

WINTER FISHING



MARGO
+LOLA

AGENDA

60-MINUTES LONG



Region



Weather



Fish



Safety



Gear



Questions



MARGO
+LOLA

REGION

WINTER FLY FISHING IS FUN



MARGO
+LOLA

REGION

DRIFTLESS: WORLD RENOWNED

- Missed by the last glacial ice advance¹
- Four States, distinguished by karst² topo
- 24K square miles, +14K miles of streams
- Strong year-round flow of 48-50F water
- Lots of places to fish

1- known as the Wisconsin glacier

2 - terrain that has rocky ground, caves, sinkholes, underground rivers



MARGO
+LOLA

REGION

YEAR-ROUND DESTINIES

Each State has different seasonal regulations that can change each year

- IA open year-round
- WI open early-Jan through mid-Oct
- MN has “special” open seasons



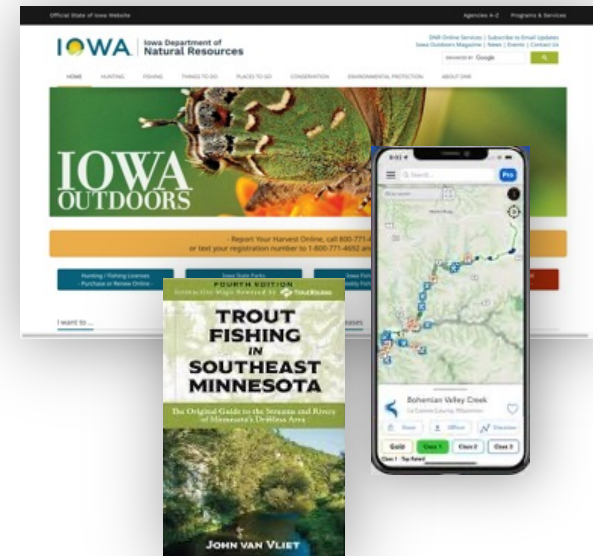
REGION

SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

EXAMPLES

- IA → Bear Creek (3 hrs from TC)
- MN → White Water (1.5 hrs from TC)
- MN → Root River (1.5 hrs from TC)

State DNRs, shops, regional books or Trout Routes are excellent resources



MARGO
+LOLA

WEATHER

MONITOR CONDITIONS

Winter weather can change quickly¹. Always check the forecast before heading out, especially in hilly areas where conditions can worsen rapidly.

1 Fastest winter temp swing in MN (01/07/07) was 55F (from 48F to -7F)



MARGO
+LOLA

WEATHER

FROZEN GUIDES AND LINES

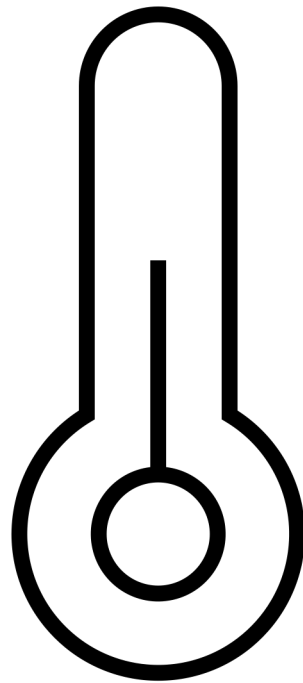
Icing on rod guides and fly lines can hinder casting

- Line dressing or silicone spray
- Getting good at chipping ice
- Submerge rod/line in water



FISH

WATER TEMPS/FISHING STRATEGY



65F-70F Selective

Early AM or PM

50F-65F Very Active

Relevant patterns

44F-50F Active

Dead-drift nymphs

34F-44F Selective

Deep, slow water



MARGO
+LOLA

FISH

POPULAR WINTER FLIES



Stone Fly
(16-20)



Wooly Bugger
(6-12)



Blue Wing Olive
(18-22)



Griffith's Gnat
(18-22)



Pink Squirrel
(14-18)



Pheasant Tail
Nymph
(16-20)



Scud
(14-18)



Hare's Ear
Nymph
(14-18)



Zebra Midge
(18-22)



MARGO
+LOLA

FISH

BEST TIME OF DAY (10AM-3PM)

The best fishing is often in the afternoon when the water is warmest. On particularly cold days, you might only get a few hours of good fishing, so make them count.



MARGO
+LOLA

FISH

PATIENCE PAYS OFF

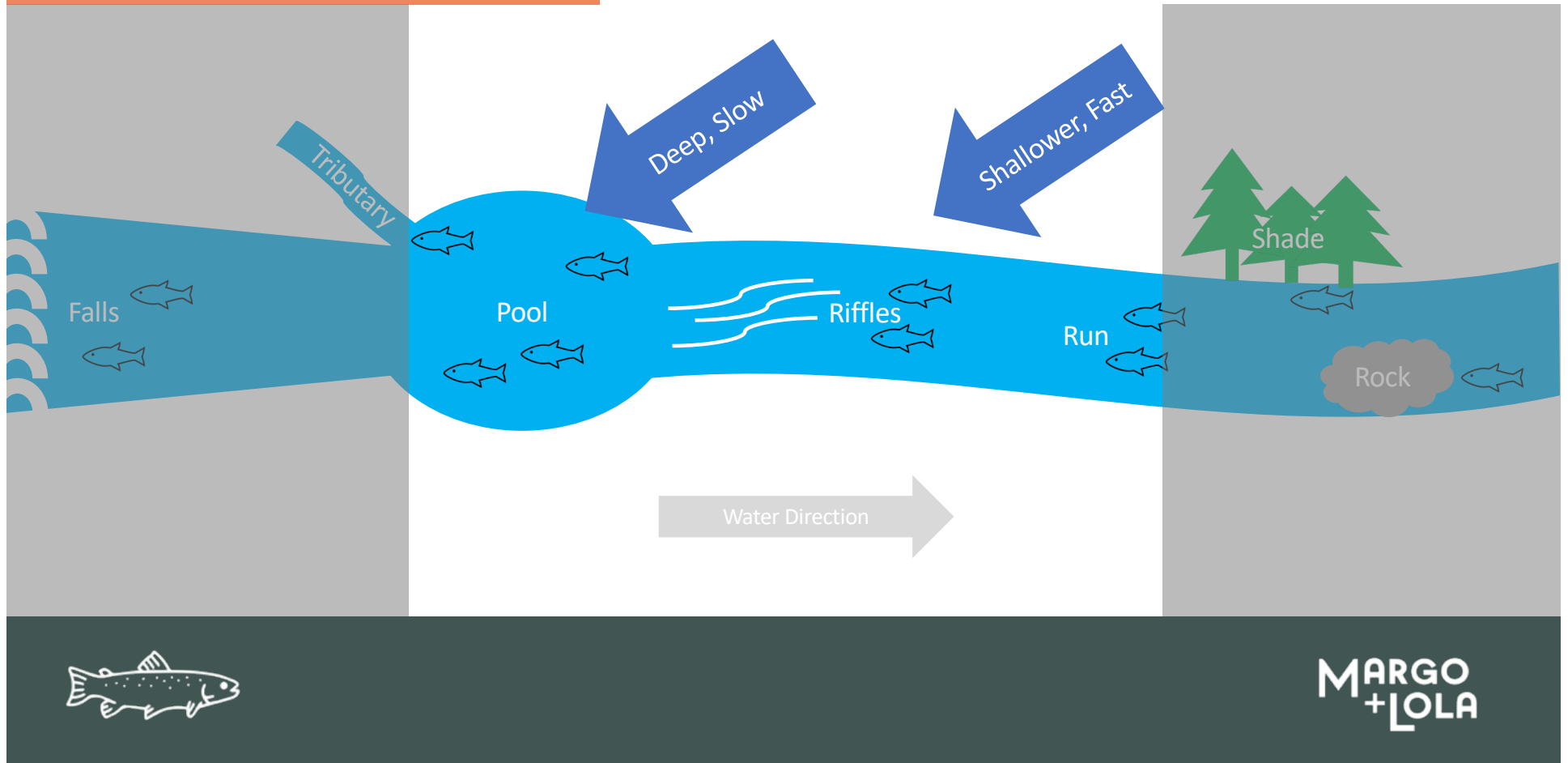
Winter fishing is not about high action, but rather patience and persistence. Fish might not be as active, and bites can be subtle. Pay close attention to the water and the movement of your fly.



MARGO
+LOLA

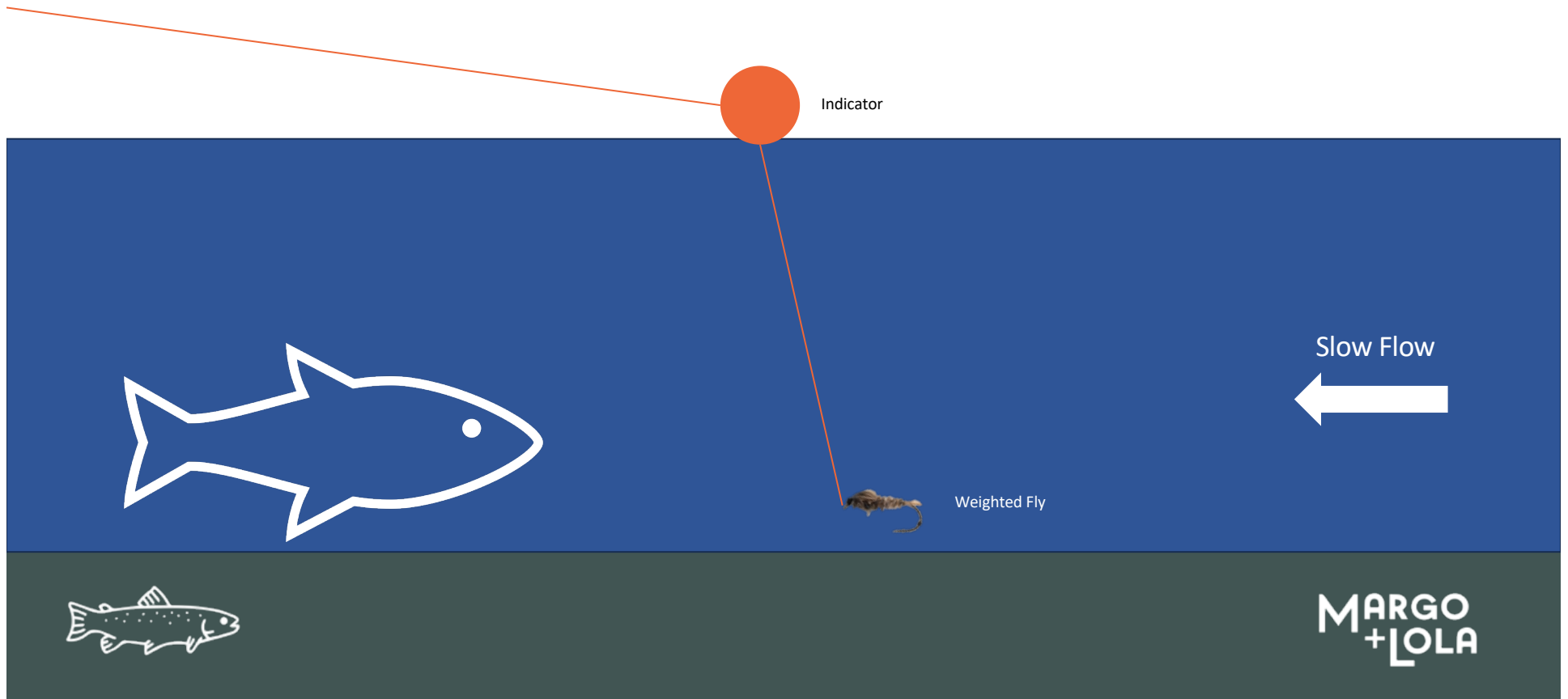
FISH

POOLS AND RUNS



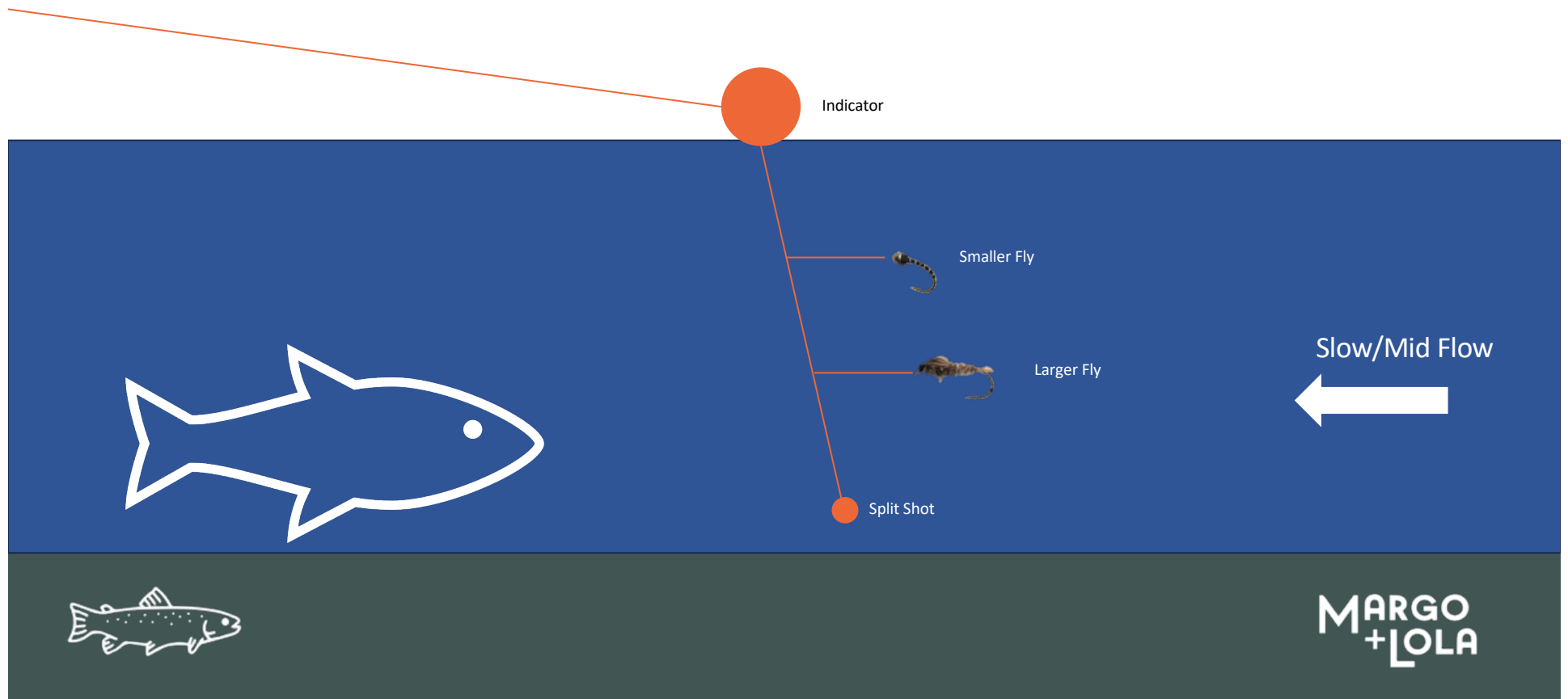
FISH

TYPICAL RIGGING



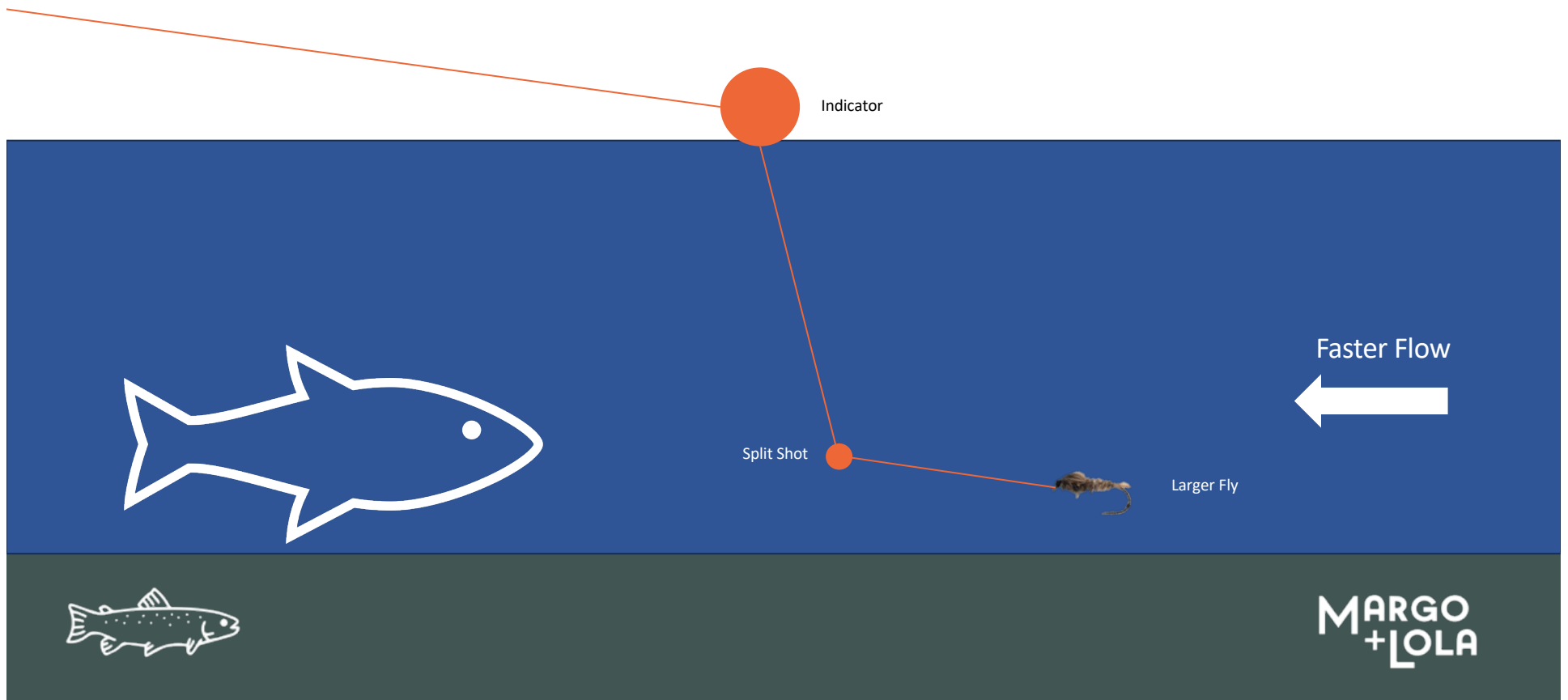
FISH

DOUBLE DROP



FISH

STREAMER-LIKE



SAFETY

SHELF ICE ETC.

Rivers may have ice along the edges or on the surface, making wading risky. Anglers must be cautious about ice breaking or hidden holes.



SAFETY

COLD WATER SAFETY

If you fall into cold water, hypothermia can set in quickly. Always fish with a friend or let someone know your plans. Carry a dry bag with extra clothing and a Thermos with something warm.



MARGO
+LOLA

SAFETY

ICE AND SLIPPERY ROCKS

Be cautious of ice buildup on rocks and the riverbanks. Wear wading boots with good grip and be extra careful when wading or walking near the water's edge.



MARGO
+LOLA

GEAR

IN ADDITION TO THE ROD AND REEL



Waders
(Waist or hip)



Boots
(Cleats or felt soled)



Net
(Various sizes and retractor)



Nippers
(Various styles)



Forceps
(Various styles)



**MARGO
+LOLA**

GEAR

IN ADDITION TO THE ROD AND REEL



Staff
(Foldable or full-length)



Hats
(Neck Gaiter optional)



Thermometer
(Check water temps)



Box
(Countless styles/sizes)



Apps
(Free or fee-based)



**MARGO
+LOLA**

GEAR

WINTER SPECIFIC ADDITIONS



Pants
(Insulated)



Gloves
(Fingerless or not)



Hats
(Cover those ears)



Layers
(Countless styles/sizes)



Socks
(Wiggle those toes)



MARGO
+LOLA

GEAR

WINTER SPECIFIC ADDITIONS



Line
(Insulated)



Yeti
(Favorite hot stuff)



Pack
(Extra warm items)



Mat
(Countless styles/sizes)



Warmers
(Feet, hands, other)



MARGO
+LOLA

WRAP-UP

Winter fly fishing is a slower, quieter pursuit, but it can be extremely rewarding for those willing to adjust to the conditions. By choosing the right techniques, being patient, and staying comfortable, **you can enjoy some exceptional winter fishing moments.**



MARGO
+LOLA

QUESTIONS



MARGO
+LOLA