




Fishing Large Rivers With LongLiner®

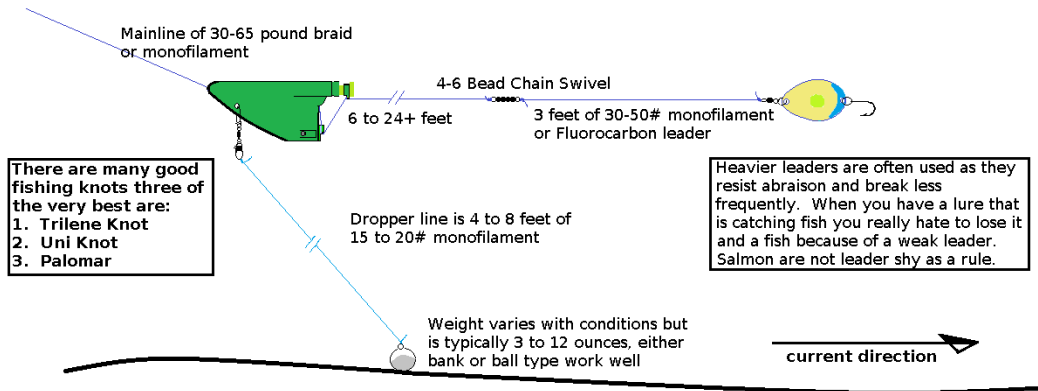
By Steve Lumsden

 Fishing for salmon in the Great Lakes left a deep appreciation for these inland seas. The azure blue waters of the off of the West Coast, the crystal shoals of the South Pacific, and my very special respect for those coveted lakes in British Columbia all warm those dark wet days of a dreary North West winter, and bring excitement to my tying bench. But of all the places that I have fished over the course of my life, there is none as special as that big river in my backyard—the Columbia.

The Columbia offers something to the angler year-round. There are several resident species that are worthy of world-class attention but very few sportsmen will disagree that the Columbia River Chinook is King.

In the spring there is often a sizeable run of early Chinooks that are the finest of the fine. They are immature, full of fat, and have an attitude. Catching them can be done a number of ways from Quickfish, Flatfish, either naked or wrapped with sardine, spinners, plugs, wobblers, prawns, shrimp, eggs, and herring. The choices of lures and bait often depend upon location, water temperature, and clarity. The fall Chinook are typically greater in numbers and are caught in the same manner. Large numbers of anglers choose the wobbler because it is so effective. Wobblers can be trolled or as is most often the case, used when at anchor. I love wobbler fishing anytime, but in the late summer and well into the fall, enjoying the company of friends and the beautiful weather while your favorite wobbler is working for you is hard to beat.

Wobbler fishing is particularly suited for pairing with LongLiner. I have found that as the big river currents swirl and vary throughout the day, effected by tide and water release from upstream dams, “The Original Egg Wobbler” is a responsive spoon to variations in current speed keeping its enticing large side-to-side swing as conditions change. **Long leaders or distance between the lure and the weight allows the lure to “search” in the current and cover more ground. In areas where there is a steady current I fish my favorite wobbler up to 25 feet, maybe a bit more at times, downstream of my LongLiner and weight.**



My personal choice for hooks on my wobblers is the siwash type. My reasoning is that my hook-ups are more secure and it takes little effort to get the fish out of the net. Also if you must release a fish, hook removal is much easier. Although my preference for Kings is the 4/0 size, the Egg Wobbler seems to have its best action with 3/0. Regardless of your choice in hook (treble or single)—keep it sharp.

I always use scents when salmon fishing. When fishing wobblers paste scents work well and are most often what I grab. Try placing a small bead of scent along the outer edge of your wobbler. My favorite scent is Herring/Salt, Sardine, Krill, and last but not least: Anise. It is also very wise to thoroughly wash your lure in Lemon Joy periodically to remove unwanted odors. Remember, salmon smell their home stream—and you thought a bloodhound was good!

To fish, let your Egg Wobbler free spool downstream while LongLiner is held in the unlocked or free-slide mode. Read the instructions on setting the release on LongLiner. When your desired distance is attained behind the boat lock in LongLiner, let it and your weight steadily drop until the bottom is reached. Then slowly back bounce your rig until the weight stays on the bottom. Set your drag properly—firm but not too firm, place your rod in the rod holder and have a cup of coffee.

Though this technique works very well at anchor, you can also troll if you prefer. Troll with a water speed of about 2 MPH keeping the weight a short distance above the bottom. At times a spinner is excellent fished in this manner, as is the Lyman Plug. Try Lyman's in #4 to #6 sizes while trolling or at anchor.

For additional "how to's" on LongLiner use, visit my website: www.anglerinnovations.com for video and pictorial instructions.