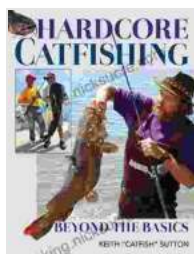


# Hardcore Catfishing: Beyond the Basics

Catfishing is a popular sport enjoyed by millions of people around the world. However, there's more to catfishing than just throwing out a line and hoping for the best. If you want to catch big, trophy catfish, you need to be a hardcore catfisherman.



## Hardcore Catfishing: Beyond the Basics by Keith Sutton

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Hardcore catfishing is a specialized form of catfishing that requires specialized techniques, gear, and knowledge. In this article, we will provide you with everything you need to know to become a hardcore catfisherman.

## Techniques

There are a variety of hardcore catfishing techniques that can be used to catch big catfish. Some of the most popular techniques include:

\* **Drifting:** This is a technique where you drift your boat downstream while casting your bait out and retrieving it. \* **Anchoring:** This is a technique where you anchor your boat in a spot where you think catfish are likely to

be and fish from the spot. \* **Trolling:** This is a technique where you troll your boat behind a motor while dragging your bait behind you. \* **Jugging:** This is a technique where you set out a series of jugs baited with live bait and wait for catfish to take the bait. \* **Noodling:** This is a technique where you use your hands to catch catfish in their holes.

## Bait

The type of bait you use will depend on the type of catfish you are trying to catch. Some of the most popular baits for catfish include:

\* **Live bait:** Live bait is the most effective bait for catfish. Some of the best live baits include shad, bluegill, and minnows. \* **Cut bait:** Cut bait is another good option for catfish. Some of the best cut baits include chicken livers, chicken gizzards, and cut shad. \* **Artificial bait:** Artificial bait can also be effective for catfish. Some of the best artificial baits include crankbaits, spinnerbaits, and jigs.

## Rigs

The type of rig you use will depend on the type of bait you are using and the type of catfish you are trying to catch. Some of the most popular rigs for catfish include:

\* **Carolina rig:** This is a versatile rig that can be used with live bait, cut bait, or artificial bait. \* **Slip sinker rig:** This rig is similar to the Carolina rig, but it uses a slip sinker instead of a fixed sinker. \* **Bottom rig:** This rig is designed to keep your bait on the bottom, where catfish are most likely to find it. \* **Float rig:** This rig is used to keep your bait suspended off the bottom. This rig is often used when fishing in shallow water.

## Equipment

The type of equipment you use will depend on the type of catfishing you are ng. Some of the most important pieces of equipment for hardcore catfishing include:

\* **Rod:** A good catfishing rod will be strong and durable. It should also be long enough to allow you to cast your bait a long distance. \* **Reel:** A good catfishing reel will be able to handle the weight of a big catfish. It should also have a smooth drag system. \* **Line:** A good catfishing line will be strong and abrasion-resistant. It should also be the right size for the type of catfish you are trying to catch. \* **Hooks:** A good catfishing hook will be strong and sharp. It should also be the right size for the type of catfish you are trying to catch.

## Tips

Here are a few tips to help you catch big, trophy catfish:

\* **Use the right bait:** The type of bait you use will depend on the type of catfish you are trying to catch. Some of the most popular baits for catfish include live bait, cut bait, and artificial bait. \* **Use the right rig:** The type of rig you use will depend on the type of bait you are using and the type of catfish you are trying to catch. Some of the most popular rigs for catfish include the Carolina rig, the slip sinker rig, the bottom rig, and the float rig. \* **Use the right equipment:** The type of equipment you use will depend on the type of catfishing you are ng. Some of the most important pieces of equipment for hardcore catfishing include

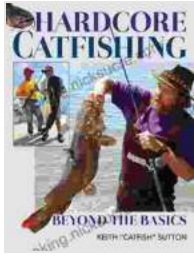
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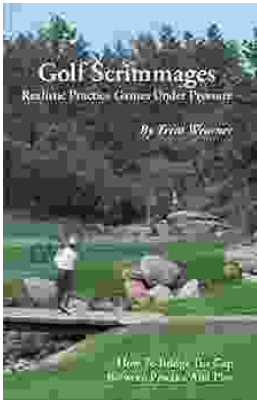
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