



# Drop-Shotting Summer Perch

When the heat's on, this technique has well-grounded success

## Timing

► August through September

## Location

► Deep weed beds in 15'-30' of water

## Equipment

► Rod: 6'6" - 7' medium-light-power fast-action spinning rod

► Reel: Small light-weight spinning

► Main line: 6# Berkley Fireline

► Leader: 8' of 4# fluorocarbon

► Hook: Size 2 or 4 drop-shot or Aberdeen

► Weight: 3/16 ounce drop-shot sinker

► Plastic: Berkley Alive 3" leech, 3" minnow, 2" Berkley Gulp Fish Fry or Robo Worm leech.

► Marker buoy

## Seth's angle

► Sonar graphs show perch as red blotches or dot concentrations off bottom.

Without electronics, locate perch by casting to a promising area with a spinnerbait or paddle-tail swim bait. Let the bait sink before retrieving. As the bait approaches the boat, look for following perch. If you feel pecking or see followers, toss a marker buoy where the cast was made and you've likely marked a school of perch.

Without electronics, locate perch by casting to a promising area with a spinnerbait or paddle-tail swim bait. Let the bait sink before retrieving. As the bait approaches the boat, look for following perch. If you feel pecking or see followers, toss a marker buoy where the cast was made and you've likely marked a school of perch.

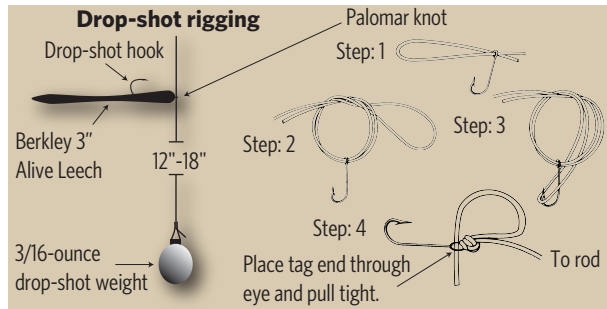
## Technique

Perch are a schooling fish. You're either on them or you're not. In the heat of summer, the jumbo perch move off shore to seek food, shade and cooler water in the area's deepest weed beds -- generally on the edge of a drop-off in 15'-25' of water. Use electronics (or casting method at left) to search these deep weed beds. As soon as you find fish, toss out a marker buoy. (DO NOT throw out an anchor. The disturbance can drive off the school.) Drop-shot around the buoy using an electric motor. If you are not catching perch within minutes seek out another area.

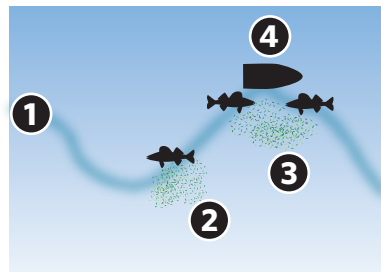
The key to drop-shotting perch: Do not over work the bait. Perch prefer an offering that shakes a little then pauses for a period. Vigorously jiggling or jerking the bait off the bottom makes perch flee. You'll get more strikes with this approach: Drop the weight to the bottom. Lightly shake the rod tip for a few seconds, then hold the line tight, keeping the weight on the bottom, for approximately 10 seconds.

When the bite slows on a school of perch, switch bait profiles -- leech to minnow, minnow to fish fry. A new profile or even a color change can generate more strikes in a school conditioned to one offering. Eventually, you may have to widen your path around the buoy to relocate the school.

CONSERVATION NOTE: Keep only what you can eat. Harvesting 5-gallon buckets every trip will destroy the fishery.



## Top view



## Side view

