

These have also proven to attract fish. The weighted model of this float sits upright in the water while the unweighted model rests on its side unless sufficient weight is put on the line below the float to make it stand upright.

Popping cork floats are normally not used in water over six feet deep, and in Charlotte County, are used extensively for fishing the shallow flats throughout the harbor. While used primarily with bait, these floats are excellent for suspending jigs, which are lead head lures that use a small plastic lure threaded on the hook

The sliding float has a line threaded through the hollow sleeve in the center which allows the float to slide up and down the line. To use this float some type of stop must be attached to the line above the float so the bait fixed to the hook stops at the proper depth.

There are various types of stops available at tackle shops. Some anglers tie a rubber band around the line at the proper line depth and snip off the excess, leaving a hard rubber knot.

The proper rigging of this float is stopper, bead, float, and additional terminal tackle which might include an



on line weight and hook or lure. If the angler is using an unweighted sliding float, a weight will be need to make it pop properly.

There is also a popping cork float which has a bead inset with a brass wire wrapped eye at the top. The wire runs through the float and is attached at the bottom to a swivel with a safety pin snap. Some anglers remove the safety pin snap and tie directly to the swivel to avoid possible failure of the safety pin snap.

Balloons are easily carried and used. They do not take up much space in a tackle box, yet are quickly inflated. After tying off the balloon, tie the line, at the desired depth, to the excess material below the balloon knot. A weight can be attached to the line to properly suspend the bait. This rig is particularly effective when there is a need to drift the bait a long distance from the fisherman. The balloon usually breaks during the fighting of a hooked fish.

Freshwater Floats

Fixed floats attach directly to the line. Those that use any type of wire fastener that is not brass or stainless steel can only be used in freshwater repeatedly because of the corrosive effects of saltwater.

The most popular freshwater floats are the plastic round bobber or pencil style floats. They are inexpensive, can be attached or moved quickly on the line, and used for both casting or pole fishing.

Balsa wood floats come in a variety of sizes and shapes and while used mostly for freshwater have some sizes and shapes that are also for saltwater.