



USE OF THE “ALABAMA RIG” IN CONNECTICUT

We have received numerous questions/calls/emails about the legality of the “Alabama Rig” (effectively a small cast-able umbrella rig). Most questions have come from black bass (largemouth bass & smallmouth bass) anglers.

The short answer is that the “Alabama rig” is legal to use in Connecticut to fish for black bass.

As for the details–

- In Connecticut inland waters anglers are limited to the use of two lines that must be “personally attended.” However, an unlimited number of hooks can be used. Only three of those hooks (note that a treble hook counts as three hooks) can be “baited.”
- The “three hooks baited” requirement has generated some additional confusion concerning use of the “Alabama” rig as many bass anglers call artificial lures “bait.” Under CT regulations, artificial lures are not “bait” (“bait” is live, or was at least somewhat recently alive). So an angler can use an unlimited number of artificial lures.

But anglers need to keep in mind that-

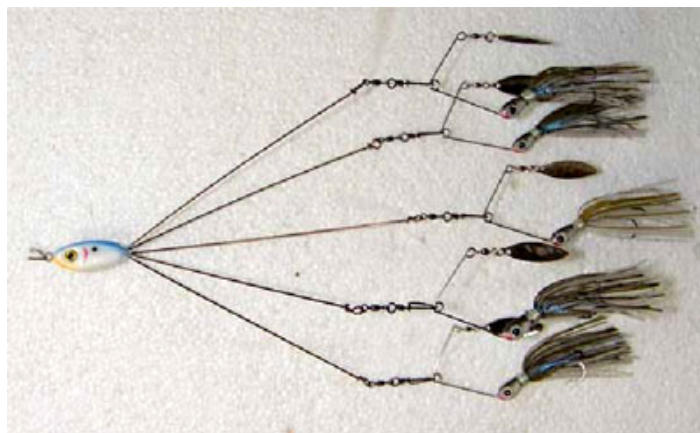
- Regardless of the legality of the gear type, **anglers must still stay within the legal possession limits** (anglers with several fish on a stringer or in a livewell could go over the limit in one cast).
- And obviously, if one were modifying use of the rig to live bait, only three hooks (and note that a treble hook counts as three “hooks”) could be baited.

The relevant regulations can be found in the CT Angler’s Guide in the “Definitions” section (pages 14 & 15 of the 2011 guide) under “angling” and “bait.”

Note that every state’s regulations are written differently. As Massachusetts limits open water anglers to the use of two “hooks”, the “Alabama rig” would not be legal in border waters where MA regulations apply (e.g., Congamond Lakes, Hamilton Reservoir).

Have questions, or for more information call:

Inland Fisheries (860-424-3474) or EnCon Police (860-424-3012).



Source: thealabamarig.com