

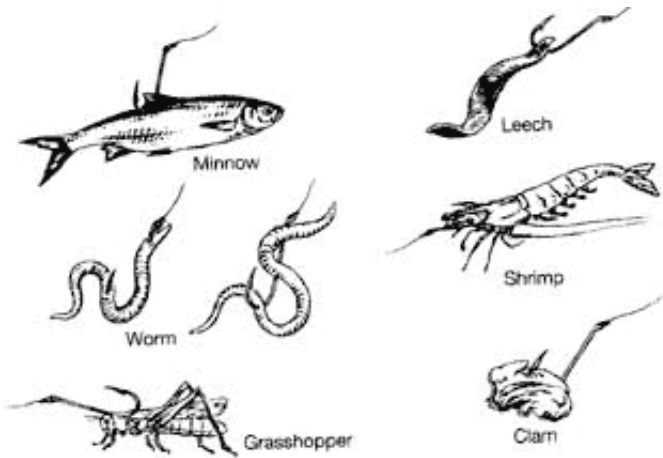


# TAKE ME FISHING™

## Worms, Minnows, Shrimp - oh my!

Live (or natural) baits are anything alive or previously alive that you use to catch fish. Some of the best live baits for freshwater fishing include worms, leeches, minnows, crayfish, crickets and grasshoppers. Good saltwater baits include sea worms, eels, crabs, shrimp, strips of squid, and cut-up pieces of fish.

Live bait can be purchased, or better yet, you can go and find your own. Compare the cost of losing one worm to losing a lure, and you'll see that fishing with live bait can be less expensive than fishing with a lure. Always check your **fishing regulations** to make sure the bait you choose is legal for the lake you are fishing.



## Worms

**Worms** are good bait for nearly all freshwater and saltwater fish, although sea worms are often used in saltwater fishing. You can find enough worms for fishing from a few shovels of dirt in your garden or from a shaded, damp area. Worms can also be purchased in fishing tackle stores and bait shops.

If you have small worms, thread the hook through the side of the worm at several places along its body. For bait-stealing fish such as sunfish, thread the worm on the hook until the hook is completely covered.

*To prevent smaller fish from nibbling the worm without biting down on the hook, you can use just a piece of the worm.*

## Minnows

**Minnows** must be stored in a minnow bucket with plenty of cool water to keep them alive. Never crowd them.

One way to hook a minnow is through both lips, beginning with the bottom lip. You can also hook a minnow through the tail, behind the head, or through the back.

## Other Natural Baits

Land insects such as **crickets** and **grasshoppers** can be easily obtained and are great bait. Walk through your backyard before your next fishing trip and see how many you can find! When using small insects, you should use hooks made of thin wire.

**Leeches** are excellent bait for many fish. They should be hooked through the sucker in the tail. **Clams, mussels and sea worms** are good baits for perch, drum, sea trout and rockfish. You should completely remove their shells before threading onto the hook.

**Shrimp** can be used either alive or dead for saltwater fish. You can either hook the shrimp through the tail or peel off the shell and thread cut up pieces of shrimp on the hook.

*Content courtesy of the **Future Fisherman Foundation**.*