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Best way to catch snakeheads

Buy Mono Now! Buy Braid Now! Buy Fluoro Now! The Bullseye Snakehead offers the S. Florida Angler one of the best table fares, fight and most aggressive hits you can encounter when fishing our S. Florida canal systems. The fish can be caught both day and night, but the nighttime fishery, much like snook fishing is a whole other animal. The below video is of a recent trip my buddy and I filmed, which could give you a little more insight as to how this fishery pans out. Where to Find Bullseye Snakeheads.First let me establish, where this species can be targeted. Ranging from canal systems south to N. Miami and stretching all the way North to Wellington/ West Palm Beach. Not all canals have them, but do a little web surfing and you will find a plethora of spots.Secondly these are highly ambush oriented predators, which seek structure to hide in. Snakeheads love to sit in cutouts in the canal, culvert pipes, under palm fronds and anything overhanging into the water. Snakeheads are HIGHLY sensitive to vibrations and have to be stalked to entice a bite. In general, if they see you before you see them, it's game over and time to move on to the next fish. However at night these fish tend to be a little more forgiving then the daytime and are often found out in the open, along the edge of the bank, often without any structure near. With this background information in mind, lets jump into the tackle you will need.Tackle to tackle the Bullseye Snakehead.When targeting snakeheads an ideal setup is a 7-7/12 ft medium heavy to heavy Bait-casting setup (like a flipping stick) with 65lb Bullbuster Braid. Braid really is preferred, as it allows for strong hooksets, less mouth cutoffs, better presentation of your lure and no stretch when it comes to flipping them on the bank. A spinning reel will work, but you will have difficulty flipping fish onto higher banks unless you are fishing heavier 50+ class braid and a stout rod, which is not ideal for artificial fishing with soft plastic baits, like those employed in snakehead fishing. As far as lures are concerned, do not get hung up on one, these fish are not that picky and 99.9% of all soft plastic frogs and hollow body frogs will work. The presentation of your lure, predominates over the price tag if you catch my drift.One of the most vital components to catch snakeheads at night successfully is a flashlight. Now, I'm not talking about some flashlight you've had in your hurricane kit for a decade and it barley flickers with all new batteries. You need a high lumen, focused light. The reason being that these fish are sensitive to vibration and the further away you can spot them, the higher the likelihood you will provoke them to eat. Once you have your body of water picked out, focus on the shallower portions as snakeheads are easier to spot in shallower water and are easily visible as they do not have the option of laying deep on the bottom, where they are excellently camouflaged. Walk the bank slowly with your light shining parallel to the edge of the water. These fish will be sitting right up on the edge to 5ft out, but generally within this range. Let him eat.Once spotted, immediately turn off your light and cast your lure a little ways past where you saw the fish. Slowly reel it past them and wait for the infamous loud pop you will hear. Once a snakehead eats, make sure you LET HIM EAT. These fish have relatively small mouths and take 1-2 seconds to really get the lure in their mouth. Sometimes they take multiple casts to get comfortable to eat or really key in on your lure, but they are very aggressive and want to kill anything that swims past them. If I could stress one thing and one thing only, it is to invest in a decent flashlight capable of spotting these fish from at least 10ft away clearly.To this day people still look down upon this fish, but it has grown to be one of my favorite species to target.We Help Millions Of Anglers Spend More Time FishingWe hope that you enjoyed this article on the Bullbuster.net Magazine. It is our mission to help millions of anglers spend more time fishing and that starts with YOU!Tour Our Factory Below Buy Your Fishing Line Brand Direct Online Now! Northern Snakeheads were discovered in Virginia in 2004 and may be found in the Potomac River almost anywhere - from above Great Falls downstream to Chesapeake Bay. Although verified in non-tidal sections of the Potomac and its tributaries above Washington, D.C., most snakeheads are still found primarily in tidal waters from D. C. downstream to Colonial Beach (and in tributaries of D.C., Maryland and Virginia within this reach). They are very abundant in all of Virginia's tidal tributaries to the Potomac River within this reach (e.g., Little Hunting Creek, Dogue Creek, Pohick Creek, Occoquan River, Neabsco Creek, Quantico Creek, and Aquia Creek). Data collected through 2018 suggest relative abundance has stabilized and even declined in many waters where populations have been established longest. Snakeheads were documented in 2012 in the Rappahannock River system - they apparently colonized several creeks in the lower portion of the tidal Rappahannock (below Port Royal) via natural dispersal from the Bay (they appear to be using freshets to ride less dense fresh water over saltwater during storms as a dispersal mechanism) but were also illegally introduced to Ruffin's Mill Pond south of Fredericksburg. The resulting colonization was likely the source of fish captured in Massaponax Creek and upper portions of the tidal Rappahannock. Anglers should expect to encounter snakeheads almost anywhere in the Rappahannock below Fredericksburg but at lower densities than currently seen on the Potomac. They have recently been encountered in greater abundance in areas of the fall line and at barriers in the watershed (e.g., Rapidan Mill Dam) following spring, pre-spawn migrations upstream. Ruffin's Mill Pond has been joined recently by Hunting Run Reservoir (Spotsylvania County), Pelham Reservoir (Culpeper County), Abel Reservoir (Stafford County), Burke Lake (Fairfax County), and Occoquan Reservoir (Fairfax/Prince William line) as all waters receiving illegal stockings of northern snakeheads. An individual was arrested and prosecuted for illegally stocking snakeheads in Lake Brittle (Fauquier County) in 2015. A bill was passed during the 2017 Virginia General Assemble providing for increased penalties for persons illegally moving (stocking) snakeheads. Anglers are encouraged to visit these lakes and harvest all snakeheads caught. They are excellent table fare. Snakeheads were found to be self-sustaining in Lake Anna (York drainage) in 2017. Thus far, none have been found downstream of North Anna Dam. However, as of May 2018; they were reported from multiple reservoirs in the James River watershed - undoubtedly a result of callous, illegal stocking from short-sighted individuals. What should someone do if they think they've found a snakehead fish? Before going fishing, anglers should familiarize themselves with the fish species found in Virginia. There are several native species including bowfin, lamprey, and American eel that look similar to the northern snakehead. For more information and assistance with learning the identifying differences between snakehead fish and native species, please see our "Do You Know The Difference?" information page. Any unusual fish needs to be reported to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. We have established a snakehead hotline that anglers can use to report snakehead fish (804-367-2925). There is also a new, easy-to-use web application for reporting observations. Anglers are required to report snakeheads kept but are not required to kill them if caught and immediately released. Snakeheads must be dead if in possession (contained in live well, cooler, etc.) However, the Department asks that all snakeheads be killed if possible. If an angler wishes to keep a legally caught northern snakehead, the fish must be killed to be in possession, and the angler must call the hotline or other VDGIF contact and report the angler's last name, date of catch, location of catch, and size. Kill the fish by: removing the head, separating the gill arches from the body, or removing the internal organs and put it on ice as quickly as possible. Is it illegal to own a snakehead fish in Virginia? Yes, it is illegal to own one without a permit. In 2002, the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries added the snakehead fish to the list of predatory and undesirable exotic species, making it illegal to possess a snakehead fish in Virginia without a permit issued by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Federal regulations enacted in October 2002 prohibit the importation of snakehead fish into the United States and prohibit interstate transport of these animals. Individuals who still own a live snakehead need to contact the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries immediately for proper disposal of the fish. Effective July 1, 2005, anglers who legally catch a snakehead may keep the fish to mount or eat providing they: immediately kill the fish using one or more of the alternatives listed above and notify the Department at the number listed above or by calling an office. What will the Department do now that snakeheads have been found in Virginia? Biologists continue to sample snakehead-colonized waters in an effort to learn more about the ecology and biology of this exotic fish in Virginia. Migration, exploitation, food habits, growth, and behavior of northern snakeheads are being studied; and attempts are being made to determine what impacts, if any, are occurring to aquatic communities as a result of colonization. The Department has membership on the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Snakehead Control and Management Plan (SCMP) Work Group. This group assembled and submitted recommendations to the U. S. Congress. What kind of impact could a snakehead population have in Virginia? Exotic species like snakeheads can disrupt natural aquatic systems and may have significant impacts by feeding on and competing with native and/or naturalized fishes. In addition, they may transmit parasites and diseases to native wildlife in those systems. Do we have to be concerned about snakehead fish appearing in other waters in Virginia? Yes. While snakeheads are freshwater fish, it has been determined that they can tolerate a fairly high level of salinity (this is especially true for juveniles with lower water temperatures). They may be able to colonize additional drainages through extreme storm events riding freshets or by illegal introductions. Are snakehead fish dangerous? While northern snakeheads do not attack humans or small pets, they may present threats to our native and/or naturalized wildlife and ecosystems. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries wants anglers to be aware of the identifying features of the species they are catching and to report any unusual fish caught. Call the Department at (804) 367-2925. Anyone who still has a snakehead fish needs to contact the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries immediately and SHOULD NOT to release it into the wild. Call (804) 367-2925 and VDGIF will assist in the proper disposal of the fish. For additional information: See: Odenkirk, J.S., and M. W. Isel. 2016. Trends in abundance of Northern Snakeheads in Virginia tributaries of the Potomac River. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 145: 687-692. Odenkirk, J., C. Lim, S. Owens, and M. Isel. 2014. Insight into age and growth of northern snakehead in the Potomac River. North American Journal of Fisheries Management 33:4, 773-776. Odenkirk, J. and S. Owens. 2007. Expansion of a northern snakehead population in the Potomac River system. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 136:1633-1639. Odenkirk, J. and S. Owens. 2005. Northern Snakeheads in the tidal Potomac River system. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 134: 1605-1609. Available online from www.fisheries.org. Updated 5/11/2018

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