

# Rod & Gun Club Striper Seminar

Presented by Pat Dundon on 11/13/24 @ Recreation Center/Calhoun Room

A good place to start is the Club's webpage:

[Rod & Gun Club - Savannah Lakes Village](http://Rod & Gun Club - Savannah Lakes Village) (SavannahLakes.com or first line on NeighborLink: Website / Member Portal)

- Click "Life at SLV" menu;
- Click "Clubs & Groups";
- scroll and select "Rod & Gun Club"

Scroll down to "New to SLV: Additional Rod & Gun Info"

## Lake Levels:

- 1) Call Russell Dam 800 944 7207; press 1 when the tape starts.
  - Gives lake levels for Hartwell, Russell, and Thurmond and tells you hours the dams will be operating daily.
- 2) [Georgia Lake Levels](#)

[Current Hazards](#) [Current Conditions](#) [Radar](#) [Forecasts](#) [Rivers and Lakes](#) [Climate and Past Weather](#) [Local Programs](#)

### Georgia Lake Levels

1001 AM EST Thu Nov 14 2024  
Previous: 20241114 | Go

Reservoir/Lake	Station ID	Flood Level (feet)	Summer Level (feet)	7am Pool Elev (ft)	24 Hour Change (feet)	24 Hour Precip (inches) readings taken between 1 am & 5 am.
Lake Allatoona	CVLG1	860	840	834.11	-0.03	0.00
Lake Blackshear	WWCG1	239	237	233.27	0.03	-
Blue Ridge Lake	BHDCG1	1691	1686	1670.10	-0.10	-
Lake Burton	TIGG1	1987	1985	1982.92	0.96	1.20
Carters Lake	CTRG1	1099	1074	1072.19	-0.12	0.00
Chauga Lake	CHAN7	1927	1925	1919.08	-0.01	-
Goat Rock Lake	GRDG1	405	400	399.75	-0.48	-
Lake Harding	CLBG1	521	520	520.04	-0.05	0.05
Lake Hartwell	HRTG1	665	660	656.66	-0.33	-
Jackson Lake	JKNG1	530	528	523.02	0.02	0.12
Lake Lanier	CMMG1	1085	1071	1067.65	-0.05	-
Notley Lake	NCTG1	1779	1775	1764.02	-0.04	-
Lake Oconee	WBMG1	435	434	434.75	0.04	0.11
Lake Rabun	TERG1	1690	-	1677.75	0.07	1.17
Lake Russell	RBDS1	480	475	474.97	0.09	-
Lake Stead	NACG1	1753	-	1751.21	0.10	0.98
Lake Sinclair	SNCG1	340	339	338.22	-0.05	0.04
Thurmond Lake	CHDS1	335	330	327.26	0.17	0.44
Tugalo Lake	TUGG1	892	-	889.38	0.11	0.67
West Point Lake	WETG1	641	635	624.81	-0.04	0.08

## Bait Info:

A list of [local bait shops](#) will help you get your day started. Bait shops use Saltwater for herring which leads to rust on anything metal. For instance, the handle on my bait cooler used to retract, now it doesn't. And the folding rear seat frame on the golf cart that I use to bring bait to the boat has begun to rust quite a bit.



Speaking of that cooler, I use an Igloo MaxCold cooler on wheels with a retractable handle. The top, bottom, and all sides are insulated, and it has a drain. I have not had difficulty with Herring dying using the cooler, year round. I have found that if I bring 4 small, pint size, frozen freezer packs on the boat and put one in when I fill the tank and another when the herring begins looking slow then repeat, the herring lasts through the day.

I usually get 2 dozen herring a day; most guys get 3 or more. If I get 4 dozen, they all die quickly; I think the tank can't support oxygen for that many.

My bubbler for the bait cooler is a rechargeable type I bought at Palmetto Angler. If you get one, glue the feet in; mine fell out. Without the feet, that bubbler gets loud.

If your bait tank starts getting foam, put 2 drops of Foam Off in the tank and check it in about 10 minutes. If the foam persists, put one more drop in at a time, waiting 10-15 minutes between drops. Less is better.



## **Using Herring as Bait:**

### **Free line**

Free line is just that: herring, hook, leader, swivel, snap swivel plastic bead, sliding egg weight.

You vary the egg weight, length of line out, and speed over ground to adjust the depth your bait is running.

### **Boards**

The setup for boards is very similar except for the existence of the board between the sliding weight and the fishing pole. [Understanding Planer Boards](#).

Trolling is necessary for Free Line and Planer Board fishing. MinnKota makes an I-pilot motor that works with a handheld remote that I use. Move at 0.6 to 1.1 mph you'll be surprised how often that gets you places you didn't intend to go too fast. Wind will stop, deflect, and/or accelerate your trolling speed & direction a lot. Pay attention to it.

Trolling can be used for the Down Line process too, but move slower. Sometimes you will use the 'spot lock' feature to hold the boat stationary. I have moved as fast as 0.5 mph too though. [Understanding Trolling Motors](#).

### **Down Line**



Down-lining is a method typically involving a 2 oz egg sinker. That sinker may have a metal swivel melted into it or be a sliding type sinker. You can move while down lining, but go slow. Folks put out as many poles as they can watch without tangling them for down lining. Most charter trips use the down line technique. At the bubbles, guys downline as far as 45 ft. You want the bait to look as natural as possible. Longer leaders let the roll of the boat and weight of the sinker have no effect on the movement of the bait.

If you are using a flexible rod like a noodle pole or crappie rig, a 1 oz sinker will work. But your chances of getting a bigger striper will be low.

### **How to bait for free line, planer boards, or down line:**



For Tail Hook & Cut Bait to work without losing tackle or snagging bottom, the boat must be stationary. This usually involves 2 anchors, one Forward, one Aft. You can use mushroom or Danforth type anchors, but remember the bottom of this lake is littered with trees. Hook type anchors tend to foul and become difficult to impossible to retrieve.



### Tail hook:

This method works well if you bottom fish from a stationary position. Pontoon type boats have a lot of 'sail' which makes remaining stationary quite difficult.

To use this method, place an egg style slip sinker on your line before anything else, then a plastic bead, snap swivel, leader, hook.



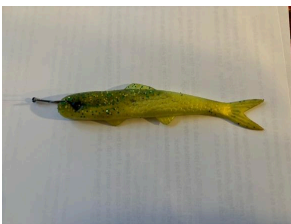
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Hook the herring to your line across the body behind the fin, before the tail. Do not harm the spine.

When you throw the bait out, continue to let the line feed out as the rig drops to the bottom. You want the bait as far from the boat as possible. The idea is to allow the herring to swim up and struggle, which attracts striper.

### Cut bait

Another stationary bottom fishing method is Cut Bait. Rig the line the same as you would for a tail hook. You cut the herring across the body quite severely and cut the tail off. You want the oils and blood from the bait to spread. This attracts striper and catfish.



Hook the bait through the body below the dorsal fin. Throw the bait, let the line feed out until the sinker is on the bottom. Leave a little slack in the line so if the boat swings on the anchors the bait remains stationary.



### Rods

Rods for all of these methods usually are 7-8' long, medium or stiff actions. Can be made for bait casting or spinning use. I prefer spinners because they lack the 'trigger' grip and fit a rod holder better. Others will prefer different. Action is more important than design. Last I knew, Academy Sports in Evans had acceptable rods for sale for about \$25.

## Reels

The reels I prefer are [Abu Garcia 5600 C4](#) type. I use 20# monofilament on the reels, and 15# fluorocarbon leaders. I am thinking of switching to 10# leaders though. Too often I get a snag that is excessively hard to break free and lose just a hook. [Understanding fishing lines](#).

Okumba, Penn, Lews and others make acceptable reels that cost less than the Abu Garcia too.



## Hooks

I use Gamakatsu 2/0 Octopus hooks; I was using Mustad 1/0 wide gap hooks. I usually put fish back when I catch them. I found the wide gap hooks were more likely to hook the fish deeper in the mouth or in the gills, killing the fish. Once I swapped hooks, I still caught fish but most are hooked superficially and are able to be released alive and well.

