

## Drop shotting Eye's by Marc Colwell

It always amazes me how some of "newest" and hottest techniques are as old as fishing is itself. I'm speaking of dropshotting. Granted the hooks on the market are made to be fastened directly to the hook but the technique has been around for centuries and is a fantastic way to catch Walleyes. When used with live bait it is deadly, but not a necessity.

The basic idea is simple. A weight is attached to the bottom of the line. There are specialty weights out there but my preference is an old fashion splitshot. Should I need additional weight I will use a bullet weight free sliding above the split. Tie a loop around the slot in the splitshot and leave an inch hanging free. Should you hang up you'll either come free or loose the weight.

I tie the hook directly to the line with the knot behind the eye and then the free end goes through the eye (hook barb up) and down to the weight. This of course is done before weight is added. I start with the hook 8-12" up and work up or down from there. If your fishing over weeds, you can run your bait a foot above them.

The technique isn't like jigging with a constant lift drop, though you can use it that way and keep your bait above bottom. The idea is to cast it into a likely area, weeds, timber, rocks or a drop-off. Once on bottom hold your rod high and on a semi-tight line jiggle the bait and let it rest. Do this several times then move it several feet and repeat. Make sure to have some slack in the line so not to impede a walleye getting the whole bait in it's mouth without feeling line.

The whole idea is to present the bait so they don't just see it but the bait is waving saying come and get me if you can. During the dog days of summer when the bites early or late, this can add an eye or two when they shut off. Hook a nightcrawler once through the nose and add a bubble of air in the other end. Shake it and let it sit still for a whole minute or more then jig once and sit still again. It can drive them nuts hungry or not.