



A pole type lure retriever would have made this job a lot easier.



Bomb style lure retrievers (left) and a Tackle Back, Snahu Recover "A" (right).

Lure retriever guide

SOMETHING that really annoys me is getting snagged and losing one of my favourite lures.

I don't mind so much if a quality fish busts me off, but losing a lure on a snag really does bug me, especially if it's an expensive one or one that's difficult to replace.

Fortunately, it doesn't happen too often these days because I always carry a couple of decent lure retrievers on board.

There are basically two types of lure retrievers, the weighted bomb style that slides down your fishing line to the lure, and the pole style that uses its length to reach the lure.

Both types work well, but each has its good and bad points, and in certain situations one may work better than the other.

The weighted bomb retrievers are the cheapest at \$10 to \$30 and without doubt the most popular on our freshwater lakes.

Their main benefits are price, the fact they take up almost no room in your boat, they're always ready to be used, and the only limitation to how deep you can use them is the length of the cord you've attached.

Normally they are made up of a lead weight with either a couple of small chains or a fixed loop of wire positioned to trap the snagged lure.

Using one is simple, as you just bring your boat directly above the snag and connect or clip the retriever to your fishing line, then lower it down to



Fresh Water

by MIKE DELISSER

the lure on its own length of strong cord.

Quite often you'll find the weight of the retriever landing on the lure is enough to knock it free.

However if this doesn't occur a couple of jiggles of the cord should see the lure or more likely its hooks trapped.

Then it's just a matter of using the strong cord to pull the lure free.

Worst case scenario is you may straighten a hook, but at least you've got your lure back and by comparison a new set of hooks is relatively cheap.

The only real drawback I've found is if you manage to get snagged up deep in a spindly bush or tree, as the retriever or cord may get caught up in the snag and struggle to make it down to the lure.

A couple of popular models that use chains to latch on to the lure's hooks are the Murray Monsters Lure Retriever and the interestingly named Snahu Recover "A".

Snahu is an acronym for "situation normal, all hooked up".

These are probably two of the best bomb type retrievers on the Australian market.

The most popular fixed wire model is the original Tackle Back.

They've been around for donkey's years and work particularly well if you use a snap and swivel on your lure's tow point.

Often I'll use a homemade retriever that's nothing more than a palm-sized piece of trawler netting threaded onto a rather large D-shackle with 20m of cord attached.

The shackle gets placed around the snagged line and sent down to the lure, and then when the netting finds the lure's hooks I'm able to pull it free.

It's dead easy to make and use and I find it particularly fast and effective on Jackalls, blades and ice jigs.

In fact, the homemade version works so well I once recovered my own lure plus another someone else had previously lost to the same snag.

Pole style retrievers are either telescopic or made up of several segments that are screwed together to make a long pole.

At the business end, there'll be a corkscrew or pig's tail attachment through which the snagged line is inserted.

Then you simply push the pole down along the line and push the lure back off the snag.

I've always found if you can reach the lure with a pole retriever, you'll get it back.

They're ideal for rescuing lures from snags in water too shallow to take your boat, and the only retrievers that can get your lure back if it's stuck high up in a tree (yes we all have the odd wayward cast).

Also a pole retriever can easily be pushed deep into those spindly bushes I mentioned earlier.

They do have a few disadvantages though.

You'll find pole retrievers are considerably more expensive than the bomb style.

Shorter telescopic aluminium models start from around \$60 and you can expect to pay over \$300 for a top-of-the-range six-piece 9m fibreglass model.

They will also take up considerably more room in the boat (though not really an issue if you have a large rod locker).

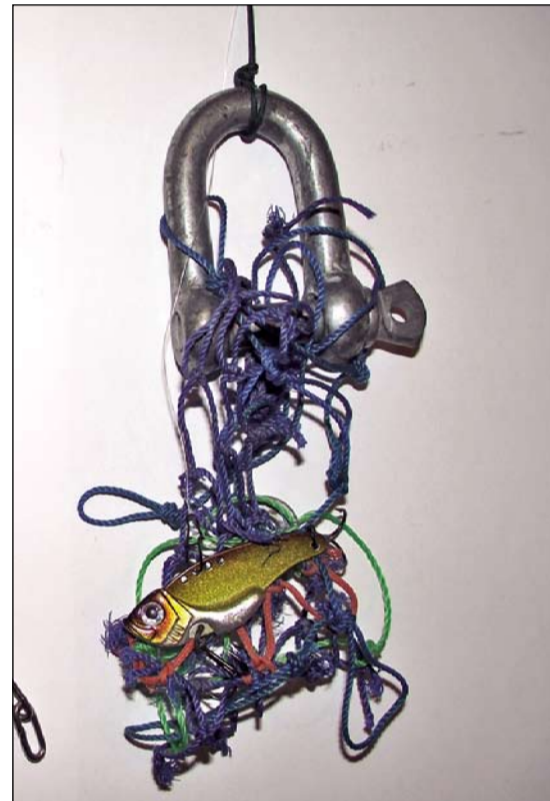
And very long pole retrievers can be a little awkward to assemble and use if you're fishing alone.

So, there's a brief guide on lure retrievers.

It would be great if you could have one of each style on board, but that's not always possible and any lure retriever is certainly better than no lure retriever.

Regardless of which you choose to carry, you can be guaranteed that sooner or later it will end up paying for itself in saved lures.

Until next month, tight lines and good luck. ↴



A homemade tackle retriever.



This telescopic pole retriever extends to over 5m.