

Should I use a snap or a snap swivel?

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Many anglers like the ability to quickly change lures without having to cut their line and retie the lure. Snap and snap swivels are often used for that purpose. A picture depicting the difference between a snap and a snap swivel is shown on "Snap vs. Snap Swivel, Photo 1 of 2" below. The ability to change lures easily becomes more important as problems such as arthritis makes it quite difficult to cut and retie lures.

Snap swivels or its individual components, snaps and swivels, can each be purchased as desired.

The purpose of the swivel portion of a snap swivel is to reduce line twist when your lure becomes fouled and as a result begins to spin creating twists in the fishing line. The use of a swivel or a snap swivel is often helpful when trolling.

I recommend against using a snap swivel when fishing the ponds in Hilton Head Plantation because the added weight of the swivel often kills the action that had been built into lure. This can greatly reduce the likelihood that the lure will attract the attention of fish and cause them to attack the lure. Manufacturers of lures spends lots of money and time trying to design and perfect the lures they sell. A lure that does not work well to catch fish will not stay on the market for long. It is my opinion that unnecessarily losing the action that has been built into a lure, which action has been field tested, is not desirable. This is why I recommend against the use of snap swivels.

Snap are an excellent alternative to the use of snap swivels. Like snap swivels, snaps allow the angler to quickly change lures without having to cut the line and retire the lure. The extra weight of the snap is minimal, and thus has a minimal effect on the built-in action of a lure. The use of a snap actually may improve the action of some lures, typically certain crankbaits.

If you use snaps because of problems like arthritis, be sure to purchase those that are large enough for you to easily open and close the snap, but not so strong as to make it difficult for you to open and close the snap. The snaps are open and closed in the pictures on "Snap vs. Snap Swivel, Photo 1 of 2" and "Snap vs. Snap Swivel, Photo 2 of 2," respectively.

There are three very important things to remember when using snaps (or snap swivels):

- (1) After fighting a fish, check the snap to be sure the stress of the fight has not caused the snap have become open, see "Snap vs. Snap Swivel, Photo 1 of 2"

below. Unless corrected, you may lose the lure or the next fish you have on the line, or both.

- (2) The use of a snap (or a snap swivel) does not eliminate the need to frequently cut and retie monofilament line due to nicks or abrasions that have developed along your line. With braided line, which has much greater abrasion resistance than monofilament line, the need to cut and retie your line is greatly reduced.
- (3) A snap (or a snap swivel) will tend to snag and retain debris (such as twigs, leaves, matted pond scum, weeds). Therefore, your lure will become fouled more easily. A lure that has become fouled by debris will not catch fish. Once you realize your lure has become fouled, the best thing you can do is simply reel you lure in as quickly as possible so that you can then clean off the debris and make another cast. If you lure frequently becomes fouled, especially if the fouling occurs early in the retrieve, you are wasting a lot of casts. Because a line with snap (or snap swivel) will collect more debris than a line without a snap (or snap swivel), you will also spend more time cleaning your lure of debris than you would if you had not used a snap (or snap swivel).

Snap swivels come in 2 styles. A picture depicting the difference between a circular style snap swivel and a triangular style snap swivel is shown on "Snap vs. Snap Swivel, Photo 2 of 2" below. If you choose to use a snap swivel, the circular style of snap swivel is preferred.

Snap vs. snap swivel

Photo 1 of 2



Snap-swivel



Snap

Snap vs. snap swivel

Photo 2 of 2

**Circular
snap swivel**



**Triangular
snap swivel**