

Knot Tying Background

Introduction

A well tied knot will play a significant role in helping you catch your fish. If you have ever lost a fish due to a poorly tied knot you know why! A few easy tips can help you improve your results:

1. Always wet your knots with saliva while pulling them tight. This prevents damage to the line and allows the knot to pull tight with less friction.
2. Closely trimming “tag ends” is also important. The tag end is the end of the line used to tie the knot. The “standing end” is the part of the line that is coming from your fishing reel.ⁱ Trimming tag ends prevents the knot from catching snags or weeds. Do not burn the tag end—heat damages the line and knot.
3. Check your line often for nicks. As a guide, replace your line and retie rigs at least every year.

Clinch and Improved Clinch Knot

These knots are two of the more common fishing knots and are used to tie the fishing line to a lure, swivel or artificial fly. Both knots start off the same, however the improved clinch knot has one extra step. These knots can be used for saltwater or freshwater.ⁱⁱ

To Tie the Clinch Knot

Use the standing end and pass the line through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure. With the tag end, make 5 turns around the standing line. Hold the coils in place and thread the end of the tag line through the first loop above the eye (not the eye of the hook). Before cinching, wet the line and then hold the tag end and standing line while coils are pulled, and slide against eye and clip the tag end.ⁱⁱⁱ

To Tie the Improved Clinch Knot

Follow the same steps for clinch knot, however after you pass the tag end through the first loop; pass it through the big loop that was just made. Remember to wet the line before cinching and to clip the tag end of the line.

In-line Dropper Loop

This knot is used to make a loop in the middle of your line to attach a hook or another rig. The in-line dropper loop is often used to create multi-hook fishing lines where a sinker is present. This knot is common when fishing in saltwater for fluke, porgy, and blackfish.

To Tie the In-line Dropper Loop

Make a ‘c’ with your fingers. Wrap the fishing line around the ‘c’. Using your other hand, rotate the two lines on the ‘c’ around each other. Be sure turns gather equally on each side or else the knot will slip. After 8 – 10 turns, reach through the center opening and pull remaining line through to form a loop. Wet the line and hold the loop with your teeth. Pull both ends of the line, making turns gather on either side of the loop. Set the knot by pulling

the lines as tightly as possible. Tightening the coils will make the loop stand out perpendicular to the line.^{iv}

Double Overhand Knot

The double overhand knot is mostly a saltwater knot used to attach a sinker to a rig. It is often applied in conjunction with the in-line dropper loop.

To Tie the Double Overhand Knot

Fold the tag end at about 3-4 inches so it sits parallel next to itself. Using both lines, tie an overhand knot, creating a loop. Clip the tag end close to the knot.

Bobber Attachment

To attach a bobber, thread both the standing and tag ends of the fishing line around the top and bottom hooks. To expose the bottom hook, press the top button on the bobber. To expose the bottom hook, press the button while holding the bottom hook in. By using a bobber, you can adjust the amount of line that is in the water by moving the bobber up or down.^v Be sure to attach the bobber so the hook hangs just above the structure (weeds, logs, etc.) or the bottom.

Additional Resources

NorEast.com has animated knots: <http://www.noreast.com/knots/knotsindex.cfm>

Vocabulary

- **Standing End:** Part of the line coming from your fishing reel
- **Tag End/Working End:** End of the line used to tie the knot

ⁱ Take Me Fishing: Fishopedia: Overview. 24 November 2008
<<http://www.takemefishing.org/fishing/fishopedia/bait-and-equipment/knots/overview5>>.

ⁱⁱ Take Me Fishing: Fishing: Fishopedia: Lure and Rig Knots. 24 November 2008
<<http://www.takemefishing.org/fishing/fishopedia/bait-and-equipment/knots/lure-and-rig-knots>>.

ⁱⁱⁱ ANDE Monofilament: Book of knots. Florida Sea Grant. P. 7.

^{iv} ANDE Monofilament: Book of knots. Florida Sea Grant. P. 21.

^v Fishing Basics: Getting Started Fishing. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.