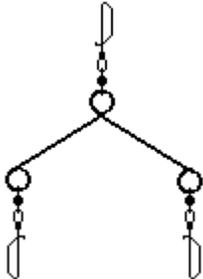


TACKLE TALK TIME

Myths are a widely held but mistaken belief and misunderstandings are a failure to interpret something correctly. That sentence covers a lot of the misspoken words used to help recreational fishermen become “better catchers of fish.” At times I wonder where so much bad information about fishing comes from and how easily it is accepted. Even more surprising is why it isn’t challenged. Remember, just because someone says something doesn’t mean that it is correct. This seems to be especially true about fishing. Much bad information is passed on with, hopefully, good intention, but really not tried and tested for validity. Before accepting any information about fishing as “gospel”, please check it out for yourself before passing it to others. I recommend that you try any of the things in future columns you read and think will work for you, before telling others to try them. Saying so, let’s get started with some prevalent tackle talk

Tandem Rigs (two lures on separate leaders and on one fishing line)

I seldom use traditional tandem rigs when fishing, but when I do use them, I do not use the misnamed “three way swivel.” It is only a junction for three lines, and may turn a little, but never does it perform as “a swivel.” When using the conventional three way swivel and catching a Striper that spins, you usually end up with the two leader lines wrapped.. There is an item available where two swivels are joined with the loop of one between the loop and barrel of another that may work better, but I have never tried that arrangement. I found that bending a length of stainless steel wire ninety degrees, with a circle in the middle and circles on the ends, with snap swivels in all circles, performs a much better “three way swivel function” of keeping lines separated and twist free. Also, if your lines get wrapped, by unsnapping one line you can usually speed the unwrapping process.



I do, however, use a tandem rig that is not conventional. For some summer time fishing, I use an eighteen inch bar with a circle in the middle and with a circle on both ends, with snap swivel placed in all of the circles. From the end snap swivels I use equal length of one hundred pound test mono leaders of twelve to sixteen inches length. I suspend two “Storm Shad” lures, both either four or six inches long, and one black and green, the other with a greenish color, on the end with Duolock snaps. This allows me the ability to quickly change damaged lures or leaders while fishing. I normally pull six of these rigs at a time. If something works and catches Stripers I fish that type on all my lines that I currently use.

