

Supermarket Baits



Baits from a supermarket? You might not believe it, but it's true. Each year the Fish & Boat Commission receives reports of fish caught using a variety of baits that can be found on the shelves of your local supermarket or grocery store.

Although they may not be as consistent fish-catchers as worms, lures, and flies, you might from time to time be able to catch fish on one of these bonus buys or weekly specials.

Here are some supermarket baits that you might want to give a try.

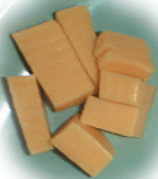


MINIATURE MARSHMALLOWS: Every trout season anglers report success in landing trout, especially stocked rainbows for some strange reason.

They don't look like hatchery pellets, but perhaps their color and smell attract fish.



LIVER: Many catfish anglers swear by this bait, and the stronger the odor the better. A few years ago, we approached three young anglers in Allentown with a nice stringer of catfish. We could almost smell the boys before we could see them. They had a plastic cup filled with beef liver that they had set in the sun for a few days. Whew! In addition, one young fellow in Pittsburgh caught two muskies on the same day using liver.



CHEESE: Velveeta seems to be the cheese of choice. Tiny pieces or balls used on a number 6 or 8 hook often score on trout. We've heard occasional reports that carp were caught on a "Velveeta lure."

HOT DOGS: Although no one has reported success using an entire hot dog to resemble a plug, small pieces fished for bluegills have been successful grocery store baits. Anglers who ran out of worms have used them. We sometimes suspect that those who can't stand worms use hot dog pieces instead.



CHEWING GUM: Even though other supermarket baits are more common, chewing-gum balls (after a thorough chewing) seem to work. We know of one young angler who caught a huge trout a few years ago in the Juniata River on a piece of teaberry gum!

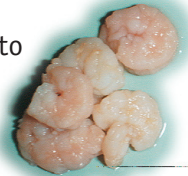
BREAD: This is an old standby. Many farm pond anglers have used this bait. It works best when rolled into tight balls, but it doesn't stay on the hook well. Some anglers mix it with ketchup to make it more tasty and last longer in the water. You can buy commercially made doughbait designed especially for fishing. Many anglers use this on their trips to carp hideouts.



CORN: One of the fellows in our office recommends canned yellow corn as the only true carp bait. Throwing a handful of whole kernels into an area where carp are spawning and then attaching three or four kernels to a small hook often brings a "carp attack." We've also seen reports of rainbow trout caught from lakes and streams on a single kernel of yellow corn.



SHRIMP: This is an expensive way to go, and we don't encourage anglers to purchase a pound or two for fishing! Cure them in the sun, as you'd treat liver. A smelly shrimp fished at night for catfish is a sure-fire bait. This past opening day of trout season, we met a young man who was having trouble catching fish. We were near our cabin and happened to remember two shrimp left in the refrigerator from our Friday evening meal. We broke one of the shrimp into three pieces and gave them to him to try. Bingo! Two trout on two casts!



MACARONI: Half-sections of cooked elbow macaroni work about the same as bread. It's a little harder to use and store, but it can catch some kinds of panfish.

PEAS: Yes, green peas—canned and shelled—sometimes catch fish, although we've never tried it. We've known of anglers catching trout with peas, especially through the ice.

