

Line weighting

Costs

Lead swivels cost about US\$0.25.

The hook with a swivel attached to the eye is US\$1.30 – crimps are not needed with this hook type, so this is a cost saving.

Sliding weights cost US\$0.60 to 0.80 each. When the sliding weight is made of a luminous material, light sticks are not needed, another cost saving.

Effect on fish catch

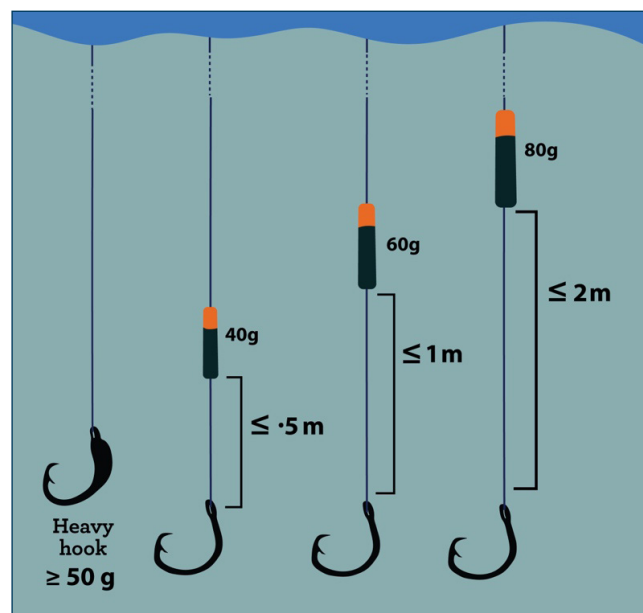
Overall there is no evidence that the presence of weights near the hook affects target catch.

Effectiveness

Line weighting can reduce seabird captures by 40% to 80%. Diving seabirds can still get caught though. The science measuring effectiveness of line weighting is good.

How does line weighting work

Line weighting means adding a weight near the hook to make it sink quickly beneath the dive depths of albatrosses and petrels.



The four weighting options in this image have the same sink rates.

Minimum effective standards

The closer the weight is to the hook, the lighter the weight can be to get the same sinking rate.

Weights should be metal. The use of fishing lights or other fishing gear is not recommended unless proven to sink as quickly as metal weights.

Types of weights

Weighted swivels are commonly used. These are crimped into the branch line.



Some fishers use a hook with the weight attached directly to the eye (photo below left).

There is a new heavy hook being developed. (photo below right).



Another option is a sliding weight that is threaded onto the branch line.



Sliding weights stored on board.

The sliding weight is designed to be safer for crew. If a shark bites the hook off, the sliding weight falls off the branch line rather than flying back towards the boat.

