

SOFT PLASTICS (from page 6)

Ideally, you do not want to pull the plastic off the hook/jighead repeatedly in an attempt to get it right, but an improperly rigged soft plastic will twist on the retrieve creating an unnatural action in the water and sending the twists up your line causing “wicked tangles” in your braid in the future.

The first step is to lay the hook or jighead on top of the plastic, to see where the hook and ultimately the bend would exit the body with the bait snug to the head while maintaining a straight but not overly stretched bait. Mark that point either with your forefinger and thumb or some anglers nick that location using the hook point to maintain orientation.

Rigging Weightless

When rigging a weightless hook, you want to start and stay in the center of the bait until you reach the target location and then exit the bait through the center as well. Staying on the center line is all the more critical with unweighted hooks.

Rigging Jig Heads

When using a jig head hold the bait with your thumb and forefinger start in the center and thread the body onto the jighead, pushing the hook through the marked point and continuing to slide the bait forward until it contacts the jig head. If you have a flush connection a little Zap A Gap at the juncture will enhance durability.

A Word of Caution When Rigging Jig Heads

Many jigheads have some type of retention ridges or hooks to secure the soft plastic. Some excellent examples are the Z-Man TT Headlockz HD and Mustad Elite Bullet Jig Head; but with some materials or on smaller, thinner profile baits these retention methods can split and ruin the bait. So be mindful of using a strong hook with a bulky retention method with smaller and harder plastics as they may split. Probably the perfect time for a jig head with a bare hook utilizing the thread and super glue method described above or one of the jig heads from Owner mentioned above.

At the end of the day when rigging soft plastics, “practice makes perfect.”

Now more than ever, you can rig a soft plastic bait easily and for just about any surf or light tackle situations.

Member Peter Jenkins is the Owner of saltwateredge.com. The brick and mortar store is located at 1037 Aquidneck Ave in Middletown.

NOAA SURVEY (from page 1)

The Fishing Effort Survey was developed to address critical and growing problems with the telephone survey, including declining response rates and an increasing proportion of households that do not use landline telephones. Survey development efforts included the agency’s state, regional fishery management council, and interstate commission partners, along with independent consultants, and is the product of eight years of testing and six pilot studies.

Implementation of the Fishing Effort Survey was supported by two independent expert peer reviews. In its 2017 comprehensive review of MRIP, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine recognized the Fishing Effort Survey as a major improvement over the CHTS (Household Telephone Survey).

Fishing Effort Survey estimates are several times higher than those from the CHTS and vary by state, type of fishing, and species.

Because catch estimates depend on estimated number of fishing trips, implementation of the FES results in higher estimates in the shore and private boat modes of fishing.

Comparing unadjusted FES-based catch estimates to those produced using the CHTS would be inappropriate for evaluating catch to compare with catch limits because the methods are so different. As a result, the agency and independent consultants developed a calibration model, which is needed to account for the change in survey methods in comparisons of MRIP catch and effort estimates.

Calibration enables adjustment of the MRIP catch history to higher levels consistent with FES methods, had they been in use historically. Ultimately this will also result in a re-setting of



Junior Member Sophia Garzolie with haddock that she landed while fishing at Stellwagen Bank last spring.

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