

## **Design a Lure and Catch a Fish**

Activity for Grades 4-8

Fish catch other fish based on how they look. Fishermen often take advantage of this by using lures that look like bait fish (the fish that other fish eat). Sometimes these look like fish, sometimes these just give the impression of a fish swimming through the water.

Objective: Students will explore what different species of fish prefer to eat and construct lures.

Procedures:

Choose a fish that you would like to catch. Find out what it likes to eat and design a lure to catch it.

You may use any of these materials:

clay

feathers

colored markers

cardboard

sticks

### **Match a Fish**

Using the DOEE site to find a fish that you would like to catch. You may use the slide show in the virtual field trip section <http://omp.gso.uri.edu/doeed/virtual/virt1.htm> or the Biota Gallery [omp.gso.uri.edu/doe/biota/biota.htm](http://omp.gso.uri.edu/doe/biota/biota.htm). Make a lure representing what your fish likes to eat. Some common bait are squid, menhaden, mackerel, and mummichog. These are not the only ones!

### **Catch a Fish**

There are a couple of simple ways you can catch a fish. Make yourself a fishing net using a nylon stocking or onion sack, a wire coat hanger, and a stick to scoop mummichogs and other little fish from the water. You can lure small fish into a bottle trap: tie a string to the open top of a large soda bottle. Put some pieces of bread

inside and lower the bottle into the water. The fish will go in to have a taste!

### **Catch a Crabs**

Tie a string to a chicken wing or drumstick and lower it into the water around rocks or docks. The crabs will come out for a bite. When they start nibbling, pull the string up. The crabs usually will hang on and not let go. Be careful not to get pinched!