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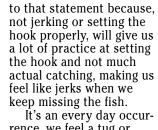
In medium depths a

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Of The Outdoors How You Set A Hook Makes A Difference

BY GARY HOWEY Hartington, Neb.

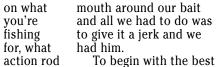
If I've heard it once, I've heard it a hundred times, you know, the old cliché, "fishing is one jerk on the end of the line patiently waiting for a jerk on the other end of his line. There is a bit of truth to that statement because,



rence, we feel a tug or extra weight on the end of our line and we instantly jerk back, which at times works out well and other times doesn't! There's a big difference

What went wrong, we had the fish where we as far as when and how to wanted him, with his set the hook, depending





action rod is and place to hook a fish is in what type the top of its mouth, in the bony part, not in the line your side where there's very litspooled up with. tle bone and a whole lot of soft skin. Since

Gary

Howev

spective.

mouth

it's fish When setting the hook, it's best to pull straight we're after, lets up, giving you a better look at it from their perchance at penetrating the top of the mouth. If you pull to the side you're He's just lying around on or near the bottom more apt to pull the hook when along comes a tastv away from the fish or looking morsel, in this hook them in the soft tiscase a jig with a minnow. sue in the side of the

The fish slowly works his mouth where it can easily way over to our bait, flairs shake or tear loose. his gills, sucking the bait If we're using a Lindy in, only to have it ripped live bait rig or jig and feel out of the side of his a fish pick it up, our best bet to get a good hook set

is to: • Reel up any slack line as we bring the rod down towards the water, which

ly will be the weight of the fish. • Then bring the rod tip straight up not off to the side, forcing the hook

mouth.

more power.

in the line.

Spider Wire. According to the into the top of the fish's experts at the plant in Spirit Lake, IA. "we're By reeling up the slack going to have to fish super line, we're removing the lines much differently bow or slack in our line, than we'd fish mono since shortening the distance super lines have no between the end of our stretch.

I talked with the folks at

Berkley, the manufactur-

ers of both Fireline and

If we'd fish Fireline or rod and the hook. which allow us to drive our hook Spider Wire the same way home with less effort and we'd fish mono, we're going to end up pulling This is especially the bait away from or tear important when using it out of the fish's mouth.' monofilament line because For walleye fishing, they recommend a rod mono has a tremendous amount of stretch. To set with a fast, limber tip as this takes the place of the the hook using mono, not stretch in the mono, givonly do we have to use enough force to penetrate ing you a little give when you set the hook. the hard, boney surface of the fish's mouth, we also "When fishing for Bass, have to pull hard enough

Pike and Muskie, we're to make up for the stretch going to want to go to a moderate action rod If we're using one of which not only gives us a little give when you set

Medium rods will work well and when we're fishing water deeper than 25" he'd they recommend a Medium Heavy rod." With super lines, basically, we want the rod do the hook setting for us. What we need to remember in order to become a more consistent catcher and not just a jerker is to make sure once we feel a bite, that we take up all the slack line, bringing our rod tip straight up when we set the hook. If we set the hook by pulling to the side, more times than not, we'll pull the bait away from the fish or tear the hook through the soft tissue on the side of the fish's mouth. By keeping a tight line, we're going to detect more bites and by setting the hook by bringing our rod Neb., is a former tournament

