

# How to Night Fish for Channel Cats at Lake Jennings

The best time to catch channel catfish is at night. During daylight hours channel cats don't move very much. They like hidey holes or thick brush to lay in. So when you fish for them during the daylight it is best to move your bait a lot. In fact the most successful catfisherman I know fish their bait almost like you would for bass. They move the bait every couple of minutes. Usually it is just a couple of turns on the handle. The reason behind the method is you have to bring the food to the cat. Nighttime is a different story. When the sun sinks into the sea the cats begin their prow. We call it grazing. They will cover an area the size of a football field looking for their food every night. So the cats come to you looking for food.

Cats get their name from their whiskers. These whiskers are actually modified taste buds. The cats can actually move the whiskers and taste your bait by touching it. A popular myth is that cats like old smelly rotting dead flesh. They will eat stinking rotting meat or fish but our experience shows that fresh fish, chicken livers, hot dogs tend to work better. The best bait available is probably frozen mackerel, frozen anchovies, fresh beef or chicken liver or hot dogs. We also like to use a scent. Ideally you want a scent that has both water and oil in it. This allows that scent to spread out over a larger area, making it easier for the cat to find your bait. Any of the bass scents work i.e. Smelly Jelly. So do the saltwater scents like Procure shrimp and Pautzke's Krill (Which also works for trout. ) One of our favorites is to use fresh mackerel fillets soaked overnight in the refrigerator in molasses. Use what you like. Any of the baits will get the cats to bite.

Here is how we like to set it up.

# 2 bronze bait hook

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No weight

If you are using hot dogs which float use a ½ oz. egg sinker and a BB split shot 2 ft. above the # 2 bronze bait hook.

# 2 bronze bait hook

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½ oz. Egg sinker & BB split shot

For more information about night fishing at Lake Jennings,  
call (619) 443-2510 or (619) 390-1300