

Noel Kuhn Course – 7/27/2014; 4/10/2016 & 7/23/2017

ROD/REEL: A.Noel is selling rods under FLORIDA SURF ANGLER name. A 12' rod, 2 piece, sells for \$285 ('14). Also has 11' and 13' lengths. When casting with an Akios conventional reel set magnet to max if throwing into the wind and at min if with the wind. Want drag ~4lbs.

B. Baitcasting type reels are preferred – without line level cast about 5% farther. The old standard was the Penn 525 but no longer available. Replaced by the Penn Squall 40. Noel carries the AKIOS line. It is manufactured in China but the design is a much improved Abu Garcia model. It is available with and without a line level. Cost is about \$200('14).

C. Casting – Punch up with your right hand and pull down with left for a right hander. Power is in the left hand. Instead of standing perpendicular to the water, pull left foot back slightly. Have sinker above the ground and the rigging as close to the tip as possible

RIGGING: A. He uses 17# mono for main line and shock leader is based on the weight of the sinker - 10# of shock leader strength per ounce of sinker. The length of the shock leader is 10 wraps around the spool plus about 2 rod lengths then adds another 2 feet. He had a 65# braided line for his shock leader. For braided lines he uses a “trigger” mounted on the rod – it's called a Cannon and is made by Breakaway.

<http://www.breakawayusa.com/products/accessories/cannon/> Amazon or Strike Zone.

When joining braid to mono he does not use a uni to uni knot. He ties a granny knot on shock leader and then does a uni with its tag end around the braid. If lines are of the same size, he will use a uni to uni knot – 65# braid is same diameter as 17# mono.

Uses a double dropper rig with big white floating or fluorescent yellow bead on the lower hook, and a donax clam colored bead on the upper hook or a fishfinder rig. He also mentioned the Fishin' Mortician and Earl Brinn type rigs and showed us how to tie them on his template board. Gets beads at Hobby Lobby; uses white, purple, brown, orange colors. Suggested yellow round floats. Also uses spaghetti bead in tangerine orange from General Bead Co. The grips to hold the line on the template may be at Dollar General/Staples.

Double Dropper: <http://www.southernsurfing.com/forum/viewtopic.php?p=#44711#44711>

Earl Brinn: <http://www.examiner.com/article/the-earl-brinn-bottom-rig>

Dropper length of 4-5 inches.

B. Sinkers. He doesn't use pyramid type; it slows down the cast. Uses Sputniks – shorter tail casts better but longer tail holds better. You can adjust the wires to hold better. If the sinker gets stuck, hold the line/reel and back up steadily and slowly (no jerking) with line in line with rod until the line breaks. Also uses Storm Sinkers – a modified sinker that has a pyramid top but a cylindrical projection ending in a bulb. I believe his was 6 ounces – the max around here.

C. He uses 60 to 90 lb. snap swivels on the rigs. At the end of his 30 lb. mono line he uses a RAPID LINK by Breakaway to attach the rig without using a knot. Available at Strike Zone. I bought a Berkely EASY CLIP at Strike Zone that is similar.

D. Hooks He uses only circle hooks. 2/0 for shrimp and clam; 5/0 or 7/0 for half crab. Uses 1/0 for whiting and “monster” hooks for sharks. Eagle Claw hooks have a bigger eye than other manufacturers.

E. Equipment He uses scissors that come apart to cut the bait - available at Academy Sports. Also recommended 2 pair of pliers in tackle bag. Freeze flat all bait you want to save. Then vacuum seal. Don't want to suck juices into sealing machine. Do not use squid or fiddler crab for bait. He has found a knife (Milwaukee) at Home Depot that is made to cut sheet metal ductwork to crack open clams, etc. Likes knife to be 9 – 12 inches in length with a thick blade. Also Home Depot has expandable silicone ties to replace bungee cords. Comes in various lengths.

BAIT: A. Fresh killed shrimp is the best bait. Buy live then put in baggie then a plastic container on ice. You know that the shrimp is fresh if it still has antennae. Do not use shrimp with black heads, or the tail! One shrimp can make 3 baits (use small pieces). Best piece is the tail after cutting off fan. Hook through sides of body so the shell is holding it on the hook! If using the head, cut horn tip off head and hook under the horn for top hook; back of eye for the bottom hook. He recommends buying from “Tommy's” on Hecksher drive north of 9A – 751-1530 – call ahead between 9 & 5. If you are getting nibbles, use a piece of Fish Bite – about the size of nail on index finger. Will last for ½ hour. Clam flavor is best with sand flea next. **Keep package in fridge.**

B. Clams live ones will close up and don't smell bad. Buy the freshest/biggest ones you can. Break by hitting one against another. Cut away lungs and use foot with some soft tissue. Put hook through foot then through tissue. To hold it on hook you can wrap it with bait thread, white or ghost color. Wrap 3 times around hook, then around clam 5-10x and break it by pulling sharply - through fingers or it will tear into clam.

<http://fishermansheadquarters.com/bait-thread.htm> Miracle Thread is the brand he uses. Found it on Amazon – Atlas Mikes Miracle Thread – 100' for \$6.35.

Pour kosher salt on frozen clam the night prior to use to toughen them up.

C. Crabs Recommended use from September – November. Preferred for black drum, red fish, pompano, & whiting as they have crushers but will eat clam. Using clam will minimize sharks, catfish and stingrays. Hold the swimmer fin and, using scissors, cut off claws and then legs. Tear off bottom “shield” and then twist apart. Cut in half and then cut between the knuckles for pieces of bait. Run the hook through knuckle opening and the side of knuckle – should get 5 pieces per half. In the cooler months he uses crab knuckles for bait. Uses them for pompano. Uses ½ crab after mullet run for big redfish. Also uses fish finder rig and 6 oz storm sinker so rig doesn't get caught in prongs of the sputnik.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9609-A5r2ls>

D. Belly flesh of small whiting.

E. Lure Roberts Ranger plugs (red and white shaped like a torpedo).

F. Ghost shrimp. They- 3" long by ¼" diameter – are what makes the hole in the sand when wave recedes. Need a "shrimp sucker" to draw them out of the sand.

GENERAL A. Set up pole holder with slight backwards (30 degrees) slant and have tension on the rod. That way you will easily see when you get a bite. Have a 5 gallon bucket of water to wash the sand off any catch. Keeps sand out of the cooler.

B. Fishing is a "Bait and Wait" process. If you don't catch anything in 30 minutes, MOVE! Go to different spot on beach 100 yards away or to the other side of an inlet to look for clearer water. If you see a porpoise, wait because they have scared away the fish. **NO** fishing when lightning is in the area!!!

C. Put a line in close. Best places to cast is just in front of breaking waves and just beyond them. Look for runouts (troughs between sandbars) to fish in high tide. They are the best place to fish. Cast about 60 yards into the runout. He uses a fish finder rig in the middle of a runout. In calm sea the runout surface is calmer than surrounding sea. In rough sea the runout surface has foam heading out to sea. Need thigh high water depth. A sandbar is a buffet table for fish. Dark water is deeper water. Best time to spot this is ~ 1-2pm. Larry Finch recommends throwing bait into the foamy area but need sufficient wave action.

D. Need to be aware of water temperature and clarity. In summer the best time to fish is from sunup till 9am. Temperature should be in a range of 64 – 75. In a scale of 1(dirty) to 10 (clear) he likes water in the middle range. Move to other side of the inlet to see if better clarity.

E. Fish identification, etc. Whiting – 3 types - Gulf the most prevalent here; tiny teeth; tail has black tip. Southern and Northern – have big teeth.

Permit are not as smooth as pompano and have a hard bottom lip.

Jack Crevalle has teeth, rough lower side.

Pompano prefer water temperature between 64-75 degrees. Bigger ones will tolerate a little lower temp. No teeth, smooth sides.

Sharks – black tips have a white tip anal fin while spinner sharks have a black tip anal fin. The best to eat are Bonnetheads with Nurse sharks next according to Noel because they are crustacean eaters. Cut off head, tail, remove the innards and the red flesh that is close to the skin. Save head to prove type. Wash the fillets in the ocean, then ice down. Soak fillets for an hour in milk. Bread with egg, flour, etc. but don't overcook!

When fishing for flounder use a 2 oz. egg sinker with 12" line to a 2/0 or 1/0 hook. Use finger mullet or mud minnow and do a very slow retrieve along the length of the runout.

Catfish - sail cats and hard head are around here. To remove hook, use one pair of pliers to grab the roof of the mouth and the second pair to remove the hook. If get barbed, use hot water rags for 45 minutes to relieve the pain. If no success, may have to go to the doctor.

F. Recommends viewing his friend Jerry Pope's YouTube videos – Pope 311.

G. During the 7/24/2014 course the following were caught: 3 pompano, 1 blacktip shark; 1 whiting (keeper). After the course, Noel continued to fish and caught 2 keeper pompano and another whiting.

Thanks to Cathy Mulcahy, John Givens, Butch Beard for their input on these seminar notes.