue on them, and the bar holds it in place. This method also comes in handy when painting jigs.



Harbor Freight bar

## Mandatory use of circle hooks when bait fishing for striped bass

Beginning this 2021 fishing season, all recreational anglers -including those fishing onboard for-hire vessels - who are fishing for striped bass with bait are required to use inline (non-offset) circle hooks. This shall now apply to any artificial lure with bait attached.

### Circle Hooks for Striped Bass



In 2021, a new regulation requires using inline circle hooks when fishing for striped bass using cut or whole natural baits like clams, squid, mackerel, menhaden, seaworms, or eels. Using inline circle hooks significantly increases survival of released striped bass by reducing occurrences of gut hooking.

**What's a circle hook?**

Unlike a J-shaped hook, on an inline circle hook the point curves back toward the shank.



**How do circle hooks work?**

If a striped bass swallows your bait, the circle hook will slide out from its throat and catch on the corner of its jaw. The circle hook sets itself when the fish tries to swim away.

**How do I use a circle hook?**

When a fish takes your bait, do not sweep the rod upward to set the hook! Instead, simply let the line come tight and fight the fish.



**What if I gut-hook a fish?**

When using circle hooks, you may occasionally gut-hook a fish. If this happens, cut the leader as close as you can to the hook and leave it in the fish.

**Bait is defined as any marine or aquatic organism, live or dead, whole or parts thereof.**

Striped bass caught on an unapproved method of take (while targeting other finfish species), such as a baited J-hook or treble hook, must be returned to the water immediately without unnecessary injury.

**This circle hook requirement is mandated coastwide** through the interstate fishery management plan to increase the survival of striped bass caught and released in the recreational fishery.

Recreational discard mortality has grown to be the greatest source of fishing mortality on the striped bass population given the great popularity of the fishery along the eastern seaboard.

When used during bait fishing, inline circle hooks reduce the likelihood of “deep hooking” a fish, which in turn decreases the chance that a released fish will die due to injuries sustained from being caught.

Please note that this requirement applies to all recreational anglers, whether fishing from shore, a private vessel, or a for-hire charter or party boat.

The hook of an artificial lure does not need to be an inline circle hook to have bait attached. This allowance provides for the continued use of tackle such as a tube-and-worm rig, a bucktail jig tipped with a pork rind, and an eel skin plug.

**Conversely, a rigged eel (a whole dead eel with hooks threaded through its body) cannot be used unless the hooks are inline circle hooks, and a menhaden snagged on a treble hook cannot be used as bait until transferred onto an inline circle hook.**

