

# ERIC'S PRAWN RIG TECH SHEET

Combining Lures and Bait - Twice as Effective

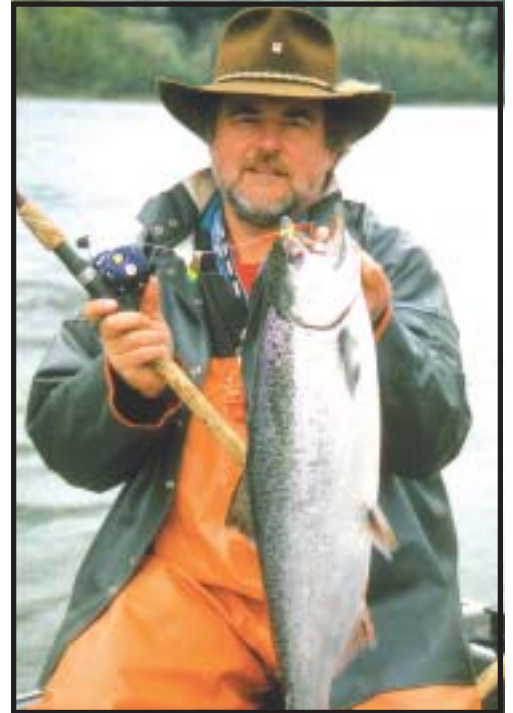
## Eric's Prawn Rig™ Fishing Tips

By Buzz Ramsey

Salmon, especially Chinook Salmon, have a nose for bait. The popularity of herring, sand shrimp, prawns, and salmon egg clusters is a testament to the effectiveness of natural bait for Chinook salmon. Of course, lures can produce awesome results for Chinook too. But why not combine the effectiveness of both lure and bait?

If you doubt the effectiveness of combining lure and bait, consider the region-wide popularity of bait-wrapped *Kwikfish*®. Of course, a bait-wrapped Kwikfish isn't the only example of combining the two. Every steelheader who has bounced a Corky and egg-cluster along the bottom of a river knows how effective the combination can be.

When dyed prawns first became available at retail, I remember combining one with a spinner blade and trolling it in the Willamette for Spring Chinook. A friend had suggested I add the live-image of a prawn to my spinner. Several salmon limits later, I was convinced of the effectiveness of this lure-bait combination. This is what led to the development of the *Eric's Prawn Rig*™, which is a snelled spinner/ bait actionizer designed specifically for use with prawns or sand shrimp.



The author with a fat Spring Chinook

The Eric's Prawn Rig offers the right blade shape and blade-color combinations to maximize the effectiveness of your prawn. It can be trolled, plunked or back trolled in large rivers like the Columbia or Willamette; estuaries like Tillamook or Nehalem Bay; streams like the North Fork Lewis, Cowlitz, Clackamas, and Clearwater; or terminal fisheries like Washington's Drano Lake or the mouth of the Wind River.

Your prawn will produce more strikes if it spins as it's pulled through the water. Sure the blade will be spinning, but you can maximize the effectiveness of this lure-bait combination if you do everything possible to make sure that your blade and prawn are spinning simultaneously.

The Eric Prawn Rig is available in two different rigging styles. Stock number 2291, features a double single-hook rigging that performs best when fishing slow currents, using sand shrimp, or where fishing regulations make using the treble hooked model illegal. The 2293 treble hook model features one size 2/0 treble hook that performs best in fast water currents.

Both rigs produce best if your prawn is rigged head-down and curled, like it comes from the package. For the single hook model, make sure to plant the trailing hook in the head of your prawn - chinooks almost always take this bait head first. When rigging the treble hook model, your prawn should spiral around the hook shank with one hook point in the head of the prawn, the second halfway through the prawn body, and the prawn tail placed in the egg loop.

### GEAR LIST

- Rod:** Consider an 8'6" Heavy or Extra Heavy *Berkley® Air IM-7 Graphite Rod*.
- Reel:** *Abu-Garcia® Ambassador 5500* or *6500 C-3* levelwind-baitcasting style. Available in either left or right hand versions.
- Line:** 20- to 30-lb. test *Berkley Big Game™ Monofilament*. Or, if you want the best, a high tech line like *Spiderwire™ Stealth™* in 40 to 65 lb.
- Sinkers:** A selection of 1 1/2- to 5-oz. Heavier when fishing fast water.
- Wire Trolling Spreaders.
- Luxon™* Swivel Chains.
- Sharp Hook File™:** They're available with or without a handle.
- Prawns:** Pink is most popular but orange, green, blue and natural can also produce. Keep them fresh in a small bait cooler.
- Eric's Prawn Rigs™:** Fish will respond to different blade colors depending on conditions and their mood. Select at least four different finishes and let the fish tell you what they like.



The other rule that will add to your success is to let the Chinook mouth your bait. Don't move your rod tip until Mr. Chinook pulls it down firmly several times or begins peeling line from your reel - then set the hook. The proper rigging of your prawn and terminal setup is illustrated on this sheet and the back of every Eric Prawn Rig package.

With all the spinning going on, it's a good idea to rig a *Luxon™ Swivel Chain* halfway down your leader. A swivel, when positioned in this way, will eliminate line twist better than if placed only at the head-end of your leader.

The color of prawn you use in combination with your Eric's Prawn Rig can make a big difference in your success. For example, I've had the best success with a pink-colored prawn during bright sunlight, and an orange one during low light periods. Don't overlook the green or blue prawn colors (sometimes hard to find), which at times can produce surprising results.

Your prawn isn't the only color that's important; the color of the blade on your prawn rig can determine success too. There are times when a blade color matching your prawn will produce best. For example, a *Pearl/Cerise* blade and pink prawn or *Pearl/Orange* blade with orange prawn can be awesome at times. The rainbow tipped blade, like finish 3152 (my favorite) that features a brass blade with a *Chartreuse-Flo Green-Blue Rainbow Tip* produces especially well in clear water. Contrasting color combinations can produce in low light, turbid water conditions or when the bite is generally slow.

Why limit yourself to using only a lure or bait? By combining the action, color and vibration of a spinner blade with the live-image and real-smell of a prawn, you might double the appeal of your offering. With large numbers of salmon returning this year, now is the time to try the Eric's Prawn Rig.

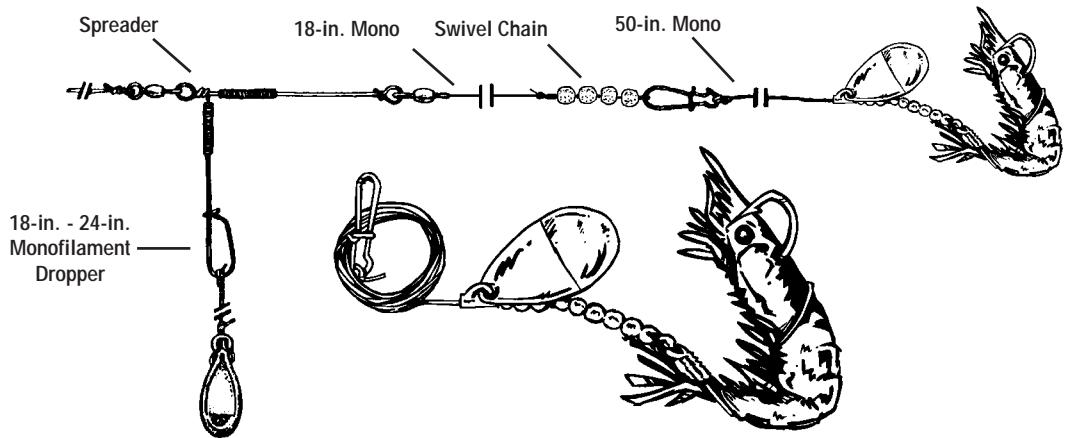


**Buzz and his boys with a nice Chinook Salmon**

## HERE ARE RIGGING DIAGRAMS

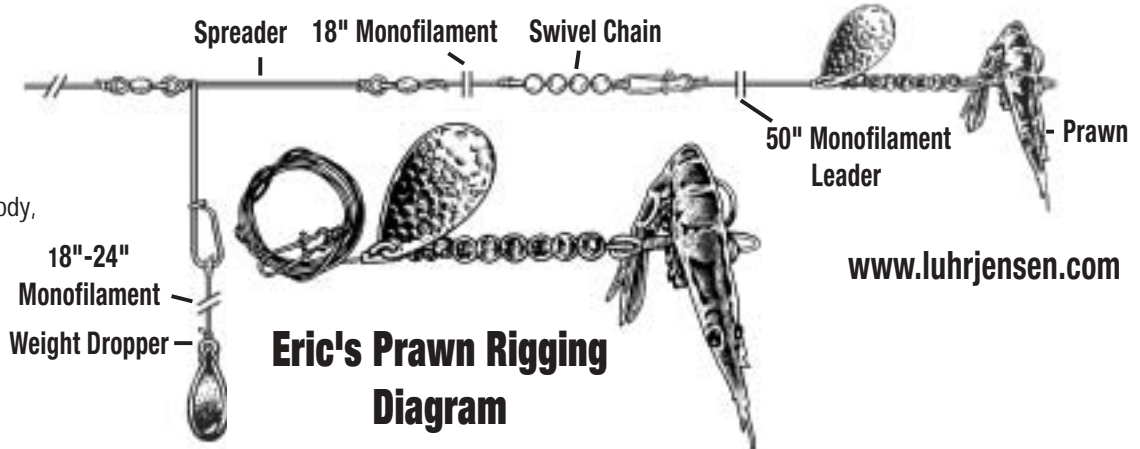
### Eric's Prawn Rig Single Hook Rigging Diagram

1. Thread trailing hook through prawn head, wrap line (between hooks) around prawn body once and insert top hook into tail.
2. Prawn should spin for best results.
3. Troll boat slowly in a zig zag pattern.
4. Adding a swivel chain between the rigged prawn and spreader will prevent line twist.



### Eric's Prawn Rig Treble Hook Rigging Diagram

1. Fit prawn around treble hook shank. Sink first hook point through prawn body, second point through thick portion of prawn tail and place prawn tail in loop of snell.
2. Prawn should spin for best results.
3. Troll boat slowly in a zig zag pattern.
4. Adding a swivel chain between the rigged prawn and spreader will prevent line twist.



**Eric's Prawn Rigging Diagram**

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