

Make your own Strike Indicator.... Travis Akins

A strike indicator is a very useful tool for nymph fishing. A few years ago I came across instructions for making my own indicator that works better than any store-bought one that I have used. It floats well, is easy to remove and adjust, and is reusable.

Here's how to do it. You'll need a large pin (I steal them from my wife's sewing table), about 4" of doubled yellow poly yarn, and fairly strong thread (3/0 or better).



Place the doubled poly yarn and pin in the vise. Attach the thread with a jam knot and wind thread forward about 1/2 to 3/4 inch. The thread has to be very snug. The best way to do this is by holding right behind the thread as you wrap. Place a couple of whip finish wraps at the end. **DO NOT CUT THE THREAD!**

Remove the pin (which may require you to loosen the vise jaws a little) but keep the material in the vise. Tighten the vise enough to hold the material. Bend the thread wraps back until the ends meet. Make several tight wraps around both ends and whip finish. Apply a couple of liberal coats of head cement to the thread wraps. That's it.



Around the Bay.... and Further Away



The Tuna Troubadours (Skeet Lores, Bill Locher, Bruce Vail, John Brand) were at it again in Cajun country, this time bagging several tuna plus this magnificent Mako. There must be a long story behind this picture. Bob Quarles is still finding bull reds on the fly. The background in the photo hints at where he caught it.

Summer is fast approaching and it's time to start thinking about Boy Scout Camp again. Camp dates this year are Monday through Thursday, June 7-10, 14-17 and 21-24. Once again, we will teach fishing and fly fishing merit badges plus fly tying. The camp at Defuniak Springs is a great place and the lake is full of large bream and bass that you can catch outside of class hours. Give Vick Vickery a call at 478-3584 if you can provide some help.

Congratulations to Captain Bob Turpin as 2003 Escambia County Employee of the Year. Bob is Chief of the Marine Resources Division.

Thanks to Travis Akins for a fine lesson in tying with a rotary vise at the February clinic. Travis pays attention to the fine points of tying and is an engrossing teacher.

