

Hop Talk

How to do the Holschlag Hop



What is the Hop?

- Smallmouth Bass technique developed by Tim Holschlag
- It is **NOT** a drag free drift!



Recommended Gear

- Floating weight forward Line. Titan is perfect!
 - Use 1 to 2 weights heavier than your rod
 - Why?
- 6-8 weight rods are preferred
- 4-9 foot tapered leader (8 – 12 pound)
- Pencil Type Strike Indicator
- Indicator should be at **least** 1.5x water depth but it can be 6 inches or more from the fly line/leader attachment point.

Strike Indicators

- Any will work but the pencil type that Tim Holschlag recommends disturb the water less



Cabela's Teardrop Foam Strike Indicator

★★★★★ (0)
\$3.99



A photograph showing two red, pill-shaped strike indicators on a grey background. A US quarter coin is placed next to them for scale. A magnifying glass icon is overlaid on the image.

Smallmouth Fly Angler Strike Indicators

★★★★★
(1 customer review)

\$7.50

If you fish subsurface without a strike



Two small images showing the product packaging. The left one shows two red strike indicators next to a coin. The right one shows two bags of strike indicators, one labeled 'SMALLMOUTH FLY' and the other 'SMALLMOUTH FLY'.

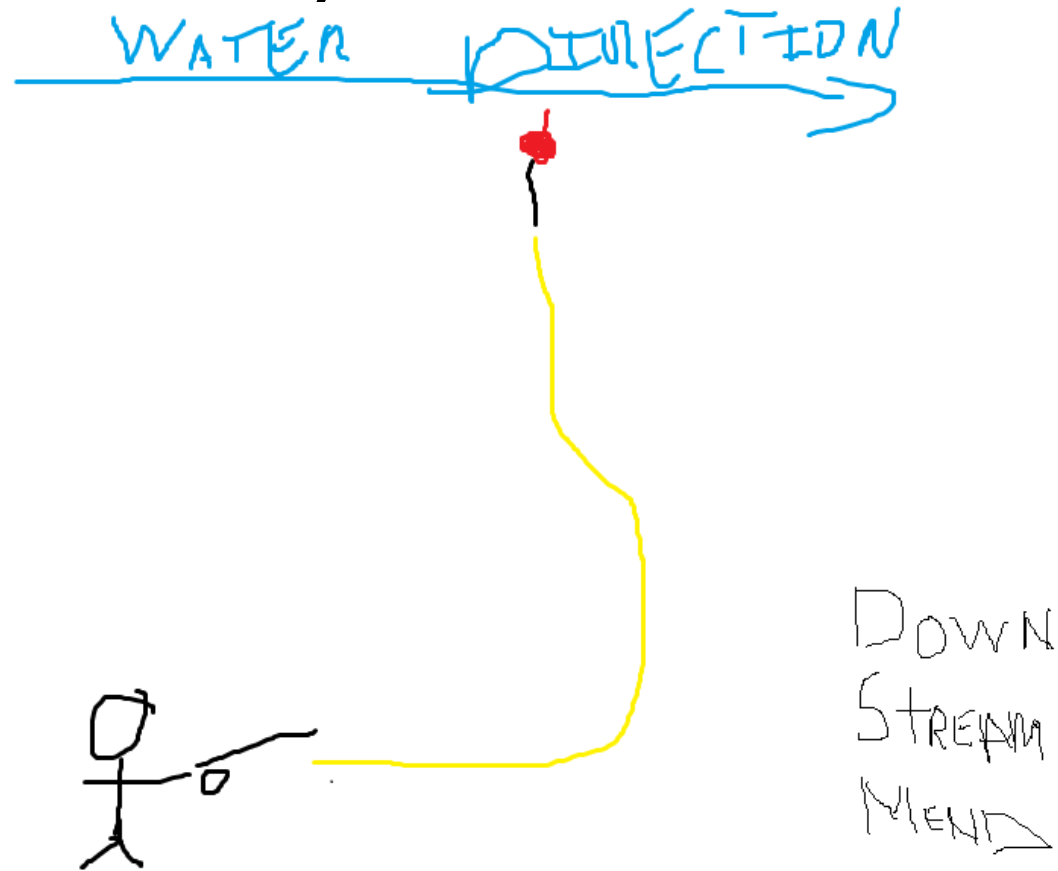


Cabela's Football Foam Strike Indicator

★★★★★ (6)
\$3.99

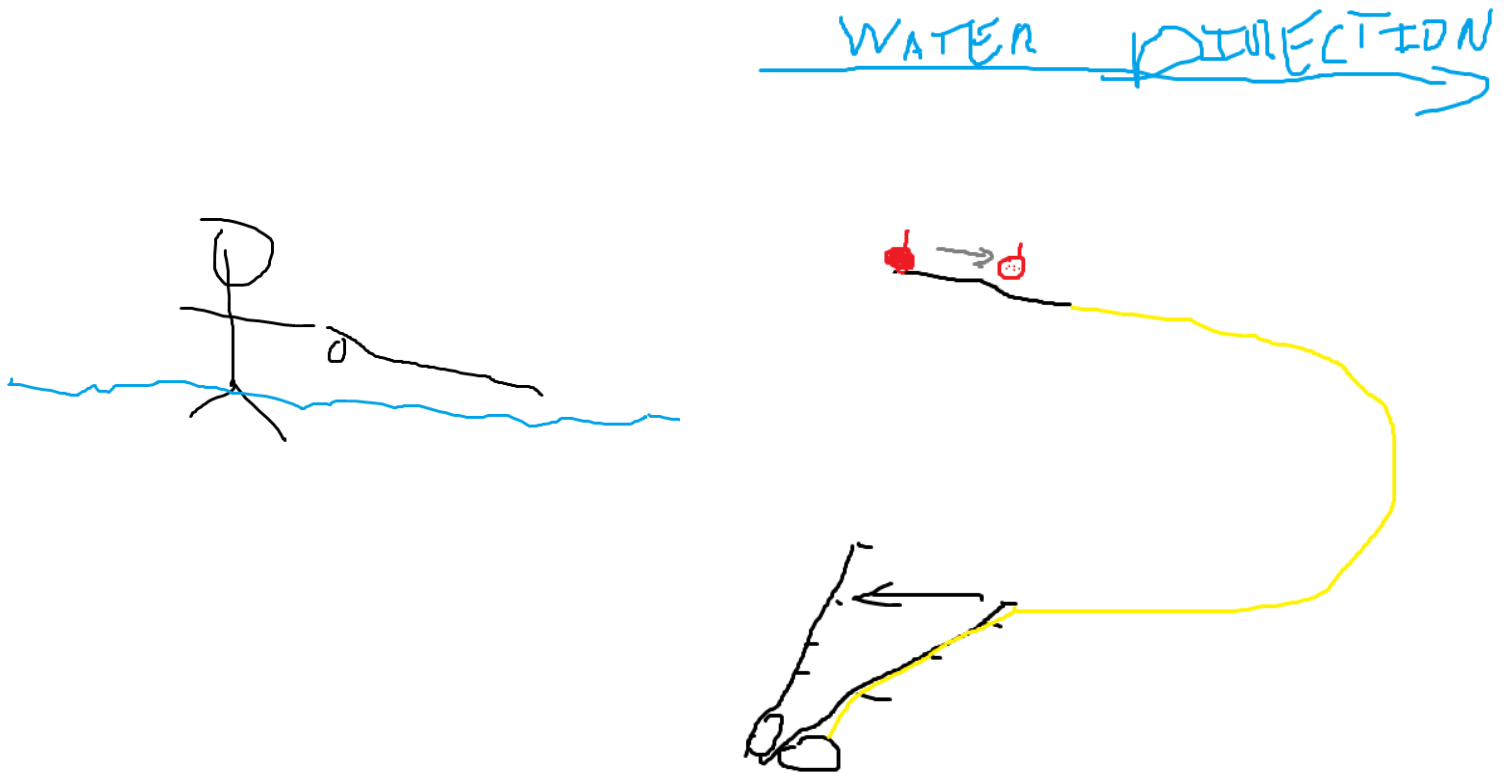
The Basic Cast

- Make a cast across the stream.
- Immediately mend downstream



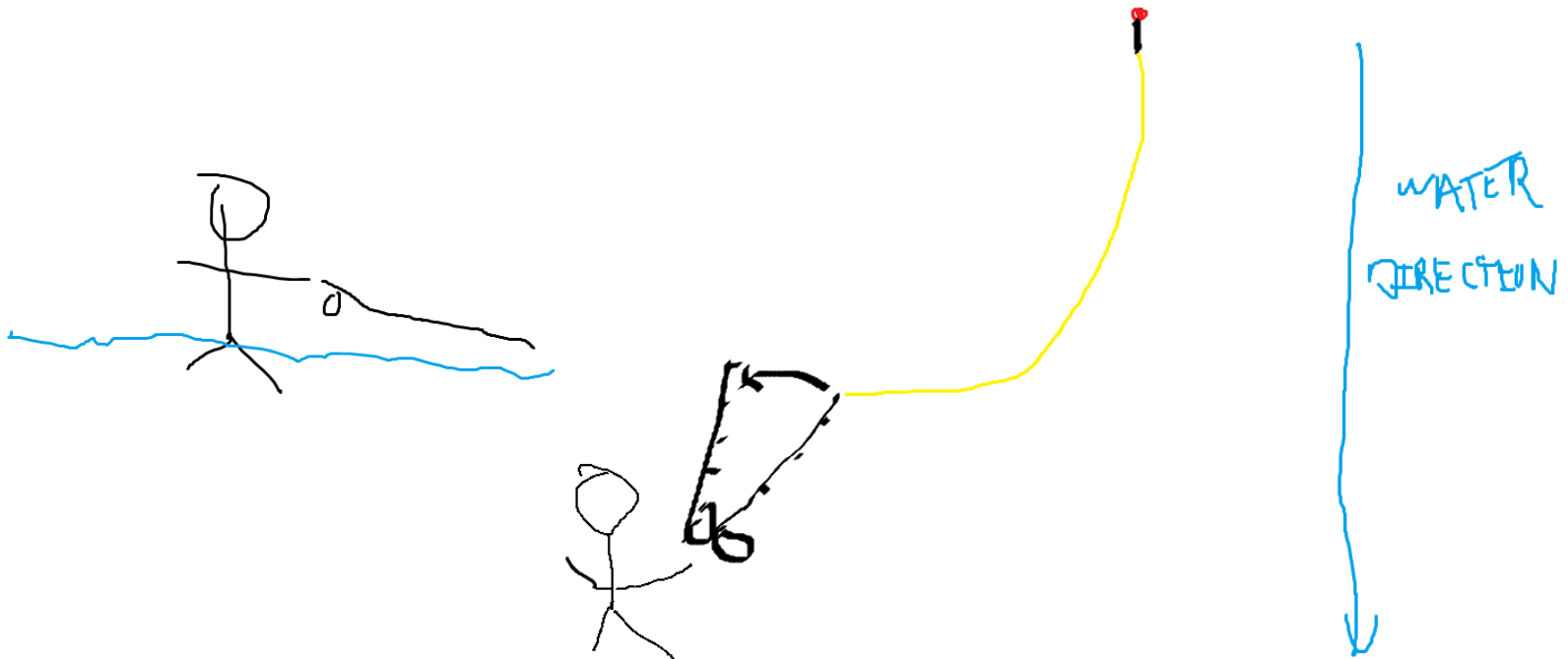
Rod Tip Motion Moves the Fly

- Hop is made by forcefully moving the rod tip **low** and upstream or towards the bank



How to do the long hop

- Cast upstream.
- While facing upstream, jerk towards the bank (or downstream).
- Strip in line after each jerk.



How to do the long hop (cont)

- When the fly comes close to you, rotate your body downstream and continue to hop (jerk) upstream



You may need to let out line after the fly passes you.

One last note

- This is how the technique was taught to me.
- I modify my hop direction (jerk) based on what makes the indicator move **ABRUPTLY** 6 inches or more without pulling the line off the water.
- The important thing to remember is to keep the rod tip low and keep the line stuck to the water when doing the jerk.

Hop. Skip. Jump.

- And here's Tim!
 - (Video Time)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sKV689tiGo>

What Not to Do

- Lift the rod tip when doing the hop or setting the hook.
- Poor Technique still catches fish
 - [How to Crayfish Hop – YouTube](#)
 - 2:10

Crawfish patterns

- Clousers
- Wooly Boogers
- Bronze Goddess
- DDH Leach
- Dad's Craw (Skip Morris)
- Mixed Media (FlyFishOhio.com)

Notes

- 3 – 4 inches!!!!
- Small claws are better!!!!



BOTTOM



Holschlag Hackle Fly (HHF)



Golden Minnow



Albino Minnow

MID-DEPTH



White Holschlag Hare



Black Holschlag Hares (2)

SHALLOW



Murdich Minnow



White Shenks Streamer



Yellow Shenks Streamer

TOP



Chartreuse Original Blockhead



Yellow Bitty Blockhead



Foamy Pete

Holschlag Hackle Fly

- Eye weight on Holschlag Hackle Fly
 - $1/60^{\text{th}}$ oz under 3 feet
 - $1/50^{\text{th}}$ oz – 3 to 5
 - $1/36^{\text{th}}$ oz over 5 feet

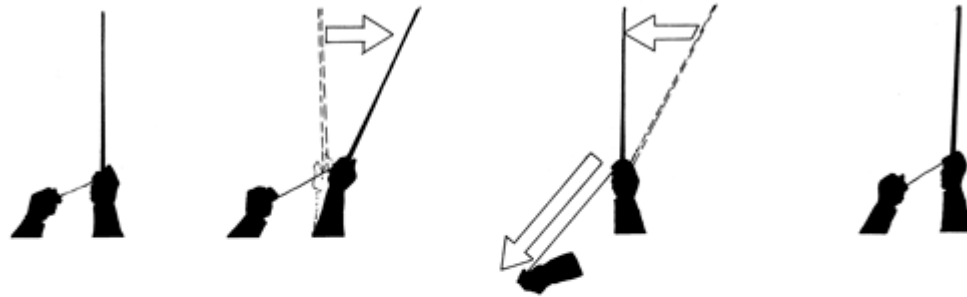
More Video!

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMTNv7YrvSk>

Other Hop notes

- Fish will strike the indicator!
- When they continue to do this, I switch to the Stealth Bomber or Zoo Cougar or the Foamy Pete and fish top water.

Jerk Strip



1. Start the retrieve with your rod tip pointed at the fly.
2. Jerk the rod downstream 12 to 20 inches. The rod moves the fly; not the line hand.
3. While returning the rod to the starting position, strip in the excess line created by the rod jerk.
4. After you return the rod to the starting position, repeat the retrieve.

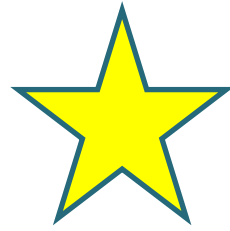


<http://www.flyfisherman.com/featured/fly-fishing-technique-jerk-strip/>

Hop Test Time!

- Let's watch the video and tell me what key things you notice.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIPo2Famr6Y>
 - Start at 40 sec in thru 2:10

Learn how to unhook snags!

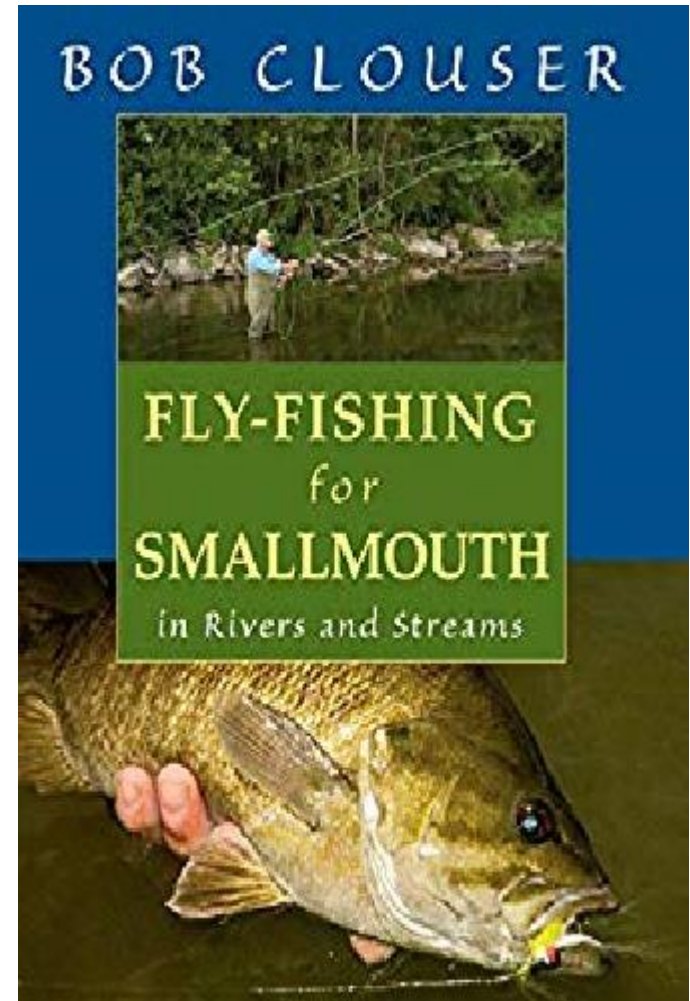
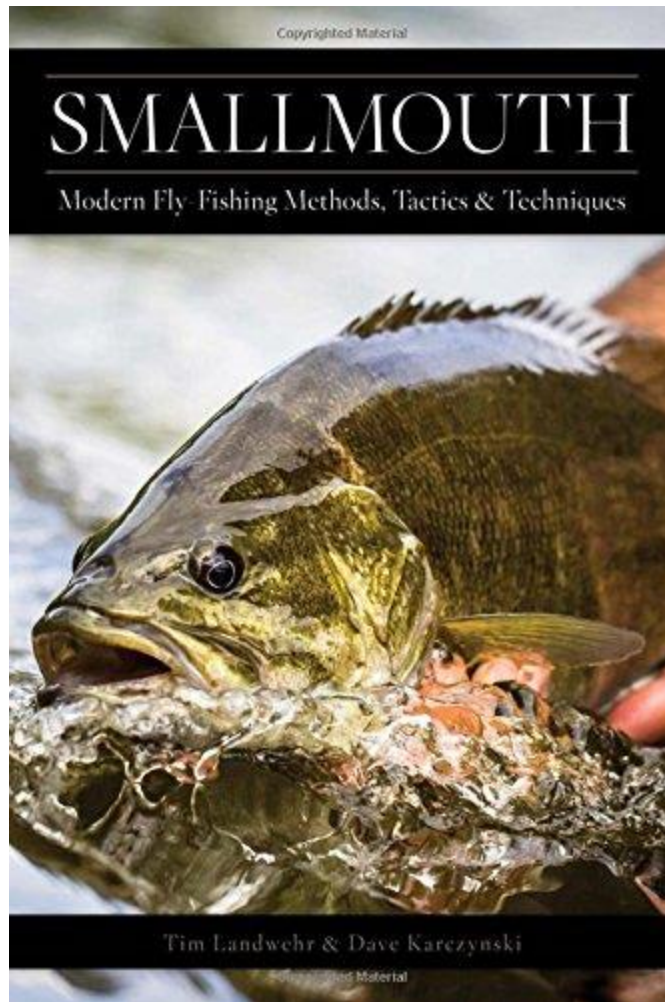


- <http://www.ginkandgasoline.com/fly-fishing-tips-technique/how-to-unsnag-a-fly/>
- Hold the rod high and get all the line off the water!
- Roll Cast/Throw a big loop past your fly and let the loop fall in the water behind the snag.
- Snag should be downstream of the loop!
- After the line falls on the water, drag your rod tip close to the surface and upstream. (Fly is downstream from you.)
- Reverse these directions if fly is up stream!
- Don't lift the line off the water! Let the water tension drag the fly backwards and upstream.
- Try twice upstream. Then once downstream. (Don't forget to reverse the loop!) If it don't come undone, go get it!
- IF the current is fast enough, you can let the water tension drag the line away from you and unsnag it.

Key take aways!

- Always keep the rod tip low
- Hop the fly by moving the rod tip forcefully opposite of your line direction.
- Instead of trying to determine when to hook set, I just do the hop again.
- Make as few casts as possible to keep from spooking the fish.
- Set the hook multiple times on **BIG FISH!**

How to learn more!



Other Sources of information

- Tim Holschlag's website:
 - <http://www.smallmouthflyangler.com/>
- Harry Murray's website:
 - <https://www.murraysflyshop.com/>
- Ward Bean has a great website. Be sure and look at the patterns and read his articles:
<http://www.warmwaterflytyer.com/welcome.asp>
- <http://www.flyfishohio.com/index.htm>
 - Lots of great info on flies, techniques, and locations!
- Just **Google** smallmouth bass fly fishing. Lots of good articles, flies, and videos.