

RYO-DANGO style is popular and best suited to when the fish are searching for feed and their activity level is up.



Full Rods length Mid-water fishing (CHOCHIN)

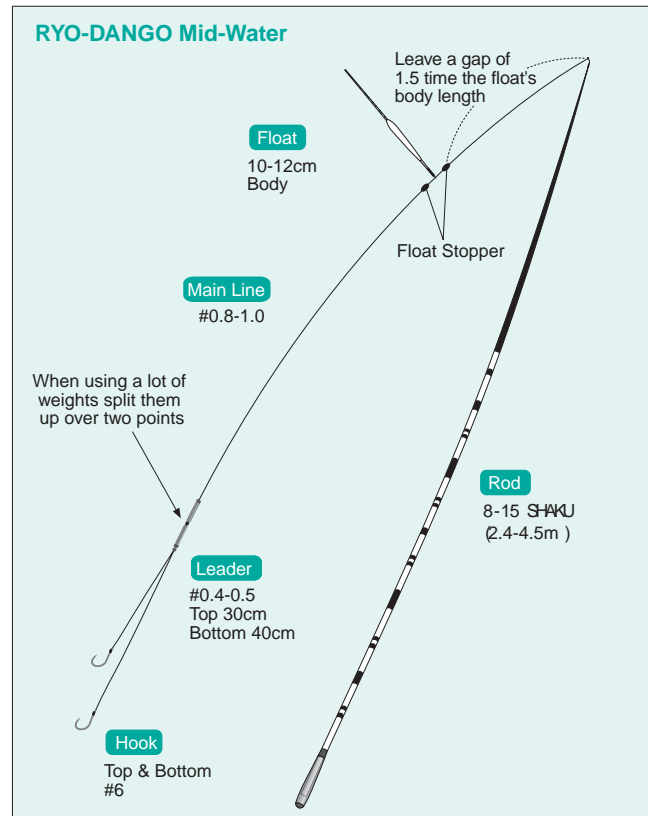
CHOCHIN style is fishing to a depth equal to the length of the rod in use, regardless of it size. In other words the rod length is equal to the fishing depth. In CHOCHIN fishing the float is placed near to the tip of the rod therefore there is no need to cast a long way out. All you need to do is stretch your arm out, gently land the bait a few inches out from the tip of the rod, put your rod back on its rest, and your set. Incidentally, because the float set near the tip of the rod looks similar to a lantern on a pole it has earned the name CHOCHIN, meaning lantern in Japanese.

Rigging

In CHOCHIN fishing regardless of the rods length, the float is set about 1.5 times the length of the float from the rod's tip along the main line.

Typically 10-12cm float is used. Roughly speaking, a 10-11cm body float is used with an 2.4-3.6m rod, and a 11-12cm float is used with a 3.6-4.5m rod.

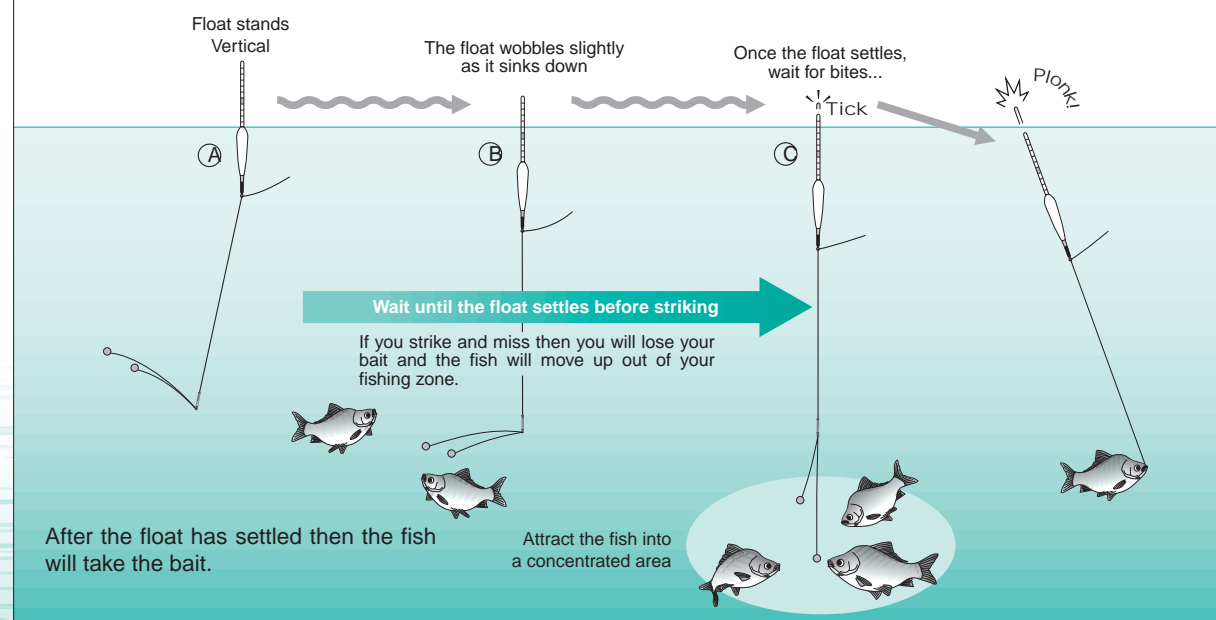
As the rod gets longer so does the fishing depth get deeper, and the time taken for the bait to sink becomes longer. Therefore in order to get the bait to sink faster a heavier sinker is needed. As the sinker gets heavier a bigger float is necessary to stand the extra weight.



As a rough guide, the top hooks leader should be around 30cm, the bottom hook 40cm. #6 hooks are standard.

To make sure the bait stays on the hook as it falls, firmly attach a fairly large ball of bait, around 2 cm to the hook. When the float comes back up too quickly, or not enough of the float pole sticks above the water, it is a clear sign the bait isn't getting down to the target fishing depth. In this situation, you can either knead the bait to make it firmer, or attach more bait to the hook.

Reading the Float on a CHOCHIN Rig



Shallow Range

A very popular fishing method is where the distance between the float and the sinker is 1 metre. Many fishing ponds have restrictions on fishing any shallower than this 1m metre.

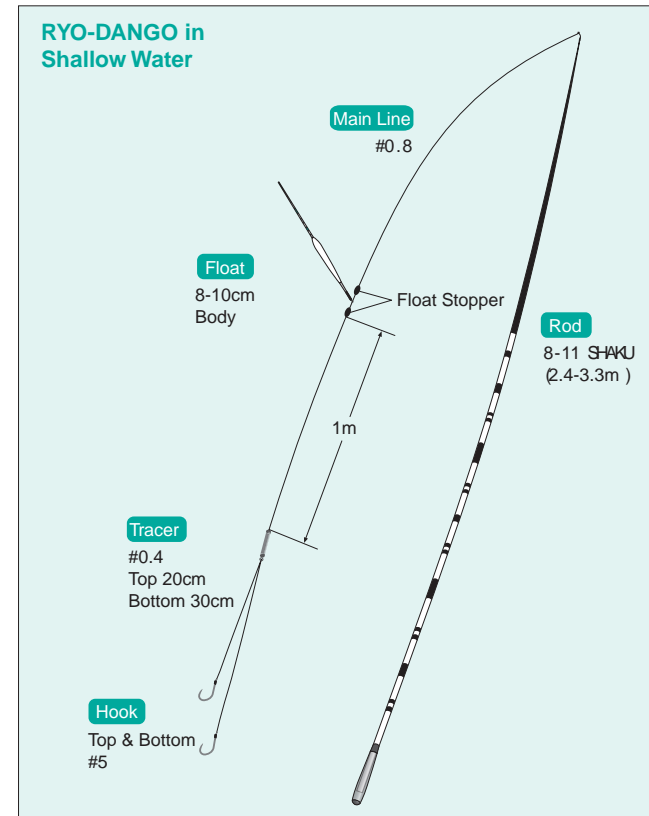
Setting the Rig

A 2.4-3.3m rod is normally used. When the carps activity levels are up they will come all the way up to the fisherman's feet looking for food, so you can enjoy fishing even with a short rod. Also taking up the slack after the float has finished is important.

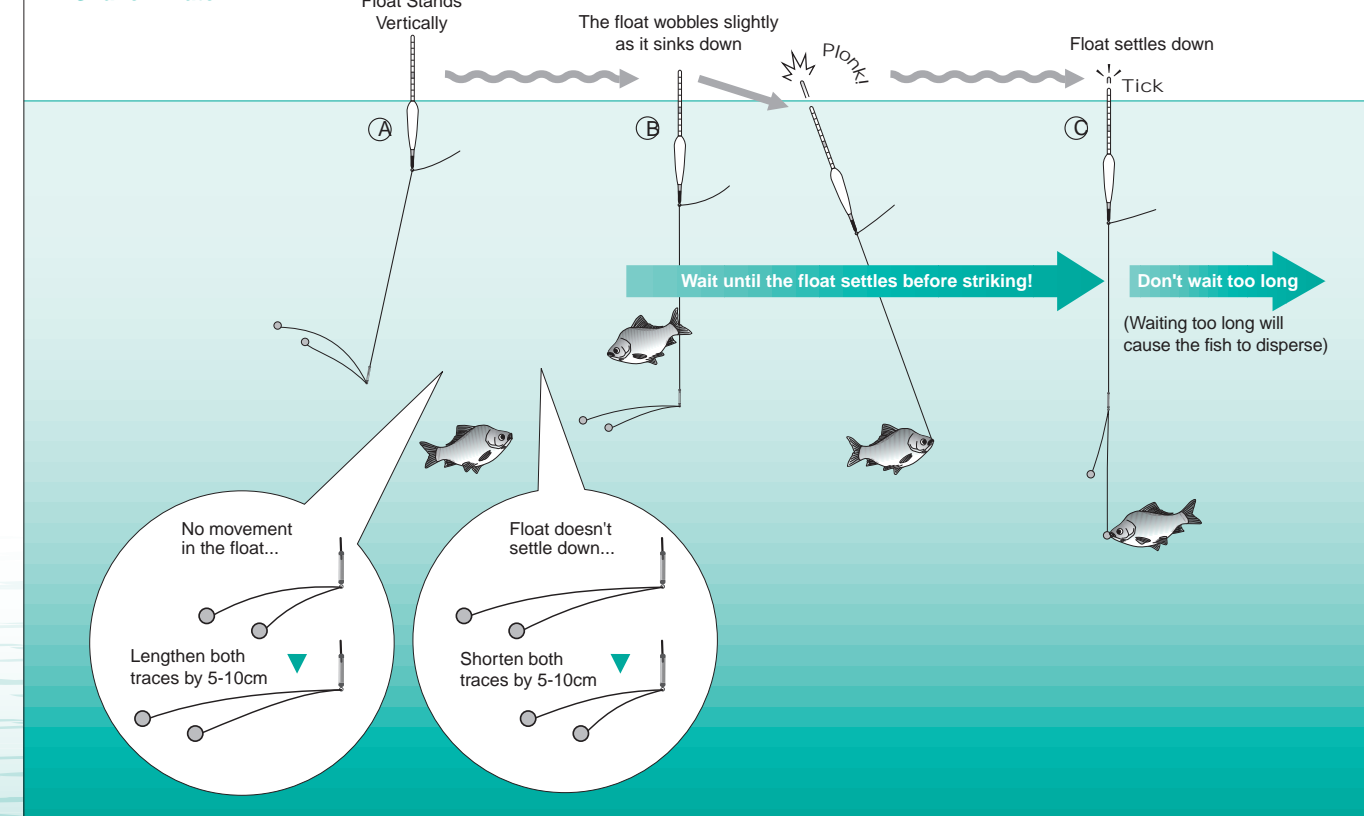
The float's body should be about 8-10 cm long. The length below the float is quite short, therefore using a comparatively small float is important.

Start off with a 20 cm trace on the top hook and a 30cm trace on the bottom hook. However, if you don't get any movement on the float then add 10cm to the trace at a time until you get some bites. If on the other hand, you get too much movement and the float doesn't settle properly, try shortening the line by 5cm at a time until the float settles properly. This is the same for all types of CHOCHIN-TSURI. Once you have the length settled, you can slightly adjust the bait until the Crucians start biting.

#5 hooks are typically used.



Reading the Float in Shallow Water



10 How to Make RYO-DANGO Bait

BEGIN

Once you have got the basic idea down about rigging and fishing depths, its time to move onto making your own bait! Remember to use a measuring cup so you can make the same quality bait every time.



POWDER BAIT HERA



POWDER BAIT HERA

Having a basic amount of stickiness makes it easy to ball and put on the hook. By changing the kneading time or size of the hook POWDER BAIT HERA can be used over a wide range of fishing depths. Its also great for attracting fish when SET fishing.



Measure out 5 cups into a mixing bowl.



Add 1 cup of water to the mix.



Mix well, making sure there are no lumps left. Spreading your fingers out wide makes it easier to mix in the water.



Ready for use!



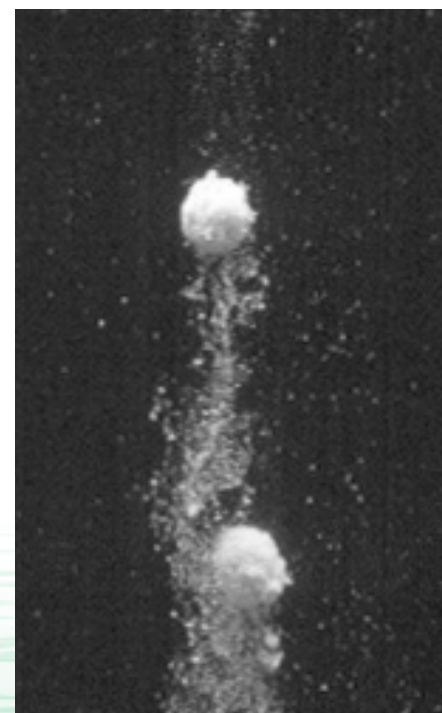
Separate a small portion of the mix, and squeeze from above to remove excess air.



Remove enough bait to cover the hook.



Roll the bait out into a 15mm ball, and place on the hook.



The bait should ideally not fall apart immediately, but slowly break up in the water.

When fishing a shallow range at the start you put the bait on roughly, but as the fish start to gather and the float starts to move, then you should squeeze the bait into a smooth ball with a 15mm diameter. If you are getting a lot of movement in the float but can't hook the fish, try squeezing the bait with a wet hand.



Adjusting the bait

If the float doesn't settle in the water properly, because your bait is breaking up too quickly, then first of all you need to check that you are putting the bait on correctly. If there is no problem with the way you bait the hook, then it means your bait probably needs to be kneaded a bit more.

If you are getting movement in the float but you can't get the hook to stick, then your bait needs to be softened up a bit with some extra water.

Basically speaking, the same bait is used for both Shallow and Mid-water fishing. The only difference is to increase the bait size to about 20mm to make sure the bait stays on the hook all the way until it reaches the target range. If it seems the bait is breaking up too quickly, try kneading the bait a bit more with a wet hand.



Rub the bait up against the side of the bowl.



Squeeze the bait in the palm of your hand.



Wet your hand in a bowl of water.



Make sure your hand is covered in water.



Using your wet hand mix the bait well.



To make sure the bait stays wet, knead the moistened bait up against the side of the bowl.

ONE
POINT
LESSON



Mid-Water RYO-DANGO Blends

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Shallow | TOKU S 400cc + BARAKE MACH 600cc + water 200cc POWDER BAIT HERA 600cc + ASADANA IPPON 400cc + water 200cc |
| Mid-Water | GURUBARA 400cc + BARAKE MACH 600cc + water 200cc POWDER BAIT HERA 800cc + GURUBARA 200cc + water 200cc |

11 SOKOZURI 1: Measuring the Water Depth

BEGIN

SOKOZURI in Japanese literally means "bottom fishing" (SOKO=Bottom, ZURI=Fishing). Therefore **SOKOTSURI** means fishing with the bait sitting on the bottom of the pond. The most important thing is to measure the water depth accurately. Let's try measuring the water depth using the guidelines below.

1 Get a basic idea of the depth and then decide on the best rod length

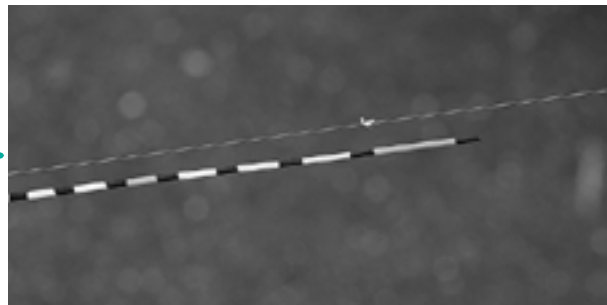
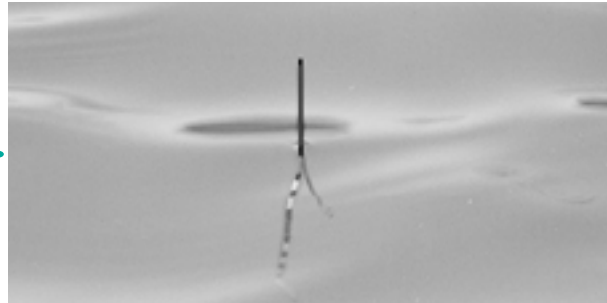
At a managed fishing spot you can use the information provided to get a rough idea on which to base your measurements. However in situations where you have absolutely no idea how deep the water is, you have to first use a rod that is long enough for you to reach the bottom with. To get a rough idea of how deep the water is, you can use a rig that has a balanced sinker and float set on it. Attach a TANA TORI GOMU ball to the hook and see how the float stands upright in the water. Once you have got a rough idea about how deep the water is, you can then get a rod out that suits the water depth.



Hook both the top and bottom hook to the TANATORIGOMU

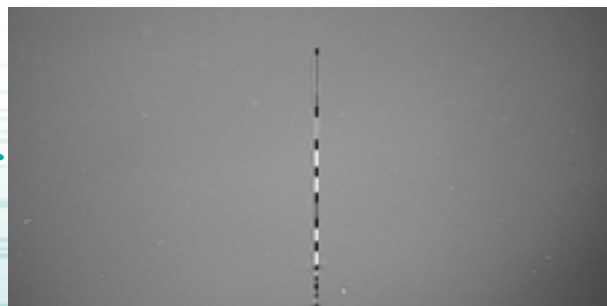
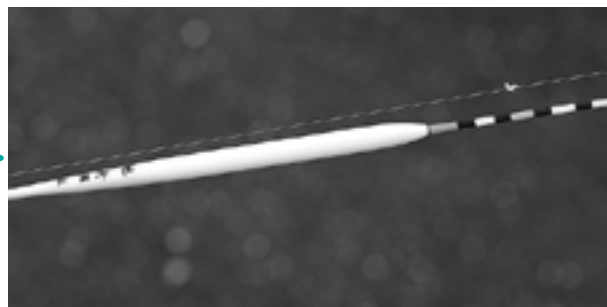
2 Adjust the rig so that the top mark on the float sticks out of the water

Once you have decided on a rod to use, then you can precisely measure the water depth. Decide where the ESA OCHI point is, then with a fairly balanced sinker and float, attach a TANA TORI GOMU ball and adjust the float so that the top mark just barely sticks out of the water. Once you have got the float set just so, move the tip of the rod up and down to make sure that the float always rests with just the top mark above the water, and also to make sure there are no abnormal bumps/rises on the bottom of the lake/pond. You should check about 50cm to either side of where you are planning to fish, to make sure you are familiar with the shape of the bottom.



3 Attach a TONBO marker to your Line

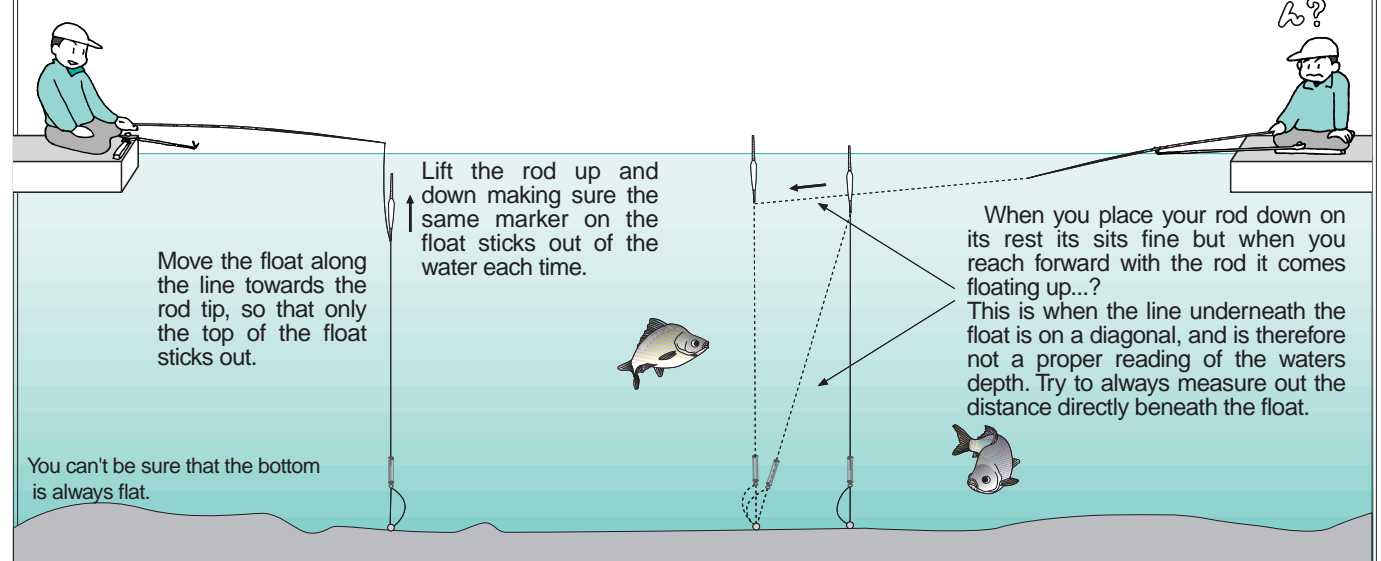
Tie a knot of cotton on the main line which lines up with the top mark on the float (the point that just barely stuck out of the water). This means you now have a record of how deep the water is marked on the main line. Be careful not to move the TONBO once it is set.



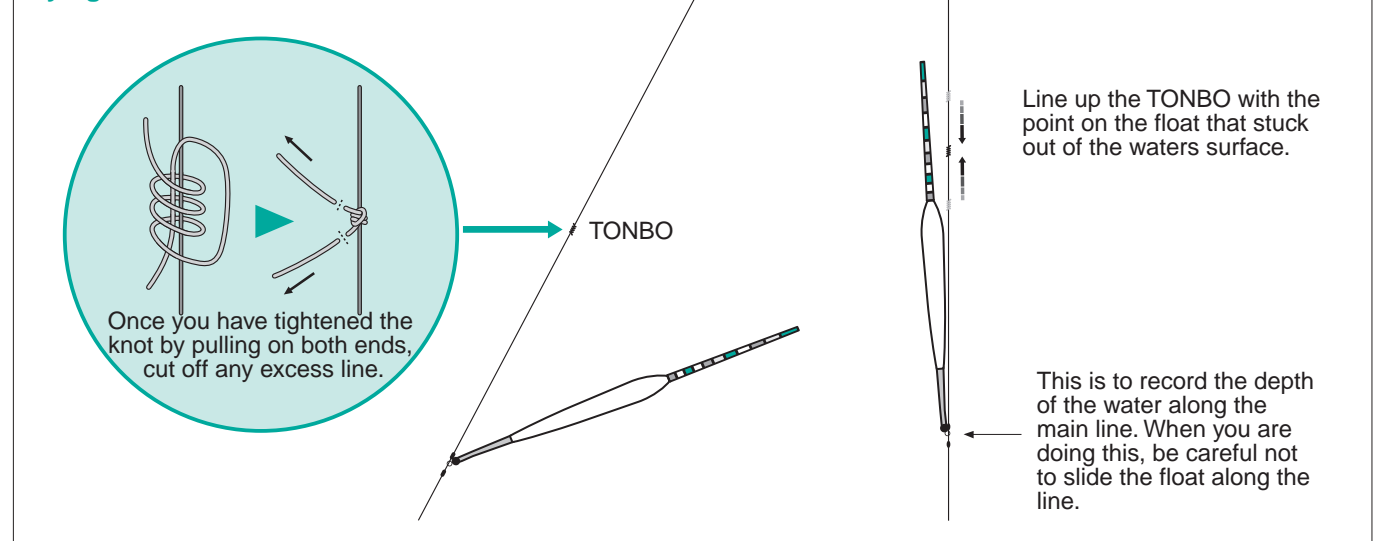
4 Line up the TONBO with the ESA OCHI Point

Without moving the TONBO slide the float up the line towards the rod tip so that the predetermined ESA OCHI point lines up with the TONBO. Your line is now set up at UEBARITONTON. Next remove the TANA TORI GOMU from the hook, and cast the line into the water. The float should bob out of the water and check that both unbaited hooks rest on the bottom. At this point, there should be one extra mark sticking up out of the water compared to when you determined the point with the hooks suspended in the water. This is because both of the hooks are resting on the bottom and therefore not pulling the float down anymore. In other words, if you see an extra mark on the float sticking out of the water then it proves that you have correctly measured the water depth and adjusted the float correctly. At this point you are ready to start SOKOZURI bottom fishing.

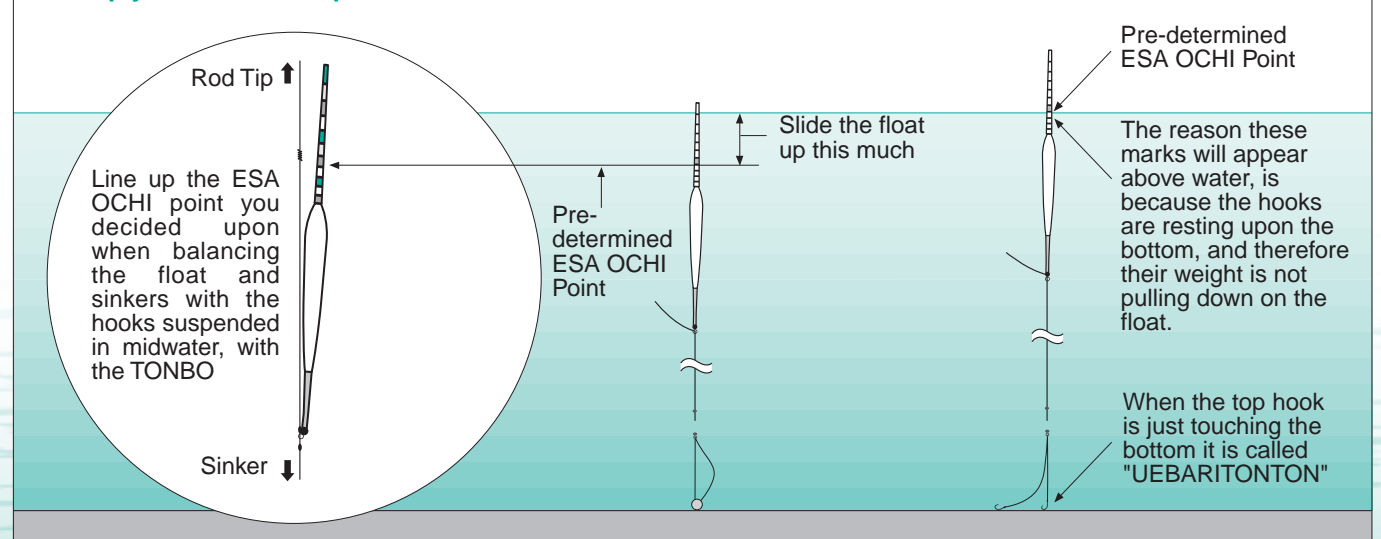
Adjust the float so the top sticks out of the Water



Tying the TONBO onto the Main Line



Line up your ESA OCHI point with the TONBO



12 SOKOZURI 2 RYO-DANGO SOKOZURI (Spring-Autumn)

BEGIN

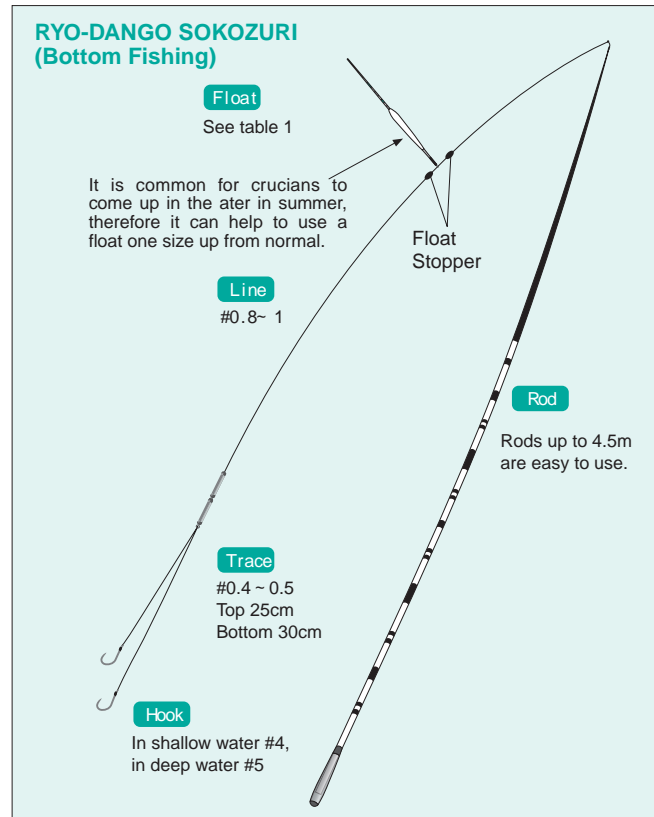
During spring and autumn when Crucian Carp are at their most active, SOKOZURI and RYO-DANGO are very effective. This works by accumulating bait on the bottom to attract crucians to the area, therefore heavy hooking bait is most effective.

底釣りの手順

1. Decide on which mark on the float will become your ESA OCHI point.
2. Attach a TANA TORI GOMU to the hook, and measure out the water depth. Then attach a TONBO to the line and line it up with the point of the float that stuck out of the water (first mark)
3. Line up the ESA OCHI point decided upon in step 1 with the TONBO.
4. Remove the TANA TORI GOMU from the hook, and cast the line into the water. The hooks should be resting on the bottom, therefore compared to the ESA OCHI point when the hooks are suspended in the water, an extra mark will appear above the water. This is called the "SOKO ZURI ESA OCHI POINT", and is proof that the hooks are resting on the bottom.
5. You can now bait your hook and begin SOKOZURI fishing!

Rods up to 4.5m are easy to use. Try to use a rod length that matches the water depth.

Use #4,5 hooks, with a leader on the top hook of about 25cm and on the bottom hook about 30cm. What you have to be careful about here is using a leader that is not too long. If the leader is too long it will take time to reach the bottom and the fish will steal all your bait too quickly. Once the bait has fallen off the hook, it will be hard to tell when you should strike on the bites.

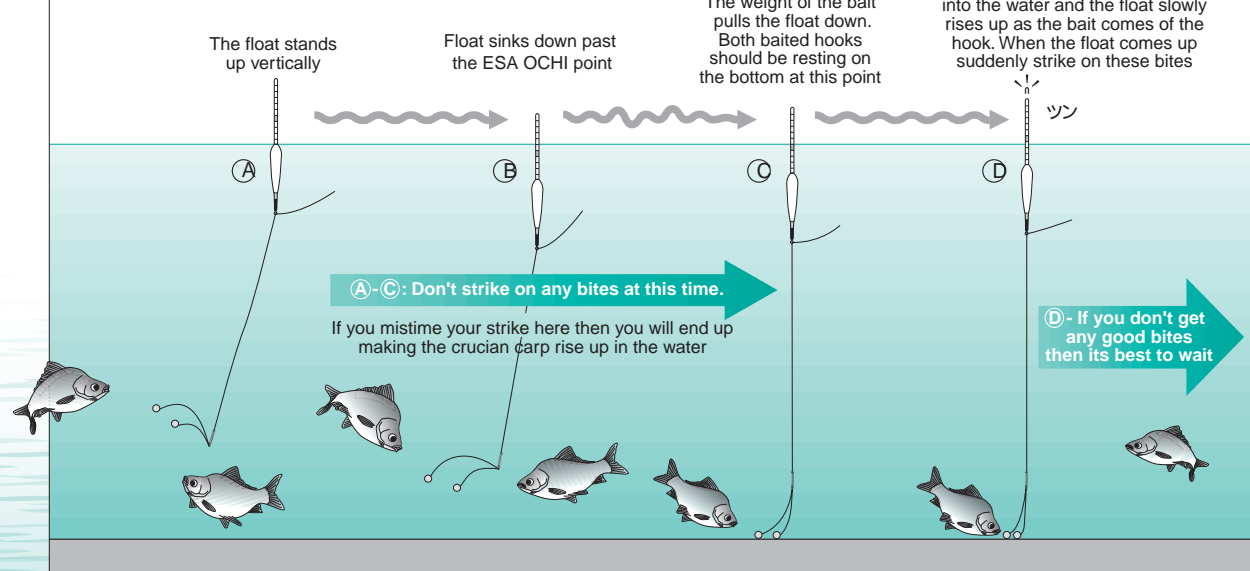


Please consult Table 1 for guidance as to which float should be used at particular fishing depth.

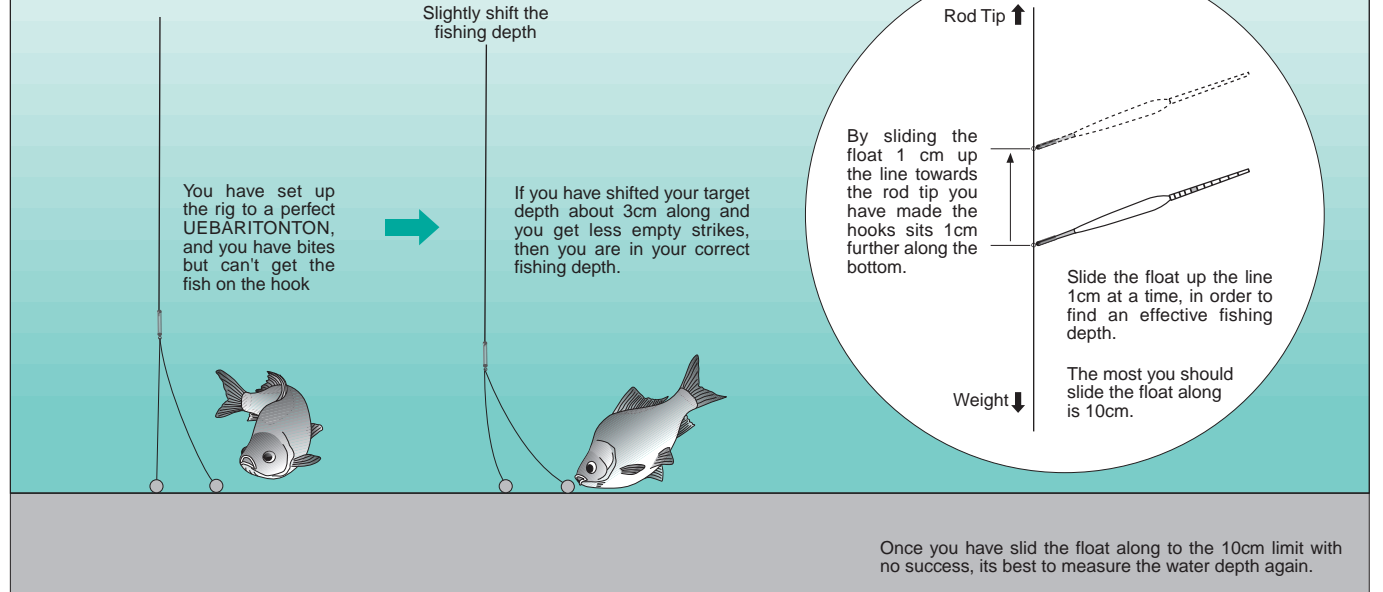
| Fishing Depth | Appropriate Float Size |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 2~ 3m | 9~ 10cm |
| 3~ 4m | 10~ 11cm |
| 4~ 5m | 11~ 12cm |

(In summer when crucian carp are very active, you can use a float which is one rank larger than normal in order to cancel out excessive movement in the float)

How to Read Bites for SOKOZURI



What to do when you get Bites but no good Hook-ups



RYO-DANGO SOKOZURI BAIT POWDER BAIT SUPER BOTTOM



POWDER BAIT SUPER BOTTOM
Bait for the beginner paste bait fishermen.

ONE POINT LESSON RYO-DANGO SOKOZURI

DANGO NO SOKOZURI NATSU 100cc + DANGO NO SOKOZURI FUYU 100cc + BARAKE MAHA 100cc + Water 150cc
POWDER BAIT SUPER BOTTOM is best adjusted by changing the way it is baited. Lightly hooked it will break up easily, to attract inactive fish. Squeezed it holds strudly on to the hook when fish are active.



POWDER BAIT SUPER BOTTOM
in a simple to open zip-lock bag.



Measure out 3 cups into a bowl.



Measure out 1 cup of water.



Pour out the water into the bowl of POWDER BAIT.



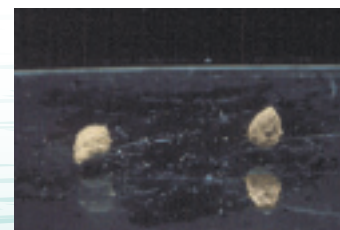
Spreading your fingers wide apart, mix the bait together quickly (don't be scared to spill some).



Once the water is evenly mixed in, push the bait gently to the side and let it sit for about a minute.



Bait enough just to cover the hook.



Simply adjust your baiting style to adapt to any situation!

13 SOKOZURI 3: RYO-GLUTEN SOKOZURI (Autumn - Spring)

BEGIN

Water and Ambient Temp. both drop, along with fish becoming a lot slower. It takes more time to get a decent bite on the line. That's why Gluten, which holds on to the hook well while at the same time attracting fish to the area, is so effective.



Adjust your target Depth

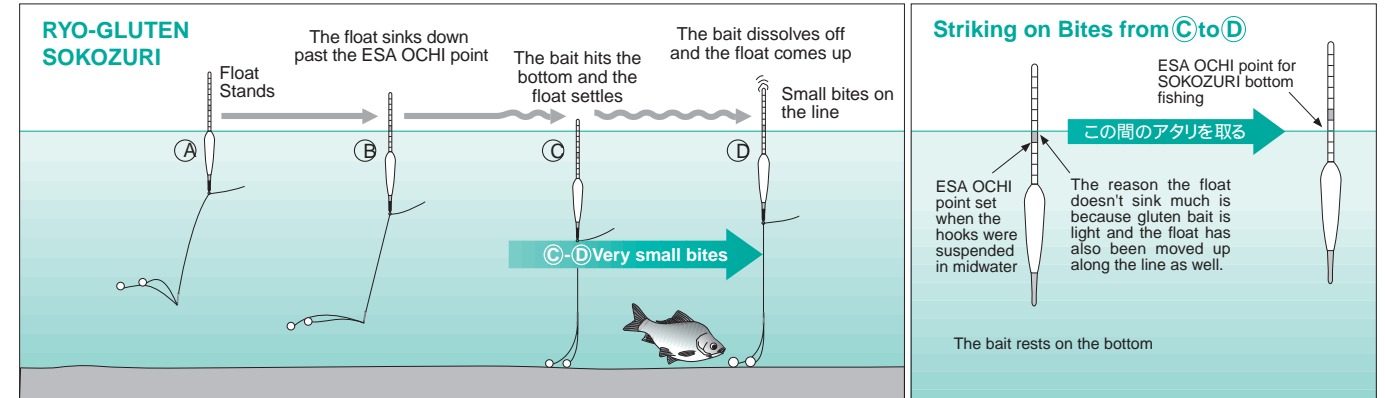
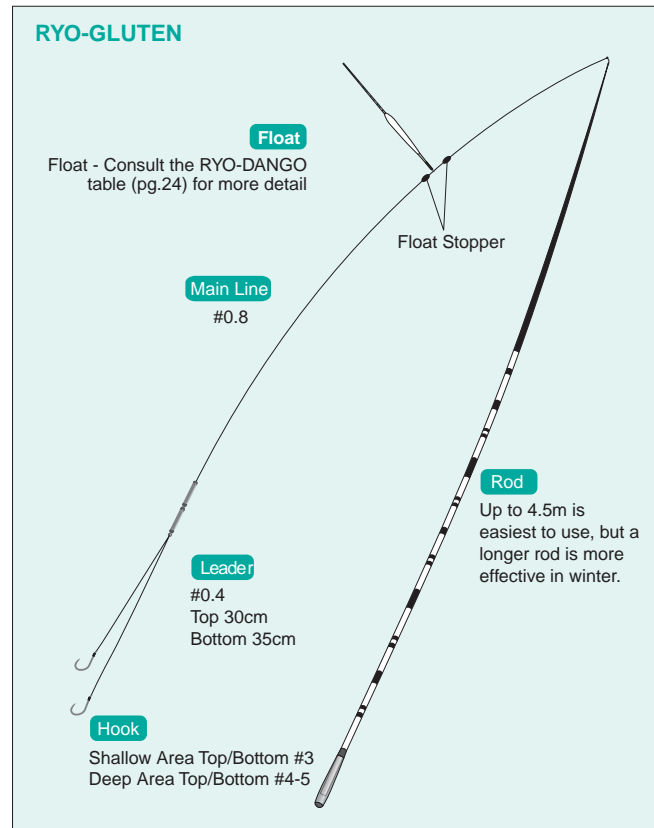
The fishing method for RYO-DANGO and RYO-GLUTEN is basically the same however taking into account the stability of the gluten baits, it is best to make the leader slightly longer than normal.

Gluten is light bait, which means that when Crucian Carp begin to gather around the bait their movement will cause the bait to rise up of the floor. Therefore to make sure the bait sits firmly on the bottom, you should slide the float up the line about 3-5cm, so that it is not just barely touching the bottom. Take notice that however much you slide the float along will make it harder to read bites on the line.

Rods up to 4.5m are the easiest to use. Also, in seasons when the water temperature drops low and fish activity is low a longer rod is more effective.

#3-5 hooks are best, however in places where the water is deeper using a larger hook keeps the bait on the hook for longer. Leaders should be about 30cm for the top hook, and 35cm for the bottom hook.

The float table on page 24 (table 1) is able to be used for RYO-GLUTEN fishing as well. However remember that because gluten baits are lighter the amount the float sinks down with a fully baited hook is less than RYO-DANGO.



How to blend RYO-GLUTEN SOKOZURI Bait



IMO GURUTEN

Filled with Crucian Carps favourite sweet potatoes, it has enough weight to hold the float down and prevents the fish from rising up in the water.



Measure out 50cc of powder into a small bowl



Pour 50cc of water into the mixture



Mix the water in so that there are no dry sections left



Once the water has spread out evenly, gather the mixture to the side of the bowl and let rest for 3 minutes



Take pieces off bait from the edges and roll into small balls



Make the balls big enough just to hide the hook



GURUTEN 5

Gluten has strong fibre, to firmly hold on to the hook. It also moderately breaks up to attract fish to the area.



GURUTEN 5 is split up into easy to use individual packets



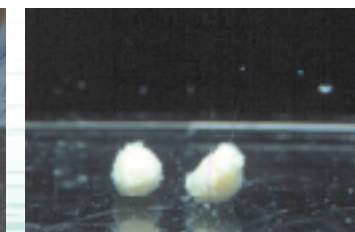
Empty one packet into a small bowl



The empty packet can be used to measure out the amount of water needed. If you want to be really precise then it is recommended that you use a separate measuring cup. 100ml of water is needed for one individual packet of bait

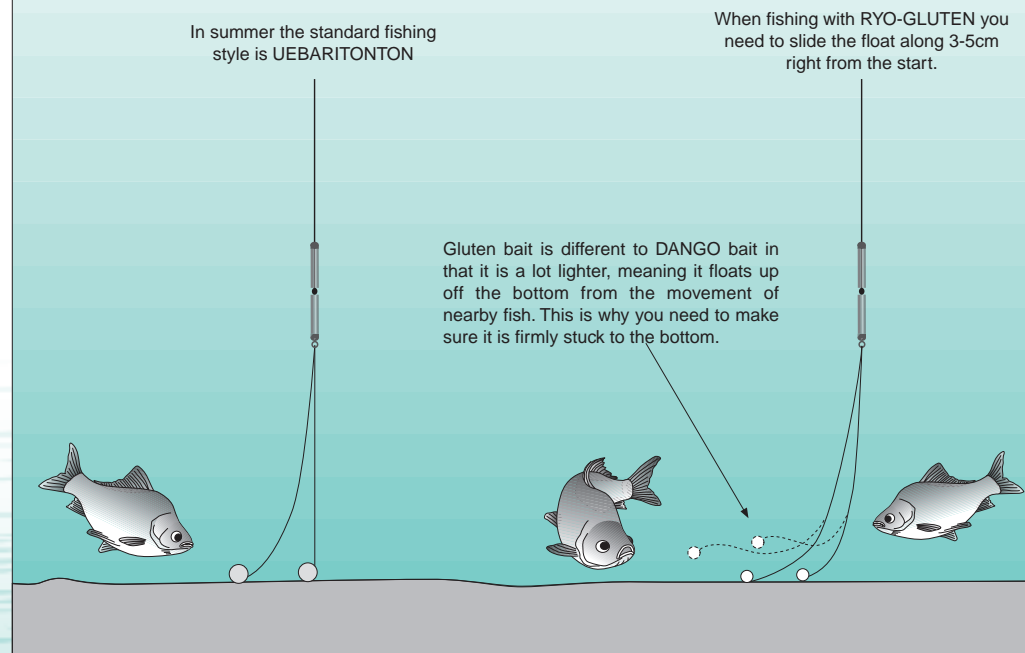


Add in the water, mix carefully to avoid any dry patches. Once the water is mixed through, gather the bait to one side of the bowl and let rest for 3 mins



Gluten main feature is that it holds on to the hook very well. It's highly effective when the fish aren't biting or in areas with a strong current.

The difference between fishing RYO-DANGO in Summer



ONE POINT LESSON

Blends for RYO-GLUTEN SOKOZURI

Inactive Periods
IMOGLUTEN 50cc +
ALPHA21 + Water 120cc

Recently restocked Ponds
SHINBERA GURUTEN
SOKO 100cc + Water

14 SETZURI 1: For fishing in Warmer Periods

BEGIN

SETZURI is when you use powder bait on the top hook to attract fish, and hooking bait on the bottom hook.

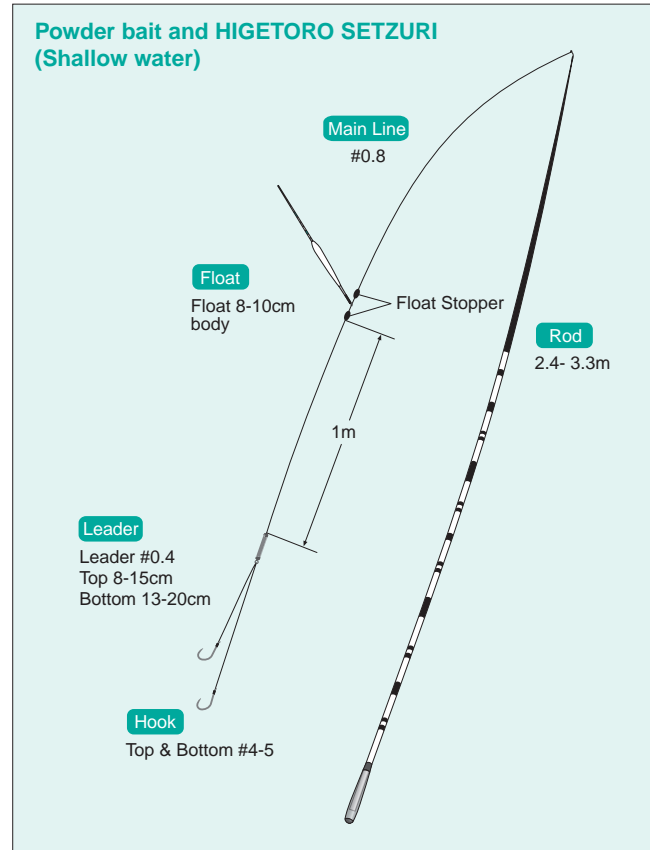


SETZURI with powder bait and HIGETORO

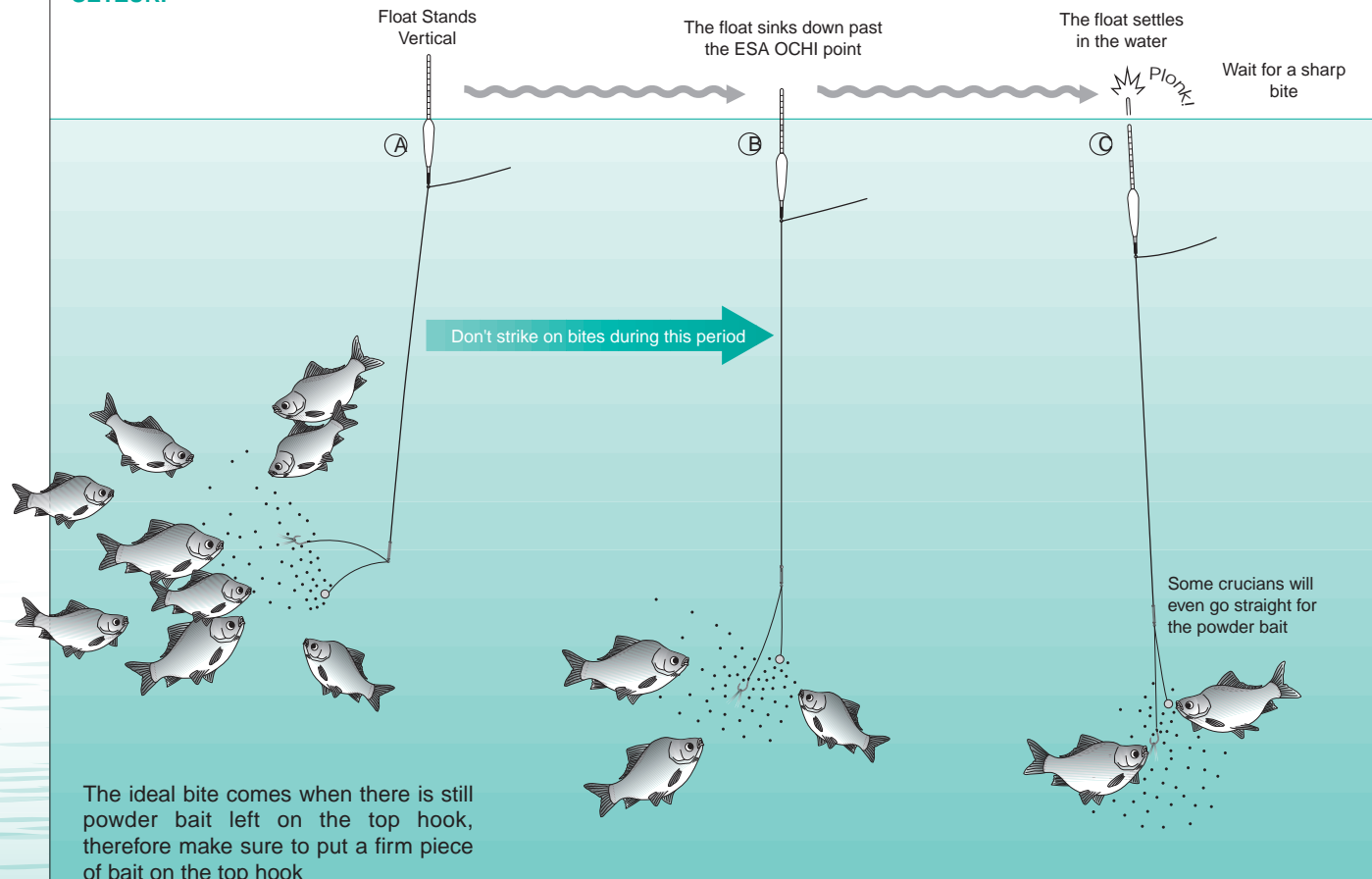
In warmer periods when crucian carp are highly active and looking for food, they are interested in powder baits. However because of the overfishing that occurs in summer they won't eat as much as normal. In these situations putting a small amount of HIGETORO on the bottom hook, in a SETZURI style can be very effective.

The rod, float and main line used in RYO-DANGO fishing can also be used for SETZURI.

A shortened leader is used for powder bait and HIGETORO, SETZURI fishing style. Having the top hooks leader at 8-15cm and the bottom hooks leader at 13-20cm is standard. There should be about a 5-7cm difference between the two leaders.



Powder Bait and HIGETORO SETZURI



How to Blend Powder Bait and HIGETORO for SETZURI



GTS

Produces strong bites in warmer periods, it sticks together well and only moderately breaks apart to attract fish while still leaving a solid chunk of bait on the hook. On its own, it is an easy to make highly effective bait for shallow midwater depths.



TOKU-S

Bait that works best on aquaculture raised fish. It is moderately weighted to prevent the fish rising in the water, producing stable results.

The powder bait used in HIGETORO SETZURI is used to attract highly active crucian carp, and therefore any of the baits used for RYO-DANGO can be used as well.



Measure out 2 cups of TOKU-S and GTS into a bowl.



Mix the two baits together well



Add in 1 cup of water



Mix the water in to prevent any dry spots. Spreading out your fingers while mixing makes it easy to blend the bait together.



Finished bait. It could also be used for RYO-DANGO fishing.



Roll out the bait into small balls of about 1.5cm diameter, and place on firmly on the hook putting pressure on the eye of the hook.



Preparing HIGETORO Hook Bait



HIGETORO

HIGETORO is TORORO (seaweed) type bait, perfect for SETZURI. Thick strong fibres keep it firmly on the hook. Simply soak it in water and slide it on the hook. It is effective in overfished ponds and when the fish are not feeding much.



TORORO is packaged individually to preserve its freshness. Each pack is just enough for a day of fishing



Gently pull the TORORO apart. Place the loosened TORORO into a shallow bowl



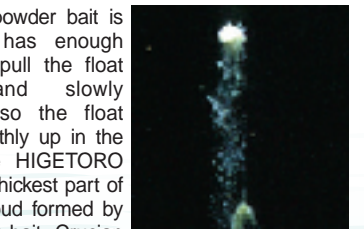
Pour in enough water to cover the TORORO



Baiting TORORO is easy. Simply hang about 3-4cm of seaweed on the hook and your set.



The best powder bait is one that has enough weight to pull the float down, and slowly dissolves so the float rises smoothly up in the water. The HIGETORO sits in the thickest part of the bait cloud formed by the powder bait. Crucian carp that come to breathe in the dissolving powder bait end up pulling in the light and easy to swallow HIGETORO.



ONE POINT LESSON



Effective Powder Bait for SETZURI in Warmer Periods

Powder Bait Hera, 5cups + Water 1cup (1cup=200cc)

15 SETZURI 2: SETZURI for Cold Periods

BEGIN

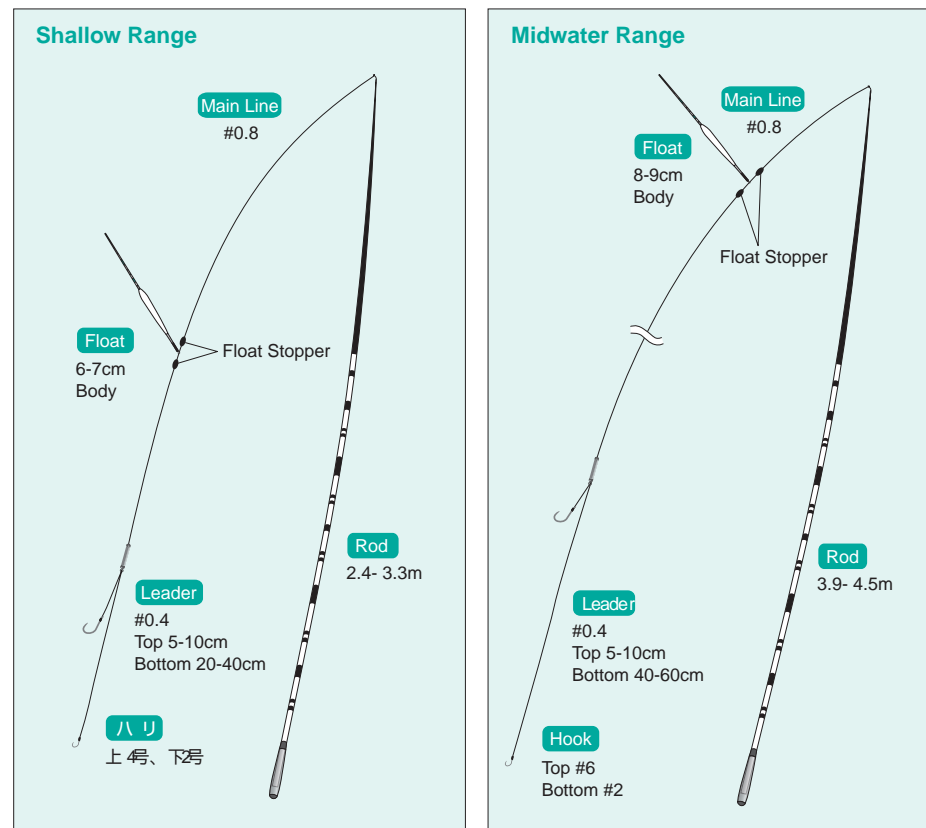
When the water temperature drops, crucian carp become less active and their ability to take in bait decreases. This ofcourse makes it hard to attract fish to your bait, but the most difficult thing is to get them to take the bait. In these circumstances in take time to get a good bite, therefore bait that holds on to the hook well and is also light and easily swallowed is most effective.



Using KANTAN or CHIKARADAMA for SETZURI Hook Bait

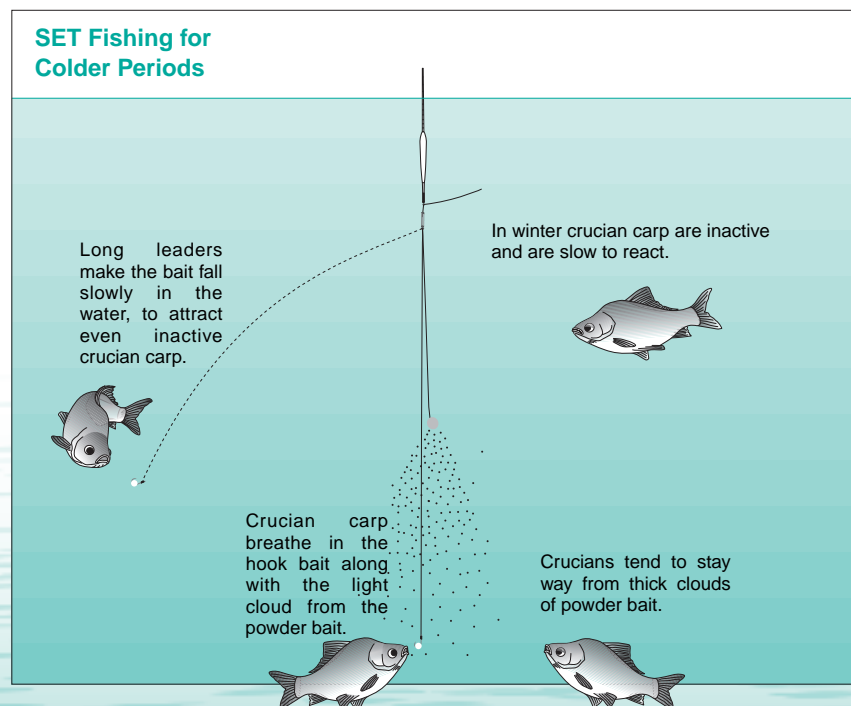
In the colder periods of the year carp become less active and it takes time to attract them to your swim. It is rare for there to be movement in the float soon after you start fishing. In this situation light bait that holds on to the hook well, such as KANTAN or CHIKARADAMA are very effective. Other points such as rod length and target fishing depth depend on the fishing pond's condition.

SETZURI for cold weather is the same as SETZURI in hot weather, in that the hook bait is set up to rest inside of a cloud formed by the powder bait. However crucian carp in winter are not as active and not as hungry therefore they won't come near thick clouds of bait. In this situation making the bottom leader longer is very effective. This causes the bait to fall slowly through the water and raises the attention of even slow inactive crucian carp and lets you put the hook bait in a much lighter cloud of bait.



Please refer to Pg.12-13, 29 for information on how to make top quality powder bait and Pg.12-13 for how to make easy to use hook bait with KANTAN.

SET Fishing for Colder Periods



ONE POINT LESSON

Blends for Powder Baits used in Winter SETZURI

Midwater Blend

GTS 400cc + TOKUS 400cc + BARAKE MAHA 200cc + Water 200cc
HERA SUIMI 200cc + Water 200cc + BARAKE MAHA 400cc + DANSA BARAKE 400cc

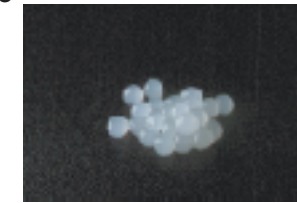
** (There is a difference in the way SUIMI and the gluten bread baits absorb water, therefore it is easier if you first mix the SUIMI in with water and add in the gluten bread baits at the end)

Shallow Blend

SHIN B 400cc + KEIFU 400cc + Water 200cc
POWDER BAIT HERA 600cc + SUPER D 400cc + Water 200cc



Bait that's ready to use when you need it, CHIKARADAMA



Ready made jelly like pellets.



Not sticky they are easy to bait.



Hook the bait through the centre, with the tip of the hook protruding to firmly hook the fish.

CHIKARADAMA

Jelly pellet hook bait made from WARABI UDON, ready for the hook straight from the jar. Easy to use they don't stick to your hand.



Bait a rounded out 2cm ball of powder bait on the hook. Remember to squeeze firmly around the hook shank. At the start bait the hook with a square shaped powder bait to make it dissolve faster and attract more fish.

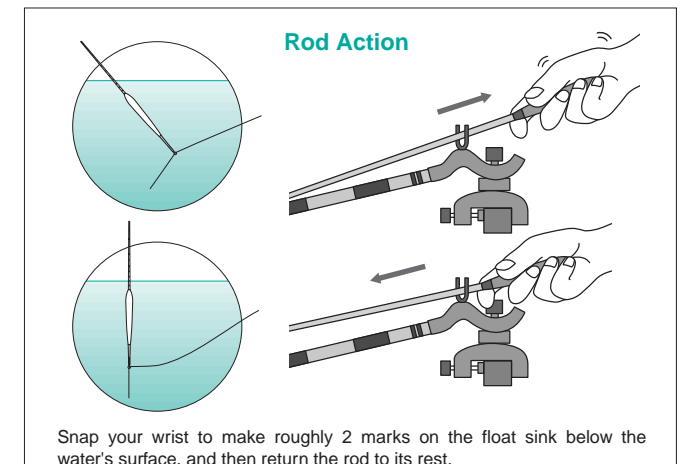


The hook bait sits inside a cloud made by the powder bait.

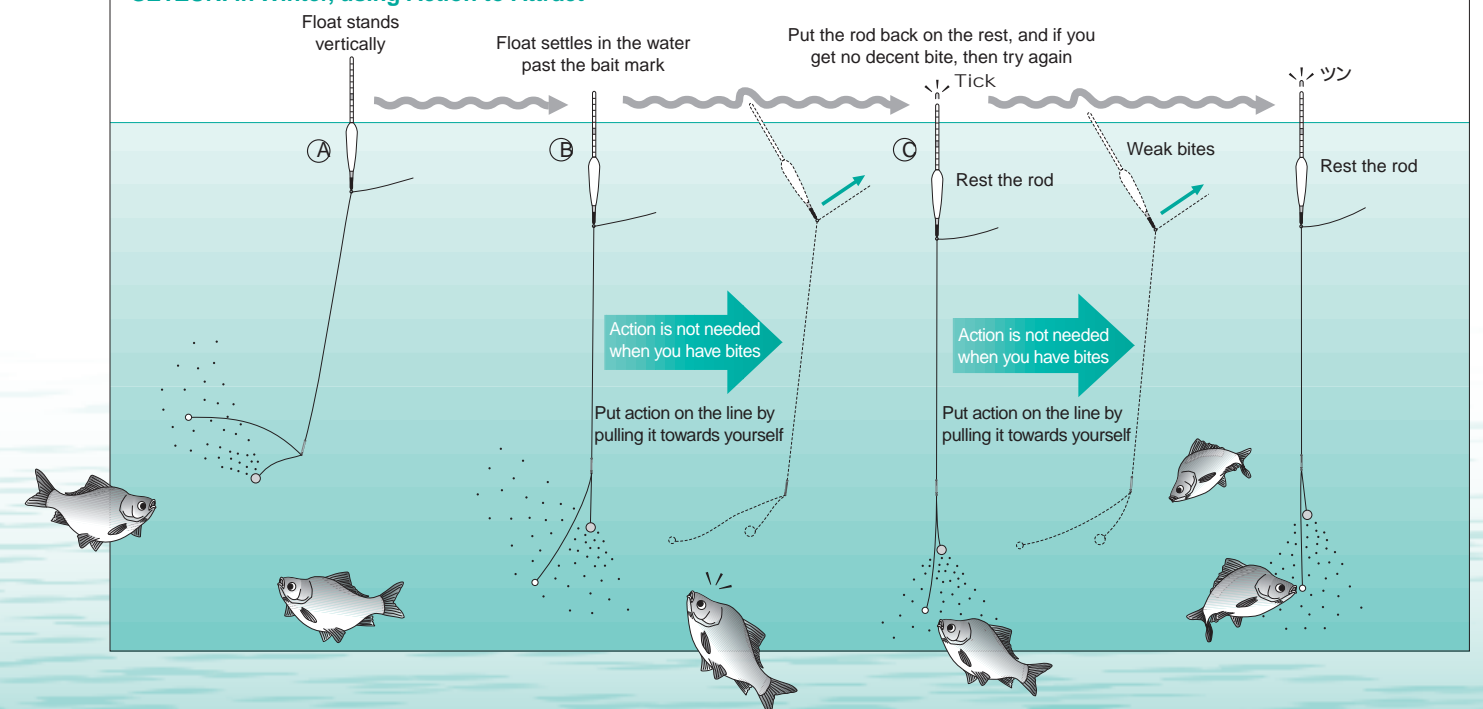


Putting action on the Line

At the start of fishing you should devote yourself to attracting fish to your swim. At the start bait the hook with oversized square shaped powder bait, it doesn't matter if your float sinks below the water's surface. Just keep casting bait out into your swim. Once crucian carp have become attracted to your swim, you will see movement in the float. Once the float has settled in the water, pull it towards yourself so that 1-2 marks on the float sink below, putting some action on the line to attract fish in the area. Repeat the process roughly 2-3 times every 10secs. If you don't get any good bites, then lift your rig out of the water, bait the hook and try again. The aim is to put some action on the line to attract inactive fish in the area. Ideally the bite will come soon after you have shifted the line, with the float sinking down sharply.




SETZURI in Winter, using Action to Attract



16 Fishing Rules and Manners

So we can all enjoy a day of fishing everybody needs to follow a few simple rules, just like in everyday life. Let's go over some basic rules that are followed throughout Japan.




At managed sites be sure to put your garbage in the designated bins. Leftover bait should go into a bin separate from the other rubbish, and not thrown into the water. Also when fishing at wild ponds its common sense that you have to take your rubbish home with you. Rubbish such as cigarette butts, empty cans, plastic bottles, wrappers, empty bait packets, etc shouldn't be dumped at the fishing spot.

There are certain rules that exist at fishing areas. These sometimes change depending on the fishing spot, so it's a good idea to check them out when paying your entrance fee. Here are a few examples:

- * Allowed rod length of 2.4- 5.4m
- * Allowed range is restricted by forcing over 1m of line between the float and sinker
- * Restricted bait - dead baits & cut gluten bread
- * Keep Limit - Amount of fish in keep nets is restricted to 30. Keep nets are only allowed for clubs and competitions. In this situation you wouldn't be allowed to use a short 2.1m or +5.4m rod. Range is restricted by enforcing a minimum amount of line between the rubber stop for the float and the first sinker.


Some hook bait is restricted such as dead baits and small cut pieces of gluten bread (IPPATSU etc.)

Keep limits are only for situations where there is a need to keep count of the amount of fish caught, such as competitions. The amount of fish to be kept in one net is limited to 30 fish at the one time. Where there is no need to check the amount of fish caught they are normally released back into the water as quickly as possible. At managed fishing areas this is considered common sense, and in many wild fishing areas this is becoming very commonplace.



Hey!! How ya goin'?

Gotta find a toilet... quickly!




When you sit next to someone who has been fishing before you it is only common courtesy to say hello, and you should make it a point to ask what length rod they are using. It is bad manners to use a rod longer than the person you started fishing before you. If you need to use a rod longer than the person next to you just ask them nicely and get their OK before doing so.

Hello! How are you?

Hmm.... mmm...

The first thing to do when you arrive is pay your entrance fee at the office. It is not allowed to enter and set your gear down at the peg first. It is also a good chance to ask what type of fishing style is catching fish. Wild ponds with entrance fees follow the same rules.



It is good manners to walk quietly on the pontoons across the water. Especially if you are wearing sandals or things that make a loud slapping sound, that can startle the fish. It's best to wear sneakers or such when going fishing. Also as the pontoons are floating on the water, heavy footsteps can make the whole pontoon rock and be a nuisance to other people fishing. Walk as quietly as possible and be careful to not step on other peoples rods, nets, etc when they are getting ready.

Keep the area around your peg clean, so as to not disturb anybody else. Make sure you don't spill a lot of bait and rubbish in the area too.