

Critter Collectors

Aquatic insects make some of the best baits. They are easy to capture. Head down to the stream and turn over some rocks. Then collect them by hand. You can also use a kitchen strainer, small net or homemade kick seine. Check out our "Critter Collectors" fact sheet. It shows how to make a kick seine from window screen. Set the net downstream of some rocks. Turn them over. Disturb the stream bottom. The current does all the work. It will wash the critters into your net. Be careful with those hellgrammites! Grab them on the head, directly behind their pincers.

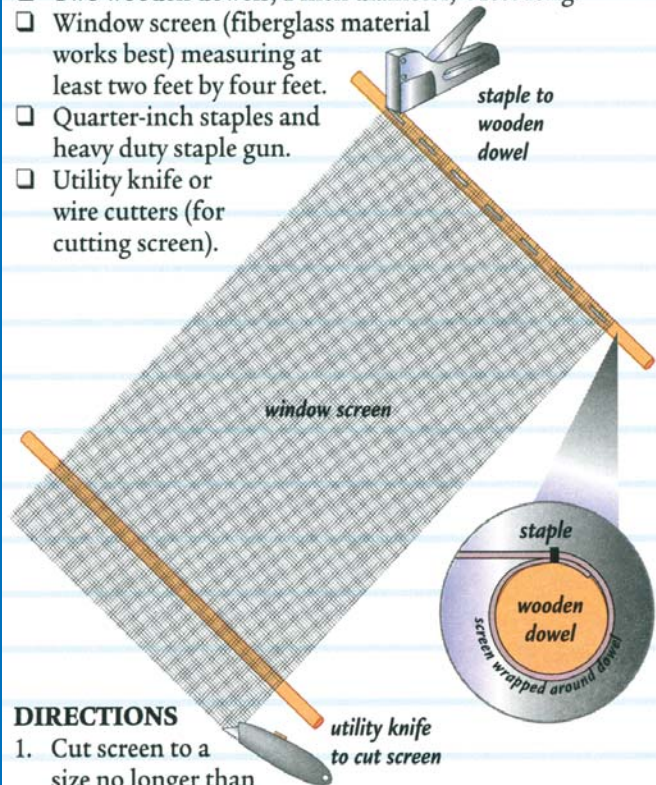
Whirligig beetles, diving beetles, water boatmen, backswimmers and other water bugs can also be used for bait. They are tricky to capture. Use a long-handled net to scoop them from the water's surface. You'll have to be quick!

Most nymphs and larvae can be kept in a container of water. They include mayflies, dragonflies and damselflies, caddisflies, crane flies and hellgrammites. They need cold water with lots of oxygen. You'll need to collect them right before you go fishing. Or replace the old water with fresh cold water once in a while. Stonefly nymphs are best kept in a container with cool wet moss.

Kick Seine

Materials needed:

- Two wooden dowels, 1 inch diameter, 4 feet long.
- Window screen (fiberglass material works best) measuring at least two feet by four feet.
- Quarter-inch staples and heavy duty staple gun.
- Utility knife or wire cutters (for cutting screen).



DIRECTIONS

1. Cut screen to a size no longer than four feet. Fish and Boat Commission regulations limit the length of nets and seines to four feet. Seines larger than four feet require a special scientific collector permit.
2. Lay dowels along shorter edge of screen, lining up the bottom of screen with the bottom of dowels.
3. Wrap screen around dowel, one complete wrap. Staple screen to dowel rod, placing staples every six inches or so.
4. Repeat process on other dowel.

To use a kick seine: one or two persons

