

FREE

THE BUZZ RAMSEY REPORT

Berkley® Steelhead Rigs



Catch More Fish™



“FLOAT FISHING” for Steelhead

Basic Method: Cast out (cross current) and allow (by letting out line as needed) your float and suspended steelhead worm, egg cluster or other bait style to drift downstream naturally in the river current. Depending on casting distance and current speed, line mending may be required to prevent line/bobber drag or surface skating, which will put fish off. To mend your line, progressively pull your rod up and backward while rolling your rod tip and line upstream. When your bobber goes down (signaling that a fish has taken your bait) immediately set the hook! Once your drift is complete, reel in and cast again.

Important! Since you're fishing by sight and not by feel, don't take your eyes off your bobber! A natural drift, that travels the same speed or slightly slower than the river current produces best. To facilitate strong hook sets, keep line as direct to your bobber as possible. Use enough weight; split-shot, jig-head or pencil-style, to sink your float three-quarters under. Rig your scent-filled PowerBait® or Gulp!® steelhead worm, shrimp, crawfish, minnow, or leech such that it will facilitate the horizontal presentation steelhead prefer - keep this in mind when rigging.

Tips: This method performs best when rivers are medium to-low in height, when fishing slow-water areas, or current edges. For best results: suspend your bait below your float half to two-thirds of the way toward river bottom. Long, pencil-shaped floats (that tip with the slightest drag) will tell you a lot more about what's going on than other float shapes. There are rods designed for this method - the most popular measuring 9 to 11-feet in length. Levelwind-baitcast outfits' offer excellent line control and are used for fishing larger float/weight setups. Spinning rod-and-reel combos are popular because they facilitate the casting of lightweight rigging (bobber, worm, split-shot/jig-head) associated with this method. If you're a boater, you can eliminate all line drag and achieve direct line-to-bobber hook sets by anchoring above the fish-holding water and maneuvering your bobber directly downstream.

Fishing Line: Although premium monofilament lines are widely used for fishing floats, Berkley® Fireline® is gaining popularity due to its thin diameter, near zero stretch, floating ability, line twist absorption, ease of use on a spinning reel, and because it's available in a flame green color you can see. With Fireline®, splice a two-foot section of clear monofilament (or invisible fluorocarbon) leader to it.

Scent-Filled PowerBait® Shapes: The same PowerBait® fish attractant; "Fish bite and won't let go!" contained in PowerBait® Trout Bait added to pre-molded plastic bait shapes. The PowerBait® Floating Steelhead Worm is available in 4 and 6-inch size in Bubblegum and Clearwater pink colors. Both are designed with a paddle tail and float, which facilitate the horizontal presentation steelhead prefer. The 4-inch Steelhead Worm is often fished alone or cut at the collar (making it 2-1/2 inches) and rigged on a 1/8 ounce jig-head. Likewise, the 6-inch Steelhead Worm is used in winter-water conditions and often cut at the collar (making it 4-inches) and rigged on a 1/4 ounce jig-head. For extreme clear water or if targeting trout, try the Berkley® 3" Power® Trout Worm alone or rigged on a jig-head. Other PowerBait® shapes like the Trout/Steelhead Egg Cluster, 2" Power® Grub, 2" Power® Shrimp, and 3" Power® Craw work too.



Bobber with split-shot weight crimped to line with PowerBait® Steelhead Egg Cluster



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PowerBait® Scent-Filled Steelhead Worm cut at collar and attached to Jig Head.

Continued on other side.

