

SNAPS & SNAP SWIVELS

There are a variety of types of snaps, and they come with and without swivels. The four most common snaps are the safety pin, the interlock, the coastlock, and duolock.

The **safety pin snap** is the weakest of the snaps, does not have weight ratings, and should not be used for fish larger than two pounds. It is very easy to use and is good for speckled perch/crappie, bream and silver trout.

The **interlock snap** is a strong snap and can be bought weight rated and unrated. The interlock looks like the safety pin snap except the wire tip is bent at a right angle and fits into a hole on the clasp. This gives the snap extra holding power while still being relatively easy to use.

The **coastlock snap** is a wire wrapped snap without a clasp. The loop tip is bent at a right angle and then into a hook, which when attached around the other side of the snap forms a closed loop. It is a strong snap and comes both rated and unrated.

The **duolock** is made of stainless steel. These snaps come rated up to 30 pounds. It is sized differently from other snaps so the angler must judge what size works best. It is a very easy snap to use and is made of one continuous wire wrapped in a unique configuration that gives it unusual strength for its size.

If the angler wants to use a snap to attach a lure so quick changes to other lures can be made, it is recommended that just a snap be used and not a snap swivel. In this usage a snap swivel can sometimes alter the way a lure performs.

SPLIT RINGS

Split rings look like miniature car key rings and have to be forced apart in order to attach something to them. A split ring pliers makes the job of opening and attaching the rings easy.

Split rings are used when there is a need to hang hooks on a lure or when a lure's freedom of movement can be improved by putting a split ring through the screw eye of a lure. They are not a substitute for a snap, but rather an alternative connection which an angler can choose to aid a lure's natural motion.

SINKERS

Every fishing trip involves solving a continuous



set of problems. That is why so many people are fascinated with fishing. From the time the angler starts fishing until the equipment is put away for the day, the challenge of locating fish and presenting the bait or lure properly never stops. The creative and proper use of sinkers can help overcome some of the fisherman's problems.

Fishing weights are used to control the depth and location of baits or lures. If water is considered as a column, it is easy to visualize the importance of controlling the depth of presentation. Fish of all types can be located within a column of water, from the surface or top to the bottom or base. After locating fish within the column, a typical concern is getting a bait past certain types of fish so the target species can be caught.

Every fisherman has experienced unwanted fish attacking the bait before it can get to the target. Proper weights can help overcome such problems. There are at least 8 weights that are useful in fishing Charlotte County waters.

Egg sinker

This sinker looks like its namesake and is the most popular of all the sliding sinkers. It has a hole through its center so the line can move freely. To rig the sinker, a line is run through the hole, a plastic bead is then added to act as a cushion between the sinker and the knot, which attaches the line to a swivel.

The remainder of the terminal tackle is leader material and a hook. The egg sinker, because it has no edges or points, does not hold the bottom well. Its chief advantage is lack of resistance. A fish can pick up the bait and not be spooked by the feel of the weight.

Some of the conditions which effect the choice of sinker weight are line test, depth of water, strength of current, and size of bait. After some experimentation, the angler can decide what is the best weight for the existing conditions. Sinkers from a 1/4 to 2 ounces are the sizes most frequently used in local waters.