



# ERIC'S PRAWN RIG TECH SHEET

## TECHNIQUES FOR COMBINING LURES AND BAIT

Salmon, especially Chinook Salmon, are attracted to natural bait. Herring, sand shrimp, prawns, and salmon egg clusters are examples of natural bait. Of course, lures can produce awesome results for Chinook too. Why not combine the effectiveness of both bait and lure?

If you doubt the effectiveness of combining lure and bait, consider the region-wide popularity of bait-wrapped Kwikfish®. Of course, a bait-wrapped Kwikfish isn't the only example of combining the two. Every steelheader who has bounced a Corky and egg-cluster along the bottom of a river knows how effective the combination can be.

Combining a prawn with to a spinner blade and trolling it can be very effective for spring Chinook. The Eric's Prawn Rig, which is a snelled spinner/ bait actionizer, is designed specifically for use with prawns or sand shrimp. The Eric's Prawn Rig offers the right blade shape and blade-color combinations to maximize the effectiveness of your prawn. It can be trolled, plunked or back trolled in large rivers like the Columbia or Willamette; estuaries like Tillamook or Nehalem Bay; streams like the North Fork Lewis, Cowlitz, Clackamas, and Clearwater; or terminal fisheries like Washington's Drano Lake or the mouth of the Wind River.

The blade will be spinning but to produce more strikes also have the prawn spin as it's pulled through the water and to maximize the effectiveness of this lure-bait combination make sure your blade and prawn are spinning simultaneously.

The Eric's Prawn Rig features a double single-hook rigging that performs best when fishing slow currents, using sand shrimp and where fishing regulations make using a treble hooked rig illegal.

Rig a Swivel Chain halfway down your leader. A swivel, when positioned in this way, will eliminate line twist better than if placed only at the head-end of your leader. Rig the prawn head-down and curled, like it comes from the package. Make sure to plant the trailing hook in the head of your prawn - chinooks almost always take this bait head first. To add to your success, let the fish mouth your bait. Don't move your rod tip until the Chinook pulls it down firmly several times or begins peeling line from your reel - then set the hook.

The color of prawn you use in combination with the Eric's Prawn Rig can make a big difference in your success. For example, a pink-colored prawn during bright sunlight and an orange one during low light periods. But the sometimes hard to find green or blue prawn colors at times can produce surprising results too.

Your prawn isn't the only color that's important; the color of the blade on your prawn rig can determine success too. There are times when a blade color matching your prawn will produce best, for example, matching the Pearl/Cerise blade and a pink prawn or the Pearl/Orange blade with a orange prawn. Yet at times matching to the conditions is key, such as using a brass rainbow tipped blade in clear water or contrasting color combinations in low light, turbid water conditions or when the bite is generally slow.

By combining the action, color and vibration of a spinner blade with the live-image and real-smell of a prawn, you double the appeal of your offering.

### GEAR LIST

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| 1. Rod: Consider an 8'6" Heavy or Extra Heavy                                | 5. Wire Trolling Spreaders   |
| 2. Reel: Level-wind Baitcaster   | 6. Swivel Chains   |
| 3. Line: Sufix monofilament 20- to 30-lb. test or braid in 40 to 65 lb.      | 7. Eric's Prawn Rigs: Bring several colors so you can match the conditions and fish's mood |
| 4. Sinkers: A selection of 1 1/2- to 5-oz. (Heavier when fishing fast water) | 8. Prawns and a small bait cooler to keep them fresh                                       |

### HOW TO RIG AN ERIC'S PRAWN RIG

1. Thread trailing hook through prawn head, wrap line (between hooks) around prawn body once and insert top hook into tail.
2. Prawn should spin for best results.
3. Troll boat slowly in a zig zag pattern.
4. Adding a swivel chain between the rigged prawn and spreader will prevent line twist.

