

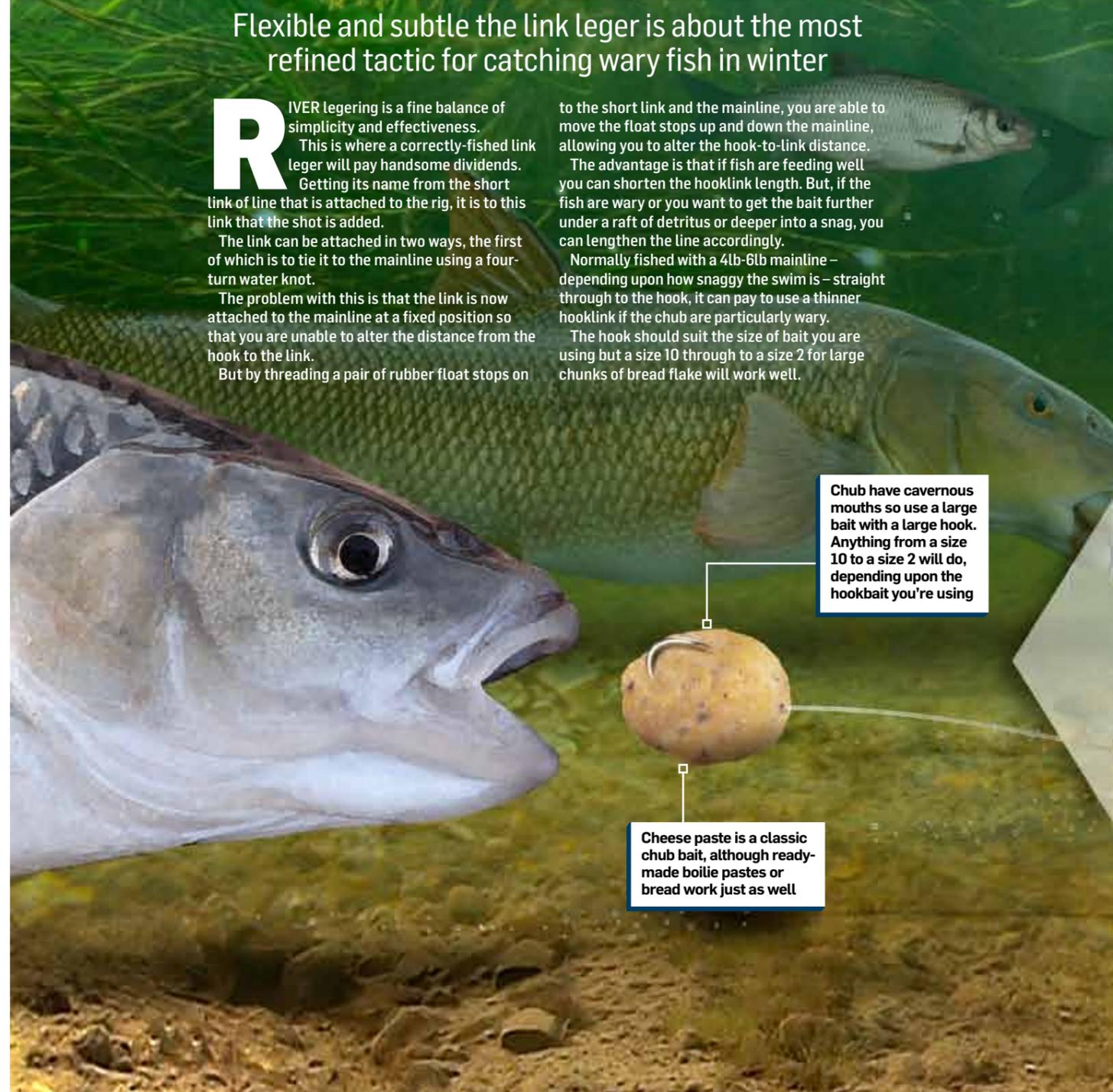
RIG FIVE

THE SUBTLE LINK LEGER RIG

Flexible and subtle the link leger is about the most refined tactic for catching wary fish in winter

RIVER legering is a fine balance of simplicity and effectiveness. This is where a correctly-fished link leger will pay handsome dividends. Getting its name from the short link of line that is attached to the rig, it is to this link that the shot is added. The link can be attached in two ways, the first of which is to tie it to the mainline using a four-turn water knot. The problem with this is that the link is now attached to the mainline at a fixed position so that you are unable to alter the distance from the hook to the link. But by threading a pair of rubber float stops on

to the short link and the mainline, you are able to move the float stops up and down the mainline, allowing you to alter the hook-to-link distance. The advantage is that if fish are feeding well you can shorten the hooklink length. But, if the fish are wary or you want to get the bait further under a raft of detritus or deeper into a snag, you can lengthen the line accordingly. Normally fished with a 4lb-6lb mainline – depending upon how snaggy the swim is – straight through to the hook, it can pay to use a thinner hooklink if the chub are particularly wary. The hook should suit the size of bait you are using but a size 10 through to a size 2 for large chunks of bread flake will work well.



Chub have cavernous mouths so use a large bait with a large hook. Anything from a size 10 to a size 2 will do, depending upon the hookbait you're using

Cheese paste is a classic chub bait, although ready-made boilie pastes or bread work just as well

Carry a range of shot sizes so that you can perfectly match the shooting weight to the flow of the river. Here, a swan shot and a BB have been used

Thread two rubber float stops on to the link line and the mainline so you can adjust the distance between the leger and the hook

Use a robust, abrasion-resistant mainline between 4lb and 6lb

THE PROFESSIONALS SAY...



"To a 1lb mix of cheese paste I like to add a teaspoon of Nash EEE Squid Extract powder. Chub absolutely adore it!"
– Paul Garner, Nash Peg One Head consultant



"Use highly abrasion-resistant mainlines, something like Korum Reel Line or Pro Gold"
– Dai Gribble, Korum-backed specimen hunter



"Balance the shot on the link to the flow so that the leger slowly bumps downstream every few minutes" – Martin Bowler, star of *Catching the Impossible* and captor of British record fish



"Hair-rig a cork ball and wrap some paste around it. This is perfect for tricking really wary chub" – Adam Fisher, freelance fisheries consultant for the Wye & Usk Foundation