

# St. James Fishing Club Presentation



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# Read the Beach



1/17/2025

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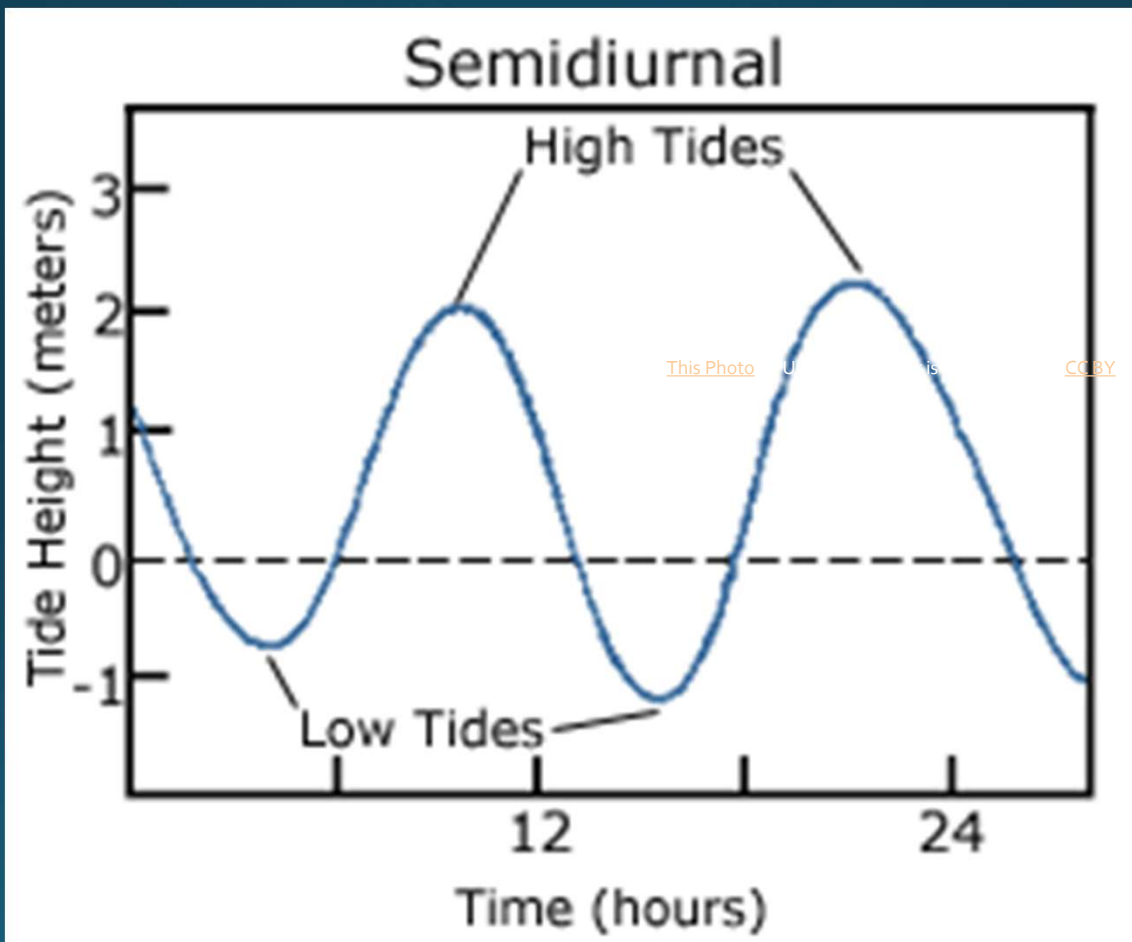
# Understanding the Beach

- Effects of tides and weather
- Current(s)
- Structure
- Look at and understand waves
- Trough (also called a gut)
- Sandbars and cuts
- Holes

# Effects of Weather & Tides

- Weather changes , and can change the beaches
- If possible, scout the beach at dead low tide, this helps tell the story
- As water pushes in during the incoming tide, bait fish and predators come in with it
- As tide goes out, the opposite applies, bait will often cling to the backs of the breakers
- Fish on the steep curve parts of the tide
- Currents are usually controlled by winds and flow

# Tidal Curve



# Structure

- Piers and man made structures
- Rock piles and jetties
- Wrecks
- Natural topography of the beach





# Waves



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# Wave and Sand Bar





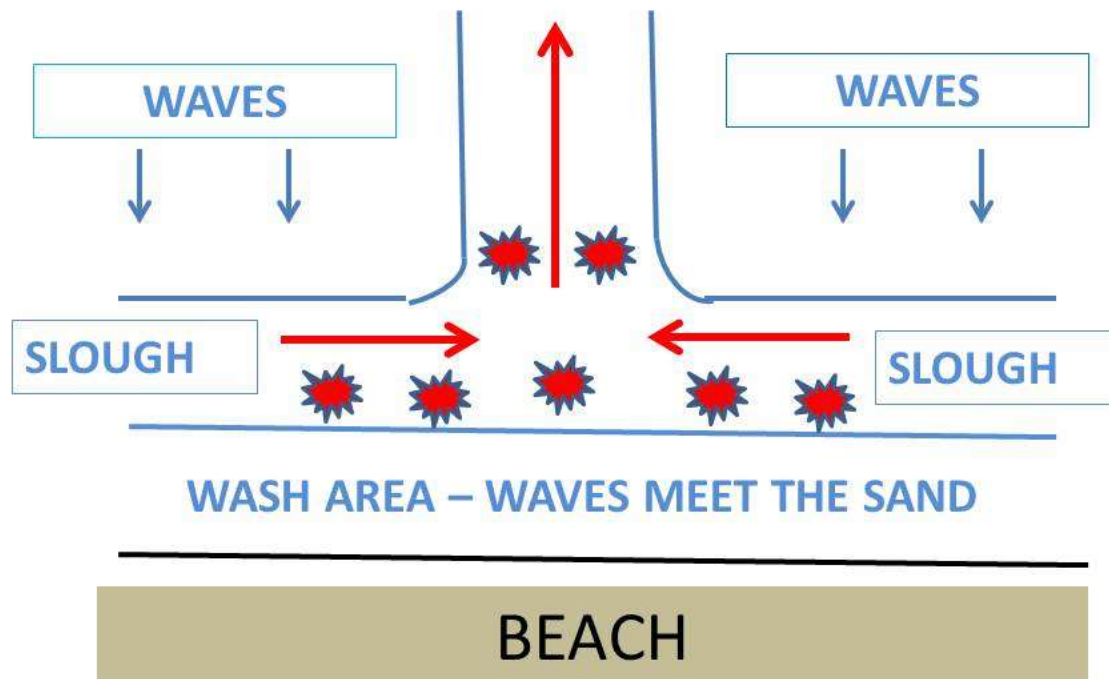
# Trough



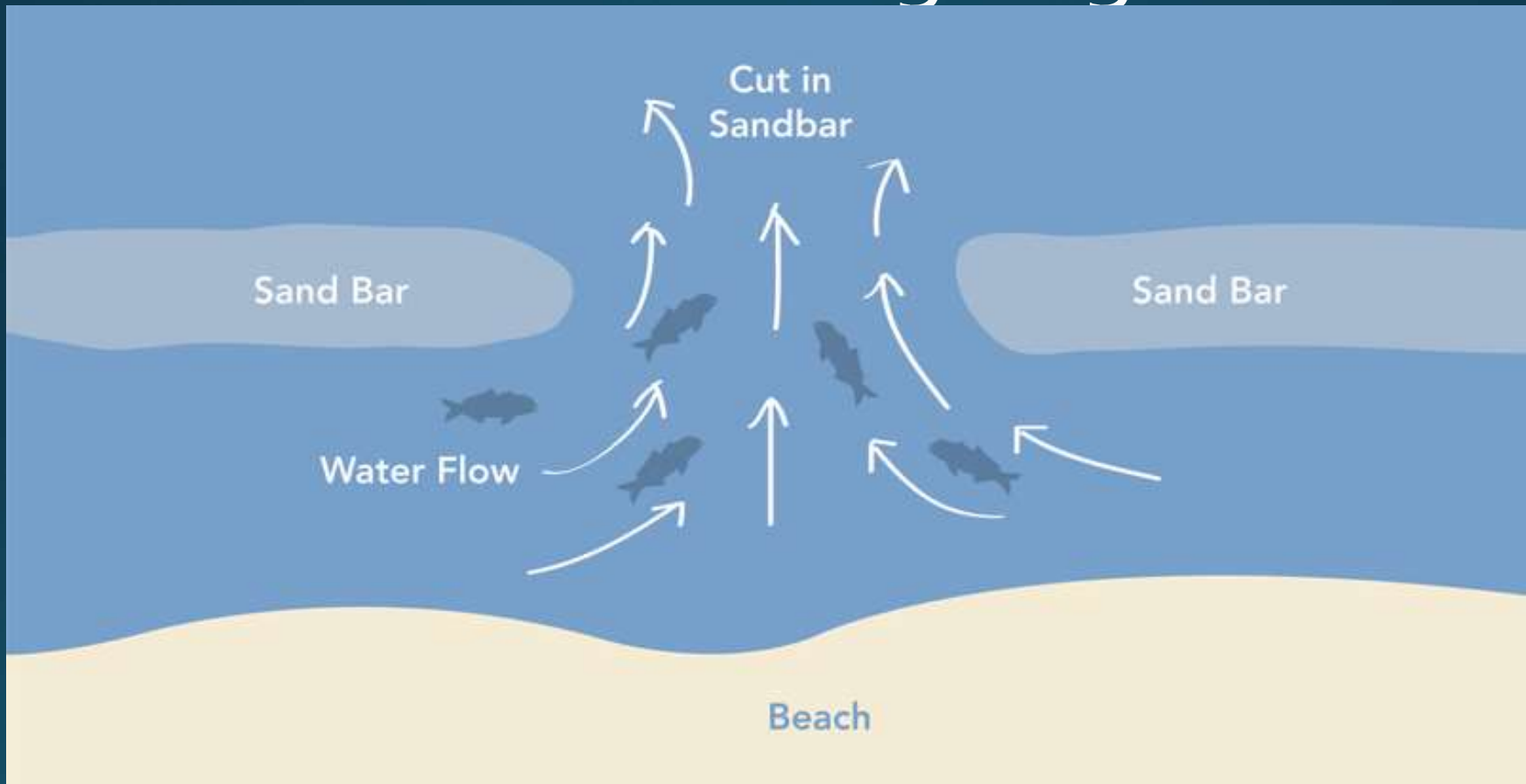
# Sand Bars & Cuts

TYPICAL SURF  
CONFIGURATION

FISH HERE in THE SLOUGH OR  
OUT-FLOW CHANNEL  
Look for this mark  
MOVING WATER IS BEST



# Cut Flow on Outgoing Tide



# Trough



# Hole



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# Rip Current




# Recon the Beach



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A photograph of a beach with sandbars, troughs, and a cut, illustrating fishing spots. The image shows a wide beach with several sandbars and troughs. The ocean is in the background, and the sky is clear. The text is overlaid on the image, providing information about fishing spots.

**Reading the Beach ...**  
**If this area were**  
**underwater ... this is what**  
**you would look for to fish**

**fish hang here for food**

**cut**

**sandbar**

**sandbar**

**trough**

**trough**

**Beach above the surf**

**[delaware-surf-fishing.com](http://delaware-surf-fishing.com)**

# Use your Phone or PC



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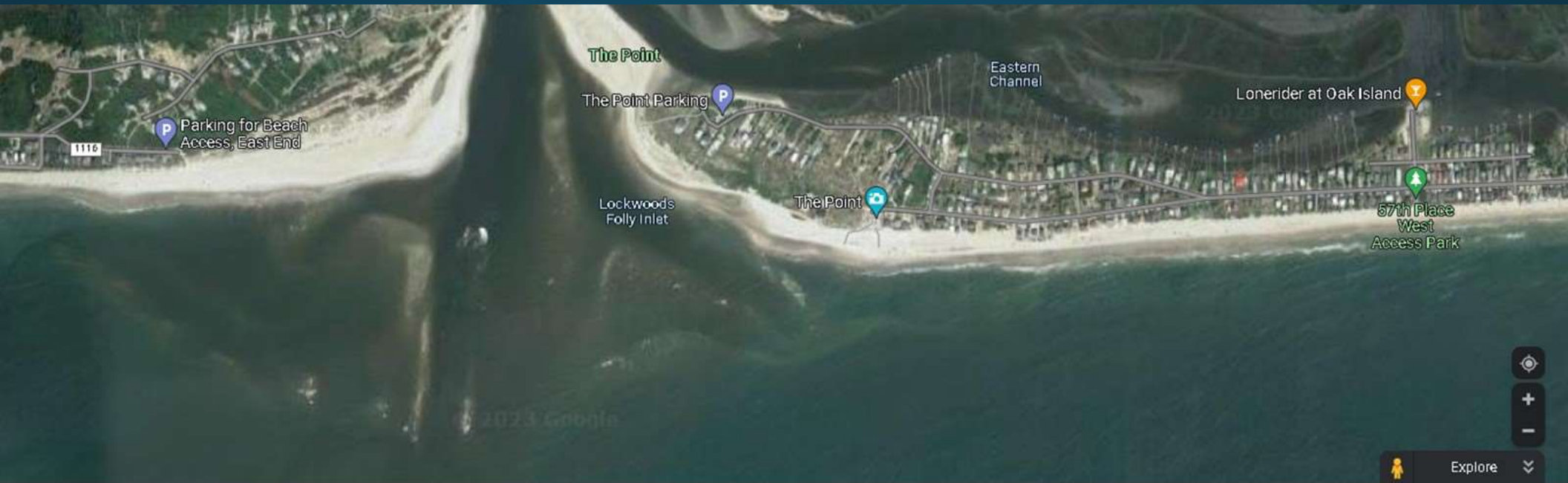


# Google Maps

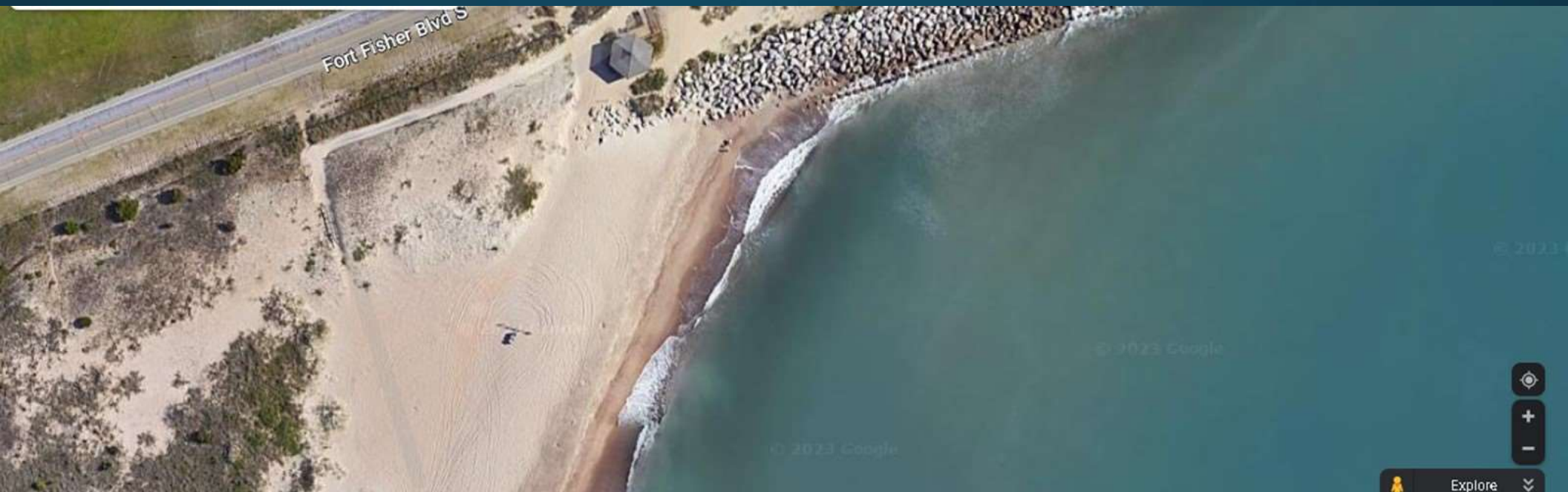


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# Oak Island: The Point



# Ft. Fisher Area



# Seasonal Runs & Catch

- March and April: (March dependent on Water Temps) Puffer Fish, Whiting, Pompano, some Drum activity, Chopper Blues
- May: Whiting, Pompano, Trout, Drum
- June: Whiting, Pompano, Trout, Flounder, Spanish Mack
- July: Whiting, Pompano, Trout, Flounder, Spanish Mack (Water Temps and crowds heavy effects)
- August: Whiting, Pompano, Trout, Flounder, Spanish Mack
- Sep, Oct, Nov: Red Drum, Whiting Pompano, Trout, Flounder, Spanish Mack
- Nov and Dec: Whiting, Drum, Puffer

# Baits that work for me!

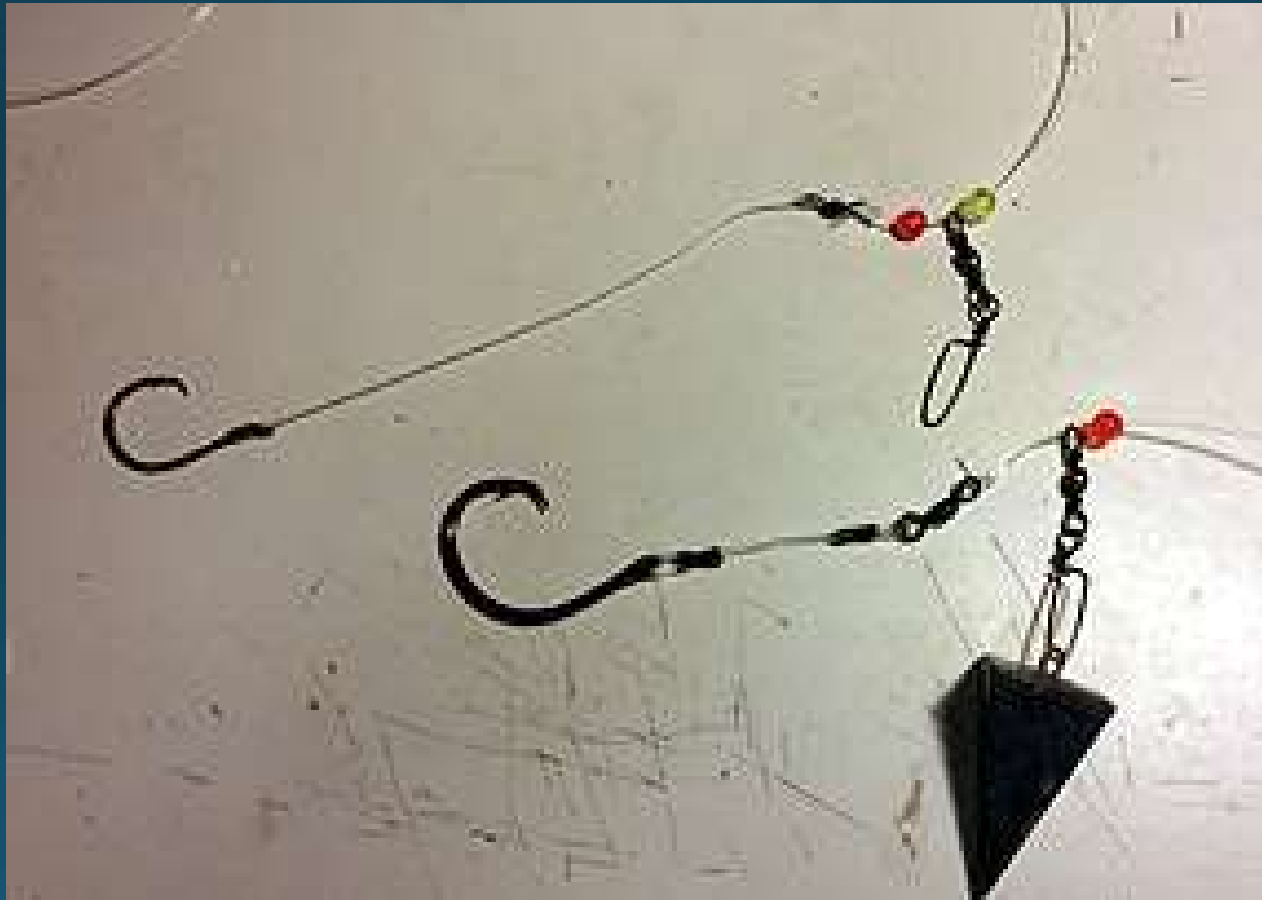
- Fresh shrimp year round
- Sand Fleas
- Fresh Cut Baits
- Fish Bites
- Blue Crab pieces
- Live Baits: Finger Mullet, Pogies, small Pinfish/Croakers
- Don't go to the beach with only one bait option!



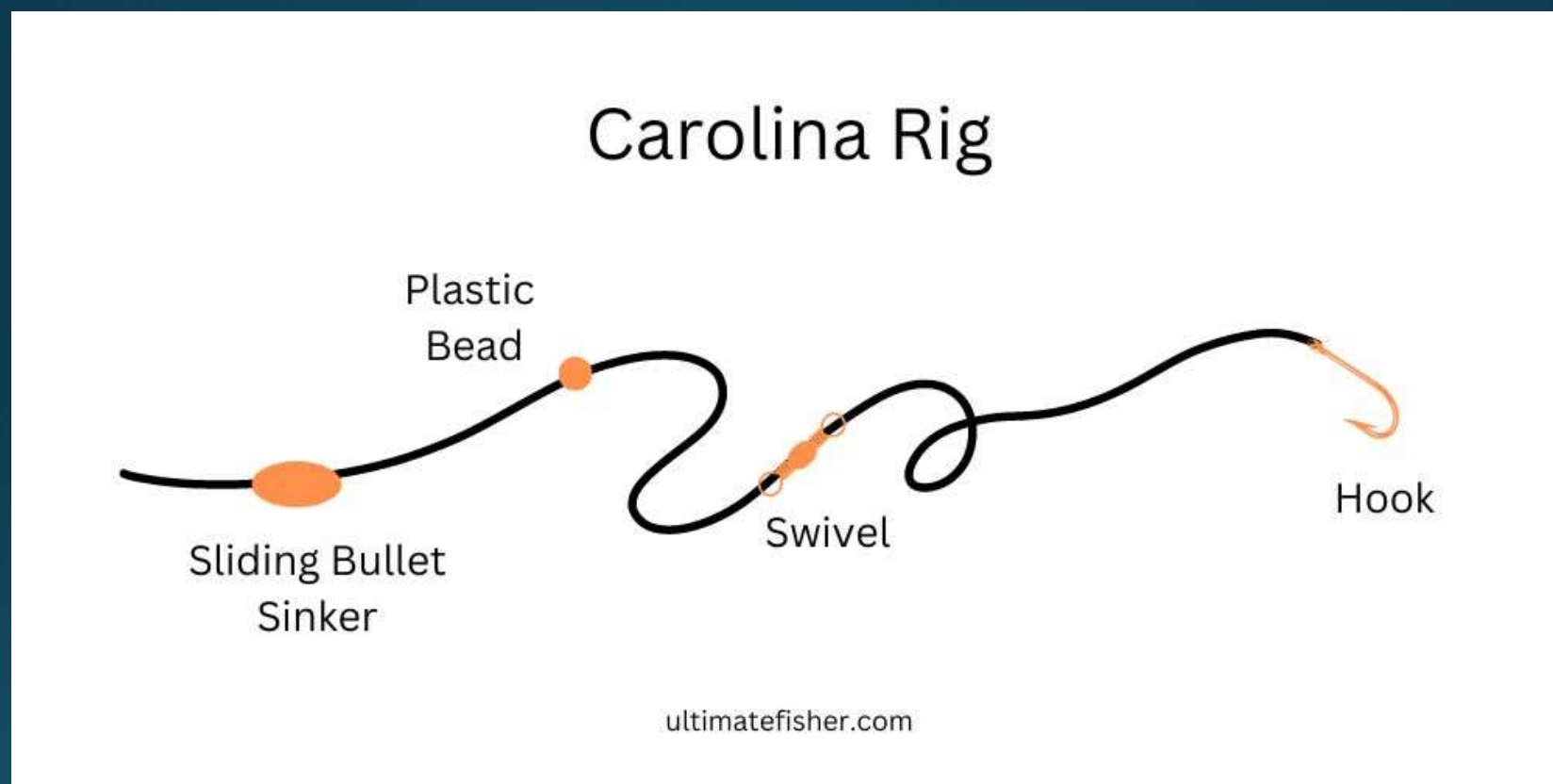
# Rigs



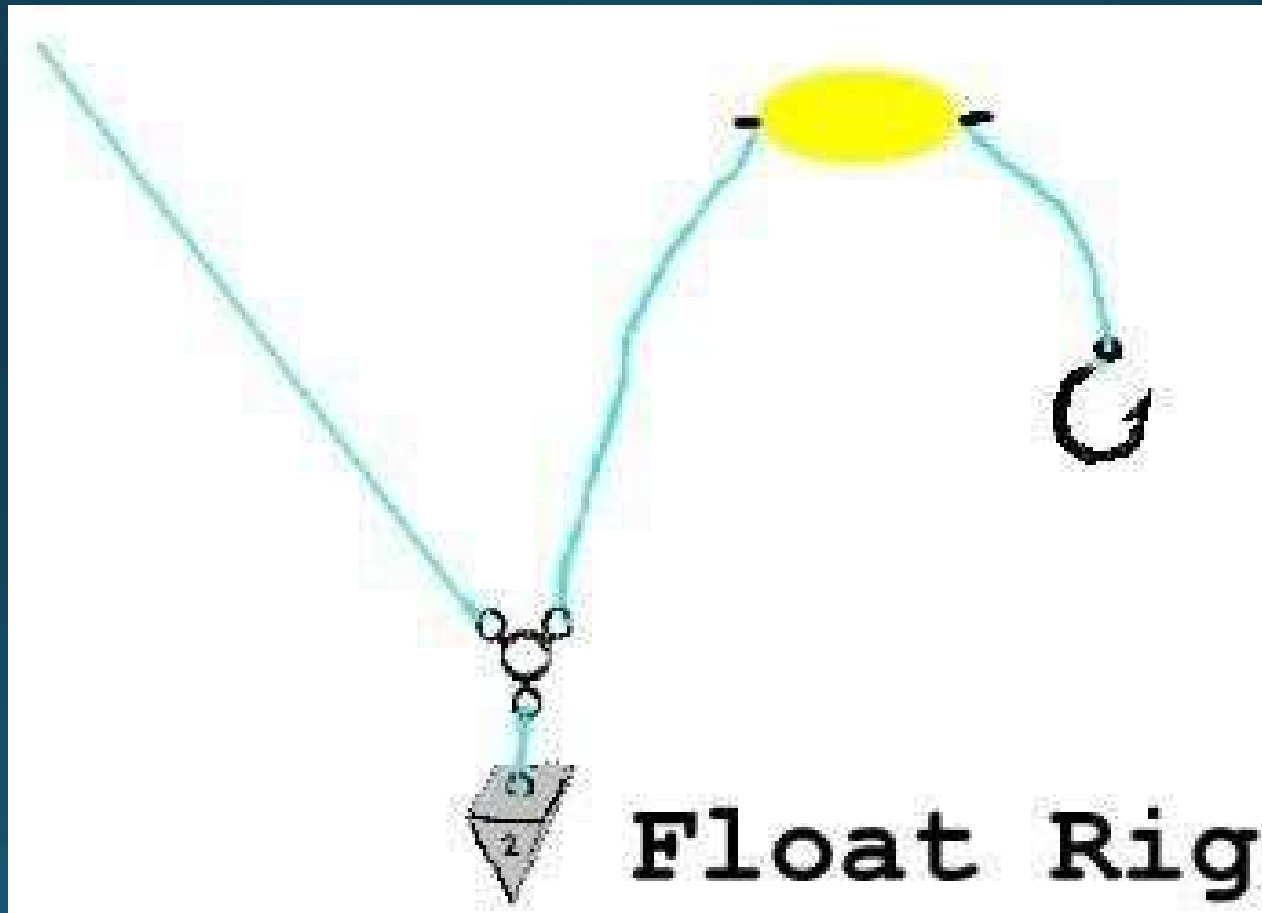
# Fish Finder Rig (Beach)



# Carolina Rig



# Float Rig



# Equipment & Tackle

- Rods: 8,9,10 ft rods (Always check your lure weight rating on rod)
- Reels: 4000 and 5000 series, (always check what line weight and capacity for the reel)
- Braid and monofilament
- Weights
- Sand Flea Rake
- Cast net, bucket and bubbler in the Fall

# Tips that really help me

- Keep your rod and reel out of sand. Always rinse down you rod/reel when you get home.
- Stay close by your sand spikes or cart, pay attention.
- Scent matters! Fish don't like sunscreen and bug spray transferred to your baits. Rinse your hands with water and wet sand.
- Keep your fingers out of the fish mouth. Sharp teeth!
- Have more than one bait option.
- Don't be afraid to move if fishing is not good, fish move too
- Fish different zone lengths don't just blind cast.

# Reel Good Surf Fishing

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## Thank You!