

Why Fish?

Late Summer Fishing
July 2013



Panfish
In The Pads

Rethinking
Jigs

SNAKE
HEADS

Is A
Monster
Peacock
On Your
Bucket List?



Crocodile Bay Lodge- Part 2 - Pg. 30



Seagrass Flats For Big Reds - Pg. 43



Slip Bobber Tactics For Walleye - Pg. 62



Is a monster Peacock on your Bucket List?, Pt 1 -
Pg. 7
Submarine Monsters Seen In Southern Lakes -
Pg. 11
Rigging For Catfish - Pg. 14
Why Fish? - Pg. 15
Fishing with RC Cook SR - Pg. 18
Short Line Cranks for Walleyes - Pg. 21
The Rise of the Snake Head - Pg. 28
Rod and Reel Ideas - Pg. 35
New Technology To Map Your Own Lake - Pg. 37
Panfish in the Pads - Pg. 41
"Live" Baby Shad By Lake Fork Trophy Lures -
Pg. 45
DAN'S FISH 'N' TALES, Dock Fishing - Pg. 50
Cool Tactics for Hot Panfish - Pg. 53
Rethinking Jigs For "Roller Coaster" Bass -
Pg. 57
B'n'M Fishing – Evolving With The Sport Of
Fishing - Pg. 60
2014 New Product High Lights - Pg. 67



Editor: Larry Thornhill
Larry@odumagazine.com

Assistant Editor:
 Bill Schwarz,
bill@odumagazine.com

Publishing Team: Bill Schwarz
 & Richard Barker

Photographer: Kathy Barker

Advertising inquirers for our
 Fishing Magazines, ODU Fishing
 and Hunting News should be e-
 mailed to:
webmaster@odumagazine.com

Contributing Writers: Larry
 Thornhill, Bill Vanderford, Ron
 Presley, D & B Ice Adventures, RC
 Cook SR, Jason Mitchell, Chris
 Jenkins, Bob Jensen, Paul Michele,
 Bob Bohland, Lawrence Taylor, Dan
 Galusha, Ted Takasaki, Scott
 Richardson, Steve Pennaz, Ted
 Pilgrim and Joe Balog

Business Address: 4315 Cross
 Ridge Ct., Valrico, FL 33594

Photos: Cover photo is from
 Scott Petersen. Index photo is
 provided by ODU
 Magazine/Larry Thornhill.

***Register To Receive The ODU
 Magazines:***



We just returned from the ICAST Show in Las Vegas, and I know some of you will find it hard to believe, but I was looking forward to returning to Florida to cool off. Vegas was averaging between 108 & 109 degrees when we arrived and dropped to a cool 98 degrees, by the time we left. However, don't forget it's a dry heat, yea right. In my book 108 is still 108 degrees; it's downright hot. The cabby told us that we were lucky; the prior week averaged 118 degrees.

For those of you that are not familiar with ICAST it's were all the manufactures convene every year to display and sell their new products for the coming year. Here are just a few of the Best of Show winners for this year. The Best of Show in the Hard Bait category was won by LIVETARGET for their 'BAIT BALL' and I must admit it's impressive. I attended



Find us on
Facebook

**FISHING
NEWS
HUNTING
NEWS**

twitter 
ODUFishing

twitter 
ODUHunting

Get Connected With ODU!

their press
conference and
can't wait to get my
hands on one, and
of course go fishing.
Shakespeare Ugly
Stik GX2 youth
combo won in the
Kid's tackle and
looks like a super
combo for the
beginning angler.
For those of you
with a small
watercraft be on the
lookout for the
Power-Pole Micro-
Anchor, which won
Overall Best of

Show and heaven forbid I can't leave out one of my favorites the Best of Show in the Giftware category was Rapala Floating Bottle Opener.

A few neat products that I thought were interesting that did not win were:

- Rigid Industries: Chris Brown introduces to me a great line-up of lights for both tow vehicles and boats. I especially liked the plug and play Back-up lights that mounted to your bumper for seeing what was behind you while you were backing up at night.
- Wild River: Dian DeFazio introduced me to a great new line-up of high-end and unique tackle bags.
- Snag Proof: Connie Fuller was displaying the new Bleedin" frog with a trailer hook.
- SONARPHONE: Vexliar's answer to a sonar that can be used on your smartphones or tablets. Yes, I said a sonar unit that can be used on your smart phone or tablet. Vexilar was just one of a few companies displaying such a device this year.
- Tacklewebs, Inc.: Capt. Mike Ortego introduced me to a new storage system that's a great application for both fresh and saltwater boats.

For a complete update visit <http://www.bassmaster.com/slideshow/2013-icast-best-show>

Do me a favor and introduce someone new to the outdoors and help preserve our heritage before its gone!

You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

And please, Enjoy the outdoors,

Larry Thornhill
Editor Chief

<http://www.odumagazine.com/>



SUPER NATURALS

NEW 2014

In 2014, Rat-L-Trap® is utilizing a new technology that completely changes the scope of what can be done in the spectrum of colors and details in pattern design. A "match the hatch" replica of different forage species is no problem for this new technology. But, as seasoned fishermen know, it's not simply natural looking lures that catch the most fish, it's those lures that have a little something extra. We like to call these Super Natural™. The blade on the spinner bait producing flash isn't just natural, it's super natural, the shimmy on the fall of a stick bait isn't just natural, it's super natural, and of course the intense vibrating-rattle of a Rat-L-Trap isn't just natural, it's super natural. We've created these Super Natural™ color patterns for 2014 that will delight anglers around the world. This series utilizes natural, high-res images of predominant forage species and then accents them with proven, fish-catching highlights.

**Available August 1st, 2013 in 1/2 OZ and December 15th, 2013 in 1/4 OZ

255
BLUEBERRY
PERCH



253
SUNRISE
PERCH



260
BLUE SHINER



261
FATHEAD
MINNOW



263
CANDY CRAW



264
PINCHN PEACH



266
OXBOW



WWW.RAT-L-TRAP.COM



Is A Monster Peacock On Your Bucket List?

Part 1

By Larry Thornhill

I hope you are as fortunate as I have been checking things off your Bucket list. I have been told by a lot of you that catching a monster Peacock Bass is on and probably will always be on there's. I am not trying to make you envious, or possibly, deep down, inside I really am, but do I have a trip for you. And boy do I love my job (at times) especially when I can assign myself a story like this one. It took a lot of arm-twisting to convince me to take this assignment, NOT!

I had been to Manaus, Brazil on a Peacock bass fishing trip five years ago with James Hall, Ish Monroe, David Brown, Ray Boone and Ed Harp a few years

before in September, and it was hot; I mean really hot. Just how hot was it you ask, the best way I can describe the heat is that my sweat beads were perspiring! Now that's hot. The sunrise was around 5 am and set around 7 pm to the best of my memory, and the temperature was consistently in the high 80's or low 90's every day. I don't remember seeing a rain cloud the entire time that I was there. This time I went in February during the rainy season and believe me when they say rainy season. They really mean that it rains, and rains and rains, you get the picture it rains a lot. So make sure you bring along a good set of rain gear and a few waterproof bags to keep your gear dry. Make sure your rain gear breaths because the temperatures are still in the high 80' low 90's the only difference is you occasionally see the sun, but no problem finding a rain cloud.



This trip started out about the same with Ray Boone and myself meeting an English-speaking representative of the Amazon Lord at the airport. Our flight from Orlando to Miami was un-eventful and only lasted for an hour. For all intentional purposes, the flight from Miami to Manaus, Brazil was un-eventful except for me losing a crown and having the pin that held the crown in place sticking out of my tooth. You can imagine the thoughts running through my mind. I had no clue what to do other than pray that I could make it

through the trip with minimal pain and back to a dentist in the states.

I thought that I had planned for everything. My shots were still up to date. The only thing that I had miss placed/lost from my last trip was my yellow vaccination card, which you must have! So off to the health department I went to get a copy of my yellow card. I contacted my cell phone provider and signed up for an international calling and data plan. Please don't make the same mistake that I did a few years ago and forget to do this. This simple mistake cost me over \$400





a few years ago when my wife, and I flew to Dominican Republic and forgot to do this, and this was after I talked them into reducing the bill. I had my rain gear, and dry bag packed, and I made sure all my clothes for fishing would dry fast. My passport

was current, so I thought I did a pretty good job of planning for the trip.

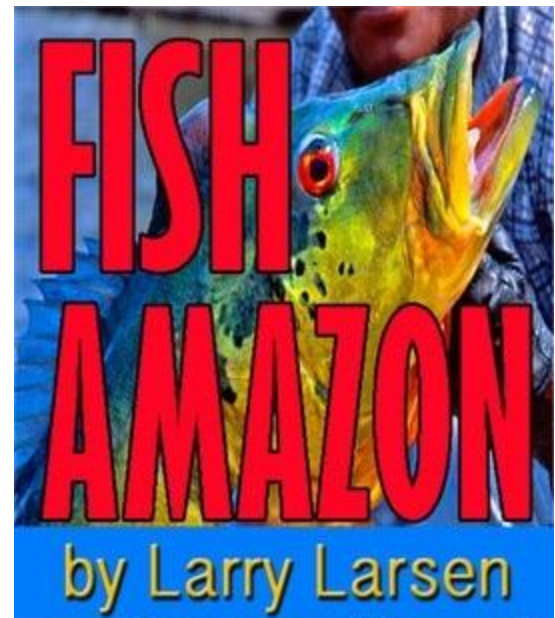
Well, I was kind of sort of prepared for the trip. Nevertheless, if I had missed something, I knew it would not be anything earth shaking. The trip from Miami only took over six hours. A local representative from the Amazon Lord took us to the hotel after we picked up our



luggage. It was a long day and we couldn't wait to get into the hotel and get a shower and good night sleep. We were staying at the TROPICAL Hotels & Resort, Brazil, which I had stayed at on my last trip, which made me feel right at home. I knew the rooms were clean, the beds comfortable, they had hot water and the water was safe to drink. What more could you ask for? Also, I knew that the food was great and they had endless supply of coffee.

Things were still looking up and I can't wait to board the "Amazon Lord".

One thing I would highly recommend that everyone of you do if you are thinking about a trip to Brazil is go on-line and purchase the app "Fish Amazon" that was written by the Amazon Angler himself Mr. Larry Larsen. This is a great app and gives you a lot of great insight on your upcoming trip to the Amazon.





Fishing Season 2014

AMAZON LORD invites you sport fisherman, to come on this amazing journey in search of the great Amazon peacock bass.



Experience the unforgettable expeditions of the Amazon rivers in complete safety and comfort.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

All guests should arrive and stay overnight in Manaus on the Friday before their scheduled Saturday tour. On Saturday morning, after breakfast, guests will be transported to the local airport and take a quick flight to the best fishing spots of the region.



CONTACT - USA
954-793-0091
leticia.usa@amazonlord.com.br



Amazon Fishing Packages' dates and rates for 2014 are below.
Prices and rates might change without further notice.

1st Schedule From June to the 1st half of September 2014

River Region: Madeira, Madeirinha, Sucunduri, Pineapples, Acari, Uatumã, and more. Price per person: \$3550,00 Includes: Air Ticket round-trip Manaus/Olinda/Manaus and one night hotel stay in Manaus. Groups of 16 to 18 people for 6 days of fishing.

2nd Schedule From the 2nd half of September to the 1st half of October/2014

Regions: Rio Negro Mid Section, Jufaris, Demeni, Branco, and more. Closest city: Moura-AM. Price per person: \$3550.00 Includes: Ferry Boat round-trip to Manaus/fishing spots/Manaus and one night hotel stay in Manaus. Groups of 16 to 18 people for 6 days of fishing.

3rd Schedule D From the 2nd half of the October/2014 to March/2015

Regions: Barcelos and Santa Isabel do Rio Negro. Rivers: Negro, Caures, Cuiunim, Paduari, Preto, and more. Closest city: Barcelos-AM. Price per person: \$3850.00 Includes: Air Ticket round-trip Manaus/Barcelos/Manaus and one night hotel stay in Manaus. Groups of 16 to 18 people for 6 days of fishing.



ATTENTION

The above information is subject to change due to region's water level.
The values mentioned does not include airfare tickets from your origin destination to Manaus.

Administration: São Bernardo do Campo - São Paulo - Brazil
Street Marechal Deodoro, 1842 - 2º floor - Center - CEP 09710-201

www.amazonlord.com.br

Submarine Monsters Seen In Southern Lakes

By Bill Vanderford

Now that all Southern waters are feeling the warmth of summer, boaters and anglers are noticing huge shadows that appear to moving slowly several feet below the surface. These underwater monsters often frighten those who are unaware of their presence, but it's nothing to worry about. These more than four feet long, cylindrical objects are nothing more than a resident population of longnose gar.

Although these prehistoric fish will never win any beauty contest, they are abundant in most Southern impoundments and can be fun to catch from the banks or a boat. Some may even weigh up to 45 pounds.

These fish are primarily scavengers. Therefore, gar pose no problems to lake goers or the natural inhabitants, and despite not being caught often by sport fishermen,

they will readily attack both live and artificial baits if presented properly from any shoreline or boat.

In warmer weather, longnose gar frequent the back of coves and can be found in many of the same areas where largemouth bass spawn. They are quite active during spring and summer months, and it is the best time to catch them in shallow water.

Live shiners, shad, or some type of cut-up fish produce the most successful results when trying to catch gar. The best rig is a #4/0 or #5/0 hook at the end of about 12 inches of wire leader material with a barrel swivel between it and the monofilament above it. Use a 1/4 ounce sliding sinker on the monofilament above the wire leader and a bobber about three feet above that. Fish areas where gar have been seen near a shoreline or cast near visible gar that are seen



cruising the banks. If the gar are spooky, it may be necessary to remove the sinker and bobber and drift the bait around the feeding gar.

Gar will also attack minnow-type artificial lures or the famous Swirleybird spinner. One of the best lures for gar, however, is about a foot-long section of nylon rope. Separate the individual strands of the rope up to half the length so that it appears frayed and tie it to the end



of normal monofilament fishing line. A weight can be added on the line above the rope to make for an easier cast and to sink the rope below the surface, but hooks are not necessary. Work this rig slowly around visible gar using a stop-and-go method, and they normally attack. When that happens, their rows of teeth become entangled in the rope, and they can't dislodge the offering. It's very important to remember that gar possess sharp teeth, so never put fingers in their mouth or grab them by their long, toothy snout!

The longnose gar is sometimes referred to as a "poor man's tarpon" because of their aerial tactics. Certainly, hooking into a fish of such speed, size, and power, especially on light tackle, is a thrill. So, if you'd like a new and exciting experience this year, put on the Polaroid sunglasses, search for a few of these submerged monsters, and have a ball! Bill Vanderford has won numerous awards for his writing and photography, and has been inducted into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame as a Legendary Guide. He can be reached at 770-289-1543, at ifish51@aol.com or at his web site: www.georgiafishing.com.

Tie on a Maniac, the fish'll go crazy!

MANIAC

CUSTOM LURES



May 4th, 2013 was the morning of a tournament. I had decided to switch all of my soft plastics to Maniac baits including the Black'n Blue Cut'r Bug as a trailer on my jigs. I had just pulled up to my first spot with excitement running through my blood. As I got closer to the fish I had caught during the pre-fish, my adrenaline started to pump even harder. I flipped my jig into the bushes and WHACK, the first one was on! My partner, seeing that I had caught one, then flipped his jig into the same spot - WHACK, he had one on as well.

After we had our limits with our jigs that included the Maniac CUt'r Bugs as trailers, it was time to switch it up a bit. Farther into the trees and bushes we went. To our surprise, we saw a giant bass just sitting there sunning. My partner flipped a Maniac Salt Stick and it was ferociously attacked by that big bass. With that fish in the boat, we had a pretty good limit for that particular lake. We ended up winning the tournament that day, and what a glorious moment that was. I will forever use Maniac CUt'r Bugs as trailers on my jigs, and will always have Maniac Salt Sticks on hand.

Thank you, Maniac Custom Lures, for the great baits and for helping me win when others struggled to catch a fish. For us, the catching never stopped.



3.5" Cut'r Bug as a jig trailer
#030 - June Bug

Tim (BIG DOG) Rawlings



5" Maniac Salt Stick
#013 - Changeable Craw



3.5" Cut'r Bug
#070 - Mother Craw



Rigging For Catfish

By Ron Presley

Whitey Outlaw is well known for his pro crappie fishing adventures, but he also knows something about catfish. He is a consistent competitor on the Bass Pro Shops Crappie Masters tournament trail. Occasionally catfish will show up unexpectedly while pushing spider rigs for



crappie or jigging around the pads, but when he gets serious, and wants to put catfish in the boat, he pulls out his favorite equipment and bait.

His choice of rods are the B'n'M Silvercat poles. The glow-in-the dark tip will help you see the lightest of bites, especially during night-time fishing. The medium action blank has a combination of beef and sensitivity that catfish anglers yearn for.

Whitey does not believe in skimping when going after what might be a record sized catfish. His reels are spooled with 65 pound test Vicious Braid. The line is chosen for its strength and durability. Since it has no stretch he can feel the slightest strike and react with the necessary hook set to catch the big cats.

The terminal rig begins by stringing an orange bead up the Vicious Braid, followed by a barrel sinker, followed by another bead. Finish by tying on a 5/0 or 6/0 Team Catfish circle hook with an improved clench knot. Remember when using Team Catfish circle hooks you don't set the hook hard like bass anglers do. Just lift the rod firmly and smoothly letting the hook do its intended job. This simple slip sinker rig allows a catfish to take the bait without feeling the weight of the sinker which could make the fish let go.

A live bream is Whitey's bait of choice to add to the Team Catfish circle hook, but cut-up shad will do just fine if the livies aren't available.

Whitey advises catfish anglers to be prepared and don't be fooled by catfish folklore! "Use heavier line than you think you might need, because you never know when you will hook a 70 or 80 pound fish." His second tip deals with what he labels a myth. "You don't always have to find deep water for big fish. A lot of big catfish will show up in 4 to 6 foot of water when bait and other conditions are right. The myth of big catfish always being real deep simply isn't true."

Rig it simple, bait it right, and have some fun on your favorite catfish adventure.



Why Fish?

D & B Ice Adventures

We thought that because our fishing opportunities are a bit more limited this time of the year, we would take a look back at why we fish incorporated into some stories from our past.

From an early age, we were both exposed to an outdoor lifestyle. Hunting, fishing, and everything outdoors was in our blood. We were truly fortunate to have grown up with many opportunities right outside our front doors. Because of this, our experience has allowed us to share our knowledge and passion with many of those around us.

My family (Dylan) has a camp on a 400-acre lake in central Vermont. I've spent the majority of my 26 years fishing predominately there. Now that I have a boat, truck, and the drive to learn, my fishing locations have vastly expanded, but I still get a kick out of taking my cousin's kids out and holding back on showing them my "secret spots." Many of these secret spots are the places I take them to and just don't tell them. Part of the joy of fishing is the unknown. Fishing

NEW!!

**WITH ATTITUDE
SHORT STRIKES ARE OVER!**

Fish can't resist the **Bleedin' Frog**
and now it has serious attitude!
Attitude in the form of the
Frog-Tail trailer hook!



Three hooks result
in a frog with serious
attitude and serious
fish catching power!

The New Bleedin' Frog with Attitude!

WWW.SNAGPROOF.COM
800-762-4773



CONNIE@SNAGPROOF.COM
513-489-6483

ORDER TODAY!

ORDER TODAY!

Made In The USA!

with them isn't all about the catching but that never hurts. With them, I learn the importance of digging up good worms, comparing tackle, and most importantly, being quiet so we don't scare the fish away (Even though that's my rule)!

Although D B has only been at it for a short time, it has been in the works for over a decade. Back when D was in junior high, B was a basketball referee for his local games. Now fast forward several years to a mid winter encounter at a gas station. We caught up, talked fishing, and made plans for a trip before ice out. Since then, fish have been released, eaten, and only the big ones lost in the final feet. Oh, and let's not get started on the lonely hours our significant others have endured, having to share food space with our live bait in the fridge, and the money spent on "vital" equipment.

People fish for various reasons. Some fish for fun, a nice relaxing day on the water, time with friends and family, or to put food on the table. I (Bobby) fish for the surprise as you never know what you're going to get. One of my best surprises came well into my fishing career, actually just this past winter. We fish mostly for panfish, using all the latest flashers and jigs and custom rods and all that expensive stuff. Very rarely do we set up and use tip ups; it's just not our style. Well, for some reason, on this particular day we thought it might



add a little excitement to our deep water search for Lake Champlain crappie. We set up about a dozen flags and passed the time in between by jigging. The bite was a little slow through the morning but picked up midday. A few pikes and some small crappie kept us on our toes. One particular flag caught me at the right time, and I made a run for it before Dylan did. As I set the hook, I could feel that the fish had some weight to it. I slowly pulled up the line until I saw a flash, I said, "this better not be a crappie!" as I could see it was large, and we knew there was some nice bass around. Up through the hole came a giant hybrid crappie by my standards. I was in total shock as my buddies ran over to take a look at the beast. This moment made me think back to the feeling I had when I was a nine-year-old running to camp with my 12-inch smallmouth. I told you I was nine; everything was huge back then.

This past winter, I (Dylan) got my girlfriend out on the ice a few times. Not wanting to push her away from ice fishing because of the cold or a tough bite, we went to a sure-fire location for bluegill and pumpkinseed. The weather seemed nice to me but after two-month outdoors, you might say I was a little tempered... The fish were biting and the sun was shining, but she wanted to warm up, so I set her up in my Clam Fish Trap Pro TC. Although she was set up with the ultimate entertainment experience with the crystal-clear water loaded with fish below her feet, she couldn't resist her cell phone. What happened next you might ask? Well, of the many times, I have checked or answered my phone while on the water, not once have I dropped it. In this particular instance, I guess we could call it beginners luck for finding a perfect opening in the small 6 " hole. On the plus side, she now has a fancy iPhone, and I have an excuse to not be on the phone all day! Oh and she still likes fishing!

No matter where you are at in your fishing career, never base your successes and failures solely on the quantity or quality of fish you catch. We fish because we love it, whether it's the surprise, the challenge or just to put food on the table, it is truly a life time sport, one that we



hope to pass on to our children and grandchildren. Take time every trip to reflect on what makes your time on the water enjoyable and remembers that you are never too good to dig up a bucket of worms!

FISHING WITH RC COOK SR



I'm partial to fishing with a RAT-L-TRAP, and I have dozens of good reasons for doing so. First and probably most importantly it's all about catching fish and doing so consistently. So if you bear with me over the next few issues, I'm going to tell you how I use a variety of them to consistently catch fish year round. Already having some doubts??? Then let's look at it realistically and from the fishes viewpoint:

Shad and minnows are in your local Lake year round. And they are a primary food source for most freshwater fish, including bass and cropping. I'm going to show you how to take the 1/4 ounce or three-quarter ounce silver sided blue or black back one and not only catch fish consistently but do so year round.

Sometimes there's more to just throwing a bait out there and reeling it in 90 miles an hour. I also want to cover a little finesse in using them no matter what mood the fish are in you can get their attention. That's the wonderful aspects of using them it does most of the work for you. It has great swim action, and of course that unmistakable rattling sound and we all know that fish are attracted to sound.

However, as we progress in this series, I'm going to tell you how to use other shades, colors and weights to catch any species of freshwater fish. And yes we'll be discussing them for use in saltwater fishing as well. You need to get yourself a couple of them in the above-mentioned weights and colors and start experiencing the fun of catching fish. Certainly, you can use them with almost any type rod and reel, but I prefer a 6 1/2 medium action-spinning rig.



Since no one seems to really have a lock on where fish are at any given time I like to use what I call the search and find method. And they will find fish for you if you're not afraid to apply some

of the techniques we'll cover here. Search and find simply consists of making long casts and covering lots of water. Catch a fish then fish that area for a few more minutes and see if his closest relative his hanging around close by. If not move a little further down the line and continue the long casts and covering water. As you retrieve your bait as with just about any other lure, and you're not seemingly getting a bit with the normal retrieve slow it down a little or bring it in a little faster. Or try my favorite every few yards giving the trap a quick jerk creating a burst of rattling noise. This will frequently get a nearby fishes attention, and he'll come to investigate and fall right into your trap LOL.

You don't think fish like them recall many times when I caught two Bass at the same time on them. When Bass want to fight over a lure that's the lure I want to use. Years ago I was probably as guilty as most for picking lures that caught my eye notably forgetting I'm not a fish. When you get your one hang it over the side of the boat pulling it along just under the water surface and look at the action for yourself. Just watching it should tell you it's going to attract fish. As we progress in this series we will continue to elaborate on other techniques for using them. Stay tuned next we're going to cover some unbelievable things you can do with a crawfish colored lure. And I'll tell about a place where a crawfish lure works you may not have thought about.

WHAT'S HOT NOW



554 Cherry Bomb



540 Chrome Black Zombie



532 Rayburn Red Zombie

Every year we see trends in sales of our lures and this year there is no doubt that the Cherry Bomb color has literally exploded. We haven't seen anything this hot since Toledo Gold came out.

CUSTOMER REQUESTS



559 Calli Craw



558 Delta Craw



581 Lavender Shad

At Bill Lewis Lures, we pride ourselves on listening to our customers. Each year there are a few colors people stay on us to make. Above are the new colors we've added this year per your request.

Rat-L-Trap®

www.rat-l-trap.com



Lake Guntersville 9th Annual Snag Proof Open Team Registration

You can also register online at www.snagproof.com!

1. Boater (Team Captain) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
Zip _____ Phone () _____
Email _____
Emergency Contact _____
Phone _____

2. Non-Boater PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
Zip _____ Phone () _____
Email _____
Emergency Contact _____
Phone _____

3. Order Your T-Shirt

T-Shirts are \$15 (\$18 for 2X & 3X) each, please add to the total amount of your payment.

All shirts are long sleeve.

☐ S Quantity _____
☐ M Quantity _____
☐ L Quantity _____
☐ XL Quantity _____
☐ 2X Quantity _____
☐ 3X Quantity _____

Total Number of Shirts _____ Amount Due \$ _____

4. Payments

Tournament Entry (Includes BigBass) (\$180)
T-Shirts (Total Box 3) _____

Total Payment _____ ☐ Check Enclosed

Credit/Debit Payment

Name (As it appears on card) _____

Card Type ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ AE

Card Number _____

Expires ____/____/____

CVV Code (Last 3 digits on the back) _____

Billing Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

5. Liability Release Please Read and Sign

A. In signing this agreement, I hereby release Snag Proof Mfg. Inc./Xtreme Bass Series, its officers, agents, employees and sponsors (herein referred to as Snag Proof) from any and all damages, claims, demands, cost or expenses relating to injury of any person(s) or any property, which I may sustain or which I may cause by reason of participating in or in connection with any and all Snag Proof events.

B. Covenant not to sue and Waiver of Subrogation: I further agree that I will never sue Snag Proof for damages on account of any injury or damage I suffer or cause whether known now or which may develop in the future. In the event Snag Proof is sued because of my actions, I expressly agree to indemnify and hold Snag Proof harmless from any liability whatsoever, including court cost and attorney's fees, arising with respect to such actions. I understand that in waiving my rights to sue Snag Proof I am also waiving my rights of recovery from Snag Proof of my Insurance carrier for any claims they may pay on my behalf. I further understand that by signing this agreement I waive any rights my heirs or relatives have or may have to sue Snag Proof for liability.

C. Verification of Liability Insurance: I state that I maintain liability insurance on the boat I will use in this or any Snag Proof event.

D. Truth Verification: Polygraph or truth verification may be given at any time at the discretion of the officers of Snag Proof. Refusal or failure of polygraph or truth verification will automatically eliminate team members' participation from all future Snag Proof events.

E. Camera Release: I hereby grant Snag Proof the unconditional rights to use my voice, photographic likeness and biographical information and fishing tips and instructions in connection with all Snag Proof video/audio production, promotions and/or other compensation in connection with such use.

F. I signify by my signature that I have read, understand and agree to abide by all rules and regulations and decisions set forth by Snag Proof tournament officials.

G. Snag Proof reserves the right to refuse membership and/or participation in any event for any reason.

Boater _____ Date _____ Non-Boater _____ Date _____

6. Fax or Mail Your Form

Please mail your completed registration form along with a check or money order payable to Snag Proof Open to:

11387 Deerfield Road • Cincinnati, OH 45242
Phone: 513-489-6483 • Fax: 513-489-0387





Short Line Cranks for Walleyes

By Jason Mitchell

No two lakes are ever the same, so there is no rubber stamp that covers all situations when it comes to fish location. That is the beauty of fishing, you can put together a pattern that works really well on a given fishery and then travels twenty miles and find a completely different set of rules. Even on a given lake, different parts of a lake will have unique characteristics that set each area apart. Places with multiple personalities. Leech Lake in northern Minnesota fits that mold along with Devils Lake in North Central North Dakota.

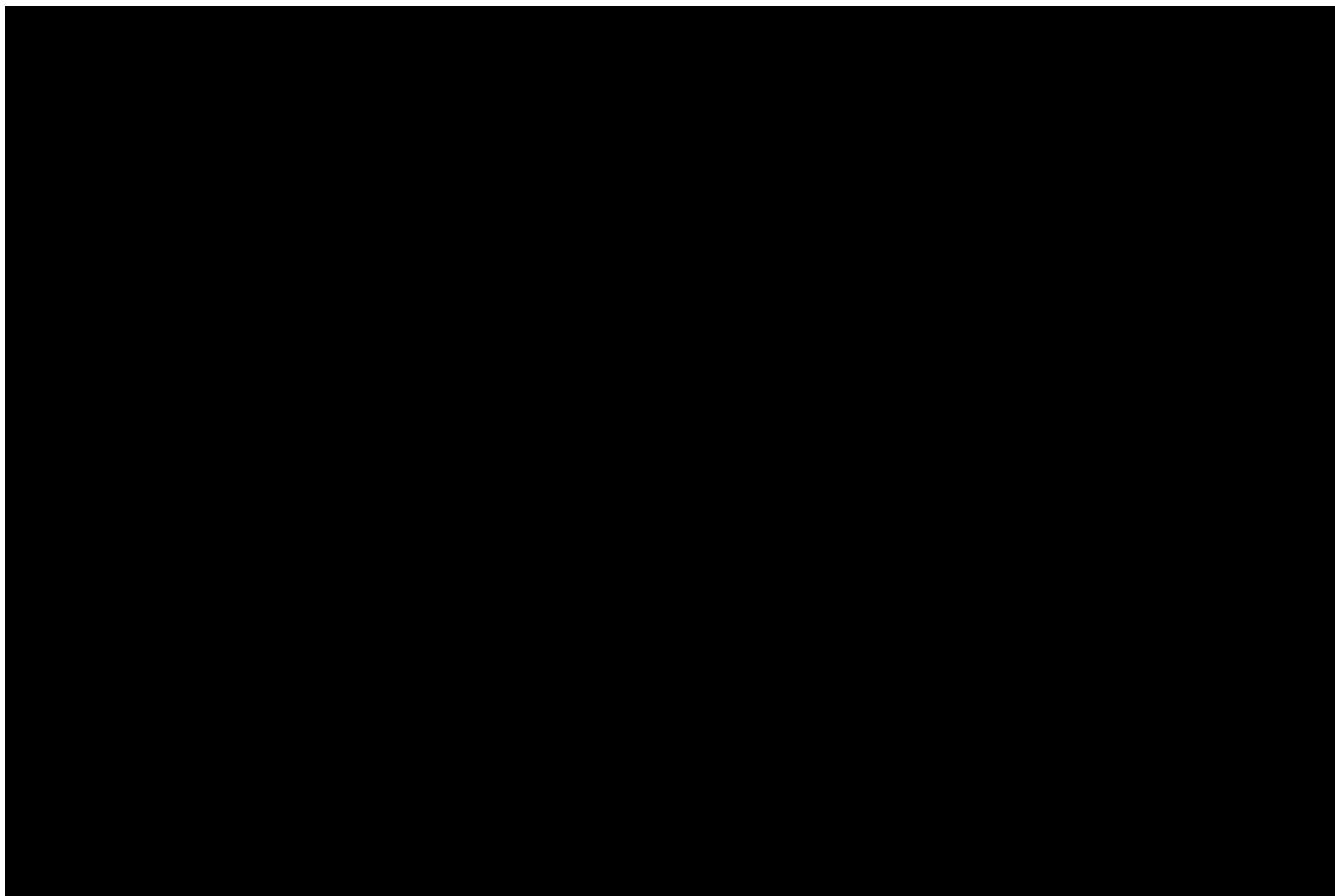
Jason Votova and Jason Mitchell caught several respectable walleye on Lake Sakakawea last season with shallow crank bait trolling patterns while filming an episode for Jason Mitchell Outdoors.



Come mid-summer, the reality is that most major walleye fisheries will reveal several patterns happening in unison. There usually is no silver bullet where every walleye in the lake is following the same program. There are usually fish using deep structure, fish over basins, fish that are suspended and shallow patterns that might require weeds or wind. All of these different patterns happening at once

to often reflect the diversity of many forage bases. Throw in several desirable forage fish along with invertebrate activity and the options on where to look is endless.

Many anglers try to analyze the lake or forage and then work their way from the top. The old adage of angling... find a walleye's meal, and you will find walleye. The trouble with this mentality is that we often don't know what the best option is until we spend some time on the water. I often like to approach fishing with a different mindset. Find walleye, sample as much water as possible and then figure out why the fish are where they are.



At the end of the day, fish can be anywhere, and they are where you find them. After the fact, you can figure out the reasons why and then try to duplicate the spot or pattern with better Intel, but if you get ahead of yourself, you can sometimes make bad moves or decisions because you don't know what you think you know. I have made that mistake many times assuming the fish were relating to a specific forage or pattern and finding out I was dead wrong. About half the time, the fish are where they should be and the other times; the fish are not where they should be so if you stay flexible while trolling, the times when the fish aren't where they should be is a little less painful.

This is why I love crank baits. Not because they match the hatch or look like something a fish will eat. Obviously a crank bait looks like a meal but more importantly, trolling cranks allows me to sample an amazing amount of water and allows me to look at a lot of different locations during a day of fishing. If you cover enough water and look over enough spots, you will sooner or later see signs of life.



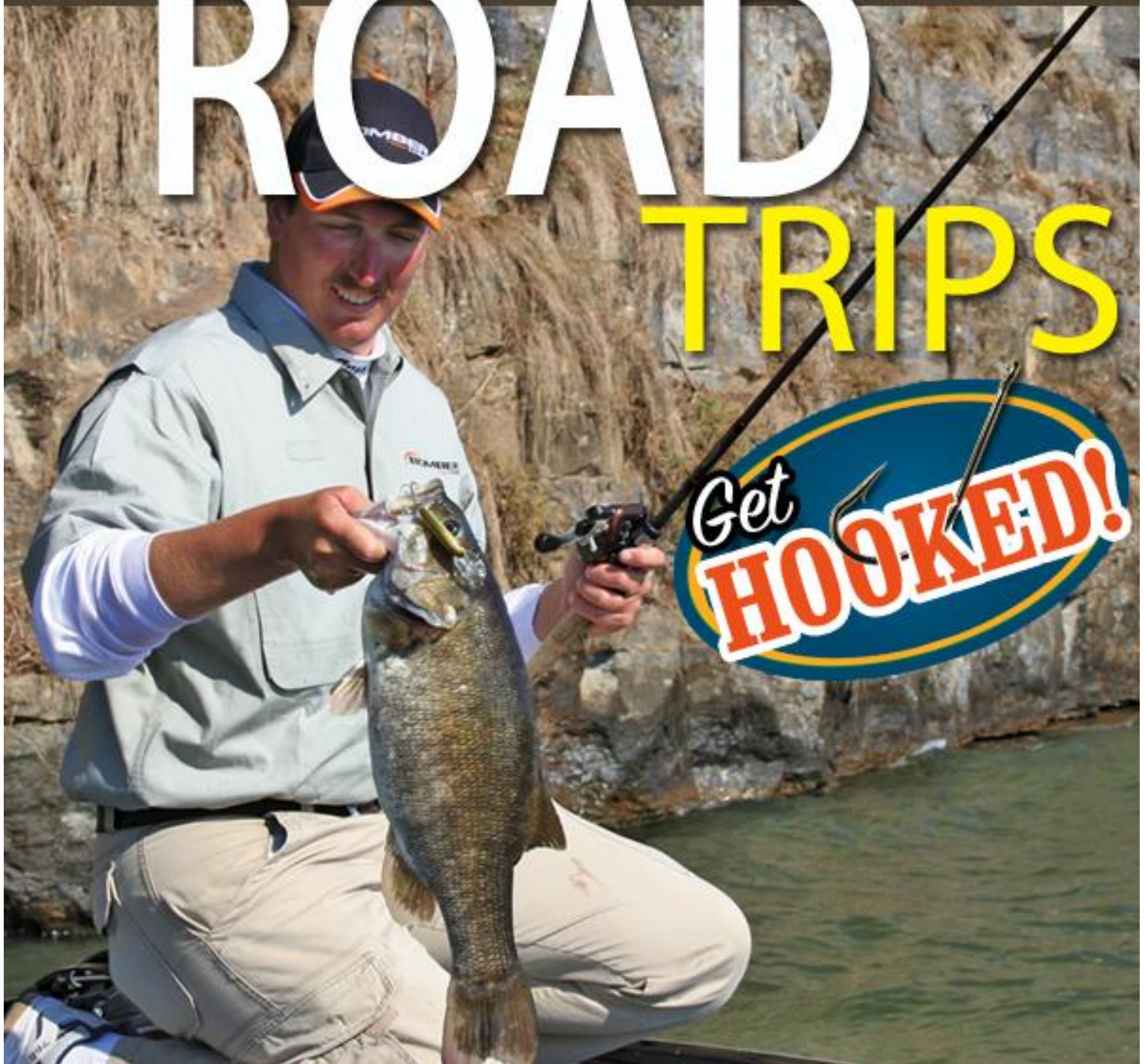
Many anglers rely on trolling cranks to break down basins, big contours and main lake water come midsummer but one of my favorites go to strategies is to troll crank baits along shoreline structure. As I write this in late June, we are already seeing a solid trolling bite develop on Devils Lake. The water came up a few feet this spring, and the pattern has been trolling Salmo Hornets in the clean water between the inside edge of the old weed beds from last summer and the shorelines, often trolling in less than six feet of water. We have seen this pattern hold during past years all summer long. Especially on north shorelines where the weeds created a deep shadow during the middle of the day.

Last summer, Jason Votova and myself trolled Salmo SDR Bullheads in the back bays of Lake Sakakawea in July and ran cranks right behind the boat in less than ten feet of water to catch some beautiful fish. We were focusing on submerged trees and bushes that were located along sharp shoreline breaks, and the fish were stacked in these locations. These shallow patterns happen so often, and the reality is that on some locations, you don't have to troll to catch these fish, but the advantage of trolling is that you can keep the bait running along the contour, and you can cover water to find active fish.

Some anglers struggle and get frustrated with shallow trolling patterns, in particular, because they worry too much about the boat spooking the fish. As a result, they let out too much line and that hampers your efficiency dramatically. I have made this mistake many times. If there is any stain in the water or wind, the fish just don't seem to mind a boat passing by so keep the lures right behind the boat with less than fifty feet of line out. Sometimes, we run cranks with only ten



NORTH ALABAMA ROAD TRIPS



800-648-5381 • NORTHALABAMA.ORG

to fifteen feet of line out right behind the prop and catch way more fish.

By shortening the amount of line out, you can easier follow tight contours and the efficiency increases because you are less likely to lose a fish when bringing the fish in on less line, less can go wrong and there is a shorter journey to the net. You can also crank lures up faster to clean debris and over the course of the day, you have your baits in the zone that much longer. I also believe the flash of the prop actually attracts fish, especially in stained water.

For whatever reason, fish seem spookier earlier in the season but as the summer progresses, they seem to become less spooky of the boat. Not sure if algae or other factors stain the water more or if fish that are more aggressive with a higher metabolism just react differently. With that being said, focus on efficiency. Stack the lures right behind the boat when following contours and put the boat right where the lures need to be. Avoid planer boards unless you have to use them. Some scenarios where we had to use boards included clear water with great visibility and open water along with flats or contours that just required a wider swath of lures spread out to contact fish but typically, the weed growth and scum is grown up enough by now where fouling baits is a part of life, and you can get in and cleaned off much quicker without boards. Many anglers assume that fish are scared to death of the boat and feel like they have to either let out a lot of line or use boards, but this mentality can often be a big mistake.

Typically, reservoir fish, in particular, are notorious for being here today and gone tomorrow, but fish on lakes can also move plenty as well. Different wind directions and other factors that create on and off bite where you have to find the fish each day are perfect trolling scenarios. I also like to troll whenever I feel like I am wearing out my welcome on a spot regardless of



presentation being used. If you sit on an area for two or three days in a row and the spot starts to wear out, trolling is a good way to cover water and find good spots again. Sometimes you can troll simply to find fish and then come in behind with other presentations and clean house. Other times, you can use the trolling game to find fish but also

keep contacting new fish and stick with the program all day. Big spots are obviously the best for trolling, but you can also make big moves and cover big amounts of water even when or if the sweet spots are small when you are in search mode.

Keep the program simple and hang on, crank bait trolling patterns are explosive where you not only can find fish but also put a lot of fish in the boat. When fishing gets tough, pick up your speed and search. An average speed might be two miles per hour but don't hesitate to move at three miles per hour or more. On really hot flat days when the bite is difficult, I often do the best by trolling fast with the big motor as the big motor makes it easier (psychologically) to troll fast, and the big aluminum props turning seems to turn on fish. In fact, underwater, a big aluminum prop looks like a disco ball with all the light getting reflected. The amount of flash is incredible. This tactic especially works well when the water really gets dark or green from algae blooms.

When covering water and trying to find fish and ultimately putting together a pattern, there are many misconceptions with trolling. The whole key for finding fish is to be amazingly efficient. When you are in search mode, you are basically looking to contact fresh pods of fish and you have to bank on the fact that there will be at least some fish in that school that is going to gun you down and eat. With that in mind, fish high in the water column enough where you don't pick up debris constantly and fish as close to the boat as possible. By fishing close to the boat when possible, the efficiency goes up dramatically when exploring shallow patterns.

Editor's Note: Watch Jason Mitchell Outdoors on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am on Fox Sports North. More information can be found online at www.jasonmitchelloutdoors.com or on the official Facebook Page of JMO.

KEEPAMERICA FISHING™

The Voice *of the* American Angler

Did you know
people want to stop
us from fishing?

Get Involved Today!

www.KeepAmericaFishing.org



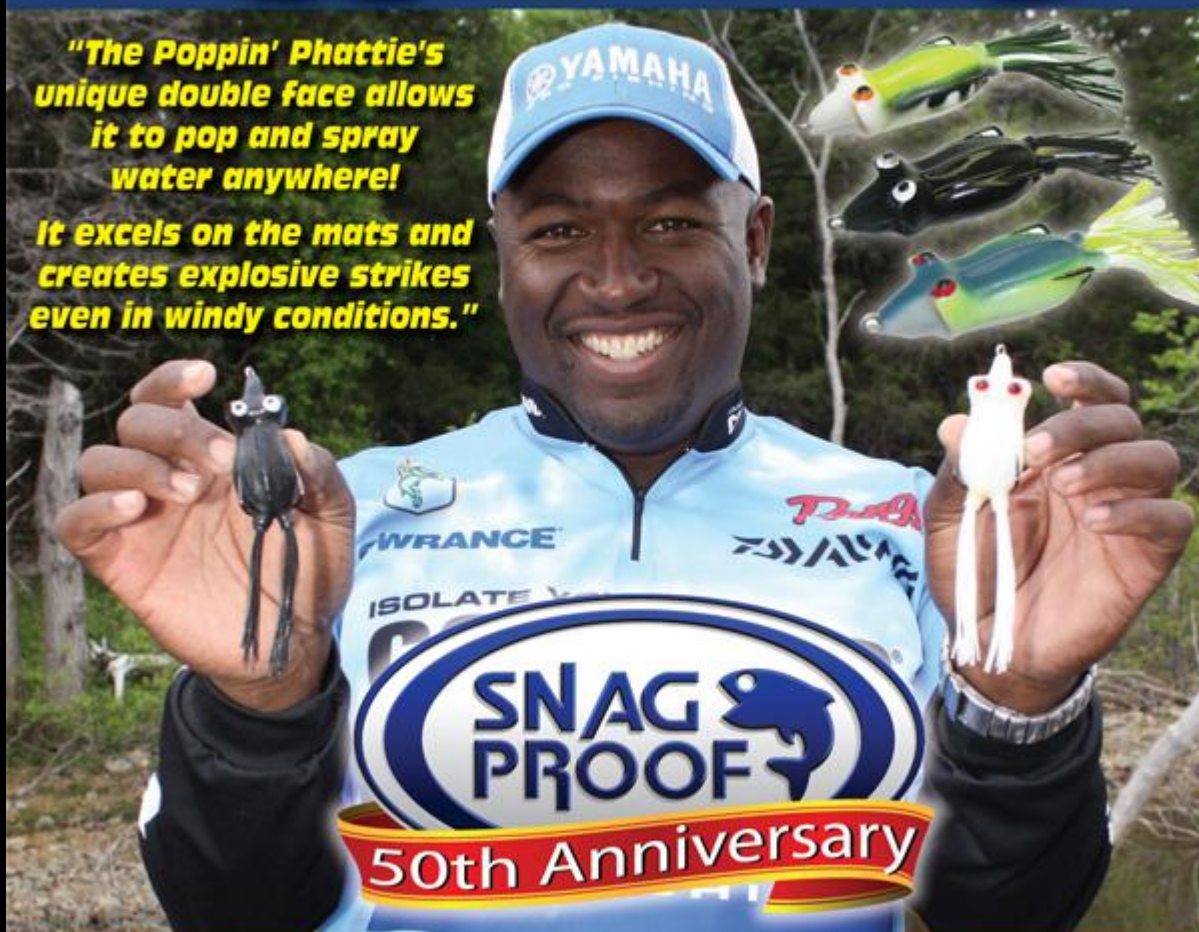
KeepAmericaFishing™ is a registered trademark of the American Sportfishing Association.



The Ultimate Poppin' Frog!

"The Poppin' Phattie's unique double face allows it to pop and spray water anywhere!"

It excels on the mats and creates explosive strikes even in windy conditions."



**Made In The
USA!**

1-800-762-4773
www.snagproof.com

**ORDER
TODAY!**

The Rise of the Snake Head

By Chris Jenkins



The sport of fishing has taken an odd twist in the state of Virginia. Bass fishing still dominates the region, but there is a new sheriff in town. Its big, it's strong, and it loves to brawl. To top it off, it eats anything that will fit into its mouth. I am talking about the Northern Snakehead. It looks like a mutation

between a fish, an eel, and a snake. Its smile bears a row of nasty teeth, and it definitely has a big chip on its shoulder. It reminds me a lot of a Grindle. Some people refer to them as a Bowfin or Mudfish in the Deep South. The Grindle or bowfin, *Amia calva*, is the last surviving member of the order Amiiformes (which includes three additional, now-extinct families dating from the Jurassic, to the Eocene). Both the Snakehead and the bowfin are able to breathe air, using its swim bladder, which is connected to its gastrointestinal tract and allows it to regulate buoyancy in the water, and act as a primitive lung. The fish can be seen coming to the surface and gulping air. This limits it to a specific depth range in which the surface is accessible. They tend to use shoreline habitats that are not accessible to other predatory fish. Both the Snakehead and the Bowfin have a nasty attitude and have a tendency to wreak havoc on your gear if you are not prepared to do battle with them. Like my pappy use to say, "Don't bring a butter knife to a gun fight".

Native to Korea and Russia, the Snakehead has been around for a very long time but first showed up locally in a pond in Maryland back in 2002. (Prior to that these fish were sold in pet stores for aquariums.) They grow quite rapidly under the right circumstances, and I imagine they were released into the wild once they outgrew their fish tanks. Rotenone was used in an attempt to eradicate the snakeheads in Maryland, but I believe this was not an isolated incident. Shortly afterwards these fish started showing up elsewhere and eventually took a strong hold in the Potomac River. With plenty of food and plenty of room, these fish are thriving and growing at an alarming rate. At the beginning of June, a gentleman by the name of Caleb Newton latched onto what could be the next world record snakehead while fishing Aquia Creek, which is a tributary of the Potomac River. The fish weighed in at 17 pounds and six ounces. The current world record stands at 17 pounds and four ounces and was caught in Japan back in 2004. Last year, an even larger snakehead weighing about 18 1/2 pounds was caught in the area as Caleb's, but that angler did not go through the certification process.

As fun as it may be to tangle with these beasts, they are not being welcomed with open arms. I was recently told that if a fisherman catches a northern snakehead in D.C. waters, the city says he should immediately kill it. Nearby jurisdictions have similar rules.

Virginia and Maryland encourage you to kill snakeheads as well. The difference is that when you catch one in Virginia, and you want to take it home, or you want to leave the water with it; you have to let Virginia know. If you want to take it home to eat it, that's fine as long as it's dead. You're not allowed to possess a live snakehead. In Maryland, the rules differ slightly. "They say you don't have to report it. Just take the snakehead home as long as it's not alive. It is also a federal violation to take a snakehead across state lines alive.

So it seems the snakehead is getting an awfully bad rap. That's understandable considering the damage we have seen from the invasive Asian carp and shellfish that over filter many of our waters. The evidence leads us to believe that delicate balance of the ecosystem does not go unaffected when a new species is introduced. How the snakehead has or will affect our waters is unclear at this point. Because the fish is so aggressive, it only stands to reason that it will compete for food with our beloved bass. The National Geographic Channel reports that the "northern snakehead reaches sexual maturity by age 2 or 3. Each spawning-age female can release up to 15,000 eggs at once. Snakeheads can mate as often as five times a year. This means in just two years□ a single female can release up to 150,000 eggs. Common sense seems to dictate that the snakehead is a recipe for disaster. I don't want to be the one to shout "burn the witch" as it pertains to the snake head though. In fact, there are several well-known guides on the Potomac River that have said they have not seen any negative effects thus far. Some even stated that the snakehead adds enjoyment for their clients. Unlike bass at times, they are not picky and will attack an easy meal with ill intentions. I would imagine a bad day of bass fishing could be salvaged by a few ten-pound snakeheads exploding on a topwater frog. That is unless you are fishing a tournament, at which point it could become quite frustrating. Will the presence of these fish change future professional circuit locations? Big tournaments bring big money to town, and the presence of snakeheads could affect which towns reap the benefits. As for cashing in on the snakehead, a smart fella might just begin designing a signature snakehead rod and an Amazon like line of lures to combat these prehistoric toothy critters. One day there may be guided trips and cash tournaments that target this feisty fish. As for now though, the only one turning these lemons into lemonade are a few select restaurants. As it turns out, the snakehead appears to be a tasty dish and in high demand in certain areas. If nothing else, this fish is intriguing, and I have to wonder what the future holds in the way of the Snakehead.

**Northern Snakehead
Distinguishing Features**

**Long dorsal fin • small head • large mouth • big teeth •
length up to 40 inches • weight up to 15 pounds**

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS FISH?



**The northern snakehead from China is not native to
Maryland waters and could cause serious problems if
introduced into our ecosystem.**

**If you come across this fish,
PLEASE DO NOT RELEASE.**

**Please KILL this fish by cutting/bleeding
as it can survive out
of water for several days and REPORT all catches to
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Fisheries Service. Thank you.**

**Phone: 410 260 8320
TTY: 410 260 8835
Toll Free: 1 877 620 8DNR (8367) Ext 8320
E-mail: customerservice@dnr.state.md.us**



Chris Jenkins
sowbelly.hunter@yahoo.com

Crocodile Bay Lodge – Costa Rica My Return, Part 2

By Larry Thornhill

As I mentioned in my prior article visiting Costa Rica is like eating a (Lay's Potato Chip™) you just can't visit it once. Costa Rica fishing can and has become addictive, very addictive.

My wife, daughter and my first day of fishing started with an early-morning breakfast and of



course, plenty of coffee for me and off to the boat we went. My wife decided to enjoy the pool and sun and left Kree and I to do our thing. We walked down to the marina and met our Capt. German, and his 1st Mate Anthony got into the boat and off, we went. We had about a 20-minute run to the Rock and started fishing. My daughter, Kree, broke the ice shortly after stopping she started things off with a 15 lb. Pompano, we no sooner got that back in the water and started trolling again, and then she landed a 10 lb. Jack, then another Pompano and another one. Then we finally got into the Rooster; she landed four in a row with the largest being just a little over 12 lb.'s. Little did she know this was just a training exercise for what was about to happen? As you can see from the picture, the scenery is breathtaking. The waves gently breaking on the shoreline and blowing up on the rocks just like the scene out of the movie South Pacific.



We continued trolling staying anywhere from 200 to 300 yards off the coastline. After four Rooster, three pompano and one Jack, my daughter finally let me catch a fish. I managed to squeeze in two Pompano and one Jack before she caught another nice Rooster, and I managed to catch another Jack before we made about a 30-minute run back to the Rock. Kree started the action off again with a 20lb Jack and found out why we use a fighting belt. This was the first time she had ever used a fighting belt and this eight-minute fight was just a small part of preparing her for her next fight.

Now keep in mind that my daughter is a very independent woman, an extremely fast learner and loves to be able to say she did everything on her own, so for the next battle she picked out her own bait from the live well, she did let Anthony do his thing rigging the bait with tying his special knot, but that was as far as it went. She let the bait out and attached her line to the out riggers and waited for the action. She had no idea of what she was about to encounter. From her previous battle with a 20lb Jack and an eight-minute fight and

CROCODILE BAY RESORT, COSTA RICA

COSTA RICA'S PREMIER SPORT FISHING, ECO TOUR, & LUXURY SPA DESTINATION

WORLD CLASS SPORT FISHING FOR
MARLIN, SAILFISH, ROOSTERFISH, TUNA, SNAPPER
AND MORE CALL TO BOOK TODAY!

USA Reservations Office

1-800-733-1115

www.crocodilebay.com

BOOK NOW ▶



August and September ONLY!

***Win a FREE Gray Taxidermy
Replica of Your Rooster Catch
Click for Details!**

Kree Morales with 50lb Rooster at Crocodile Bay Resort From Feature Article

***25% OFF
TRIPS AUGUST
THROUGH
SEPTEMBER!
WITH THIS AD**



Crocodile Bay Resort - USA Reservations Office - 1250 North McDowell, Petaluma, CA 94954 USA Office 1.800.733.1115
local (707) 559 - 7990 fax (707) 559 - 7997 web - www.crocodilebay.com email - info@crocodilebay.com CST# 2049694-10

her 15lb Rooster, she knew you never took anything for granted especially a Rooster! Just because you have it to the boat, means nothing to a Rooster. Years ago, I had one to the boat four times, and before I could get it in the boat, it still had enough fight left for one more run, and that was on light tackle. She was all set up for a battle with a Marlin or sailfish or whatever else may come along, and thank god she was. Something hit her line, and off it went. Anthony was coaching on her on when you reel and when to pump and reel and when you just let the fish run. Five minutes passed, still no sign of the fish; ten minutes pass, still on no sign; Kree was starting to get arm cramps and was ready for the belt. Fifteen minutes passed, arm, back and leg cramps were setting in, and she was ready for the fighting chair. Twenty minutes into the fight and she finally got the fish close enough to the surface to see that it was a monster. And as before once it saw the boat off it went again for another run. As you can imagine by this time fatigue, cramps and dehydration set in. Nevertheless, the battle was not over by a long shot. Little did she know that she had another five-minute battle on her hand? However, this time victory would be hers. Kree had battled for over twenty-five minutes and won her epic fight with a 50lb plus monster Rooster. You have no idea how proud it makes a father feel to see his daughter take on such a fight and win. I know she will never forget her first trip to Crocodile Bay and her first monster ROOSTER. Just think all this activity occurred during the first half of the day, what a way to start!



minute battle left on me before I/we managed to land a 40lb Rooster.

We continued fishing around the Rock and I managed to tie into a 25lb Red Snapper, what a fight, and boy was it good eating. What a feast we had for dinner. About twenty minutes later my rod bowed, the line sprang out of the downrigger and the reel started singing. I grabbed the rod, set the hook and the fight was on. Five minutes passed without seeing the fish, ten minutes into the fight and I saw it was another monster Rooster. What a way to be ending the day, five minutes later I managed to land my 45lb Rooster.

What a way to end the day. My daughter kicked my butt; she caught 6½ Roosters, two Jacks and three Pompano. I managed to catch one ½ Roosters, two Jacks, two Pompano and one Snapper. Kree's largest

A few minutes later Kree's down rigger popped and another fish on; Kree grabbed the rod, set the hook and the fight was on! Five minutes passed; ten minutes passed; she was exhausted. The prior fight lasting a good 25 minutes and this 10 minute battle was a little more than she or just about anyone else could handle is a short period of time, myself included. She handed the rod and the fight over to me. I managed to get the fish close enough to the boat to see it was another huge Rooster before it took off again. Kree had tired the fish out enough that I only had a three-minute run; five-



Rooster was 50lb plus, while mine topped the scale at 45lb. What a day we had. We ended the day with eight Rooster's (one 50lb+ and one 45lb+) four Jacks, five Pompano and one delicious Red Snapper. A pretty good day in anyone's book, and yes I took credit-catching ½ of the 40lb Rooster. Kree kicked my butt and worked for every fish she caught. There was no one who was going to set her hooks, reel in the fish and then hands her the rod to put the fish in the boat. If she was going to take credit for catching the fish, she was GOING TO CATCH THE FISH point bland end of story and she did.

They gave us the option to go off shore and for some Marlin or Sailfish, the next day or repeat today's adventure. Guess what we decided to do? Yep you're right! We decided to repeat today's adventure. Kree and I both love fishing and the thought of catching a Marlin or sailfish was exciting, but we had a blast doing what we did today.

The next day started about the same Kree catching the fish and me following behind her. I managed to catch a monster Barracuda, at least in my book that was approximately 57" long. No, I did not actually measure it, have you seen the teeth on a barracuda? I am not going to get close to the mouth of one that's alive, it's has more teeth then the 5lb black piranha that I caught in Brazil. However, I must say it was also very good eating. Kree managed to catch the largest Rooster again today; it has become a habit with her, and she loves it, and if the truth is to be told so , do I! We ended the day catching three Roosters, the largest weighing in at 25lb, Bonita, Barracuda, Rock Snapper, Jacks and a Mullet Snapper. Not a bad day in my book.

For more information visit <http://www.crocodilebay.com/resort>. "Part 3" of the adventure will cover our jungle adventure and what it feels like to be setting around the pool when a Point 7 Earthquake hit.



By Bob Jensen



Wherever people fish, North, East, South, or West, we're getting excited about returning to the water to go fishing. Some folks fish year 'round, whether it be through the ice in the north country or from a boat or shore in places where the water doesn't freeze. The reality is though, that there are more people fishing in most places in the warmer months than in the cooler months, and the warmer months are fast approaching. It's at this time of the year that lots of anglers are in the market for a new rod and reel. Following is some things to consider when choosing a brand new rod and reel and spooling up.

Maybe you've seen one of those anglers who takes a bunch of rods along when they go fishing: perhaps you're one of those

anglers. While it's wonderful to be able to have a rod for every technique that might be employed in your day on the water, most of us just can't have all those rods. We need to find a rod that will perform several tasks adequately.

If you're a walleye angler who sometimes chases bass or panfish, and you're looking for a rod that will enable you to practice several techniques on each of those species, you should look into a medium action 6'6" or seven foot spinning rod. With a rod of that length and action, you can jig or rig or pull small crankbaits for walleyes. You can also use slip-bobbers. For walleye anglers, this rod will do a lot of things. It will also serve well as a jig-worm rod for largemouth bass, and in many parts of the world jig-worming is very popular and productive for bass. This setup will also be suitable for throwing sixteenth ounce jigs for panfish. Add a slip-bobber and a small split shot or two and it will handle tiny baits as well. This action rod won't do everything.

It's not going to do the job when you want to throw a spoon into the slop for largemouth bass. It's just not built for that. If you golf, you wouldn't use a putter to tee off, same thing here. If you are looking for a bass rod that will serve well for several different techniques, you should look at a Flippin' rod or maybe a pitching rod. These are longer rods with a heavier action, but there are several different actions available. You can find a rod of this style that will work well for spinner baits, spoons, heavy jigs, and maybe even a crank bait.

Once you've selected the rod that you think best suits your needs, you need to decide if you want a new reel or if you'll use a reel that you already have. If you're going the new route, it works really well to go to a store where you can attach different reels to the rod you've selected. Find something that feels good to you. Some like a larger reel, some prefer smaller. Go with what you like.

Don't let all the rod choices confuse you. Determine your budget, and then go shopping. Cabela's has developed a complete line of rods that will fit anyone's budget. Many anglers like to go to a store and shake all the different rod actions and lengths and compare models. That's part of the fun of getting ready to go fishing. I'm in the market for a new trolling rod/reel set-up for walleyes and will be at Cabela's this weekend shaking fishin' poles. Maybe we'll see you there.

To see all the newest episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, visit www.fishingthemidwest.com. Join us at www.Facebook.com/fishingthemidwest

POWERFISH'N™ PRO POWER ASSIST REEL



BRINGING **POWER**
TO FRESHWATER FISHING

STRONG. QUIET. ELECTRIC.
ATTACHES QUICKLY, EASILY.
IT'S STRONG. IT'S RUGGED.
FISH LONGER, EASIER.
PERFECT FOR THE DISABLED ANGLER.

WWW.POWERFISHN.COM



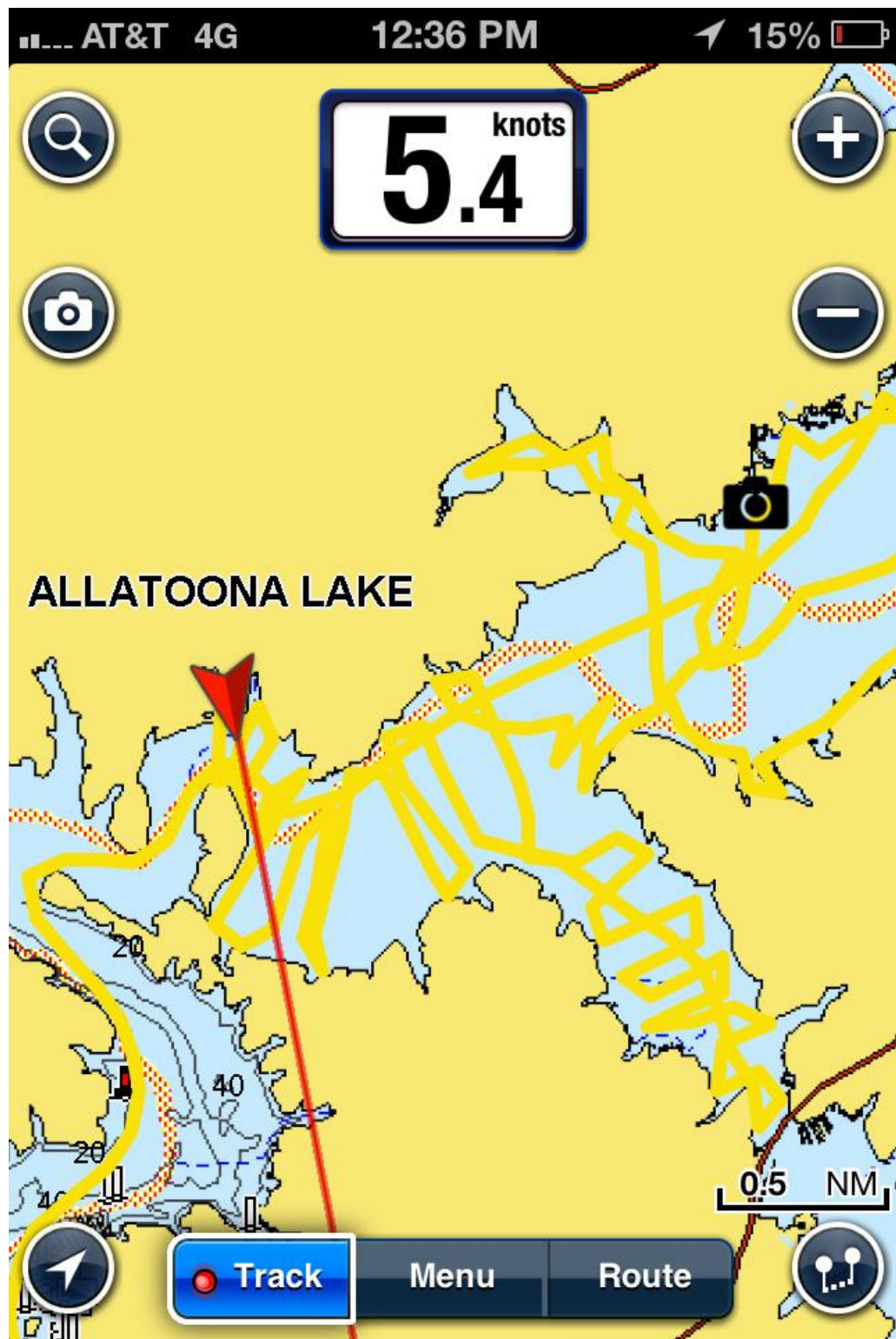
New Technology To Map Your Own Lake

By Paul Michele

How often in the past have fisherman yearned for their local lake to be mapped to show more contours and find better fish. Emails sent to mapping companies while eagerly waiting in Christmas-like anticipation for the survey boat to arrive. Of course, lake survey priority lists aren't always exactly what each of us individual anglers would like. Top tournament lakes, highly populated areas, and most often requested lakes usually winning over "Paul's lake" in the backyard. However, with all of the recent advances in plotter technology, things have changed. NOW you can have your favorite lake mapped and get it right now!

With the more advanced transducers and the speed and accuracy of the soundings combined with high speed GPS locators, new technology has come forward. The ability to blend these two bits of information and processed by special tools to do exactly the

above: create, improve, or build recent lake, river, bay, and ocean data. The word "Community" is often thrown around in today's world as a buzz word. This new mapping feature uses the same principle. What one user can do, hundreds communicating can do better. This mapping feature is called "SonarCharts" and allows boaters to record their sonar, upload it, and within a week have brand new one foot contours from not only what one person recorded but all boaters that uploaded. So on a 1000 acre lake that has no detailed mapping, 40 boats could be just fishing around, recording and the next day; all that data creates a brand new lake map. Maybe I'd do it all myself but kind of nice to have a community option that can do it all together and have it done for miles every day improving. Think about the amount of data that can be provided nationwide on all lakes or tidal areas. What one boat could take two weeks to do on a



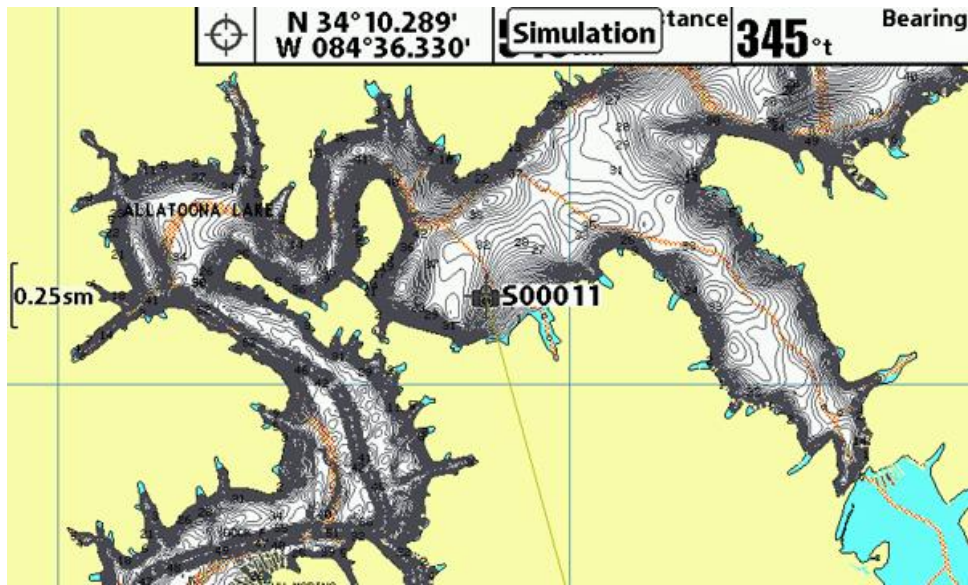
N 34°10.289' W 084°36.330' 540 sm Distance 345°t Bearing



lake, how many areas could be updated by 1000 boaters? Of course if there is only one special area or lake you want, have it created and study it like never before.

Here is a real time example from Navionics on Lake Allatoona in GA. This part of the lake has changed and lost data due to chart needing updated data (insert Allatoona pic before). We can see where the survey boat data has stopped.

Using my iPhone with Navionics app, I did a track recording where we ran the Humminbird 1198 at 35 mph to record sonar (insert shot of Allatoona tracks). We stopped and started tracks often and always kept bottom to avoid any issues with bad recordings just in case. After uploading the tracks, we came back a week later, did a Fresh Data update to the Platinum chart and produced this new SonarChart of lake Allatoona Simply amazing.



So those of us that want our own local lakes sounded, those that want more recent data than when a survey boat or government agency did it, areas of constant change, or even better have a tournament on an upcoming lake and want to send your buddies there to prefish and get new data (no one does that right??)... There now is an option and for free. A special note to tournament anglers, SonarChart process doesn't take your waypoints, brush piles, or even show where your track went. It takes your and everyone else's data and blends it to give you the best detail to analyze and show your skills at catching fish. I'll always take more data to be able to put my plan together and test my skills against other anglers then try and wing it with less information. Data blended with skill could be the difference from being this guy to a sack full of 3-4 lbers.



To learn more on SonarCharts and mapping lakes, visit www.Navionics.com and inquire on SonarCharts. All it takes is a GPS plotter, transducer, blank chart, and either a Platinum chart or new Navionics+. Have fun mapping and good fishing!

Product Spot Light: Maniac 1.25 Gizzard

Have you ever thought the need to down-sizing a bait to just get a bite and nothing still works? The Gizzard from Maniac Lures is just a bait that might change your mind, and keep you fishing. As we all can remember it's been HOT. So conditions have been great for down-sizing. On the day of testing it was 92 degrees, with an 84 degree water temperature. We rigged our spinning tackle with 6 pound test and chose several different lead heads for our Black Leech and Changeable Craw colored Gizzard's. We easily settled on the 1/8 oz. Snagless Slider jig from Charlie Brewer's Slider Company. This combination made these crawfish imitators fall flatter and land flat. Smallmouth and largemouth bass all started picking on these baits after we had them rigged right. For those of you would like to mix up your bass with panfish, we did just that and boated nearly two dozen decent sized rock bass on and about the 7 bass we had in a three hour period.



Daiichi

World's Sharpest Hooks

\$500,000

**I.G.F.A. All-Tackle
World Record Rewards**

- **Walleye**
- **Largemouth Bass**
- **Saltwater Striper**
- **Speckled Trout***

***AKA: Spotted Sea Trout**

**Register
NOW!**



**or visit: worldrecordhooks.com
for details and to register.**



Panfish in the Pads

By Bob Bohland



Wide swaths of lily-pads, for as far as the eye can see. For a bass guy, this can pretty close to heaven come summer/early fall, but for pan fisherman all it normally amounts to is a dense jungle offering nothing but the ability to steal every jig in your arsenal and

leave you pouting and heading for deeper water. There are ways to fish the pads, and they hold some amazing bluegills and crappies, but it takes a little patience, the ability to improvise, and being ok with catching a few bass along the way.

I discovered this tactic more by sheer annoyance and curiosity than anything else. I was walking a Pad-Crasher through a lily-pad bed one day and was being harassed by consistent little smacks and swipes at my bait. Having a few panfish rods in the boat from earlier in the day, I had to make my way in further to find out what found my topwater so interesting. Going further into the pads with a little help from a push-pole, I was astounded at the size of some of the pan fish that were darting around under these pads. I quickly dipped my smaller pan fish offering into a pocket and pulled out a good bluegill right away. I was so excited and surprised at this find that I fished the presentation for the rest of the weekend with much luck, refining the tactic as I went.



First things first you are gonna need at least two rods in your boat; a good bait caster rigged up with some super-heavy line and a topwater frog or mouse, and a long pan fish rod, (a fly-rod makes a great stand-in if you don't have a long pannie rod) the longer the better. I prefer at least 7 feet, but there are telescoping rods from a variety of companies that extend to twenty feet. The longer your rod the easier it is to place your bait exactly where you want it and extract



the fish once you have it hooked. Cast your bass topwater out across the pads and take notice of any pops and swirls you have, because that is where you will find the biggest pan fish as they are not shy about attacking something big. Then pole or use your bowmount to get close to that spot and drop your bait in front of them, it's that easy!

Don't be afraid to use oversized jigs though, these fish just attacked a bait that is at least twice

the size of any topwater you just had them take a swipe at, so don't be shy. The problem with small jigs in this situation is you will often have smaller pan fish on the fringes of these larger fish that will quickly dart in and grab anything they can fit in their mouths. I like to use a 1/32 oz jig with a 1 3/4" or 2" Lindy Watsit Grub in bright colors like "Orange/Chartreuse" and "Pink/White". These larger pan fish will travel in groups of at least 3 or four fish so when you get one big fish, probe that entire area for a few minutes before you move on, but often you will get the largest fish in the group within the first one or two caught before the little ones move in to join the frenzy.

In clear, water, lily-pads can grow in depths of 5-6 feet of water or even more. So there is a lot more water under those pads than you may think. A good pair of polarized sunglasses will go a long way towards being able to spot the fish you want to target, as they are not always directly under the pads. Practice makes perfect with this presentation and the more you do it, the easier it will be to identify the size of the fish hiding in the pads.





Seagrass Flats For Big Reds

By Lawrence Taylor

Able to hunt down, corral and destroy schools of baitfish and crunch hard-shelled blue crabs as if they were cardboard, reds are the thugs of inshore fishing. And like other vicious predators, they use “edges” to aid them in their destruction.



“Edges” are transition zones from one kind of habitat to another and are areas where crabs, mullet and other baitfish congregate in large numbers. One of the best edge areas is a seagrass flat. These flats may cover thousands of acres, but the fish will hold in specific spots within it. Key to catching redfish in a massive seagrass flat is finding the pockets of sand scattered throughout the flat. These pockets create the desired “edge effect.”

One effective rig for these seagrass flat redfish is a Mud Minnow on a 1/8-ounce jighead under a



Paradise Popper X-Treme popping cork. The popping action of the cork lures in the reds and it is easy to cast long distances. Reds in the shallows are notoriously spooky so long casts often are critical.

Start fishing by popping the cork hard three times and letting it sit for a few seconds. If this doesn't work, pop it twice and let it sit for as long as five seconds, then repeat the process.

The most popular method for fishing a seagrass flat, however, is a topwater walking plug like a Spook. Chugging or splashing plugs like the Creek Chub Pin Popper can also be effective. You simply pull down on them and they make a loud splash or chugging sound. Throw the lure, pop it twice, let it sit for 5 seconds, reel it in a few feet, pop again and repeat the process. Most of the time the fish will hit during the 5-second gap between pops.

Sometimes fish just won't commit to a topwater, often when it's dead calm in clear water. This is when a slow-sinking walking plug can save the day. This type of slow-sinking lure is perfect for spooky fish that won't come up for a topwater.

Redfish are different than other predator fish because its mouth is angled low on the face, pointing slightly downward. If you watch closely when a redfish strikes you can see it turn slightly to the side to engulf a fish or bait that's level or above their heads.

Anglers should always make striking the bait as easy as possible for the redfish by casting in

front of (but not directly on) the fish. It may strike if it hears the bait behind it, but it's more effective to cast so the fish can both see and hear the bait.

Two essential accessories for more effective fishing on a seagrass flat are a drift sock and a marker buoy. Because of their size, most anglers drift across a massive flat, and a drift sock slows your speed. The marker buoy is to be used when the fish show themselves. Because 90 percent of the fish may hold in only 10 percent of the flat, the marker buoy allows the angler to return to that spot.





"Live" Baby Shad By Lake Fork Trophy Lures

D & B Ice Adventures

Artificial baits have come a long way in recent years, especially when it comes to baits designed to catch pan fish. Many companies are producing baits with new designs and technologies. These baits have become an essential part of our fishing arsenal for both hard and soft water. There are many benefits to using plastics over live bait including: cost, durability, castability, and re-rigging time after a bite or hook up. Don't get me wrong, live bait will still have times when it will out fish plastics, but in general, we will always choose plastics. The market for plastics has numerous options that can make one feel overwhelmed but here is a spotlight on one family of a product line that has proven extremely efficient for us.

Sickle Tail



Pin Tail



Boot Tail





The group of baits this review will be focused on is the " Live " Baby Shad (LBS) by Lake Fork Trophy Lures. These baits are a 2-1/4 " micro-swim bait, that provides a fisherman with ample action from its combination of " swim slots " . This bait was spawned after requests from many of their customers to slim down their popular " Live " Magic Shad. The baits currently come in



35 different colors to meet just about any of your fishing needs. The action these baits by Lake Fork Trophy Lures have is amazing. The swim slots allow more side-to-side and vertical action than other similar styled " shad baits " because of their ability to twist freely. Prior to last year, LFT Lures only offered their pintail variety. Killer right? Well, it gets better... Now that they have expanded their selection to include a boot tail and sickle tail style. One of their baits can certainly match the

action. The normal set up we fish for pan fish with is a 1/16-ounce lead head jig with or without a bobber depending on water depth and the active zone for the desired fish species. Although any jig will work, wide-gapped, wire hook seems to be best. These hooks offer a better chance for a hook up and a little more give when snagged up. Furthermore, there is a lead ban on the Connecticut River, so our choices are limited to tungsten (ice jigs) or to meet the 1 " minimum jig length for all lead products. Fortunately, most 1/16-ounce jigs are long enough.

I'm sure that everyone reading this has had a day on the water where fish would take anything that was put in front of them. In reality, that doesn't happen very often. Through time, we have come to fish these baits several ways that are highly effective. This is not the only way to fish plastics but for us these are the only styles needed on a day-to-day basis. And keep in mind, if the fish aren't biting to try something different!

The first and the most common method is to set the LBS suspended below a bobber. The majority of the time, we are guessing what depth the fish will be at but over the course of a day, we will hone in on a specific range through trial and error. This method works great for suspending crappie and around a submerged structure with a lot of snags. How we work the baits depends on how the fish are feeding and what the surface of the water is doing. On a calm day, action can range from a slow pull; pause action to a fast twitched like action that keeps the bait in constant motion. When there is any kind of chop on the water just a slow steady retrieve with pauses seems to be effective. The wave action moves the bait vertically so no popping is necessary.

The second method is what we refer to as the "pendulum swing presentation". This is the main method we use when fishing deep-water structure. The idea behind this technique is to cast just past the structure and let it swing through the strike zone, hopefully keeping it away from the structure. Variables to consider with this technique are speed of retrieve, wind, sun/shade, and



current. Although there is no set science for how to perform this technique, pay attention to bite, what size fish come out of certain depths, and the location the fish are relating to. The majority of successes with this technique comes with replication because unlike a using a bobber, you control all variables.

The last method we use is a drop shot rig. This is effective when you are fishing closer to the bottom, which for us, is primarily perch. We employ this method, mainly when fishing in 20' of water or more with an egg sinker to reach the bottom quickly to stay on the fish. This method allows a controlled to retrieve with perfect depth setting once you have located the depth fish are holding at. Being in the strike zone usually means more strikes! Another benefit to this technique is you can add a second bait to keep honing in on a hot strike zone.

The durability of these plastics is a key selling point for us. Although they seem pricey, when you consider that you can catch upwards of 50 fish on a bait, it's quite the deal! Fishing for crappie, we find that the majority of the time the bait is inhaled so far that the bait isn't even touched. That means no tearing of the bait, and the tail is left intact. Most issues that evolved with this bait, as with any plastic, is tearing around the head of the bait where it was stuck initially with the hook. When this happens, depending on the severity, just bite off as small of a section to get rid of the tear and get back in the action.

One of our favorite fish to catch has a small mouth; the bluegill. The areas that we predominately fish have good populations of bluegill in all sizes. Bluegill can fit these baits in their mouths, but in general, we found that they were nipping at the tails. This was one of the main issues that we came across with the LBS. To combat this, we found a way to recycle our used baits. Over time, the baits that tear at the head (mentioned above) are kept separate so that they can be cut down into a smaller profile and used on a smaller jig. This tactic has been very effective for bluegill while putting a few dollars back in our pockets at the same time.

When all is said and done, the " Live " Baby Shad flat out catches fish. The swim slot action



gives the bait an extra degree of eat-ability. We highly recommend that you look into these baits if you want to catch more fish. The customer service is top notch, and this company really cares about their product. Keep in mind they also offer a huge variety of larger baits for bass as well! You should check them out. Lake Fork Trophy Lures.

Santee Cooper Country

is where you will find South Carolina's
"Great Lakes", Marion & Moultrie

Our lakes cover 171,000 acres and hold 8 state and one world record. Our fishing is great all year long so, come and see if you can catch the next record fish. What are you waiting for?

For information on fishing, guides, marinas, camping, restaurants and motels in Berkeley, Calhoun, Clarendon, Orangeburg and Sumter counties call, email or visit us on the web.

Outside SC 1-800-227-8510
in SC (803) 854-2131

www.santeecoopercountry.org
tourscc@oburg.net



DAN'S FISH 'N' TALES®

Dock Fishing

By Dan Galusha

Those of us who fish mainly from a boat have caught many fish around docks. This same thing can apply for shore anglers.

Fish like any cover, and docks are some of the best. They provide shade, and some underwater attraction, if there are pilings. Some docks have brush piles around, under and/or near the structure. They will hold all species, especially bluegill, crappie and bass. This is why it is a great place to start kids, and other beginners.

Docks are found in many sizes, and designs. Some have boats, while others are for fishing, or temporary docking of boats. The best ones have at least 3 to 5 feet of water under them, and get deeper towards the outer end.

The first thing to do before fishing any dock, whether on private or public water, is to see if it is allowable. Some docks are only for boat ramp areas, while others in these same areas allow fishing, but ask dock anglers to yield to boaters. Commercial docks, with rental boat slips, many times will not allow fishing on or around their complex.

When approaching a dock fish it from shore first. Don't go out on the dock, and make a lot of noise.



During this outing a dock helped reach deeper water structure, that laid out from a long tapering weed edge, where several crappie were holding, including this 2.81 pound fish that took a Natural Science Road Runner head with a 2" Power Minnow.



John Francisco takes advantage of the many spots he can reach when fishing from a long dock, that reaches out onto a point that lies between two coves.

Work the line along the edge of the dock, selecting the shady side first. If possible make some cast under the dock. If there are boats, fish small areas between the dock and boat. Any bends on a dock area, such as an "L" shade, are good target areas. If the previously mentioned brush piles are around, fish them as well. As with any fish holding structure, if there is anything slightly different, give that spot a try - there is a good chance it is holding a fish.

Once this is tried, slowly work out on the dock, and towards the end. Fish the outer edge, and again, any brush piles. This is usually

the deeper point of the dock, and where the bottom is starting to taper downward.

A dock can also be used to fish the other parts of the shoreline. Parallel fishing a shore is an excellent technique from a boat, and can be equally productive from a dock. Using crankbaits, spinner baits and plastic worms, in this manner can produce bass. Paralleling small jigs, under a float, is an excellent method of catching pan fish. This is very helpful in smaller lakes where weed and moss lines are coming out from shore. Fishing from the dock can avoid the problem of fishing over the top of these areas, as is normal from shore.

Vertical jigging techniques work well when on the dock. Small jigs worked up and down, at different depths, is one of the best ways to have a great day for pan fish. Keep the line close to the dock, and be ready for a slight tap, and line movement towards the dock. Remember, unless there is a brush pile out from the dock, these fish are not going to move far from their safe area, and ambush point.

If there is enough water, you can use a portable flasher, like the Vexilar that I use for ice fishing. When vertical jigging from a dock while using a flasher it is much like ice fishing, and can be very productive.

Never pass up a dock. Use the right approach, fish all areas possible, and use these basic techniques. The combination should produce a good day of fishing.

If there are any questions I can be contacted through the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales® website at www.dansfishtales.com, which also provides a link to the Fishing Facts website.

Until next time, get out on the water, and have a great day of fishing.

Bill Vanderford's Guide Service, Inc.

*Georgia's Oldest and Inductee of the
National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame*
Lake Lanier and Chattahoochee River

Home of the Famous Swirleybird

770-289-1543

www.fishinglanier.com

<http://twitter.com/#!/BillVanderford>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/fishyracer>

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=867260415>

Cool Tactics for Hot Panfish

By Ted Takasaki and Scott Richardson

It's often hard to decide what season and species of fish are our favorite. The biggest walleyes and saugers of the year are often caught just after ice-out when water still freezes in the guides of our St. Croix rods. Late spring is a great time for bass, both largemouth and small mouth, and muskies, one of our favorites.

Many anglers hang up their fishing gear when the weather turns hot, though walleye fishing at night can have some of the best action of the year. Nevertheless, daytime anglers believe fishing during the summer is tough. Lots of food in the water translates to narrow feeding windows. Some think a trip to the lake may be a waste of time.

If that's your view, think again. Pan fish can offer some great summer action for older anglers and kids alike. It can be the best time of the year to hook kids and grandkids on the sport by catching crappies and bluegills. And scaling down the size of the gear can make the fight worth the time.

Bluegills and crappies also have other advantages. For one, they inhabit many lakes and ponds, so there are usually plenty of opportunities to fish for them close to home. For another, they're often overlooked by other anglers so you have great spots to yourself. Catching a walleyes can be a bonus because they're often located in the same places as the pan fish.

Find and Catch Big Pan fish

Finding fish usually isn't hard. Finding the biggest fish in the lake is the challenge. The process starts with finding lakes with solid pan fish populations plus a good quantity of predators like



Ted Takasaki with a beautiful hot-weather bluegill, caught during a time when many anglers complain about the slow fishing. The heat of summer can produce fast action on nice panfish, with bonus catches, by following the recipe laid out here.

bass or muskies. Check with your state's Department of Natural Resource biologists. They know the honey holes. If a lake is out of the way and a little harder to reach, that's even better. Check out the lake map to find the weeds, then look for weed edges that offer something different, such as a point, an inside turn or gaps in the midst of plant life, or a transition from one kind of plant to another. GPS will help map the weed edge to locate fish-holding twists and turns.

Work a Lindy Rig slowly along the edge. A number 6 or number eight Aberdeen hook works best with NO-SNAG sinkers. Use a longer, flexible 7-foot rod to avoid pulling hooks out of thin mouths. Use 4- to 6-pound-test Silver Thread line. For bluegills, use a small leech and small minnows for crappies.

Target 10 feet on shallow lakes to 20 feet on deeper, clear lakes. Move slowly in S turns to check deeper water nearby. Walleye will often be five feet deeper or so than the pan fish. Big crappies are often nearby, too. Watch your sonar because crappies might be suspended.

Jigs also work on weed lines. Try using Lindy Fuzz-E-Grub or Watsit jigs. The Watsit features tiny flippers that cause a slow fall which keeps it in the strike zone longer. Experiment with colors. Add a piece of a night crawler or a wax worm. If the fish appear to be stacked in one area, switch to a slip-bobber rig.



Fish may move off the weedline to deeper water at midday. Trolling, where legal, or drifting can keep the action coming. Use a three-way rig where regulations allow two lures per line. Use one bait for bluegills and the other for crappies. A small Fuzz-E-Grub goes on the dropper, and a twister tail goes on a hook on the trailer. Experiment with colors. Black is a great choice to mimic a bluegill's favorite food, insects. Or, trade the plastic for a small silver ice spoon. Use several

different kinds of rigs to start and see what yields the most fish.

Set your trolling motor so you move slowly and quietly to avoid spooking fish. Use icons on the GPS or buoys to mark fish when you get strikes. Drifting a minnow, tiny tubes, a half crawler or leech is a good idea, too.

How deep to set baits depends on the thermocline. Every summer when weather gets hot, a dividing point sets up between water below it with less oxygen and the water-holding more oxygen above it. Fish generally will try to find their comfort zone temperature-wise, but oxygen is the deciding factor. If there's no oxygen at the temperature they like, they will settle for warmer water. The thermocline should show up on good electronics as a line across the screen at a certain depth. If it doesn't appear, try setting the unit to manual and crank up the sensitivity until the line appears.

For crappies, you can also try casting small crankbaits along weed lines. Crappies near wood is the often the answer in reservoirs. Look for standing timber on points. Tight-line small jigs and plastic or minnows on longer rods. Let the bait down to the bottom and reel up a turn or two, then another foot and another until fish are located. Rather than reeling that first fish in, lift your rod and use it to measure the active depth. That makes it easy to return the jig to the right spot.

Slip bobbers will do the same thing.

Deeper brush piles and fish cribs are deadly during the hot months. Locate them on lake maps. Brush piles can be seen with side-imaging sonar. Track down the untouched ones by looking for turns in the old river channel where brush collects. Then use your sonar to pinpoint the spot, drop a marker buoy or use an electronic "marker" on your GPS to stay unnoticed.

Limits for pan fish are often generous. Nevertheless, that's not an invitation to be over-harvest them. Studies indicate that taking too many big bluegills can stunt a lake's population. Scientists believe if you take the biggest ones from the lake; natural selection no longer favors big bluegills and bluegills start reproducing at smaller sizes, leading to stunting. Take a meal for the family and leave the rest.





TrophyCatch

My trophy swims in Florida

Catch and Release a trophy bass in
Florida to earn great prizes while
supporting conservation.

Register at TrophyCatchFlorida.com for details on rules,
prizes and competitive catch updates



PROUD SPONSORS



Bass Pro Shops is a proud sponsor of TrophyCatch, a conservation program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. TrophyCatch rewards anglers for reporting and releasing bass over 8 pounds, ensuring that these valuable fish are enjoyed by anglers over and over again. Release your trophy bass and you can proudly state that "My Trophy Swims in Florida"!

Rethinking Jigs For “Roller Coaster” Bass

By Steve Pennaz



While jig head shapes imply specific bass fishing techniques they can actually be fished in other non-traditional ways.

Like a lot of anglers, I grew up fishing bass jigs traditionally, pounding cover with an endless drop-lift-drop-lift routine. And while I caught fish, I didn't fully grasp how truly versatile jigs are—and how they can be fished in ways that can crack conditioned bass when everything else fails.

My “Eureka” moment came on a trip with a saltwater guide who'd throw his jig out as far as he could and rip it back to the boat. Watching him catch fish taught me that we all have preconceived ideas about how we're supposed to fish jigs.

During a TV shoot in Texas a few years back the producers asked me to burn the bait back to boat so they could get a shot of the reel handle rotating. So I start drag racing a jig through two feet of water and all of sudden an 8-pound bass grabs the bait. Here again, I never would have fished a jig that fast, but it produced a solid fish and once again opened my eyes to the efficacy of breaking conventions.

And why is that?

Bass are typically released after they are caught, which means a percentage of any bass population has been "conditioned." Larger fish have seen it all. That's why fishing new bait designs, colors and techniques are essential to staying ahead of the curve.

Like modifying your jig routine to offer bass something different.

We've been taught to fish the three main jig styles according to head design. For example, traditional round-head designs are usually flipped to cover on heavy braid, while a football head is typically dragged over bottom. The keel head (swim jig) is designed to slither through grass and other cover, usually higher in

**How a non-
traditional swim
jig technique can
help you crack
conditioned fish.**

the water column or even bulging the surface on a steady retrieve.

But a round-head jig can also be used as a punch bait to penetrate thick vegetation. Likewise, a football head can be fished on a steady retrieve, even burned back to the boat. The heavy weight typically keeps it down, and in situations like riprap, a football head will bounce from rock to rock like a crankbait. I've also used footballs in shallow water, burning them over weed tops like a silent spinnerbait—definitely not the norm.

Roller Coaster Swimming

Yet, of all three major jig head designs, the keel head (or swim jig) is probably the most versatile. Case in point, I don't often fish them with the rod tip close to the water using a slow, steady retrieve. I like to activate the trailer tail by swimming it three or four feet and letting it glide back to the bottom on a semi-taut line, then repeating until the bait is back to the boat. I call it "roller coaster" swimming.

The bait spends very little time on the bottom, and this retrieve offers multiple triggering points on every cast—there's strike potential during the sweep, the drop and the pause. The technique works in channel areas, flats, around stumps, and open areas off emergent vegetation like cattails—and a lot of other areas, too.

When you watch what happens underwater, the sweep makes a trailer like a 4-inch PowerBait grub or Havoc Beat Shad paddletail go crazy, then come to an abrupt stop on the pause, then beat again like crazy again on the glide. Get the cadence right it and the presentation seems almost magical. And it's a lot more fun than the standard jig retrieve.

Fall Rate

The most crucial component of the 'roller coaster' system is fall rate. Head weight, skirt



Grubs and paddletails make effective swim jig trailers. Experiment with colors, sizes and shapes and let the fish tell you their preference.



bulk and trailer all factor in. My go-to swim jig head size for shallow water is 3/8-ounce. Go too light and the bait doesn't fall fast enough; go too heavy and you drag bottom at typical retrieval speeds. However, as bass orient in and around deep weedlines later in the summer you may want to go with a heavier swim jig fished with a slower 'roller coaster' retrieve to achieve maximum depth.

Another essential component of the 'roller coaster' program is the use of fluorocarbon line. I'll typically fish 12- or 15-pound test, sometimes moving up to 20 if I'm on a body of water with big fish and lots of cover. Fluoro's slow stretch means excellent sensitivity, solid hooksets and the line's sinking tendency gives the bait a natural appearance on the retrieve. Fluoro's near-invisibility under water can be key in shallow, clear waters. Most importantly, fluorocarbon helps keeps jigs near the bottom even at faster retrieves.

Next, a properly matched rod and reel can be a huge plus. I fish swim jigs on a fast-action medium heavy seven-foot and a medium-speed, low-profile 7.1:1 ratio baitcaster like the ultra-lightweight Abu Garcia Revo MGX. The reel takes in 28 inches of line for every turn of the reel handle; about the same as other reels geared 6.4:1.

More Tips

Besides using a soft plastic trailer that matches the color of the skirt/jig head and produces a gentle wobble, I'm a big fan of modifying stock weed guards. I like to remove about a third of the bristles to improve my strike-to-hook-up ratio. The addition of rattles is also a good idea at times, especially in more turbid waters.

Another thing: A lot of guys will immediately start reeling and let the rod load, letting the fish set the hook. When I get a hit I drop the rod tip and set the hook.

Final Word

My challenge to anglers fishing jigs is to think about how other anglers aren't fishing them—then experiment with those methods. The 'roller coaster' swim jig routine is but one example of the myriad ways you can modify your jig game to catch more fish.



The 'roller coaster' swim jig technique offers multiple triggering points on every cast—there's strike potential during the sweep, drop and pause.

B'n'M Fishing – Evolving With The Sport Of Fishing

By Ron Presley

Modern day panfish anglers are a little pickier than those that came before them. In days gone by anglers used a simple cane pole, a length of line, bobber, sinker, and hook to catch a few fish for dinner. Today's demanding anglers and new technology has changed that scenario to include technically perfected rods that are stronger, longer and more sensitive. The results are more fish on the dining table and in the tournament live well.

B'n'M Fishing is a leader in the evolution of panfish rods. The company's slogan is "Wherever fishing takes you, B'n'M has been there," and they aren't kiddin'. They have been in the business of making all kinds of panfish products for over 60 years. More recently they have introduced specialty rods for catfish and bass.

Much of the demand for more durable and sensitive rods has come from the popularity of crappie tournaments and pro anglers like Whitey Outlaw. He has been tournament fishing for 35 years and watched the evolution as the crappie fishing scene changed. "I fished as a young man with my grandfather and my daddy on Lake Santee," said Whitey. "There was a contest on the lake that I entered with my best childhood friend. We won that tournament at age 15, and I was hooked!"

Whitey now follows the Bass Pro Shops Crappie Masters All American Tournament trail, fishing all over the U.S. He has won numerous championships and awards in his fishing career, but he is most proud of back-to-back Alabama State Championships in 2010 and 2011. That feat had never been done before.

As Whitey progressed in the field of crappie fishing he became a fan





and promoter of B'n'M poles and accessories. "It was natural for me to partner with B'n'M," says Whitey. "They are the best on the market. Not only are they light, durable and sensitive, they can be repaired with spare parts available from the company."

Whitey says B'n'M poles have advantages over other manufacturers. "B'n'M has developed different poles for different fisherman with different types of techniques. They make a rod to meet your needs for your type of fishing no matter your preference."

As pro crappie fishermen like Whitey demanded lighter, stronger, more sensitive rods B'n'M developed rods made of the most recent high-tech materials. Their rods are made in various lengths and styles to accommodate the many methods of crappie fishing. Their fiberglass telescopic rods extend from 10 feet to 20 feet depending on the model, once again matching rods to anglers needs.

As a testament to the strength of B'n'M rods, Whitey reports catching lots of catfish up to 30 pounds and plenty of bass up to 14 pounds. Catching these big fish on a crappie, bream and bluegill pole is almost unbelievable. "I have never had one break," says Whitey.

Whether you are dropping bait in heavy cover, trolling deep water or pushing over shallow flats, B'n'M makes a pole for you. Check them out on their website at <http://www.bnmpoles.com>. In addition to their complete line of poles you will find fishing accessories and apparel. It makes pretty good sense when choosing fishing equipment to go with someone who has been there before.



Slip Bobber Tactics for Walleye

By Jason Mitchell



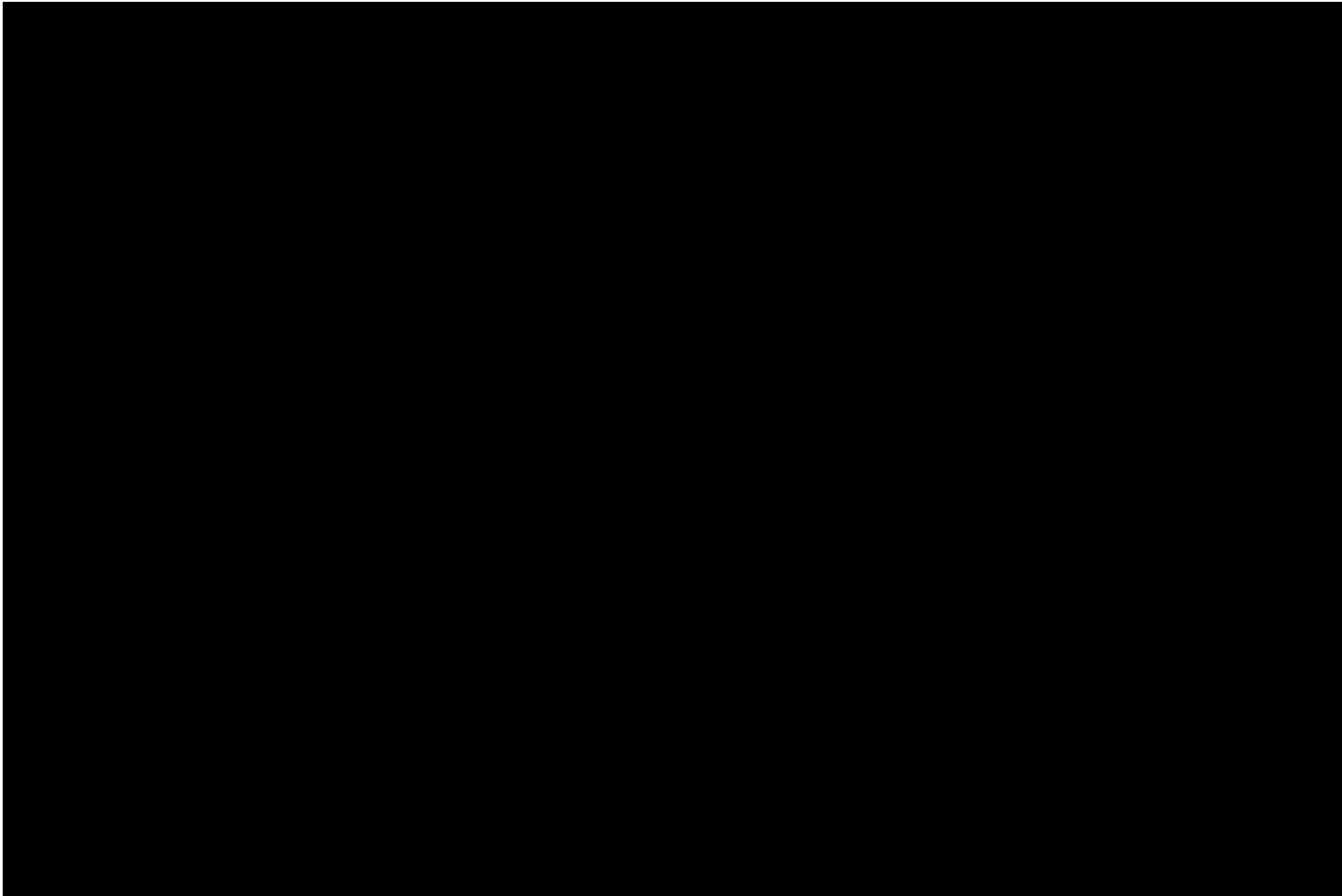
For some anglers, the thought of using slip bobbers seems like a boring concept. Akin to watching paint dry on the side of the barn. Throw the bobber out, let the bobber sit and wait... and wait until a fish swims by. While you can just sit and stare, you can also fish slip bobbers with a much more aggressive mindset and if you fish slip bobbers correctly, you are hustling and adjusting the entire time until bobbers start getting dunked.

Slip bobbers can be so incredibly effective because of the precision involved. You can stick or drift through the "X" for long periods of time and let a good live bait do the work. A lively squirming leech or flashy shiner struggling in place is too much for most

walleyes to resist. Especially early in the season before the water warms up, slip bobber presentations are one of the best techniques for triggering shallow fish.

Picking the Spot

While you can use a slip bobber in depths past twenty feet, they can really shine whenever targeting a specific piece of shallow structure that rises up from twelve to three feet of water.



Shallow rock reefs or bars or any type of shallow structure that has debris on the bottom is a perfect candidate for the slip bobber presentation. The reason being is that you can slowly drift or work the good live bait in front of the fish yet stay above snags or other debris that can ruin your presentation.

Early in the season, off-shore reefs, bars and rock piles that come up into shallow water are great locations. Other top locations include shallow structure that is connected to the shoreline. Shallow points, rock piles, submerged timber or emerging weed beds can all be worth checking. A favorite location of mine are inside turns or troughs where a little bit deeper depression cuts up tighter to the shoreline.

Even on small spots, there are usually fairly small “spot on the spot” zones where most of the fish come. In some cases, there might be a school of fish holding on an exact tight location. Other times, however, it often seems that fish pass through and over the spot, and each pod of fish follows the exact same route and certain parts of the spot either funnel fish movements or stall fish as they cruise through. This is why slip bobbers often seem to create spikes in activity where the fish come in spurts.

Drift Strategy

Each location seems to have specific zones where most of the fish come off of these small locations but what is interesting is that these “spot on the spot” locations can sometimes change daily on a specific piece of structure. How deep the fish are moving along with wind direction, and underwater currents change this recipe daily. This is where the works comes in. Adjust

depths and cover the spot with slip bobbers until a pattern develops. Let the slip bobbers drift through the zones and cover water.

When the slip bobber is drifting at the correct speed, they will be standing straight up. If they are learning, the line is too tight. When you get the fish dialed in, you will eventually keep the slip bobber in a much tighter zone and will have to reel up the bobber and let it back out so it keeps drifting back through the productive area. As you get dialed in, the spots get smaller but even when the pattern develops, I still like to take at least one rig and keep roaming and covering larger amounts of water just to keep on top of things as fish locations change especially if the wind picks up or backs down.

In really strong wind, you will have to anchor so that the bow of the boat faces the wind for the anchor to hold, but if you can anchor with two anchors and get the boat positioned perpendicular to the spot, you can widen the platform from which you fish, which can help with slip bobbers because as the bobbers drift away from the boat or towards the boat, you want the slip bobber to drift to or away from the rod tip with a direct line of sight. Kind of like spreading out lines when you are trolling. You do not want bobbers crossing or the lines crossing. The rod in the front of the boat has to be pointed directly at a bobber out the front of the boat. This way as the bobbers drifts. You don't tangle lines and have lanes to fight the fish.

When each bobber gets to the end of the productive drift, reel up and repeat. With multiple lines, especially with stronger winds or currents, this can keep you hopping.

The Set Up

Depending on where you fish, the main line can be either monofilament or braid. The advantage of using monofilament (8 to 12 lb. test for walleye fishing) is that the bobber stops grip monofilament very well. Some braids, however, work well for slip bobber fishing as well. I like to use 14 lb. Bionic Braid for the main line as it is extremely durable, and if you leave a little tag end on your bobber knots and cinch them up tight, they hold on the braid decent.

Below the sliding slip bobber, I like to add a small egg sinker and bullet weight and below the sliding weight, tie on a small barrel swivel. Why the sliding weight versus split shot? I find that I can pop the weights out of the nets faster and get back into the water quicker versus having a bunch split shot wrapping up in the mesh. Below the swivel, attach a snell of monofilament or fluorocarbon. Hook options include just a plain hook or small jig like the 1/32nd-ounce ounce Northland Fireball

Here are a few considerations and tweaks. Early in the season, especially with larger swells, you can sometimes catch more fish by subduing the up and down action on the rig. You can accomplish this by using the heaviest weight possible (that doesn't sink the



Watch 'O'Neill Outside' on these networks



bobber) and using longer snells up to four feet depending on the waves and go with a plain hook. These longer snell cushions and subdues the up and down action. I rarely use really light rigs and small bobbers as I feel the larger floats and heavier weights give me a big advantage. The reason being, the rig drops down into the zone immediately and allows for more precise fishing where I don't have to wait for the rig to pull line through the bobber and don't have line blowing around above the water. The set up time is extremely fast.

If you are drifting over rocks or boulders, use a small lead head jig and tie on with a Palomar knot. With the knot cinched tight, bend the jig down so that the hook is facing down with the bend, instead of riding horizontal. This modification will allow the jig to ride over and throw rocks a little better. When using plain hooks, don't hesitate to hook the leech through the middle of the body for more swimming action. With minnows, you can sometimes get them to swim harder by just hooking them through the top of the mouth versus both lips. Reverse hooking through the hide under the dorsal fin also works well but the minnows don't cast well with that hook placement.

Slip bobbers just plain work well especially early in the season. With high gas prices, sitting on key spots is not all bad. This presentation is a guide's dream because your boat control is simple, and you are free to interact and tend to the people in the boat. When a bobber goes under, set the hook with the reel. Crank on the reel handle until the rod loads and then sweep. You will catch many more fish by getting a good connection because remember there are times when fish swim towards the boat.

Slip bobbers have always been extremely regional with strong followings among anglers on a few noteworthy fisheries like Mille Lacs and Devils Lake, but slip bobbers can be extremely effective on many fisheries, and the results are the same. Stick good bait in front of fish and you are going to catch fish.

Editor's Note: The author, Jason Mitchell is a renowned walleye angler who hosts the outdoor television program Jason Mitchell Outdoors. Jason Mitchell Outdoors airs on Fox Sports North and Fox Sports Midwest weekend mornings. More information on Jason Mitchell Outdoors can be found online at www.jasonmitchelloutdoors.com.





2014 New Product Highlights



SNAG PROOF's BLEEDIN' FROG WITH ATTITUDE!

Fish can't resist the Bleedin'Frog and now it has serious attitude! Attitude in the form of the Frog-Tail trailer hook! The red, wide-

gap Owner double hook makes the frog look like wounded prey and triggers the strike reflex. The Frog-Tail trailer hook ensures they won't get away! With 3 hooks and the soft hollow frog body, fish don't stand a chance!

The longer point on the Owner hook sticks the fish easier and quicker than any other hook on the market! The Frog-Tail trailer hook is an EWG Gamakatsu and will eliminate any short strikes! Together they result in a frog with serious attitude and serious fish catching power!

The Bleedin' Frog: 5/8 oz. 4 1/4" Premium Owner 5/0 red double hook and internal glass rattle

The Attitude--Frog Tail Trailer Hook: single 3/0 Premium Gamakatsu EWG

Rat-L-Trap 1/2oz SUPER NATURALS. For 2014, Rat-L-Trap® is utilizing a new technology that completely changes the scope of what can be done in the spectrum of colors and details in pattern design. A "match the hatch" replica of different forage species is no problem for this new technology. But, as seasoned fishermen know, it's not simply natural looking lures that catch the most fish, it's those lures that have a little something extra. We like to call this Super Natural™. The blade on the spinner bait producing flash isn't just natural, it's super natural, the shimmy on the fall of stick bait isn't just natural, it's super natural, and of course the intense vibrating-rattle of a Rat-L-Trap isn't just natural, it's super natural. We've created these Super Natural™ color patterns for 2014 that will delight anglers around the world. This series utilizes natural, high-res images of predominant forage species and then accents them with proven, fish-catching highlights.

These new baits are available in the following colors after Aug 1, 2013: Blueberry Perch, Sunrise Perch, Blue Shiner, Fathead Minnow, Candy Crawl, Pinchn Peach, Oxbow.



New "Fishing the Amazon" Mobile App Guides Sportsmen to Top Tactics/Locations for Catching Giant Fish in the Jungle!

Award-winning outdoors/travel writer, photographer and angler Larry Larsen's new photo-intensive app "Fishing the Amazon Guide" shows anglers how to catch exciting peacock bass and a dozen other trophy fish species in the Amazon, as well as where to find the best tributaries. In this app, Larry provides tips on timing, planning, preparation, exploring, wildlife viewing, safety and how-to

THE BASS UNIVERSITY

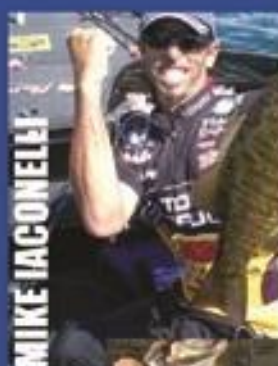
www.thebassuniversity.com

The Bass University is looking for you

Beginner to expert, the goal of The Bass University is to help each angler move their fishing to the next level.

Bass University seminars feature cutting edge topics with focus on patterns and techniques that are winning tournaments today.

Dates, Locations and Speakers are:



Special Thanks to
our Sponsors

ODU



Rapala®



LOWRANCE®



Register
today to be a
part of this
unbelievable
event

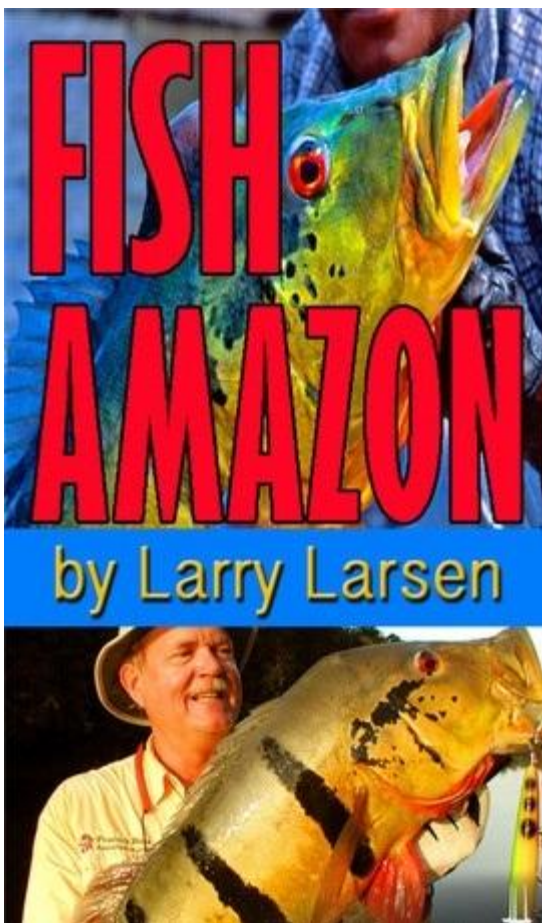


Follow Us On



Sign up today at www.thebassuniversity.com

Don't miss this opportunity to talk directly to the Pro's who Know.



fishing information. His focus on finding and hooking giants for many years now helps anglers using this app to catch more and much bigger fish from the beautiful jungle waters while enjoying the overall adventure. To successfully fish the remote and massive areas with the challenging logistics and minimal information available is difficult without the help of this app.

The new app formatted for both Apple and Android tablets and mobile phones extensively covers the most effective techniques to catch the biggest and most fish. To illustrate his advice Larry provides 859 personal photos from his more than 500 days in the Amazon jungle basin. The 238 entry topics in this app cover more than 35 significant waters and destinations and highlight the optimal tackle, equipment, and habitat for a successful trip. Viewers will learn about the fishing tour operations and facilities, Amazon Basin environments, as well as the indigenous peoples and their culture.

The Amazon River Basin contains one third of the world's rainforests, encompassing three fourths of Brazil alone and

portions of seven other South American countries. The Amazon is the largest river in the world in terms of water volume and has over 15,000 tributaries and 3,000 species of fish - about one-third of the world's total. Larry's detailed trip planning, resource and vital seasonal water characteristics, along with 50 insider fishing tactics and tricks, will prepare anglers for a productive experience in this outstanding region and returning home with fond sportfishing memories that will last forever.

Four of author Larry Larsen's 21 books and more than 300 of his articles appearing in print and electronic magazines are on fishing and exploring the Amazon. His "Fishing the Amazon Guide" app, published by Sutro Media, is available online at Apple/itunes and Android/Google Play stores for just \$9.95. More information can be found at http://sutromedia.com/apps/Fishing_the_Amazon_Guide.

Maniac Custom Lures CUT'R BUG.

As a highly competitive tournament angler, I'm always looking for ways to become a better and more efficient angler. Two years ago I discovered a soft plastic lure that has put my tournament success on the fast track. The lure I'm talking about is the CUT'R BUG made by Maniac Custom Lures. The CUT'R BUG is the most versatile soft plastic bait on the market, it does everything!



The Maniac Custom Lures CUT'R BUG has virtually made all of my other soft plastic baits obsolete. It can be rigged in multiple ways and is a phenomenal alternative to fishing a grub, tube, or beaver type creature bait. I have had extraordinary success fishing the CUT'R BUG on a lead head, a Texas rig, a Carolina Rig, and even a split shot and drop shot rig. The CUT'R BUG also makes an excellent jig trailer adding that life like action to your jig without the bulkiness of a craw type jig trailer. This sleeker trailer allows your jig to slide through the thickest cover where the big ones live. The CUT'R BUG comes in all of the colors you will ever need, including the newest "CRAW" colors which have exceeded all of our expectations during field tests. Whether you fish for Bass, Trout, or any other game fish, the Maniac Cutter Bugs will not let you down. Just rig them up and fish them the same way you would have fished any of your other soft plastic baits, pitch them in the brush, drag them over weeds, hop them through the rocks or drop shot them anywhere a fish lives and you will be catching fish like the Pro's. I highly recommend you take the opportunity to show the fish a lure they haven't seen over and over. They even work for ice fishing; I've caught Trout, Bass, Burbot, and Perch through the ice using the smaller CUT'R BUGS. I credit much of my tournament success to the Maniac CUT'R BUG. I wish you the best of luck, and I hope to see you out there on the water.

STORM® UNLEASHES JACK OF ALL CRANKS with The New Storm Series of ARASHI Lures. With menacing eyes and a bully-like demeanor, the new line of ARASHI (a-ra-shee) lures is Storm® pro angler Brandon Palaniuk approved and stays true to its roots, delivering a fully cranked storm of actions that will have Bass barreling in for the kill, and anglers hanging on for the thrill.

The new triple-threat series of ARASHI lures from Storm includes the short and stocky Silent Square 3 and 5, the ominous Rattling Flat 7 and, rounding out this family, the deadly Rattling Deep 10.

"Storm hasn't just set the bar with the new series of ARASHI lures, they've created a whole new category of bad-to-the-core baits that are ideal for a multitude of water, structure and fishing applications," explains Palaniuk. "Whether anglers need a lure that has a lively rolling action, a tight wiggle action or a moderate rolling action paired with the perfect tail kick, ARASHI has them covered with unmatched comprise."



ARASHI Silent Square 3 and 5

Leading off the family is the ARASHI Silent Square 3 and 5, which run with a lively rolling action and a pronounced tail kick. Their growling large head extends to a thin sharp tail, creating unadulterated buoyancy to back out of cover, while the square lip design adds increased deflection — creating the perfect match for contacting structure.

The Silent Square is an ultra quiet, non-rattling bait perfect for targeting wary or pressured fish in shallow water. The Silent Square 3 is 2-1/8 inches long and weighs 1/2 ounce with a running depth of 3 feet, while the Silent Square 5 is 2-3/8 inches long, weighing slightly more at 5/8 ounce with a running depth of 5 feet.

ARASHI Rattling Flat 7

Next is the new ARASHI Rattling Flat 7, which swims with a tight wiggling action, creating maximum flash and vibration that brings the angry out of bass. The multi-ball rattle provides a loud, variable pitch and its long-cast design sets sail for distance with meticulous accuracy. At 2-1/8 inches long and weighing 7/16 of an ounce, the Rattling Flat 7 runs at the 7 foot water column, delivering jaw-dropping results.



ARASHI Rattling Deep 10

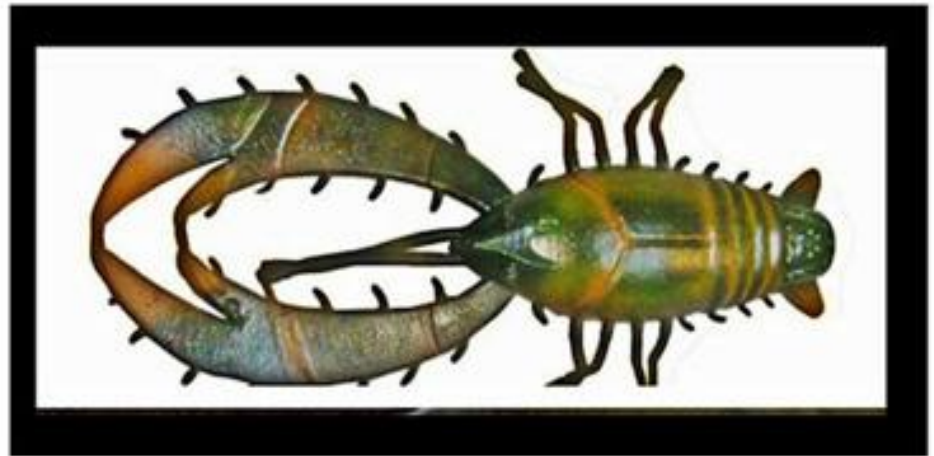
Rounding out the ARASHI family is the lethal hawg hunting Rattling Deep 10. As the name suggests, this outlaw swims at 10 feet with a moderate rolling action for the right amount of search, and a truckload of tail kick. The internal multi-ball rattle produces a loud, yet variable pitch for added attraction, and the long-cast design gets the bait on mark

with the subtlest of touches. At 2-3/8 inches long and weighing 9/16 ounce, this ARASHI is ready for battle.

All lures come with premium Black Nickel VMC® treble hooks in sizes 02 and 04, and are available in 12 alluring color patterns including Hot Blue Shad, Bluegill, Baby Bass, Crappie, Blue Back Herring, Wakasagi, Rusty Craw, Mossy Chartreuse Craw, Red Craw, Hot Chartreuse, Parrot and Black Silver Shad.

The new ARASHI series from Storm begs for action and will have anglers holding on as the on-the-water storm ensues.

Real Deal Craw. Big Bite Baits is proud to introduce the Real Deal Craw the newest offering in its craw line of baits. The Real Deal Craw is our most realistic craw ever; it has CAD designed features that make it



look and act like a real craw. The pinchers are designed to be realistic, and have two possible swimming actions. The pinchers are made in a connected position to give the bait a gliding action on the fall when left intact and by splitting the pinchers you can give the bait a subtle swimming action on the retrieve.

The Real Deal Craw is 4" in size and available in 7 of Big Bites best selling standard colors or in 3 high definition hand painted craw colors.

Get Kids Fishing Foundation



ODU CLASSIFIEDS

Match the Hatch!



fishboinglures.com

Painted By
BAIT WORKS
Custom Lure Painting

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANNY BARKER

Color Pattern
Batey Shad 2



Stewardship Kits
are booklets and
bags that mean
clean waters
where you live.
Order yours for just \$2.
RecycledFish.org/Kits



ODU CLASSIFIEDS

