

IGFA Makes New Ruling on Assist Hooks *continued from cover*

Until recently, the IGFA did not have rules that specifically addressed the use of assist hooks on lures. However, because of their increasing popularity the following rule has been created that governs their use:

Assist hooks or other such single hooks that are attached to a lure with a lead constructed of monofilament, multifilament, wire or other such material must conform to the following: When using assist hooks on any artificial lure, other than a skirted lure, the lead cannot be more than 1 1/2 hook's length and the bend of the hook may not be more than 4 inches (101 mm), whichever is less, from the closest point of attachment on the lure. Double and treble hooks may not be used as assist hooks.



IGFA COMPLIANT:
With this assist hook, the lead is within 1 1/2 hook's length (measured from the closest point of attachment on the lure to the eye of the hook).



IGFA COMPLIANT:
Multiple assist hooks are allowed.
Double and treble hooks may not be used as assist hooks.



IGFA COMPLIANT:
Assist hook (or hooks) can be attached to either end of the lure.



ARTIFICIAL LURES:
Assist hooks can be used with any artificial lure, other than a skirted lure.



This new rule has been added to IGFA's Rules and Regulations and is listed as numeral 3 within section "H. HOOKS AND LURES".

IGFA believes that this new language will make it easier for anglers to understand and comply with rules regarding assist hooks. In addition, it also helps facilitate their use with plugs, which are far less damaging to fish than traditional double and treble hooks.



NOT IGFA COMPLIANT:
With this assist hook, the lead exceeds 1 1/2 hook's length (measured from the closest point of attachment on the lure to the eye of the hook).



NOT IGFA COMPLIANT:
With this assist hook, the bend of the hook is more than 4 inches (101 mm) from the closest point of attachment on the lure.

Total length to bend of hook
ie: 4.25" (107mm) > 4" (101 mm)

Photo courtesy of Doug Olander / Sportfishing magazine