

SPORT FISHING

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SF TIP

JIGGING WITH CIRCLE HOOKS?

Circle hooks on lures? This seemingly impossible idea has actually shown promising results in certain jig-fishing applications.

ESPN2 TV show host George Poveromo has had very positive experiences using circle hooks on jigging spoons like diamond jigs or the popular SPRO Sushi Spoon. "This is so new and so cutting-edge; it's really going to revolutionize how people fish with jigs," enthuses Poveromo. He learned about this from Rick Mola, owner of Fisherman's World tackle center in Norwalk, Connecticut.



GEORGE POVEROMO

Not just for bait anymore: George Poveromo found that circle hooks on his jigs not only helped fish swim away unharmed but also improved his hookup rates.

Mola experimented by re-rigging some jigs with *offset* circle hooks attached to the rear of the spoons with SPRO split rings and barrel swivels. (Heating the hook eye with a torch allowed him to open the eye enough to slip over the swivel.) Mola reported that he not only hooked every fish in the corner of the jaw, but he also was converting more strikes into hookups. Poveromo tested it for himself while filming a TV show with Mola, and (if you'll pardon the expression) became hooked. He has since introduced the idea to a fishing buddy in Florida who is experiencing similar results.

Circle-hook jigging does require some adjustments in technique. Rather than the typical "jerk up and flutter down" jigging motion, this setup proved most effective when fished with a retrieve-pause-retrieve motion. If you do get bit on the fall, Poveromo noted, you can still hook up if you resist the temptation to swing and just wind into the fish.

This same idea should work out West, where we like to throw light "surface iron" to catch and release kelp bass, barracuda and other nearshore species. Like anything else new, it may catch on only after time, but it certainly seems promising.