

Shooting Patterns

The following pages contain a variety of shooting patterns designed to cover nearly all float fishing conditions. Some anglers prefer preparing a variety of “shot lines” in advance to save time on the water. A “shot line” is a length of low-vis line with split shots arranged along the line in a shooting pattern. Each end of the line has a micro swivel. One end is connected to the leader and the other end is connected to the main line below the float. The “shot lines” can then be easily switched on the river when needed.

Split shots are available in a variety of sizes, from the tiny No.8 to the larger AAA, to match any rig. It is important to carry a range of sizes to be prepared for any situation. Whenever shooting a float, it is essential to use good quality round shots to avoid line twist under the float. Split shot dispensers are a convenient way to carry a full range of shot.

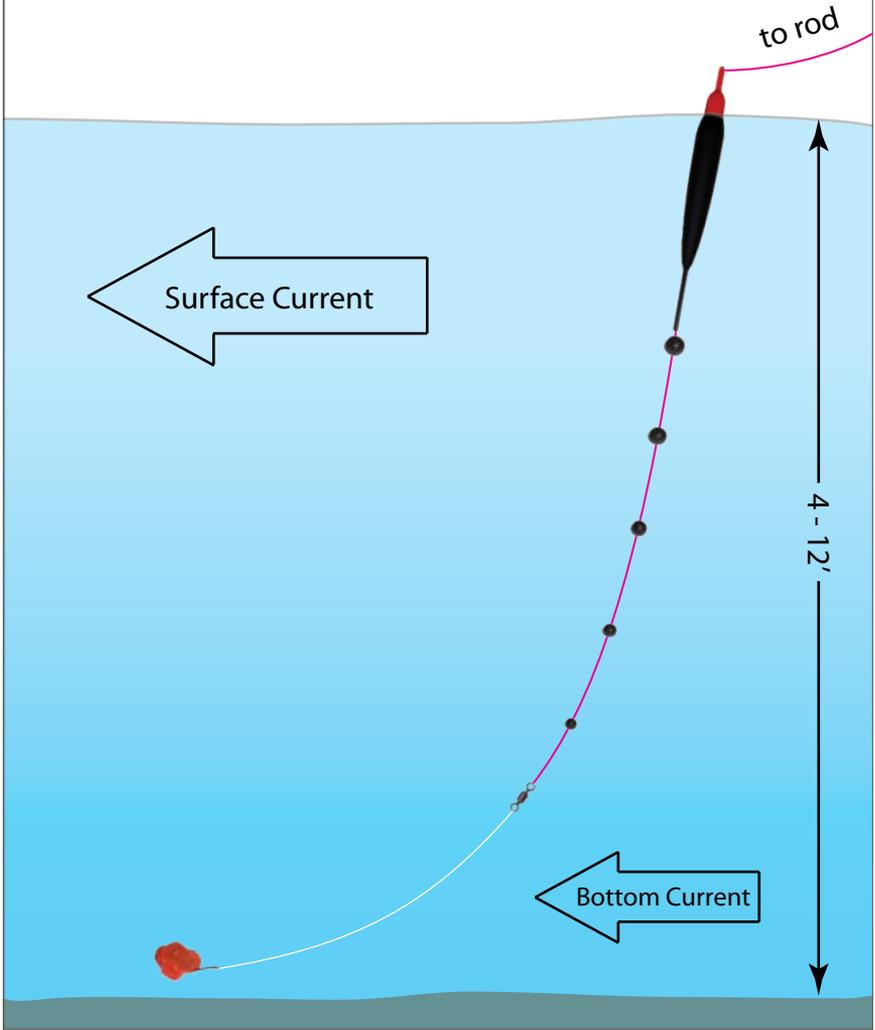
Standard Split Shot Weight Ratings:	
AAA	.80 g
AB	.60 g
BB	.40 g
No.1	.30 g
No.3	.25 g
No.4	.20 g
No.6	.11 g
No.8	.07 g

A soft split shot, like *Sure Shot*TM, can be easily repositioned on the line to quickly adapt the shooting pattern to changing conditions, but may need to be adjusted occasionally. A stiffer shot like *Raven*[®] *Pro-Shot* will not move once rigged, but offers less versatility in varying water conditions.

KEY TO SUCCESS:

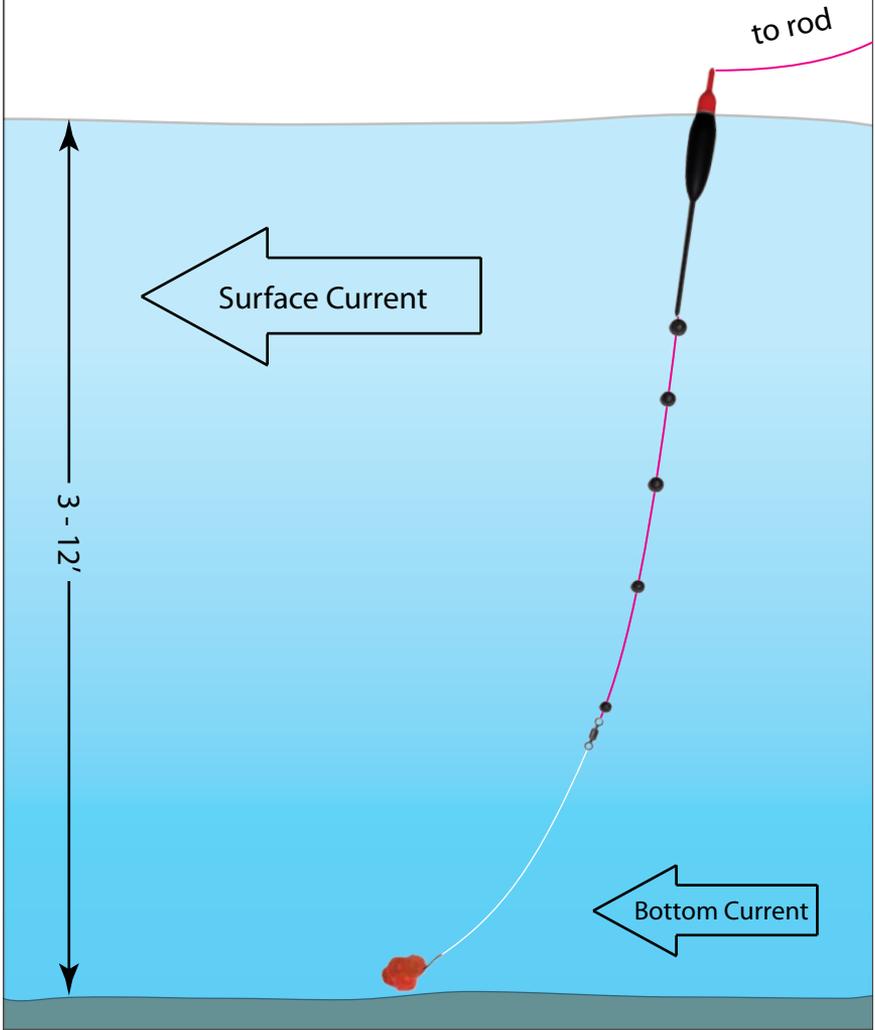
Make sure to use enough shot to cock the float properly, so that only the coloured tip sits above the water line. The gram rating on the float indicates the approximate amount of weight required for it to cock properly.

Standard Shotting Pattern



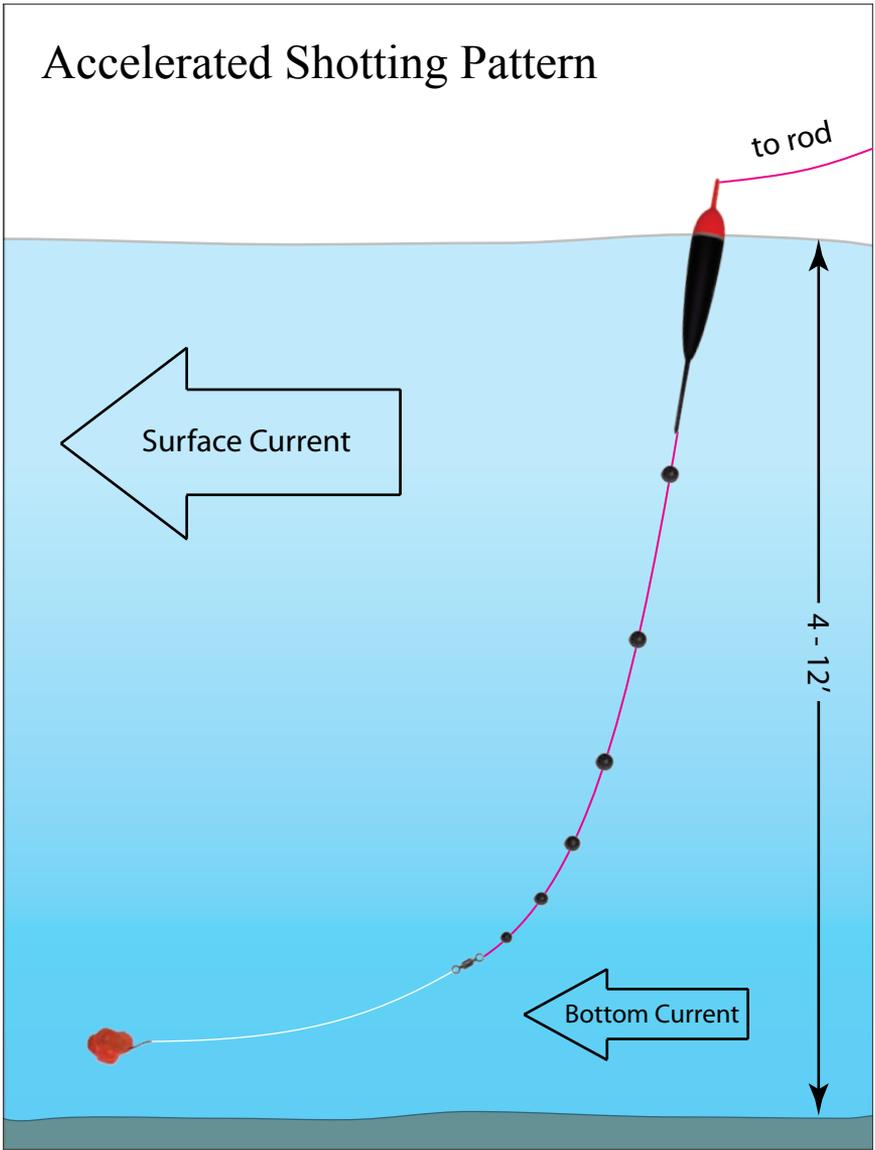
The standard shotting setup has all the shots equally spaced on the line below the float. The largest shot at the top to the smallest shot just above the leader. This allows the heavy shots to cut through the faster surface current and the small shots to gently taper the line downstream. With the float held back lightly, the bait will drift ahead of the float - ensuring that fish will see the bait before the rest of the rig. This shot pattern will work well with most floats.

Tapered Shotting Pattern



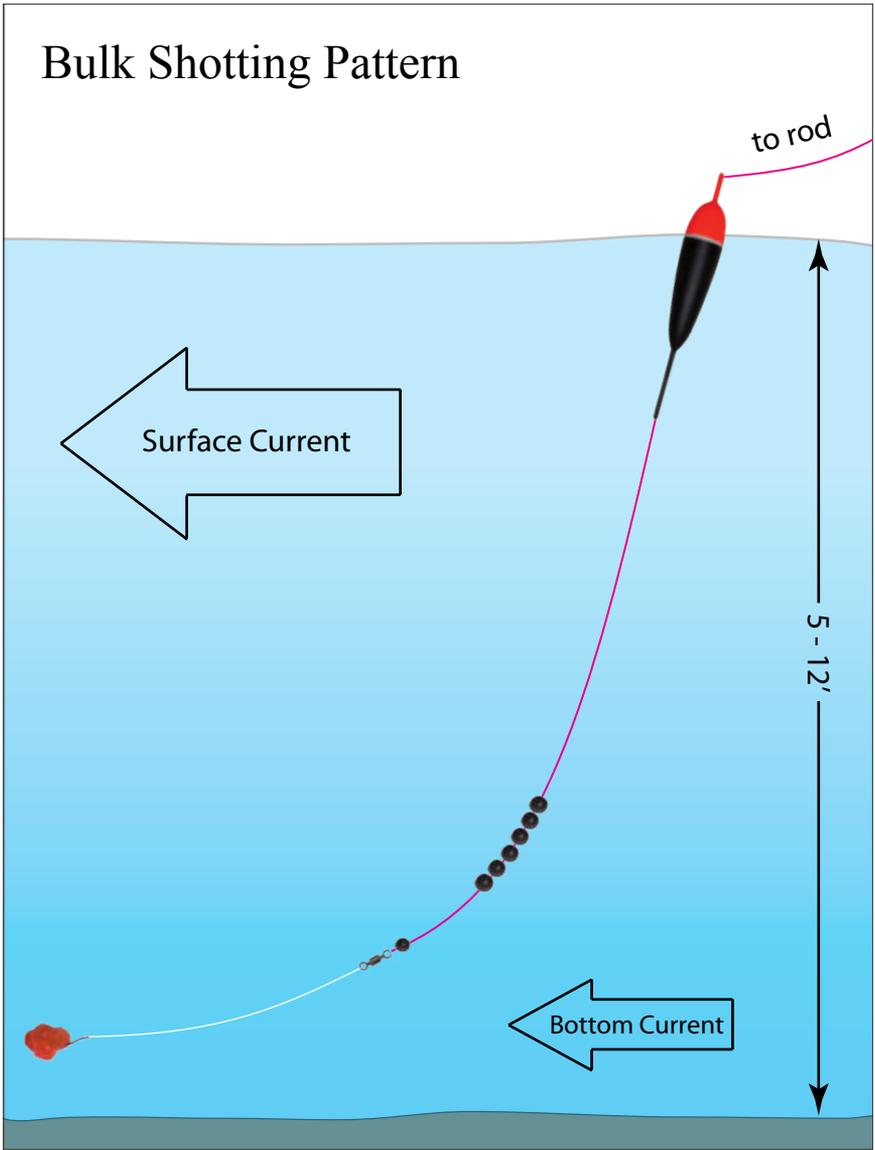
The tapered shotting pattern calls for the split shot to be placed in increasing distances down the line. Most of the shot is used to cut through the surface current and only a few small shots help slowly carry the bait to the bottom. This gives the bait a very natural appearance, especially on the drop. Tapered shotting works best on slow water, where a natural presentation is essential. *Raven*[®] SS and SM series floats are the perfect match for this shotting pattern.

Accelerated Shotting Pattern



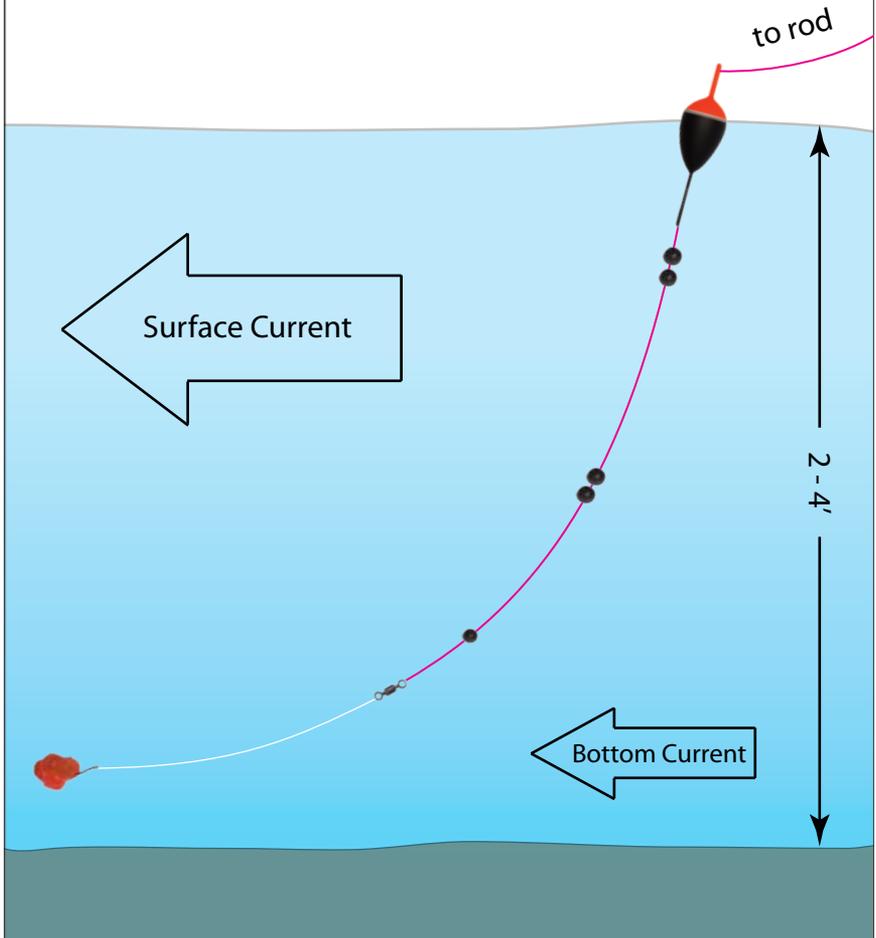
Accelerated shotting requires the spacing of the shot to decrease down the line. This brings the bait down quickly to the bottom, yet still allows for a natural tapered presentation - making it ideal in faster water. The float is held back lightly against the surface current to allow the bait to drift ahead of the float. The *Raven*[®] FM and FD float series are ideal for this shotting pattern.

Bulk Shotting Pattern



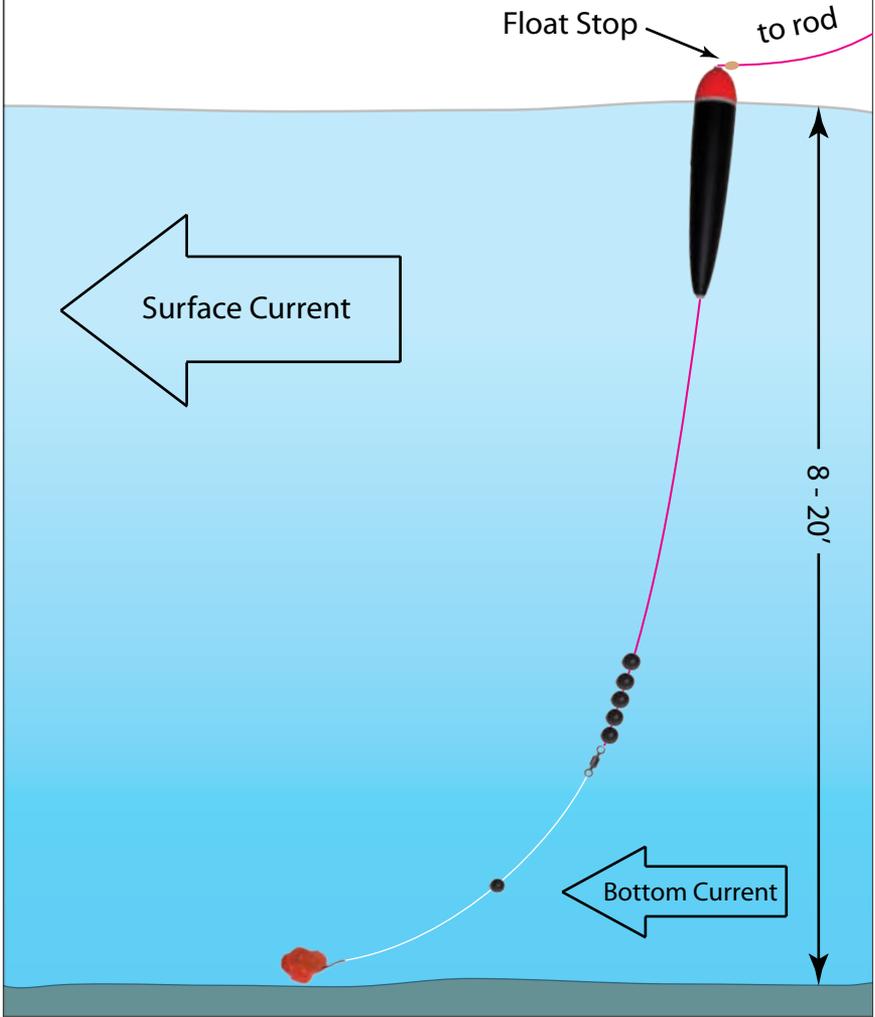
Bulk shotting calls for virtually all the shots to be placed together (“stacked”) just above the leader, with only one small shot right at the swivel to help soften the presentation. This pattern drives the bait directly down to the bottom, making it possible to efficiently fish fast water. Holding the float back slightly will allow the bait drift in front of the shot. Larger floats are generally used with this pattern, such as the *Raven*[®] FD series.

Shallow/Riffle Shoting Pattern



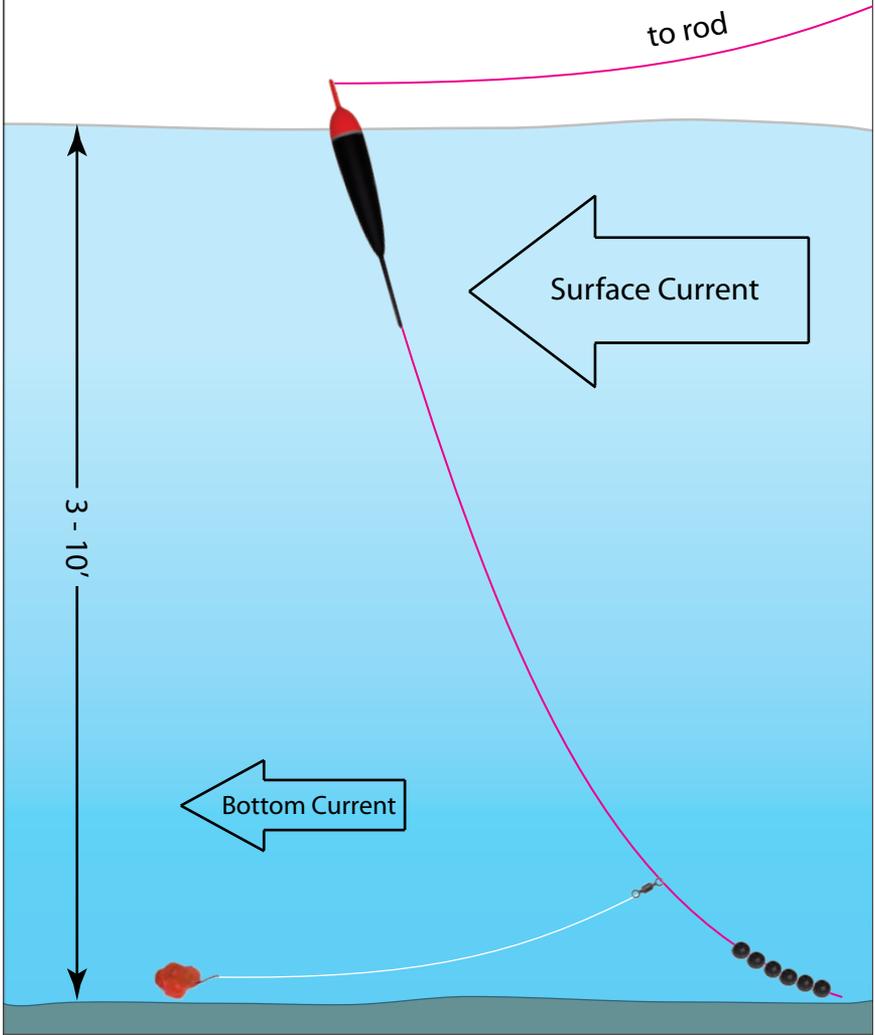
The riffle shoting pattern is designed to present the bait in fast moving shallow water. It is particularly effective for fishing both the head and tail-out of a pool. Roughly half the shot is put at the base of the float, the other half is set at about mid-depth and one dropper shot is added just above the leader. This setup will make the float cock almost instantly and quickly drop the bait into the strike zone. The *Raven*[®] FS float is ideal for this shoting pattern, particularly when matched with smaller baits - such as single egg flies or small roe bags.

Slip Float Shooting Pattern



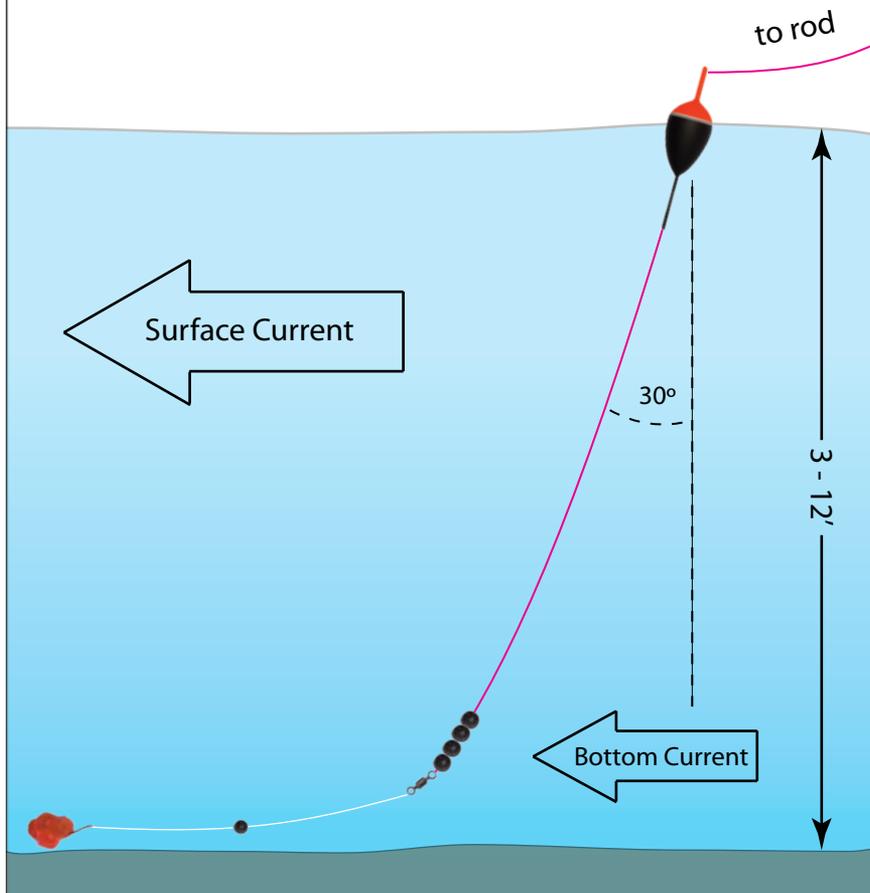
When fishing deep water, a slip float must be used. Slip floats allow the line to run through the center of the float until it is stopped by a stop knot or rubber float stop. Bulking the shot above the leader will drop the bait down to the fish quickly. Using a small soft shot on the leader helps keep the bait near the bottom in rough currents. The *Raven*[®] SX slip floats are ideal for slower water and the *Raven*[®] FX slip floats are perfect for faster flows.

Bottom Dragging Shot Pattern



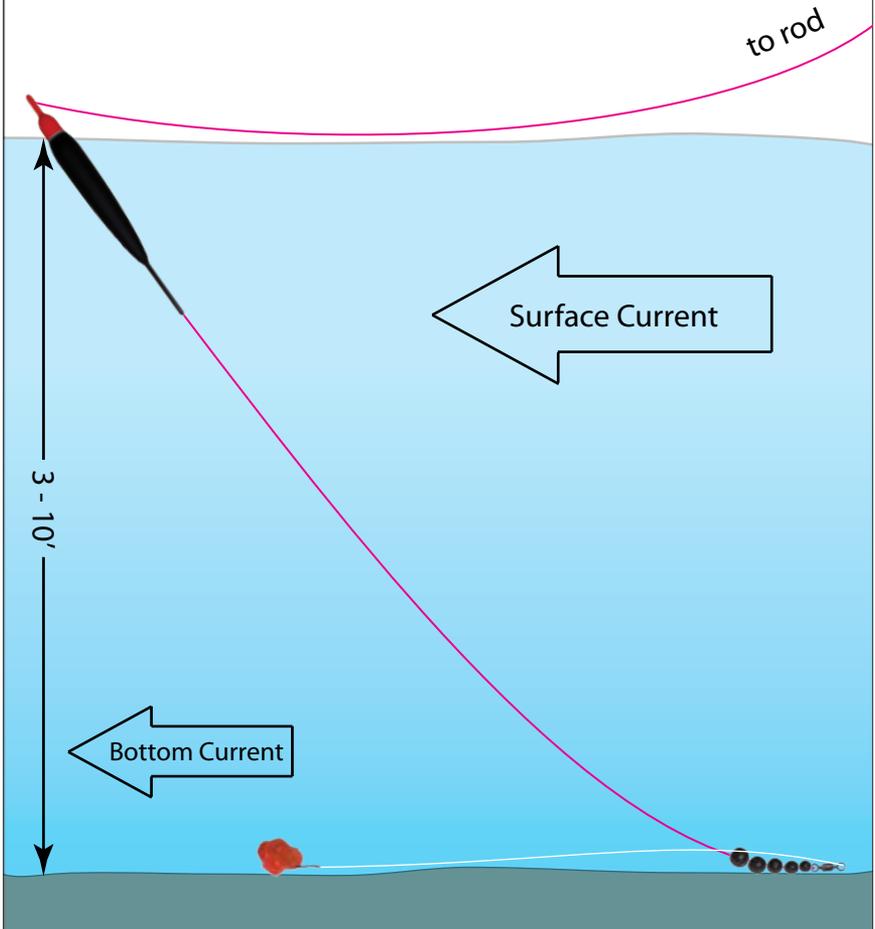
Bottom dragging (or bottom bouncing) with a float is used in fast water, where it is difficult to check the float effectively. All the shot is bulked together on a dropper line from the swivel. The depth of the float is set so that the shots just tap along bottom as the rig drifts downstream. If the shots snag, a slow solid pull will only pop a few shots off the end of the dropper line (saving the rest of the rig). This setup works best with larger floats.

Lollipop Shotted Pattern



This setup is a variation of a European pole fishing rig that has proven to be unbeatable on many river venues. The float is held perfectly still in the current and bulk shotted so that the line runs down to the bottom at about a 30° angle. One dropper shot is added to the leader to help keep the bait down. The float is then inched downstream as slowly as possible, teasing fish into striking. The line is fished tight to the rod tip, making hits register hard on both the float and the rod. A 15' rod really helps increase your range, as you can only lollipop directly downstream from the rod tip. It does take some experimenting to get the right amount of shot to hold the line down, but the results usually make it well worth it.

Strett Pegging Shot Pattern



This variation of the traditional British setup produces bonus fish on tough days. It is a simple rig; all the shots are slid down the line to the leader and the float is slid up the line several feet. The rig is then cast out in a back-current or eddy area where the float will drag the shots along the bottom until it settles in a slow spot in the current. The float should sit half-cocked on the surface (adjust the depth until it sits just right). A striking fish will either dislodge the shots making the float pop-up or pull the float under on a solid take. This setup is ideal for picking-up inactive fish holding in slack water.