

Stick float fishing

<p>River fishing with stick float for predominantly roach & dace and perch, 13' float/match rod (shorter rod for young) fixed spool reel 3lb+ line. Position tackle so you can't slip over the edge of bank, everything is securely & firmly laid out within easy reach</p>	
<p>Selecting Terminal tackle</p>	<p>Determine depth/flow/turbulence, how far out. Select float for buoyancy, ability to hold desired position in flow, shot capacity for depth, shirt button shotting or bulk shot. Traces 1.7lb to 20's up to 2.6 with 16's or even 14's, All geared against experience of pupil too, probably barbed hooks to avoid bounced fish provided I was in attendance for unhooking</p>
<p>Casting</p>	<p>All 3 options viable o/head, underarm, side, depending on position of obstructions, depth fished, distance out. Feather line to minimise disturbance</p>
<p>Control</p>	<p>Initially run straight through whole length of swim to look for depth change variations, snags, shelf drop-offs, all possible fish holding areas. Then try (depending on current speed), gently hold back to trot length of swim slightly over-depth. Thirdly hold back hard or stop every few seconds, trapping line against spool. Mend line to remove bowing & to ensure maintain desired direction. Also ensures in touch for a quick strike</p>
<p>Striking</p>	<p>Gentle but usually a quick strike 45 degrees to water, can be straight lift up if under rod tip, but trying to avoid striking towards an obstruction as is bite missed the whole end tackle can tangle round it. Immediately aim to draw the fish away from the shoal almost before it knows it is hooked, if possible.</p>
<p>Playing</p>	<p>Be aware of any snags before you've even hooked fish, plan where a fish might head, draw them away from these asap by angling the rod tip directly away. Maintain angle of 90 degrees to fish, so rod-tip absorbs the fight. Give line evenly when needed, no excessive force, gently pump fish towards you to retrieve line, repeat as needed to bring towards you.</p>
<p>Landing</p>	<p>If SMALL swing to hand. Larger fish, when the fish looks ready to net & is in netting range, move net into position with opposite hand to one holding rod, as far out as possible. Hold net steady under the surface, draw fish towards it <u>over net</u>, don't move net to fish as you could dislodge the hook. Lift net above fish but still in the water; draw net to you and balance net between your knees to unhook fish. Transfer fish gently to keepnet (or return to water) using net.</p>
<p>Bait identification & Selection</p>	<p>Would choose between the following baits, often taking two options. Maggot, casters as change bait, usually hemp as additional loose feed. Some venues add groundbait. Hemp & Tares White cloud groundbait with bread punch or flake, some hemp</p>
<p>Use of bait</p>	<p>Depends on distance out/current speed, & if better fish likely to be on the bottom rather than up in the water. Bulk shot rigs for former, shirt button for covering both options. Loose feed all items upstream, possibly in groundbait to go straight to bottom. Hemp/tares or cloud/bread can attract the better fish, more selective. Use bait dropper if current fast or to avoid small fish in upper layers</p>

Chris Burt