

Equipment Used to Target Steelhead

Steelhead are large, aggressive fish. You need fishing gear and techniques that can endure their fight. Water conditions determine the types of equipment, bait and flies used for steelhead fishing.



Woolly Buggers, egg imitations, Bunny Leeches, stoneflies and wet flies can make a colorful and lively tackle box.

	Bait Fishing	Fly Fishing
Rod	8 foot or longer; medium-light action noodle rod. Longer rods allow lighter line to be used	9 foot or longer; 6- to 8-weight rod
Reel	Large reel with a lot of line capacity and a good sealed drag system	Large reel with a lot of line capacity and a good sealed drag system
Line	4- to 8-pound fluorocarbon line	Weight Forward Fly Line (6 to 8 weight); 9 foot, 2 to 3x tapered leader; 100 yards of backing
Hooks	Sizes 18 up to 4 (smaller number=larger hook)	Sizes 18 up to 4
Weights	Select splitshots that are small, black or dull in color	Select splitshots that are small, black or dull in color
Bait, lures and flies	Minnows, meal worms, red worms, egg sacs, Sucker Spawn, paste baits, spoons and spinners	Woolly Buggers, egg imitations, Bunny Leeches, stoneflies and wet flies

