

Survival Fishing Gear - Catching Dinner When Lost In The Woods

Survival fishing gear is all about procuring needed food during a crisis. The idea isn't to bring the entire tackle box, several rods, and specialized equipment. Instead, it is just a small kit consisting of the bare basics needed to land fish. You aren't going after the monster muskies and northerns. You're looking to catch things like bluegills, crappies, and small bass. A few pan fish, roasted over a campfire, make for an excellent outdoors meal.

There are four basic components for survival fishing gear. While each element could be improvised in a number of ways, they are all inexpensive enough that you could easily put together a good kit for just a few bucks.

As we go through the different components, you'll notice the fishing rod itself is absent. A simple stick will suffice for your survival fishing gear. An actual rod and reel would be very difficult to pack into most survival kits.

Fishing line is the first key element to survival fishing gear. Ten or twelve pound test line will suffice for most situations, plus it is thin enough to double as a sewing line for repairing clothing or gear. Store it on a bobbin from your sewing kit or wrap it around a piece of cardboard. To use the latter technique, cut out a rectangle about an inch along the top and bottom and two or three inches on both sides. Cut a small slit about a half inch long and about a quarter inch from the left side along the top edge. Cut an identical slit on the bottom edge, about a quarter inch from the right side. Wedge one end of your fishing line in the top slit, then wrap the line around and around the cardboard. Wedge the other end of your line in the second slit. This allows you to easily unwrap as much line as you need without it getting tangled or snarled.

The next element is your hooks. Hooks hold your bait as well as catch on the fish's mouth so you can pull it in. Hook sizes are listed by number, higher number equals smaller hook. Numbers eight or ten will do well for most fish you are likely to catch in a survival situation. If you use too large of a hook, then the smaller fish won't be able to get the hook into it's mouth and will instead just nibble your bait away. I suggest placing a dozen or more hooks into a small plastic bag. This allows you plenty in case you lose a few hooks when they get snagged on the lake bottom.

Bobbers keep your bait off the lake bottom. They come in various sizes but you don't need anything exceedingly large. Something about as big around as a quarter will suffice. Have several of them in your survival fishing kit. They are brightly colored so they are easy to see on the surface of the water. Watching the bobber will help indicate when a fish is going after your bait. The bobber is also used to control how deep you will be fishing. The length of the line from your bait to the bobber is how deep the bait will sit in the water.

Sinkers work with the bobber to position the bait. The sinker is placed on the line an inch or two from the bait, pulling it down toward the bottom of the lake. The bobber pulls against this weight, keeping the bait at the level you want. Split shot sinkers are ideal for your survival fishing gear because they can easily be added or removed from the line without needing to be tied on.

[Survival fishing gear](#) is all about providing you with sustenance when lost in the wild. It isn't about living off the land for years on end, just simple and practical supplies to get you through to safety.