

**July 2014
Late
Summer
Fishing**

**Breaking
Down
Muskie
Waters**


ODU MAGAZINE™

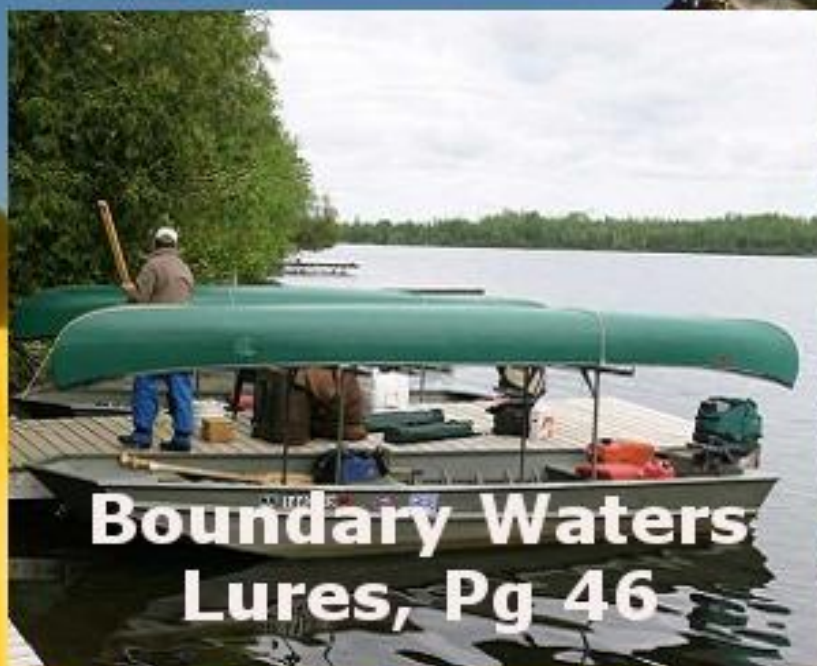
**Lay Over
Walleyes**

**Slow Death
Reborn**

**Summer Tactics For
Crappie Success**



**Bugging For
Summer
Excitement, Pg 6**



**Boundary Waters
Lures, Pg 46**



**Critical Concepts
for Boat
Control, Pg 61**

The Night Bite Is The Right Bite, Pg 9

Enjoy Your Fishing More This Summer, Pg 13

Breaking Down Muskie Waters, Pg 16

Buzzbait Bassin', Pg 20

What Lies Ahead for Sonar Technology, Pg 23

Shallow Water Fall Walleyes, Pg 24

Top Water Bass in Central Canada, Pg 29

Not All Structure Is Created Equally, Pg 32

Summer Tactics For Crappie Success, Pg 36

Summer Suggestions, Pg 40

It's Time to Get back on the Water, Pg 42

YUM's New Plastics Baits, Pg 43

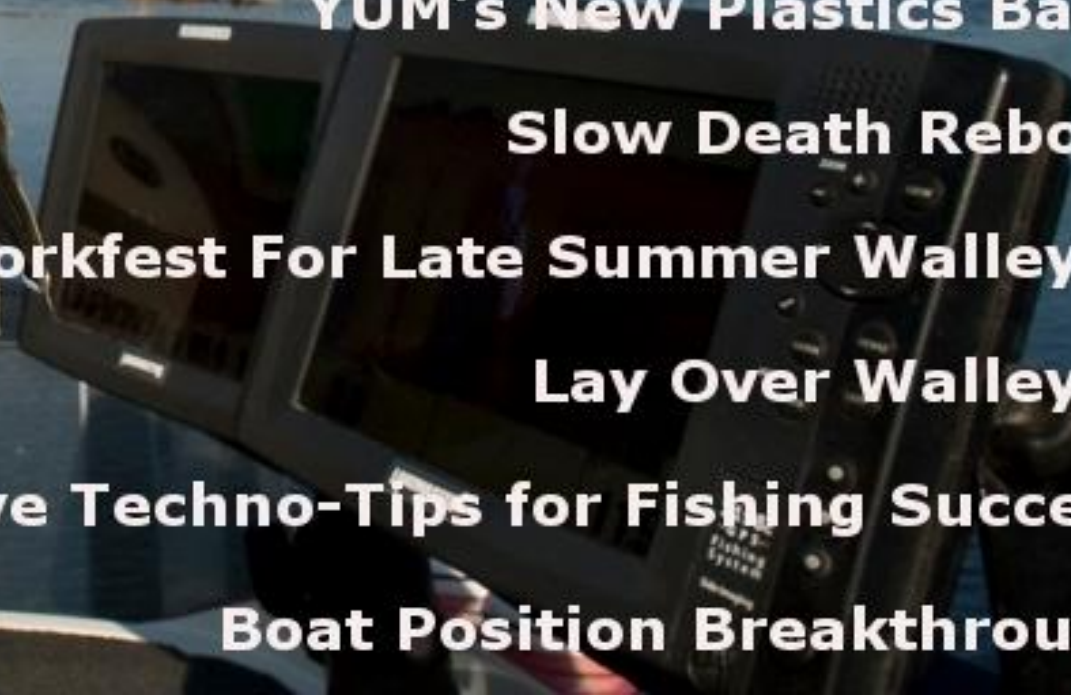
Slow Death Reborn, Pg 50

Porkfest For Late Summer Walleyes, Pg 54

Lay Over Walleyes, Pg 57

Five Techno-Tips for Fishing Success, Pg 64

Boat Position Breakthrough, Pg 68





Summer fishing is in full run now and anglers are spread out over their favorite honey holes. What a great time to remember our great fishing resources and do what you can to improve what we use and support local water authorities as they work on our behalf.

Not all water authorities do a great job, and many lake associations share the same misguided plans. BUT! We as anglers can help. Educate our neighbors, offer a leading hand to a

new boater, teach a dad or mom how to fish on behalf of their own children, as you leave a park, launch or marina take five minutes to pick up some trash and by all means take a child fishing yourself.

We hear this request year after year to take a child fishing and I think it is over looked sometimes. Next time you are working on your boat and packing it for another trip, you might notice a neighborhood kid watching, or friend stops by and asks when you are going fishing next. My favorite, thanks to social media, is when you post a great fish catch photo and friends respond, while making mention they wish they knew how to catch a fish like that. These are hints that you can make a difference with.

This is the time of year where families have the best chance to experience the great outdoors; with their vacation plans. Have you ever watched a parent with their child fishing, while noting a tone of frustration on the parent's part? Maybe you have seen a young angler using the well known inline spinner bobber combination. Ask these new anglers if you can help or offer a fishing tip.

This edition of ODU Magazine should hit many areas of the summer fishing explosion we are in and give a load of pointers to improve your days on the water. Please enjoy our offering of fishing articles and share our magazine with your friends, its free to read.

What is coming in August from ODU Magazine? Every July the fishing industry meets to exchange ideas, share new products, make



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Photos: Cover provided by TTI Blakemore. Index is of Brian 'BRO' Brodahl with a nice crappie and the rear cover is of Randy Howell with a nice catch provide by Livingston Lures "Howeller Dream Master Classic". Photo courtesy of Bassmaster and Livingston Lures.

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announcements and of course vote on the best new products at ICAST (International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades). This event, with the growth of social media, allows fishing media websites to share new products from the show almost immediately. Several websites make it a point to highlight several new products for the month or so to follow ICAST. We do this in ODU News as well. We post new product descriptions and YouTube videos with our growing readership in mind as well. We have one more unique way to share ICAST with our readership. It's the Top 99 of ICAST.



The Top 99 of ICAST are products that were newly introduced this year and several prior year products that we were not familiar with, but needed to be shared. Who makes it into the Top 99? Our team visited a slew of manufacturer booths and listened, tested and chose the products we would want in our tackle closets and on our boats. More importantly, these are products we would share with our fellow anglers.

You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter. And please, enjoy the outdoors.

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Bugging For Summer Excitement

By Bill Vanderford

The combination of a flyrod and a floating bass bug can be an explosive mixture around summer predator fish! When properly presented, bass and bream of all sizes and types will knock the paint off of these fake bugs!

Reasons for this fascination by bass and other hungry fish varies from the popping sound the lures make when jerked on the surface to their appearance as an easy meal. Most bass

bugs are light and usually land on the water softly, which never seems to scare the fish. Also, any movement looks to the fish like an injured dragonfly, grasshopper or other struggling insect.

To fish successfully with bass bugs, one only needs an inexpensive flyrod filled with weight-forward,

floating fly line, a 7 to 9 foot leader of 4 to 10 pound line, and a small assortment of bass bugs in different sizes and colors. A 6 to 8 weight flyrod with a simple, single-action reel is perfect for this endeavor.

Probably the most important item is the bass bug, and even that can be kept quite simple. A good bug usually has a cork body mounted on an extra-long shank hook with a flat to slightly concave face and not too many feathers. The face allows the bug to be popped on





the water for attraction, and by having a reasonable amount of tail feathers, the bug can be cast easier. Color is normally of little concern, but brighter colors that can be seen more easily by both the fish and the fisherman seem to produce better.

Learning to work a bass bug on the surface of the water requires a period of trial and error. When one finds the right combination of movement, the fish will let you know by their actions, but usually the method is no more than a simple jerk and stop retrieve.

These little poppers seem to work better when fished near logs, stumps, fallen trees, boat docks, rocky points or any other visible structures. Since fish are sometimes spooked by a sloppy cast, the first

cast to or near an object is important, so make a good initial presentation.

Despite the productivity and excitement of fishing bass bugs during the hot summer months, this type of fishing has its limitations. Calm water is normally required for success, and the best times are always around sunrise or sunset. Nevertheless, when this method works, no other system of fishing has the visual impact of a big bass or bream exploding the calm surface as they inhale a bass bug!

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.



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The Night Bite Is The Right Bite

By D&B Ice Adventures

No matter the fishermen or target species, there will be arguments about what environmental factors effect fish the most. This past winter, we struggled to put fish on the ice during the different moon phases. Mainly, a few days before and after the full moon. This lack of consistency in a daytime bite lead us to spending a good deal of time on the water at night. These night bites through the ice led us to fishing spring and summertime patterns in very similar manner. The past few weeks have been not only educational but a blast!

While fishing is easier when the sun is up, trying to figure things out in the dark can be interesting! To make things easier on yourself be sure to go out prepared for all situations. First, you need bug spray. The combination of summertime temperatures, lights, and bugs does not put fun in your favor! Secondly, either a good internal GPS of the body of water you are on or have faith in your electronics. Lastly, you need a variety of baits incase the fish are picky. There isn't a lot to it just the motivation to stay up late at night!

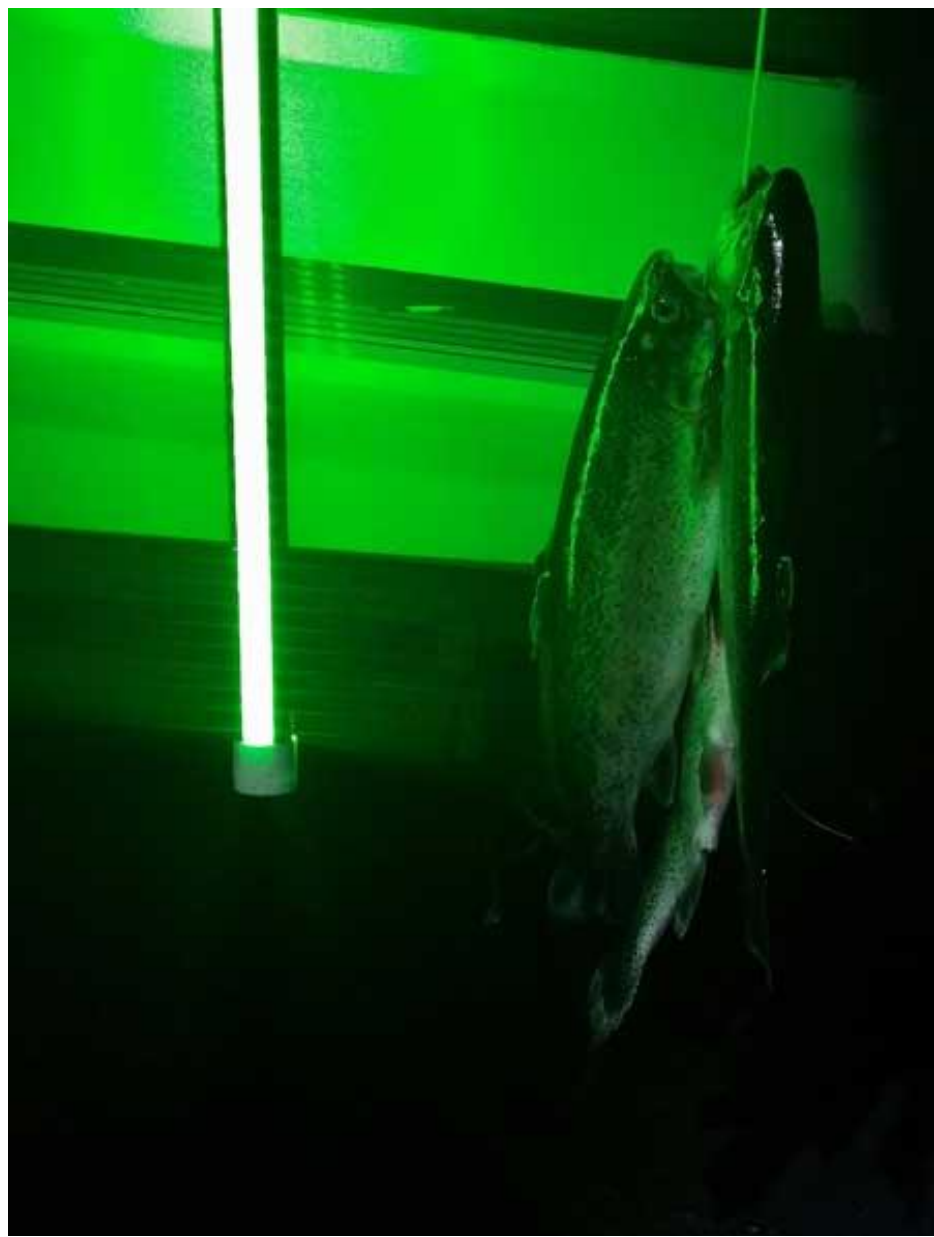
The first trip that we took on the water this spring had a steep learning curve. We were greeted to the lake by flat calm conditions with a setting sun. As we motored around looking for fish on the graph, the trout and bass were breaking surface everywhere chasing the numerous mayflies that were hatching. While we hit small pockets of fish in water in depths shallower than 20', it wasn't until we got to about 25' that they really started to stack up. Since, each trip has run fairly similar but with depths out to 32'.



The Night Bite Is

The Right Bite

By D&B Ice Adventures



It is not necessary but in general it helps to have the anchors set and the Hydro Glow Fishing Light submerged about a half hour before dark. Fishing in the dark brings its own set of challenges so it's always a good idea to have spare rods rigged up in case of a line break or bad tangle. While there are many options of terminal tackle, it is a good idea to always have one rigged up with a 1/32 ounce jig tipped with a whole crawler and another with a size 6 snelled hook and a half crawler with a light sinker about a foot above. Along with these basic set ups, it never hurts to have a variety of spoons, Kastmasters, plastics and flies just in case.

While we could catch these trout without electronics through trial and error, it is important to fish the entire water column. The top and bottom few feet tend to be a waste of time unless you want to catch some bottom dwellers. From 6-12' below the surface, it tends to be slow but some fish will cruise through when the ecosystem is really built up.

The most active depth range that our trips have pinpointed are between 13-18' down. To keep our baits in the hot zone each cast, we use short pieces of dental floss tied directly on the line. When the bite slows up, moving up or down a few feet usually makes the difference between a fish every few minutes and occasionally.

Most of the trout



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waters that we have fished so far have only a slight stain, so in general the effective depth range of these light is good. Ideally, having one light at each end of the boat will make fishing deeper water for these trout more productive because of the area that it will illuminate. While not certain, it seems as if the trout are cruising below the light and feeding up into it. With that said, it would make sense that our lights are casting down into that preferred depth of 13-18'. Many times, the entire graph on the boat will be clouded up with plankton and bait with fish streaking through.



On our first trip, we tried casting/retrieving and deadsticking. Not a single fish was caught with a cast/retrieve but a few were taken on the swing. The vast majority of the fish landed were caught by means of deadstick. It is vital to either be right on top of the rod, ready to set the hook or have it set up so that if you got a bite the rod would move an alert you. The bites were light and without a headlight on the line they are nearly unnoticeable. Each trip we still try both methods but have yet to have



much to convince us that casting is more productive.

The only bites so far that have been blatant were from bluegill. They hit so hard your rod will bounce off the rail of the boat. Very much like a normal day bite from them. As we learned more about night fishing, the use of glow sticks taped to the tip of the fishing rod makes detecting bites easy. It allows us to converse a bit more and even if not paying attention, the lights shake so fast that it is hard to miss!

At times, the fish come so close that they can be seen just inches from the boat. Having them that close can cause quite the commotion because of excitement. Being able to be quite at all times is very important. Spooking the fish from the area can cause a dry spell for quite some time or even end a night. Everything from netting to releasing fish all effect how the bite will continue.

Night fishing is easy and can be done right with a little scouting and an open mind. Not only will taking to the water after sunset increase your time fishing, you will most likely have the lake to yourself!

[D & B Ice Adventures](http://dbiceadventures.wordpress.com/) is based out of Barre, Vermont and composed of two fishing fanatics: Dylan Smith and Robert Booth. With an equal drive time to the Connecticut River and Lake Champlain, the hardest decision is whether they want to catch giant bluegill on the river or huge pumpkinseed on the lake with crappie in the mix at both. These decisions have been logged through their blog (<http://dbiceadventures.wordpress.com/>) which gives details on what they have to endure to be successful.



Enjoy Your Fishing More This Summer

By Bob Jensen

Lots of anglers refer to this time of year as the “Dog-Days of Summer”. The phrase “Dog-Days” came from ancient Rome and had to do with the stars and the belief that Sirius, The Dog Star, caused summer to be a bad time of year. Regardless of what they thought in ancient Rome, summer is not a bad time to go fishing. While catching fish in the summer can be challenging, the fact is that there are still lots of fish to catch. Their metabolism is high due to warmer water, so they eat more. If we put a bait in front of them at the right time and in the right manner, they’re going to eat that bait. Here are some things you can do to catch fish during the dog-days of summer.

First of all, wear sun-screen, and make sure it’s of a high-enough SPF (sun protection factor) to be of help. Wearing a “2” SPF really doesn’t do much good.

Fish fast. Keep moving until you find the fish. Once you find them, you can slow down and work them over good.

When I suggest that you fish fast, here’s what I mean. Let’s say you’re fishing walleyes. Check out



potential walleye areas with your depth-finder. If you don't see fish, or at least baitfish, move to another spot. Don't put a line in the water until you are sure you're near fish.

Once you find the fish, give them plenty of opportunities to bite. Go through them with several different presentations before you move on. Make a pass with crankbaits of a couple different colors or sizes. If nothing happens, make a troll with spinner rigs. If that doesn't do the trick, maybe slow down and work them with slip-bobbers. If they still don't go, mark the spot on your GPS and come back later. Eventually they will bite.

If you're after largemouth bass, try throwing crankbaits along the weedline or on a deeper largemouth structure. Crankbaits can be worked quickly and will enable you to cover lots of water. The #6 Salmo Hornets are outstanding bass baits.

If you get a couple bass off a spot, it might pay to slow down and work a slower presentation. Find the fish by fishing fast, and catch as many as you can by fishing fast. But if and when they quit responding to the faster presentation, give them something worked a little slower. You'll probably catch a few more.

When fishing is tough in the summer an Impulse Dip-Stick worm on a jig-head will be a good bet, and if it's really tough, slide an Impulse Ringworm onto the jig. The Ringworm is only four inches long, and sometimes that smaller size is what the fish want.

Fishing in the heat of the day during the summer months can get hot, and if it gets too uncomfortable, you should head for some place cooler. But after the extreme cold this past winter, most of us probably

aren't doing much complaining about the heat. Rain maybe, heat, probably not. If you keep the above ideas in mind, summer can provide some of the hottest fishing of the year.

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By David A. Brown



Breaking Down Unfamiliar Waters For Muskie “Success”

By Brian Koshenina

Here's the scene, your buddy ask you to go fish for Muskies on a lake you are totally unfamiliar with. He is counting on your knowledge and hopefully some “success”. Do you start to sweat and chicken out? Do you make up some excuse and fish your “comfort” lake instead or do you keep your head on straight and pick apart the lake piece by piece like the true Muskie hunter you are? Here are some ways that make me successful when I fish new waters.

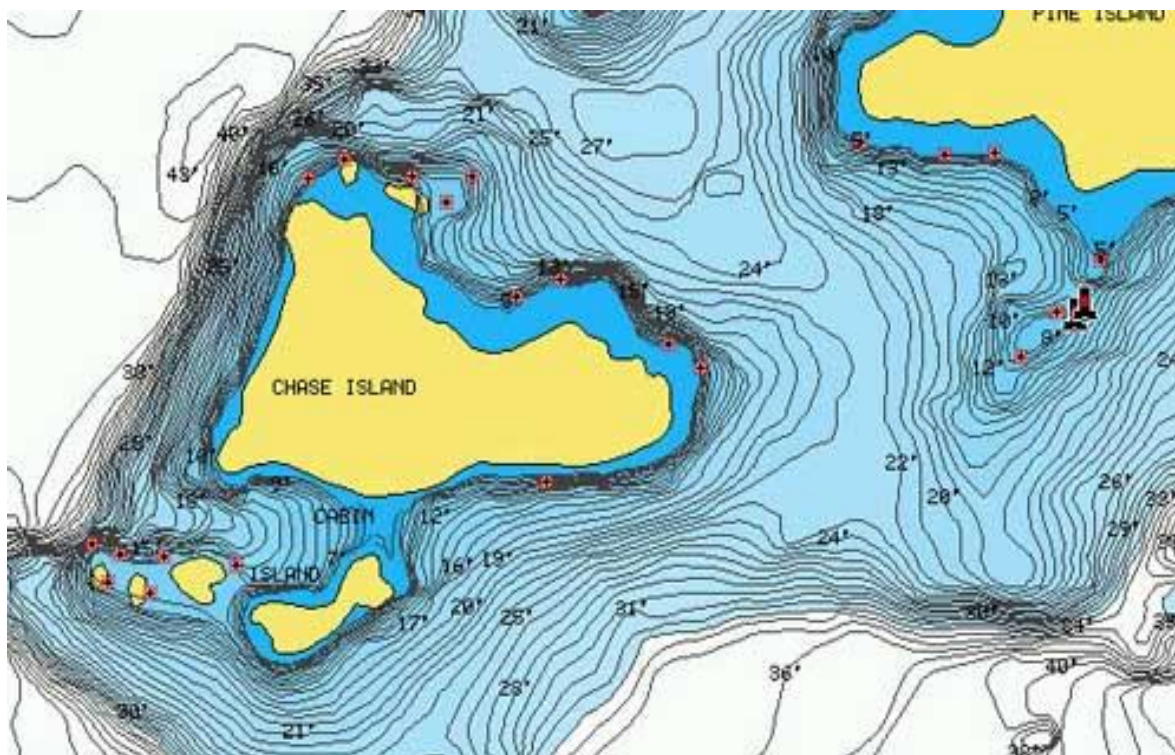
First thing first, don't be “intimidated”. The first thing I do when I fish a new lake is to look over a lake map. You can find these at local Bait stores and on the internet. Bait store's have books full of maps and also hard plastic maps that you can buy. The person behind the bait counter has a wealth of knowledge also. A very good friend of mine, Jim, owns the “Bait Den” in St. Cloud Minnesota. He is the “go to” person in the central part of the state for information. Many of his customers give up their “Hot Spots” so he knows where on the lakes the fish are located and what they are biting on. Jim is more than happy to share his knowledge with his customers and I often look to him for help when I am in that area.

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If you don't like that idea you can always use your smart phone. There are many sites that come in handy when trying to find the contour of a lake. If you have an I Phone or Android phone "Navionics" is an excellent source. Of course there is a small fee for the App but once you download it you will have access to thousands of lakes in your area, state and country. If you have time and do not want to pay a

fee, your state, Department of Natural Resources would be another good source. They often have access to lake survey maps that you can print from a computer.

Once you have your map in hand, study the contours of the lake and try to relate a few areas to a lake you have fished in the past. All lakes have some kind of structure, a flat, a drop



off or a point that Muskies will relate to. I myself use this method. My favorite lake has a half moon shaped Bull rush with a shallow flat on the inside that drops off sharply to deep water. I know Muskies use the shallow inside flat as an ambush point for unsuspecting bait fish. On a new lake I look at my map for anything that closely resembles that area. All predator fish follow baitfish and a shallow flat is an excellent place to start.

Second, make yourself “comfortable”. There is no need to be nervous. Yes the pressure is on you but the more tense you are the more mistakes that will be made. I always act cool and confident when I fish new waters. This holds true when I tournament fish. If I get nervous I lose my concentration and forget my game plan for the day. I start to fish spots that do not hold fish and that is not a good thing when you have only so much time to fish and there is a lot on the line. Do not forget what you have planned. Stick to your guns and fish the areas you’ve identified on your map.

Third, “use what works for you”. Using new lures, new equipment or new methods to fish should be done on days where no one is counting on you or on a lake you are familiar with. I only try new things out if I am on my favorite lake or if I have time. Use what works for you on the areas that you know will hold fish. I have confidence in certain lures that I use and I often throw them all year long. Some anglers say that certain lures only work at certain times of the year. That’s true in some instances but I believe that if you fish a lure well and you are confident you can draw fish in. I have caught many, big Muskie in the deeper part of lakes, in mid -summer using a top water lure. I had confidence in it and I wasn’t afraid to shy away from the usual methods.

The next time you plan on fishing new waters, try some of my methods out. Use them to gain some confidence and more often than not you will be successful and a hero to your fishing buddy, your clients and to yourself.



Sources:

- <http://www.navionics.com/en/mobile-apps>
- <https://www.facebook.com/BAITDEN>
- <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html>

Brian Koshenina is a professional guide www.muskiesandmore.com, radio host www.knsiradio.com, outdoor writer, tournament angler, mentor and volunteer in Minnesota <http://simplyoutdoorexperiences.org/>.

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Buzzbait Bassin'

By Dan Johnson

Timely tips for largemouths on the ceiling.

Plenty of tactics catch largemouths, but one of the most exciting and often most effective ways to hook hefty bass hinges on making magic on the ceiling of the underwater world. Another bonus, not only do topwater patterns produce bass all summer, they promise an adrenaline rush unlike any presentation on the planet.

"Topwaters are a threat from the time water temperatures hit about 65 degrees in late spring until they start dropping in mid-fall," says widely traveled bassin' ace Scott Bonnema. While a variety of surface baits including frogs, poppers, propbaits and wakebaits are top options in the right circumstances, buzzbaits are hot throughout the year.

In fact, Bonnema often begins his seasonal surface assault with buzzbaits. "They're one of the first topwaters I fish in spring," he says, explaining that

buzzing shallow flats adjacent to spawning areas is a great way to cover water and trigger strikes.

Throughout the season, Bonnema tailors blades, colors and sizes to the conditions at hand. "Double-wing buzzbaits like Terminator's Tandem Buzz are great in cooler water and any time the fish are a little lethargic," he says. "They make a lot of commotion, produce double the bubble trail, and move just a little slower than single-blade designs, so they're easier for sluggish bass to track and hit."

Single blades shine for covering water in search of active fish. "They also grab less grass, which is a plus once vegetation comes to the surface in shallow water," Bonnema notes. Colors are a secondary concern during a hot buzzbait bite, though Bonnema often leans on chrome or nickel finishes, although darker hues such as a black blade with black-and-blue skirt can be deadly as well. Blade sizes trend toward moderate dimensions. "I prefer not to throw really big blades," he says. "Standard 1- to 1¼-inch diameter blades are fine."



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Curly-tail grubs make great toppings. "I almost always add a single-tail grub trailer to my buzzbaits," Bonnema says. "Grubs keep the buzzbait riding higher and allow you to move it slower." Top colors include white, white/chartreuse and black. "A lot of times trailer color is dictated by light conditions," he adds. "Under clear,

sunny skies I stick with whites, and switch to darker colors in overcast conditions because they make it easier for bass to see the bait's silhouette."

Bonnema's buzzbait retrieve is straight-forward. "Once you get the bait up and running, a steady, medium pace that keeps the blade turning and the bait on the surface is key," he says. "Don't worry about burning it. Most times, moderate speeds produce far more bass." When fancasting a likely area, Bonnema typically drops several casts close together. "Making two or three casts in the same vicinity allows bass that get interested in the first pass to strike follow-up casts," he explains.



When a bass blows up on a buzzbait but misses the mark, Bonnema immediately fires a jig worm, tube or Texas-rigged bug-style softbait into the strike zone. "You need to have a throwback rod ready to go," he says. "Not in the rod locker or strapped down on deck. Ready to pick up and throw in a heartbeat."

The reasoning is simple. Bass rarely miss baits by accident. "The fish most likely was trying to chase the bait away," Bonnema says. Making a couple quick pitches to the scene of the attack often triggers a second strike that engulfs the jig or softbait. "Throw right to the boil, let the bait fall to bottom and sit a few seconds," Bonnema advises. "A lot of times when you lift the jig, the bass already has it. If not, give it a twitch or two, reel back in and pitch it again."

A Texas-rigged Trigger X Flappin' Bug is one of Bonnema's favorite buzzbait backups. "It drops straight down, and has a beefy profile plus a lot of appendages, so the bass know it's there," he says.

When bass do connect with your buzzbait, avoid the temptation to strike back fast and hard. "You end up missing most of the fish that way," Bonnema warns. "Close your eyes and wait for the fish to turn with the bait before you set." He adds that 14- to 17-pound test premium monofilament such as Sufix ProMix offers a bit of forgiveness if you set too hard, especially when paired with a medium-action rod.

Buzzbaits excel in a variety of scenarios, from open water to modest weed mats. Once salad clogs the surface, Bonnema begins reaching for frogs and other secret weapons. But the slop story is a saga for another day. For now, cranking up buzzbaits is a happening program for busting beefy bass on the ceiling.

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(www.odumagazine.com)



What Lies Ahead for Sonar Technology

Captain Mike Gerry

With the changes in technology over the past five to eight years reaching beyond any ones expectations; one has to wonder what lies ahead! We have seen Lowrance bring bottom imaging and clarity to levels we would have never expected and never seen before, but there is more to come as I believe we are just getting started. There is certainly more to come and I believe it lies in the future of what is being referred to as CHIRP technology.

CHIRP technology is short for “compressed high intensity radar pulse,” a technology that is adding clarity and eliminating clutter on your sonar better than anything we

have seen. It is the future and what we are use to as HDS technology I believe will soon become the past as we progress into the future of bottom imaging and fish finding. CHIRP technology and the new CHIRP units “scan a broad range of frequencies to up the ante in sensitivity, target separation, noise rejection and even ease of use.” The technology we use today is great and certainly effective but as we all know you’re screen is covered with clutter and as you increase the sensitivity the clutter increases with it; CHIRP technology will reduce the clutter substantially and increase your ability to see fish in heavy grass or hugging the bottom in deep water as it has a wide range of frequencies and allows you to view from 50kHz to 800kHz increasing the clarity at different depths and increased boat speeds. What lies ahead as Lowrance refines the CHIRP technology I believe will be increased screen sizes and down imaging that will be clearer than any technology we have today that will once again raise the bar to all of Lowrance competitors. We will be enamored by the clarity, speed and increased sensitivity at which CHIRP technology will bring to the avid fisherman, as the current prices for CHIRP technology are extremely reasonable and are affordable to us all. I believe what lies ahead is not limited at all, use your imagination and I think you will be able to view in your mind what is next!

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Shallow Water Fall Walleyes

By Capt. Adam Walton



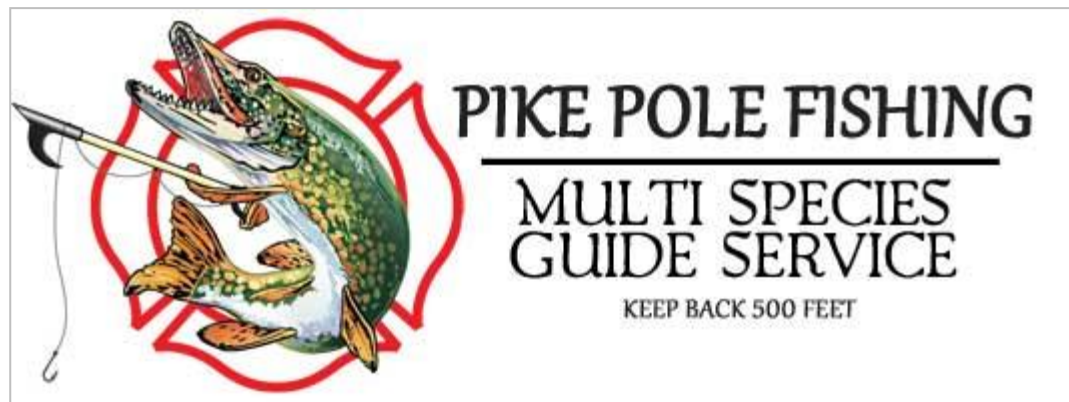
Cool days, dropping water temps, weed cover dispersing. Oh yeah, fall will soon be in the air. With some of the best fishing days laying ahead, many anglers are itching for quality walleye fishing. There are many great articles discussing fall walleye activity in deep water areas. But what about often overlooked shallow waters that hold walleyes? And when I say shallow, I'm talking about waters that are six feet or less. With a little change in tactics, these areas can offer just as much action as deeper lakes.

Fall is the time where many deep water walleyes make their move to breaks and drop off areas, suspending in waters 15 feet or deeper. Just like years before, they follow the baitfish, which have

moved out of dying weed cover and into the abyss. On shallow water lakes however, walleyes obviously don't have the option of retreating to deep breaks and drop offs. Although they still follow baitfish leaving the dying weed cover, fish have no other choice but to roam the shallows as they did in the warmer months. In the fall however, there are some behavior changes to be aware of.

Many walleyes tend to school up tighter in the fall and hold on certain areas for longer periods of time. Locate spots that have a changing bottom composition. Focus on finding sand bottom changing to mud or rocks changing to sand. These areas will consistently hold fish. Areas with stump cover, which are found in many shallow water flowages, will also hold plenty of fish. On shallow lakes, wind can easily push roaming baitfish away from normally productive spots. If steady wind conditions are present and fish aren't holding to windward or mid-lake cover, try the leeward side of the lake. Many times baitfish may be located here, with hungry walleyes lingering nearby.

Another fall factor is feeding times. With walleyes being low light feeders, most shallow stained lakes have better bite activity during the day. Since the days become shorter this



time of year, walleye will commonly feed for longer periods during daylight hours. In the heavily stained waters we fish, there are many days where the bite begins around 8:00am and will continue until 3:00pm. As the season moves on, weeds and algae die off, allowing several stained lakes to clear up slightly. When this occurs, walleyes may begin to bite into the night, and the consistent daytime action can decrease.



Another fall change occurs with cooling water temperatures. Cool water temperature can slow down walleye aggressiveness and they may not pursue fast lure presentation as they did in warmer months. Slowing down your presentation can be important and applying similar early season walleye fishing tactics work well.

Just like early season fishing, slowly bottom bouncing and dragging jigs can be one of the best ways to entice shallow water fall walleyes into biting. Also, fish are looking to bulk up for the coming winter months. Since fish are looking for an easy, large meal, bigger profile baits can trigger more action.



Kalin's ¼ oz to ½ oz "Triple Threat" jigs or Northland Tackle "Rock It" jigs (pictured below) up to 1 oz work well for this application. Since most shallow water is stained, yellow, chartreuse, and white colored jigs typically work well. We tip the jigs with full live crawlers or 7" Uncle Josh Meat Canadian crawlers until the water dips below 60 degrees. After the water cools below 60 degrees, we switch to live Blacktail chubs, Uncle Josh "Meat" minnows, or Northland Tackle "Impulse" minnows. Again, don't be hesitant to create big profile baits. We've caught numerous small walleyes on 1 oz jigs tipped with 7" artificial minnows. If using an artificial minnow, try ones with forked tails. If the bait comes without a forked tail, such as Uncle Josh's "Meat" minnow, simply cut the tail to create a fork. This small variation has made the difference between fish and no fish for us. Another lure we use when jigging are Vibrations

Tackle's "Echo Tail" (pictured above). These lures are a combination of a weighted blade with an interchangeable soft tail. Tipped with a Kalin's grub or Uncle Josh "Meat" crawler, slowly bottom bouncing these lures can be deadly. Offered in many sizes and colors, there are numerous "Echo Tail" combinations to try, however, bright 1 oz lures have produced well for us in stained water. Many times fish will change their feeding preferences midday and go from slamming live baits to hammering artificial ones. The key to fishing between live and artificial baits is to be versatile. Let the fish tell you what they want and don't get stuck into fishing the same bait with poor results. Whether tipped with live bait or artificial, this simple style of shallow water fishing has put more walleyes in our boats than any other tactic.

Although jigging produces great numbers during the fall, trolling shallow water still has its place. Especially in large lakes, fish can be difficult to locate and trolling will help pin point their locations. Once fish are located, switch to jigging tactics previously discussed. When trolling, try pulling bigger, brighter lures at speeds between 1.0 to 1.8 mph. #7 Flicker Shads, Rapala Deep Tail Dancers, and large Salmo Hornets ticking along the bottom have all worked well, but experimenting never hurts. There's obviously a greater chance of spooking fish in shallow water, so implementing trolling planner boards will help tremendously in this scenario. The solidly made "Off Shore Tackle" planner boards work great and they seem to handle wind conditions better than other brands. Ensure to distance the boards behind the boat and quickly mark areas on your GPS when fish hit. Any delay in "marking" fish on the GPS can make it a struggle finding the exact spot fish were located when returning to jig the area. Being off just a few feet can make a huge difference.

Easily my favorite time of year, nothing beats a cool fall day on the water...especially when fish are biting. Go bigger, Go slower, and Go Longer. Shallow water can be great walleye fishing in the fall and often less pressured, as other anglers travel to search the depths. Tight lines and good luck.

Editors Note: Adam Walton is the owner of Pikepole Fishing Guide Service and specializes in multi-species angling. He is a licensed United States Coast Guard Charter Captain and a certified State of Wisconsin Paramedic. Along with guiding, Adam participates in professional walleye tournaments and is a contributing writer for Badger Sportsman Magazine, Lake-Link, and ODU Magazine. To contact Adam, call 608-290-3929 or email him at awaltonjfd@gmail.com.



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When most outsiders think of fishing in central Canada, they think about walleye and northern pike. Maybe even channel cats.

But in Manitoba and northwestern Ontario, we love our bass fishing every bit as much as our neighbours to the east.

Smallmouth opportunities abound in southeastern Manitoba, and both smallmouth and largemouth are dominant forces in many northwestern Ontario lakes. Many of the bass waters in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario are rocky, much like the surrounding landscape of the picturesque Canadian Shield. They offer a great mix of boulders, gravel and sand, with a healthy complement of weed growth.

Throughout the summer months, when walleye can be scattered and big pike are sluggish, those bass can be on aggressive, easy-to-pattern feeds.

This is a great time of year to target them on top water. Aside from being highly entertaining, it's also an effective approach for targeting bass that move up shallow or suspend to feed.

The truth is that smallmouth will hit on top water throughout most of the open water season, following the patterns and location of their forage (or in the case of spawning, on guard from potential dangers).

After spawn – which usually wraps up early July in Manitoba - the bass go through a brief recovery period and then switch back into feeding mode.



*A Great
Canadian
Female Anglers
Feature*

Top Water Bass in Central Canada

By Carolyn Kosheluk



Smallmouth opportunities abound in Manitoba and northwestern Ontario.

During the months of July and August, the bite can be hot, leading into the aggressive fall feeding of September.

Top water isn't going to work every day on every lake here. There are situations, such as when the



For a versatile presentation, walk the dog with Rapala's X-Rap Subwalk.

bass are feeding on crayfish or are sitting on deeper big-lake structure, when subsurface presentations are essential. But plenty of situations will offer top water bites all day long.

Our lakes are affected by varying fly hatches, which can kick-start a feeding frenzy and see the bass gorge themselves to excess. Depending on the hatch and the angler, these can either be tough times to catch (the fish have more easy food than they need with both nymphs and hatched flies), or a great opportunity. Anglers who appreciate the competitive nature of smallmouth can do very well

with surface presentations that mimic (and enhance) the offering of the hatch.

Other times during the summer, we're chasing bass that are coming up to feed on forage like baitfish and frogs. All of these food sources mean that anglers in these parts better have a variety of bait options to throw.

Must-Have Baits

When targeting summer smallmouth in central Canada, don't leave home without:

1) Walking the dog. These waters have a lot of diverse structure, and few techniques can touch the versatility of this presentation. Whether a torpedo, minnow or chug-style bait, these lures can be fished fast or slow over everything from weed beds to rocky reefs. Top picks: X-Rap Subwalk (pictured above), Rattlin' Chug Bug (pictured below), Super Spook.

2) Lots of pop. Poppers are hot when forage is causing a commotion on top, and there's an opportunity to target a smaller area of high potential. These lakes offer a lot of weed-to-rock transition areas, rocky reefs and even current breaks. Different body shapes provide different roles and lures, so be prepared to try a few varieties. Top picks: Hopper Popper, Pencil Popper, Skitter Pop.

3) A frog for the job. Abundant lily pads, reeds, and other vegetation provide great opportunities, and on-the-top frog baits are a great way to bring bass to the surface. Weedless plastic frogs work over cover effortlessly, while frog-patterned poppers can draw big attention. Top picks: Trigger X Frog, Live Target Hollow Frog, Scum Frog.



Storm's Chug Bug is a great option when long casts are essential.

4) Preparing to go the distance. Fishing top water often brings us to large areas of shallow, rocky water, and some of these lakes are quite clear. In those cases, having weighted lures for long-casting is essential for greater catch potential. Top picks: Rapala's X-Rap series, Storm Chug Bug, Heddon's Spook series.

Note: While these smallies can require targeting specific areas, it's always wise to have a few faster-fishing baits – like buzz baits and prop baits - for covering more water when you need to search.

Manitoba-based writer/angler/hunter Carolyn Kosheluk lives for the wilderness experience. She has devoted the last 16 years to working, volunteering, and enjoying life in the outdoors community. She also proudly represents Rapala and Alumacraft as a sponsored angler. Photo credits are as follows: Manitoba Smallmouth - By Steve Sasaki, Rapala Subwalk - By Rapala and Chug Bug – By Storm Lures.





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Not All Structure Is Created Equally

D & B Ice Adventures



Structure is a broad term that refers to any inconsistency to the general layout of a body of water. Just about everyone knows how important structure is; especially crappie fishermen! Knowing how to correctly select and then approach it can make a bad day, good and a good day, great. We consider there to be two types of structure; Hard and Soft. Here are some of our thoughts and patterns used to put more fish in

the boat.

As mentioned before, correctly fishing structure is key to success on the water. To begin, having a clue where the fish are is a good start. To keep things simple, let's disregard winter for this entire article. In general, during the spring and fall start shallow, in the summer go deep but most importantly, follow the water temperatures and your instincts!

Side scan technology is truly amazing and makes finding these secluded ecosystems easier. You would be surprised to see what lies in lakes you have fished your entire life and never knew were there. All of these bits of structure can and probably will hold fish at some point in the year, finding them is the hard part. You have got to do your homework!

Spending days on the water without wetting a line has loaded up our GPS with waypoints for all seasons and conditions. Days like this, although unproductive as far as putting meat on the table, are highly productive for future trips. After identifying spots, fish them toughly, keep notes, and change the waypoint icon to identify its value. After several trips, you should have a decent idea on whether it will produce quality and quantity. Even if a spot doesn't seem worthwhile, it is always good to keep it on the back burner though because fish move and respond to many external factors.

As mentioned earlier, knowing whether the fish are relating to hard or soft structure is key. Hard structure would be points, humps, woody debris, or manmade structure. Soft structure would be weeds, temperature breaks, and eddies. Having the ability to be versatile with fishing methods will allow you to alter your trips outcome.

There are many key factors which will determine if the fish are relating to hard or soft structure. Weather, water level, water temperature and clarity just to name a few. One of the most important

factors to consider is the time of the year. During the early spring, after the ice has just gone out, you will find crappie relating to or near the soft structure. Fish will congregate on weed edges near spawning grounds waiting for the temperatures to hit that magic number. If you are able to locate spawning grounds one spring, start a little earlier next spring and look for them just outside of these areas. Crappie will also briefly hold on these same pre-spawn areas directly following the spawn as they transition into their summer patterns. Pinch points and emerging lily pads are great places to look for these weeds edges in 4-8 feet of water.

One of the most difficult times to locate crappie is the month or so following the spawn. They seem to disperse quickly and almost convince you they are gone! Don't panic, think about the next bit of structure they'll relate to. This may seem silly but main lake/river channels are where you'll find post spawn crappie as they begin to feed heavily before they move on into their summer patterns. Once again look for the deeper weed edges, but this time you'll most likely find them on the first major break into the channel outside of the weed edge. Casting and trolling small crank baits is a great way to locate these fish at this time of the year. Rock points that extend out from shore is also a key feature to look for. Crappie will often hold here as the water warms, it also acts as a great ambush point for their post spawn carb reload.

Now the fun begins... Crappie, especially white crappie become more predictable during the summer months. They have completed their spawn, restored their energy, and have now settled in. When water temperatures consistently hover in the low to mid the 70's look for crappie relating to hard structure, anything that



casts a shadow usually works. Trees, rock-piles, and wrecks are all good places to look for summering crappie. We are able to locate this structure using our side scan units but knowing what depth to look in is key. In our neck of the woods it seems like most of the white crappie choose structure located in 12-18 feet of water while the black crappie will be found shallower in 5-10'.

It is important to understand how the fish will relate to these structures based on factors that change day to day. Read the wind. Typically, you'll find the mass majority of the fish on the opposing side of the wind. As an east wind blows it'll cause the current to stack the bait fish along the east side of the structure, often times the crappie will suspend on the west side waiting for an easy snack while staying somewhat out of the current. They can often times be extremely lazy fish.

The movement of the sun throughout the day can also cause fish to move around the structure, as it changes the location of the shade. This is really important to understand especially if your lake has clear water which easily allow the light to penetrate. We have often times been anchored on one location for a lengthy amount of time and seen the fish begin to relate to the shade from the boat. Another good place to find shade is in tall weeds. You can fish edges or pockets. Sometimes the bigger fish relate to small pockets while others they like larger openings.

In some states it is acceptable to create your own structure. This way you can place it exactly where you want to and you can orientate things to accommodate every condition. There is a great product on the market from Mossback Fish Attractors (www.mossbackfishrack.com). Mossback makes different sized fish attractors for every situation. The units are as close to snag free as you can get and over time will attract the fish. Products like these are a great addition to any body of water,



especially if your lake doesn't have an abundance of natural structure!

A few tweaks to your day on the water can make a huge different on the outcome. Most importantly, don't be afraid to spend a good chunk of time just looking around. It always pays off in the end even if you are just eliminating dead water. You will certainly be surprised how much structure is down there even if you can't see it!

D & B Ice Adventures is based out of Barre, Vermont and composed of two fishing fanatics: Dylan Smith and Robert Booth. With an equal drive time to the Connecticut River and Lake Champlain, the hardest decision is whether they want to catch giant bluegill on the river or huge pumpkinseed on the lake with crappie in the mix at both. These decisions have been logged through their blog (<http://dbiceadventures.wordpress.com/>) which gives details on what they have to endure to be successful.



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Summer Tactics For Crappie Success - By Brian Koshenina



Here in the “North” part of the country, Minnesota to be exact, we love chasing down “slab” Crappies. Next to the Walleye, Crappies are considered by most Minnesotan’s to be the” tastiest” fish around. But, come summer time, most of us stop chasing Crappies for more easier fish to catch like Bass and Pike. Catching summer Crappie can be a lot easier than you think. Here are some tips and tactics that can make your summer a success.

Every fisherman knows that Crappies are easily caught in the spring due to the spawn and their location in shallow water. You can easily locate them on just about any lake you choose to fish. Fish a flat, shallow area with new weed growth and left over cover from the winter and you will catch Crappie. But what about the hot, summer months? Where can you catch Crappie in the summer? Where do they go? What are they eating?

As the days get longer and the sun gets hotter, Crappies move away from their

spring spawning areas. As the surface water temp rises, weeds become more abundant and use up more oxygen forcing food sources and Crappies to move deeper. This is when location becomes the” key” and having general knowledge of the lake you are fishing becomes critical. Study lake maps and talk to your local bait shops to gain some information on where they are biting before you head out. Look for deeper weed lines, areas with a steep drop off next to a shallow flat, deeper sunken trees and or rocks and deep areas adjacent to shallow bays. I recently had a discussion with my friend and fellow volunteer, Rose, on how to find Crappies in the, ”Dog Days of Summer”. Through our talk I found out that Rose didn’t know that studying the lake before you hit the water could make you more successful. She said that” she would just fish areas that she was familiar with and also fish where others were”. I showed her a lake map and taught her how to identify areas that could potentially hold Crappie. This gave Rose the confidence to go out and potentially fill her limit.

Electronics also play a critical role in finding Crappie during this time. You do not have to have the “Best” electronics to spot Crappies, only some general knowledge on how your electronics work and how it shows fish on the screen. How many times have you passed over an area and found a “blob” on your screen with arches surrounding it. That “blob” you see is often a “Bait Ball” and those arches are



often more times than not, Crappies. Crappies love to suspend and the reason why is their need to forage for food. Crappies are also known as "notorious up biters". You will often find them slightly above the "thermocline", watching what is above them. If they see a potential food source, they will swim up and eat.

There are many methods for catching Crappie. You can use bobbers, vertical jig, cast small crank baits and spinners and you can drift a jig and a trailer. In the summer I prefer to troll at a very low speed (.6 miles an hour usually works the best), with a 1/16 ounce jig and a 2" grub. I use my GPS and finder to identify deeper weed lines. I lift my rod tip up slightly and forward. As I said before, Crappies are "up biters" and this technique forces them to commit to the presentation. Mark waypoints on your GPS as you catch fish. This will allow you to identify a pattern as to where the Crappies are located. Make several passes over your waypoints. Remember,

Crappies "Move" and this is only a temporary pattern. You have to find them and move with them as the day progresses. At the end of the day, look at your waypoints and keep notes as to what the water temp was, how hot it was, was it sunny, cloudy or rainy, was wind a factor, what were they biting on and their depth in the water column.

Next to Muskie, Crappies are my favorite fish to catch. There is nothing better than finding a school of Crappie especially when it is the middle of summer, so do a little homework, learn to use your electronics and try a new technique and you will find that you can be successful even in the hot days of summer.

Brian Koshenina is a professional guide www.muskiesandmore.com, radio host www.knsiradio.com, outdoor writer, tournament angler, mentor and volunteer in Minnesota <http://simplyoutdoorexperiences.org/>.



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Summer Suggestions

By Bob Jensen

It's this time of year every year when I re-remember some things. If you keep some of these things in mind, you may be more successful and enjoy your time on the water even more.

The mosquitoes are especially unpleasant this year, or at least they are in all the places I've been. Once you're on the water they're not too bad, but you don't want to spend much time putting the boat in and taking it out, especially early and late in the day. Insect repellent certainly helps. DEET is the stuff that makes many repellents effective, and DEET comes in different concentration levels in different repellents. The lower levels of DEET will keep mosquitoes away just as well as the higher levels, but not for as long. Many people who spend a lot of time in mosquito country prefer to use the lower levels and just apply them more often. I've seen first-hand what high level DEET will do to plastic, and that's not something that I want happening to my skin.

Speaking of putting the boat in and taking it out, now is a great time to practice that routine. The people who fish in the boat with you should know how to drive the boat for a couple of reasons.

First, if something bad happens to the primary boat operator, someone else in the boat should know how to drive it.

Secondly, having a second driver in the boat can make the loading and unloading procedure so much easier and faster. When you back into the water to start the day, one person should be in the boat, another backing the trailer into the water. When the boat slides off the trailer, the boat driver simply



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idles away from the dock, the truck driver parks the truck/trailer and comes to the dock, and the boater driver picks up his partner.

At the end of the day you pull into the dock, the truck/trailer driver jumps out, the boat backs away from the dock and only approaches when the trailer is in the water.

If you have to tie up to the dock, you are effectively taking it out of use for anyone else for who knows how long. Your boating partners should know how to drive the boat.

Remember to take the plug out of the boat when you're traveling down the road. In some places towing a boat down the road with water in the livewell is not permitted. This is an attempt to slow the spread of invasive species.

Also in some places you can't transport minnows from one lake to another without

proper documentation.

If you've been fishing very much this year, now is a good time to check your line. Add fresh line if you detect any nicks or rough spots in the line.

Do a quick check around your boat trailer and make sure the lights are working and the wheels and tires are safe and in good condition.

If you keep life-jackets or foul weather gear in your boat, air it out. I keep a set of Cabela's Guidewear in my boat. It's great stuff and I don't want to ruin it by letting it get moldy.

There's lots of summer left. If you keep these things in mind while you're fishing, you'll enjoy the rest of the summer even more.

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IT'S TIME TO GET BACK ON THE WATER

By Captain Mike Gerry

different types from wood to boat houses, grass and all in-between. The only kicker is the structure needs to be near the deeper water and when you get a bite anchor your boat in that spot and enjoy!

If you have run from the water because of the heat, you should re-think your strategy because you can really enjoy this time of year; an added bonus to all this is water current. It's the time of year that the demand on electricity is at its peak and the need to generate power has the TVA pulling water more than any time of year adding to the reason to head back to the lake. As the current is a key to summer time fishing.

The other good news it is also the time when the worm fishing is probably at its best, as the vertical drop of a big worm through the grass is one of the best ways to catch a big sack of fish. Adding to that is the fact that the presentation you would use on a worm can be anything from a dead stick, to a Texas rig or Carolina rig they all will work and all will be the key to a great day in the heat of the summer!

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We have reached a transition time of year on most reservoirs, the bass are moving to the structure as they slowly migrate to the fall positions and fishing couldn't be better. The one thing that drives many anglers off the water is also driving the bass to the structure; the heat. Locating fish in this transition time could never be easier as their patterns are all about proximity to deep water.

It is my believe that this is some of the best timing on any lake to catch a big fish, the reason being is the bass are bunching up and when you get on them you are going to get several opportunities in close proximity to each other. This fact alone is one of the best reasons to get back on the water, you don't have to burn much fuel to find the bass and the bigger fish are lurking around the structure. The good news is the structure can be many



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light-wire jighead or even a downsized Texas rig.

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The new YUM Sharp Shooter drop shot and finesse worm is available in two sizes, 4 ½- and 6-inches, and is available in 10 pro-selected, fish-catching color patterns. For more information go to www.yumbaits.com.

YUM Kill Shot Targets Drop-Shot Bass. “Put Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spots In Your Sights”

Drop-shot baits must be soft and supple to produce a realistic look and feel to catch bass in clear-water or during neutral feeding modes, and until now the only way to get the right plastic consistency was to go with a hand-poured worm – an expensive and sometimes frustrating choice. The new YUM Kill Shot gives you a consistency comparable to



hand-poured baits without the frustration of searching for limited inventory or paying out the nose for them.

The YUM Kill Shot features a flat bottom for a dependable horizontal attitude on the hook, and a ribbed body that produces fish-attracting water displacement. Add to that a raised vertical ridge along the tail to enhance both side-to-side and up-and-down swimming action and you’ve got your next go-to drop shot or finesse worm bait. The Kill Shot is available in eight color patterns proven to catch all species of bass. YUM Kill Shots are made in the USA.

The new YUM Kill Shot drop shot bait is 3.75-inches in length and is available in eight bass-focused color patterns. For more information go to www.yumbaits.com.

YUM Warning Shot Puts One Across The Bow. “This Warning Shot Hits Bass In The Ten Ring”

The new Warning Shot drop shot and finesse bait from YUM features hand-pour quality and a unique, thin blade-shaped tail that moves with the slightest twitch or breath of current. This 3 ¾-inch ribbed



worm has a flat bottom to exaggerate the natural up-and-down swimming action and a slashing, blade-like tail that wags back-and-forth like a puppy dog tail.

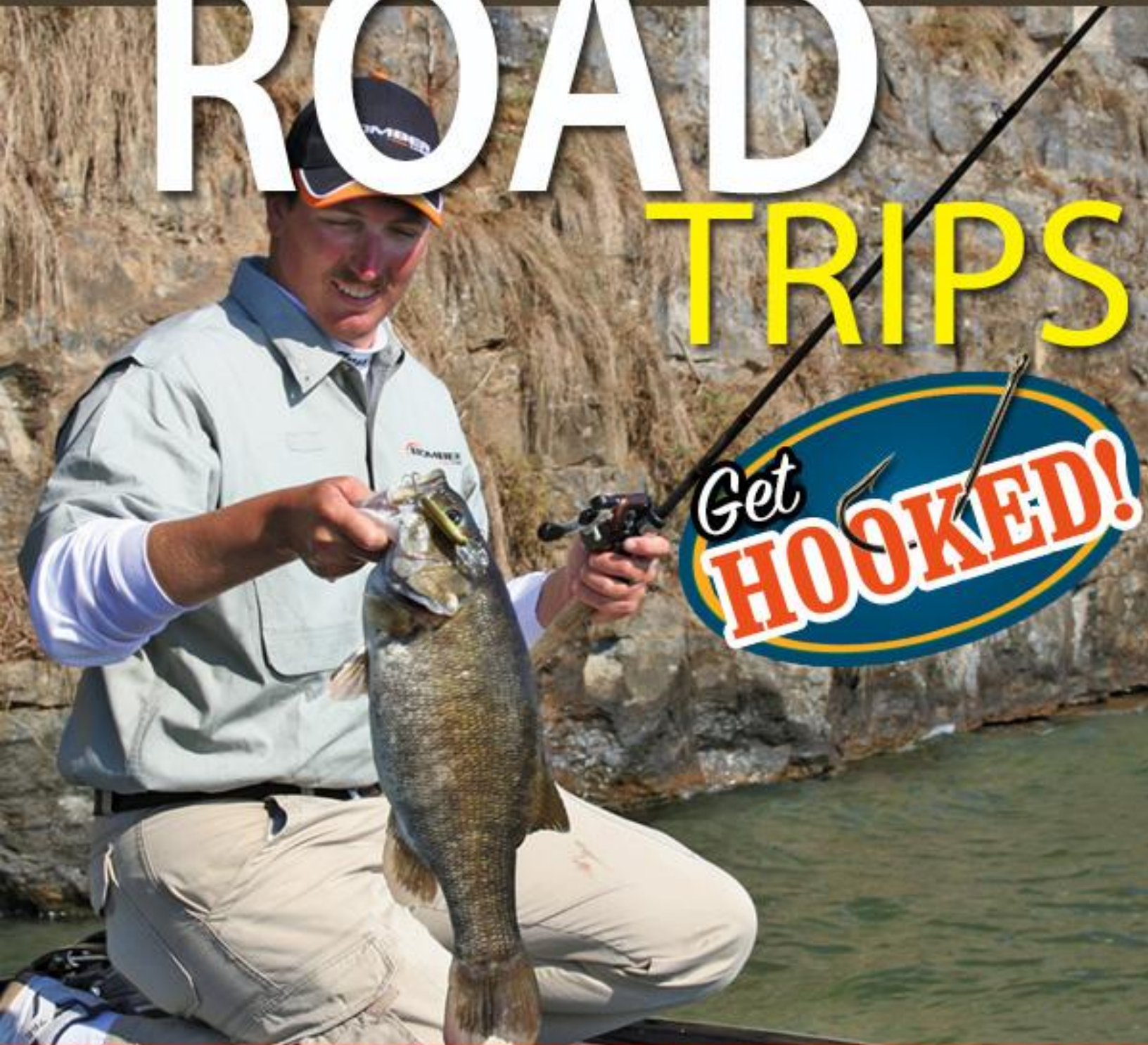
Successful drop shotting often depends on creating bait action in a stationary position, and the soft, pliable ribbed body and thin tail on the new Warning Shot produces that tantalizing action. Perfect for drop shotting or rigged on a jig and used as a finesse worm.

The new YUM Warning Shot is available in eight bass-focused color patterns. For more information go to www.yumbaits.com.

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About YUM – YUM was established in 2002 in Fort Smith, Ark., to manufacture technologically advanced, scientifically proven and truly effective soft plastic lures. Part of PRADCO Outdoor Brands fishing division, which also includes legendary lure companies such as BOOYAH, Heddon, Rebel and others, YUM produces top-quality umbrella rigs and jigheads in addition to cutting-edge soft plastic baits. PRADCO Outdoor Brands is owned by EBSCO Industries, headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., a global corporation with divisions and subsidiaries in 23 countries. Founded in 1944 by the late Elton B. Stephens, EBSCO has grown and diversified into more than 40 businesses.

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Pack The Right Lures For A Boundary Waters Fishing Adventure

By Nathan Shore

Q: I'm going on a Boundary Waters canoe trip. Which lures should I pack?

A: Because you need to limit weight, you should pay special attention to lure selection. Below is everything you need to know about packing for a BWCAW trip.

The northeastern corner of Minnesota is the home of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), stretching 120 miles west from the shores of Lake Superior along the Canadian border and the equally impressive Quetico Wilderness Area. It's an area where families and friends can enjoy nature like it used to be, and the fishing for smallmouth, walleyes, muskies and other gamefish is virtually untapped.

If you're looking for adventure, join the nearly 200,000 people annually who strike out into the wilds of the BWCAW. Fishing is obviously one of the main draws, but the area also attracts hunters, hikers, bird watchers and other nature lovers.

Permits are required (see the end of this article for information) because the BWCAW is all about getting back in touch with our rustic beginnings. Some areas are open to motorboats, but most are restricted to canoes, kayaks and foot travel, and anything motorized (including a power auger) is illegal. The rules guarantee a quiet sojourn for those seeking a true wilderness experience, and with 70 entry points and 1200 miles of canoe-only trails crossing hundreds of lakes, ponds and streams, the BWCAW offers endless possibilities for serene angling in a truly wild setting.



Preparing for Wilderness Fishing

First-time explorers should do some research. Many BWCAW outfitters are on the Internet, and they have gear packing down to a science. Observing what and how they pack for shelter, food preparation, first aid, and other essentials is a college-level class in itself. Several sites (like CanoeCountry.com) offer detailed packing instructions for all times of year.

Few sites, however, explain in detail how to pack for BWCAW fishing. BWCAW fishing can be exceptional and a constant source of food. May and June tend to be the best fishing months, but late summer and fall can be awesome, too. After selecting an entry point and a route, study all information on the lakes or lake you will visit and pack tackle accordingly. The primary species are walleyes, northern pike, smallmouth bass, brook trout, lake trout, bluegills, crappies, perch and whitefish. With the limited space you have to work with, packing for all of those species is tricky. Packing the “must haves” first, then tackle with universal appeal, is key to a successful trip.



The first “must have” is a net that breaks down for efficient storage, like the Beckman Pen Net. For pike, select the 30-inch hoop. For everything else, the 22-inch hoop is perfect. The Pen Net has a “floor” that keeps fish from flopping out. The sides stay away while unhooking fish—a procedure seldom easy from a canoe. The Pen Net easily holds fish in the water for unhooking for quick release on hot days.

Wrangling fish from a canoe is a different rodeo altogether. Getting a good grip on big predators not only prevents injury for you, but for the fish as well. “Must have” No. 2 is a Lindy Fish Handling Glove. It takes up almost no space yet provides a massive service. In the wilderness, small wounds can become big problems in a hurry (always include a well-stocked first-aid kit, too). The third “must” is something too many first-time visitors forget -- a stringer. There are no livewells on those canoes, folks. The light, plastic Lindy Ever-Last Stringer is a perfect choice for keeping fish fresh until dinner.

Nobody knows what will bite next, so

lures that catch a variety of species are important. All of these species respond to a properly presented jig. Bring 1/32- to 3/8-ounce jigs, but focus on the 1/16- to ¼- versions. The two most-universal fish attractants in the world are marabou and soft plastic, so a selection of Lindy Jigs becomes the most versatile way to pack light but effectively. A selection of Lindy Fuzz-E-Grub and Lindy Watsit jig bodies make for compact storage and last through many strikes each.

Making this selection ultra-versatile is the Lindy Jig Spinner. Clip on this safety-pin style Jig Spinner and turn any jig into a spinnerbait for smallmouths and pike, or a more efficient lure for walleyes in wood cover (fallen trees and logs are common in the BWACW). Ten or more jigs of each size, 50 or more plastic bodies and a few Jig Spinners fit in a compact utility box, and will certainly last the week.



Make room in the jig box for a few lighter versions for panfish and brook trout. A Lindy Bug, Toad, or small jig tipped with a piece of crawler under a slip float can be deadly for brookies, crappies and bluegills. Include a few small jig spoons like the Lindy Frostee because crappies and perch in the Boundary Waters are strict minnow eaters. The flash of a Frostee tipped with a piece of leech or crawler creates a compelling minnow imitator.

Like with the jig, hard-baits that catch a variety of species are best. Include floating minnowbaits, suspending minnowbaits, shad-shaped crankbaits, bass-style crankbaits and lipless crankbaits. Devote one utility box to hard baits. Floating minnows like the Bomber Long A can be trolled shallow for pike, walleyes and smallmouths, or trolled deep behind a heavy in-line Lindy Cent'r Slip No-Snagg Sinker weight for lake trout. Suspending minnows like the Smithwick Rattlin' Rogue attract every species with a twitch-pause-pull retrieve. Shad-shaped cranks like the Lindy Shadling mimic the body shape of ciscoes, a main forage for many BWCAW gamefish, so make sure some of your cranks feature blue backs. Crankbaits like the Bomber Fat Free Shad can take walleyes, smallmouths, pike and lake trout when pitched or trolled between spots.

Carrying minnows is unrealistic, but leeches and night crawlers are “wilderness friendly” and great for tipping jigs for all species, which brings up another universal fish catcher: The infallible crawler harness

or basic spinner rig. Some anglers bring components to match blade sizes and colors to conditions (blades, clevises, and swivels), but who wants to spend precious minutes on a wilderness trip tying spinner rigs? More than 100 pre-tied rigs can be packed in a quart or gallon-sized storage bag, taking up very little space.

Because you must travel light, use snag-free sinker designs like the No-Snagg Sinker so you can cut back on the number you have on hand. A half-dozen each of the Cent'R Slider, No-Snagg and Rattlin' No-Snagg in sizes from ¼- to ¾-ounce will suffice.

Consider that not all fishing will be from the canoe. You'll want to fish from camp, too, so pack three or four Thill Pro Series Slip Floats and a half-dozen lighted floats for night fishing, along with a selection of plain bait hooks and a small container of soft shot.

Because you'll be waging a war of attrition throughout the trip, weight your color patterns heavily toward chartreuse, brown/orange, blue and natural perch patterns. Chartreuse shows up best in stained waters, but many waters are clear, making a case for translucent plastics and natural minnow patterns. Crayfish are prolific in all Boundary Waters lakes, making craw-pattern cranks and jigs key items. Another dominant source of protein is the cisco or lake herring, which reflects a lot of blue. Blue jigs and lures with blue backs get crushed.

This is no "peanut wrangle." The Boundary Waters have produced Minnesota state records for walleye, brook trout, pike, and lake trout. Make like a Boy Scout and be prepared. Take equipment and lures designed to handle behemoths and bring home no regrets from the wilderness canoe trip of a lifetime.

Getting Permits

Groups staying overnight need quota permits and may only enter the BWCAW on the entry date, and must enter through the entry point specified. To apply, contact: BWCAW Reservation Center



P.O. Box 462
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
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SLOW DEATH REBORN

By Dan Johnson

Slow Death Rigging has risen from top-secret tactic to a staple presentation in the walleye world, and for good reason. It's a great way to bridge the gap between live-bait rigging and trolling crankbaits, and shines whenever you want to cover water, especially along tight contour lines or the edges of fish-holding cover.

As the technique gradually evolved into its own genre, a number of manufacturers jumped on the bandwagon with a bounty of baseline hooks and rigs aimed at arming anglers for Slow Death success. More recently, the saga saw the creation of advanced tackle that promises to take the tactic to new heights.

"With the release of its Crawler Hauler lineup, Northland Fishing Tackle raised the bar in Slow Death tackle, providing innovative anglers with tools to push the envelope and make this exciting tactic even deadlier," reports walleye sage Chip Leer, who hails from Minnesota's famed Leech Lake and travels the Walleye Belt with the Cabela's National Walleye Tour.



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"Slow Death Rigging has been around for years," he says, explaining that the tactic was born on the Missouri River system as a means of finding and triggering wayward walleyes. It centers on a half-nightcrawler impaled on a kinked Aberdeen hook, which gives the bait a gyrating, fish-attracting action.

Leer favors Northland's new size 2 Crawler Hauler Hook, which sports a VMC cone-cut point and Snap-Back-Barb bait-keeper midway on the shank. "This is the only hook on the market that actually addresses the issue of the crawler creeping down the hook," he says. "The reverse barb also aids in rigging. Just thread the bait on the hook up to the bottom of the keeper, push the hook point out the side of the crawler, and slide the head of the bait to the hook eye. It's virtually foolproof."

Rigged correctly, the crawler spins seductively,

mimicking a dying baitfish. "You can fish at slower speeds than a crankbait or spinner rig, with more maneuverability," says Leer. "Plus, the target is little shorter, which foils short-strikers, and the thump-thump-thump of the spinning bait helps attract walleyes."

Weighting options center on bottom bouncers. "I use a fixed, L-armed bouncer around weeds because it pushes light weeds out of the way, creating a path for the rig," he explains. In almost any other situation. "I prefer a slip-bouncer like Northland's Slick-Stick, which is snag-free, less prone to tangles and highly sensitive." He uses just enough weight to keep his line at a 45-degree angle to the water while occasionally ticking bottom. "You can increase the angle in shallow water to get the line away from the boat," he adds.

"Slow Death Rigging works well during the early summer transition, when walleyes are pulling away from shorelines and dispersing along weedlines, breaks and edges, as well as spreading out across deep flats," he continues. "It remains a productive presentation throughout summer for fish scattered around these areas."

Tricks And Tweaks

Adaptations to the Slow Death system abound. "One of the newest is adding a little color to the presentation by threading a plastic bead onto the leader line just ahead of the hook," says Leer.

Another trick is upping the flotational ante with a buoyant body. "Northland's new Float'n Crawler Hauler Hook incorporates a Gum-Drop foam body into the program," he says. "Because the bait is elevated no matter the speed, you can slow down to a crawl without fear of fouling soft or weedy bottoms. Plus, the rig eases, slides and washes side to side with a hunting-like action."

To speed things up while boosting flash and vibration, Leer swaps the floating body for Northland's Crawler Hauler Speed-Spinner. "You can run this Slow Death and spinner rig combo up to 1 mph, making it perfect for open-water trolling or searching for fish along extended weed edges and bottom contours," he says.

When tracing key contours, Leer notes that cutting edge navigational allies like Humminbird's i-Pilot Link technology make staying on structure a snap. "Set the system on Follow The Contour, and the sonar and mapping will guide your Minn Kota trolling motor wherever you want it to go," he says. "Leaving you free to focus on tweaking the deadly variables of Slow Death Rigging."

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Porkfest For Late Summer Walleyes

Capt. Adam Walton

Hard & Soft Fishing, makers of Uncle Josh pork baits, have hit a homerun! Their pork crawlers have been doing damage on hungry walleyes since they first hit the market. These versatile baits can be fished many ways, but during the late summer months, it's hard to overlook their ability to catch fish when incorporated with spinner harnesses. Before discussing how to rig harnesses, let's briefly discuss walleye feeding behavior and common locations fish relate to during the hot dog days that lay ahead.

As the summer continues, increasingly warm water causes fish to have an increased metabolism. This is great for anglers, since fish stay more active and feed more often. Although fish activity is sped up, walleye still feed in cycles and determining if they're in an aggressive, neutral, or negative feeding mood is important. Factors such as speed presentation of your bait, location of fish on your sonar, and fish striking behavior will help figure this out. If aggressive, many fish are likely to chase faster moving baits. If in a neutral or negative feeding mood, fish tend to prefer slower presentations and often strike out of instinct. Also, in deeper water, fish found suspended on the sonar are most likely aggressively feeding, whereas fish marked hugging the bottom are apt to be in a negative feeding mood. Since there is no way to differentiate shallow water fish from suspenders or bottom huggers, aggressive and non feeding fish hold together. When looking at strike behavior, aggressive fish often strike hard and inhale baits, where less aggressive fish strike very light and may only have a single hook barely in their mouth.

Depending on various factors, such as food source location, weather conditions, and water temperature, determining location of walleyes during the late summer season can be fairly simple. Just like other times of the year, fish will first relate to areas with food sources near-by. In shallow water, look for windswept reefs, weed beds, or a simple rock hump surrounded by a field of mud. These areas

commonly hold bait fish and other food sources walleye prefer. In deeper water, simply look for schools of bait fish and feeding walleyes will typically



be close by. Weather factors will affect fish location as well. Wind and cloud cover help fish hold in shallow water for longer periods of time and allow deeper water fish to feed higher up in the water column. The decreased sunlight condition allows walleyes to feed on unsuspecting prey and is easier on their sensitive eyes. Strong winds will also push



plankton and bait fish into leeward locations of a lake, bringing walleyes to these areas to feed. More relevant to late summer, water temperature in shallow lakes that can heat up greatly, causing fish to seek relief near cool springs or inlets that bring in cooler water. In deeper lakes, fish simply retreat from the shallows and into deep cool areas of comfort. Once you have located the walleyes, it's time to rig up the crawler harnesses and start pulling fish into the boat.

To rig a harness with Uncle Josh's pork crawler, simply thread it onto the lead hook and then hook the tail through the trail hook/s, leaving a few inches hanging off. Ensure you leave a gap between the point of the hook and crawler. Leaving this gap will result in better hook ups. In shallow water, using a bottom bouncing pencil weights or rock runner weights seem to work better than using snap weights. Unlike snap weights, pencil weights and rock runners will run the harness rig near the bottom with precision. Snap weights on the other hand are not as easy to precisely control their running depth. With snap weights, any small changes in speed or performing turns when trolling can cause harnesses to travel up and down 2 to 3 feet in the water column. This can be a problem if fishing shallow, leaving your harness dragging bottom. Even though being close to the bottom is important in shallow water, harnesses that are constantly dragged along the bottom tend to pick up debris and will not operate properly. After the harness is baited and rigged with the proper bottom bouncing weight, try trolling between 1.5 to 2.5 mph for aggressive fish. If fish are less aggressive, try slowing your speed to 0.5 to 1.0 mph. When fishing shallow, using planer boards allows you to move harnesses away from the boat and also allows for more lines to be trolled. Although not required, installing tattle flags to the planer boards when trolling harnesses will help show if smaller fish or weeds are hooked.

When fishing deeper water, using electronics is a must to help locate walleyes. Many aggressive fish will likely be suspended and less aggressive fish will be towards the bottom. Since aggressive fish are obviously easier to catch, look for both large suspended fish and suspended bait fish that walleyes may be feeding on. Although large fish may not be marked on the sonar where bait fish are present, chances are they are close by. If schools of bait fish are located subsurface don't be afraid of running a few harness rigs just below the surface too. When they're aggressively feeding, it's not uncommon to have suspended walleyes come up to hit these presentations. When fishing suspended walleyes, using snap weights or in-line weights work best with crawler harnesses, since they can be set to run at various depths other than just along the bottom. Rig the harness with pork crawlers as discussed before and instead of running bottom bouncing weights, add the appropriate sized snap weight to run the harness near the suspended fish depth. Common snap weight sizes vary from 0.5 oz to 3.0 oz, so finding the proper one is important. Although you can guess which one may be the most appropriate, more accurate snap weight running depths can be found in the "Precision Trolling" dive chart book or on their new cell phone application. Once the proper snap weight is selected, using the 50/50 method is the easiest way to perform this style of trolling. While using a line counter, simply let out 50 feet of line, add the appropriate snap weight shown in the dive chart, and let out an additional 50 feet of line. With a total of 100 feet of line out, you can either long line your crawler harness or attach planer boards to allow for additional lines to be trolled. Again, adjust your boat trolling speed between 0.5 to 2.5 mph, depending on fish aggressiveness.

With plenty of warm weather ahead, harnesses tipped with Uncle Josh Pork Crawlers are a great choice to help boat more walleyes. Try these tactic above and be sure to share you catch pictures on Uncle Josh's Facebook page. For more information on Uncle Josh Pork baits, check out www.unclejosh.com. Be safe and good luck on the water.

Adam Walton is a licensed United States Coast Guard Charter Captain and owner of Pike Pole Fishing Guide Service. He's also a certified firefighter/paramedic and licensed CPR/First Aid Instructor. Adam

specializes in year round multi-species fishing, but walleye and pan fish are his favorite. He is currently a pro staff member with Crestliner Boats, Mercury Marine Motors, Northland Tackle, Uncle Josh Bait Company, Esch Assault Tackle, and Vibrations Tackle. Other sponsors include Pure Fishing, St Croix Rods, Aqua-Vu, Humminbird, and Harbor Recreation.



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LAY OVER WALLEYES

By Jason Mitchelly

Anglers love to follow cliches. Many of these cliches get taken as bold truths and get repeated until nobody ever questions what the cliche is. A lot of information is regurgitated and repeated until we get to a point where people just don't question something. There are a few cliches that get thrown around a lot regarding walleyes... how walleyes relate to structure. There is a general belief that walleyes will move up on top of structure or slide up a break into shallower water when they become active or

aggressive. Walleyes move up onto a point to eat. Not always the case.

Do walleyes move in on structure to eat. Absolutely, but there are also situations where walleyes move off structure to eat and we see this phenomena happen more so as summer progresses. As summer wears, the abyss of open water often comes alive with life. The baitfish roaming this open water could be shad, shiners, smelt, ciscoes, tullibee, or even young of the year perch. Whatever the baitfish, there will be a slice of that water column over the abyss that has the preferred water temperature for a particular baitfish. What I find incredible about walleyes is that they have no problem pushing out into water that is technically much too warm or much too cold in order to get a meal. In some regards, walleyes are a much more versatile predator than salmon or even big pike. A walleye will temporarily move out of its own comfort zone to eat much more so than some other predators.

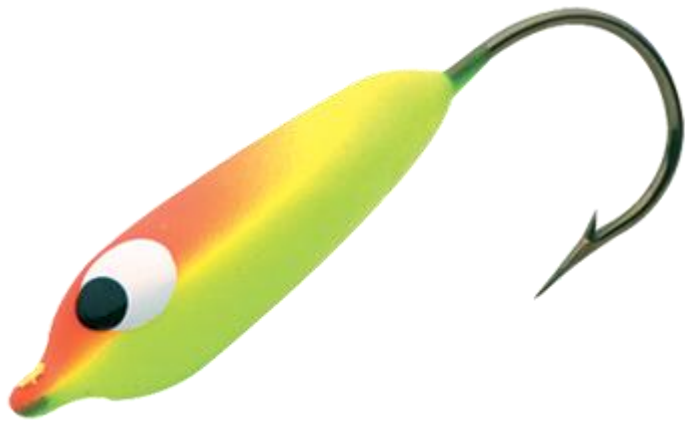
There are some situations where walleyes will slide off the structure or slide deeper when they are running down their meal and when these fish become inactive and simply want to rest, they slide up the structure and often use shallower water. Sometimes, it even appears like the fish simply want to rest their bottom pectoral fins on something firm when they shut down. We have seen this upside down pattern repeat so often on so many different fisheries that it bears repeating and if you can grasp this concept, you are on the fast track to catching a lot more walleyes this summer.

Now if the aggressive walleyes are indeed over open water chasing baitfish and the inactive fish are shallower resting on the structure... why not pursue the active fish over open water and leave the

inactive fish alone? Which fish to target is a double edged sword. Open water fish can be very unpredictable and hard to pin down at times while these lay over locations where walleyes come home to roost are often very specific. An example would be a large classic main lake point that sticks out into deep water. These fish using this deep prominent structure come midsummer are typically not hanging out over the abyss, sliding up on the point to eat. These fish are loafing on the point and sliding out over the abyss to eat.

These layover fish using this primary structure often require some persistence and patience. When these fish are off, they are off. They can be difficult to mark and even more difficult to trigger. Imagine resting fish tucked tight to dips and breaks in the bottom. As these fish become active prior to their next open water stroll, they start to ride a touch higher off the bottom as they cruise and you start to mark fish separating from the bottom. This increased activity often creates a window where you can do the most damage each day. The trouble is that you often have to wait out this window.

The Power of Repetition



When fish are shut down and tight to the bottom, I don't know any better way to catch a fish than repetition. When I troll cranks on these fish, I don't spread the lures out but rather run them in as tight of a formation as possible. Regardless of presentation, the best strategy I have found is to just keep repeating the same pass over and over. Pound it down their throat. Wait out the windows of activity and be in position when the fish make a move.



I don't have all of the answers but it seems like you can actually will the fish into biting at times with persistence. A pass or two over the fish might not do much when the fish are off but it often seems like you can sometimes get the fish going by just going back and forth over them multiple times.



Repetition is one strategy that works well on these lay over walleyes. The other ace in the hole is the clover leaf. When you mark a fish, go past the fish until the presentation is past the fish and turn back over the fish so that the presentation come back towards the fish and past the fish at a different angle. When you keep going past the fish at different angles and turn again to repeat the process, the GPS plotter will look like a clover leaf. Often, I think what happens when we go over fish that are on the sonar is that the presentation might indeed be going past the fish but not in front of the fish so by turning around and hitting different

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angles, sooner or later you are going to land in front of the fish.

While not always, this game is often dominated by either live bait rigs or bottom bouncers below the boat. While a plain snell with a plain hook can at times be the ticket, one of my favorite rigs is a three to five foot snell with a floating jig head like Northland Tackle's Gumdrops Floater (pictured in the beginning). With either a leech or crawler, the floater will wobble as it is pulled through the water and really seems to trigger fish via a huge swing in speeds without snagging or fouling up so much on inside turns or stalls. Typically, I have had the best luck experimenting between plain shells with a plain hook, a bead or the floater.

With this type of rigging, I believe less is more for a few different reasons. With less hardware, you can turn sharper and get back over a fish or icon. Blades, cranks all take some water resistance or speed where as with plain rigs and floats, you can stall out the inside rod completely and still catch a fish on the inside turn and not get hung up so much. The other factor is that these fish are not in this location looking for a meal, they are simply passing time until their next meal. At the end of the day, you just never know what the trigger will be on difficult fish. Sometimes bigger and more is better while sometimes subtle and less is best and you just have to go through the channels until something works. With that being said, I can't stress enough how unpredictable these fish can be. This is definitely a situation where you want to experiment with different baits, colors, etc. Don't assume the bait of choice will be crawlers, or minnows or anything else. You just never know.

While the trigger and timing can be unpredictable with these patterns, what is predictable and what makes this locational pattern so successful is the fact that you have pulses of fish coming and going off

these locations and these locations are often limited. The spots are often obvious and they just get a lot of fish traffic and boat traffic. The key is the understanding and strategy involved in attacking this pattern. You have to be confident in the system, methodical, patient and grasp what these fish are actually doing. When you have the understanding, that gives you the confidence to go over the same break or work the same location for an extended period of time and these situations usually require you to put in the time. You sometimes get windows where the fish open up

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and you catch several fish in a short amount of time but usually unless you just got really lucky, you have to put in the time and gather some clues through the day so that every fish adds up and the pattern comes together.

Editors Note: The author Jason Mitchell hosts the outdoor program Jason Mitchell Outdoors which airs on Fox Sports North at 9:00 am on Sundays and Fox Sports Midwest at 8:30 am on Saturdays. More videos and information can be found at www.jasonmitchelloutdoors.com.



Critical Concepts for Boat Control

By Ted Takasaki and Scott Richardson

I've probably asked a thousand anglers what they struggle with most. Almost all of them have asked me back: "how do I control my boat in the wind?" Boat control is one of the most critical concepts for any angler to master.

A stiff breeze can be tough, but active fish often concentrate on the windy side of a lake or reservoir where the food chain goes wild and walleyes can use their keen sight and lateral lines to their advantage. The wind breaks up light penetration as well.

We've all seen it. Wind blows, hammer fish, wind stops, and so does the bite. The key is to learn boat control techniques that make the wind your friend.

A strong wind makes controlling boat speed difficult. Walleyes can be selective and finicky. Like all predators, they'd rather their food come to them, as they instinctively reserve energy for growing and reproducing. They tend to avoid chasing lures or bait. As a result, more walleyes are typically caught when the boat is moving slower than 1.5 mph.

Sometimes, wind moves a boat faster than you want it to go. It's a good thing there are tools you can use to slow down!

* Trolling motors. In a slight breeze, turn the bow of the boat into the wind in order to work the contours of structures. When buying a boat, equip it with the most-powerful trolling motor and the longest shaft you can afford. MinnKota's Terrova (pictured) trolling motor is a great aid for most walleye anglers. The I-pilot feature allows you to set the direction in which you want to move the boat. It also has a feature called Spot Lock, which turns your trolling motor into an anchor that keeps the boat in one spot. The I-pilot Link feature follows LakeMaster contours without having to do anything at all.



Backtrolling with a gas tiller motor can offer even more control in stronger breezes. Be subtle. Make minor adjustments in speed, not major ones.

* For console boats, a gas-powered 'kicker' motor gives you additional power in order to neutralize the wind speed. A bow-mounted electric trolling motor can then be used with the gas kicker to steer side-to-side and keep your boat in position in a strong wind.

We also like to use the Terrova in conjunction with the gas kicker when trolling. This is called a push/pull technique and is invaluable when trying to stay at a specific depth. The boat is always more responsive when it's controlled by the front, but pushed from behind.

* Drift socks. Never leave the dock without one or two in the boat. They can slow the boat by as much as 40 percent, even in a stiff breeze.

Get the size right drift sock for your boat. Too small is no good. Two different sizes can come in handy. Drift socks are used most when drifting flats and to insure a drift perpendicular to the wind, a larger drift sock should be attached towards the bow which can often catch the wind and push the bow down wind.

To drift a contour precisely, put out the drift socks, turn the bow towards the direction of the wind, and use your trolling motor to stay on the edge. In other words, if the wind is angled towards the shore, keep the bow of the boat away from the shore and make subtle adjustments to stay on the break.

While casting baits to a shoreline, a drift sock tied towards the rear of the boat while drifting also slows the boat to allow more casts to productive spots.

If you like to troll forward with your boat with the wind and the boat is moving too fast, tie two identical drift socks off the forward cleats so they are open at mid-ship. This tactic can cut boat speed 30 to 50 percent and make the boat easier to control.

A harness buoy is a great accessory. Just release the harness buoy from the boat to get the drift sock out of the way when you are fighting a big fish. Return for the drift sock when the fish is safely in your net. Another advantage to this: the buoy has marked the place where the fish took your bait. Where there's one, there could be more.

* Anchoring your boat in one spot is the ultimate form of boat control. Drop one when you find the spot on a spot and places where you have a high degree of confidence that walleyes are there or will show up soon. For example, try anchoring over that rock pile on a point or where coontail meets cabbage. The change in weed type often signals a fish-attracting change in the bottom content.

While anchored, you can still move the boat to new areas of the structure and fish them thoroughly by simply moving the rope from one cleat to another or to the bow. You can cover a lot of territory without pulling the anchor.

Use a heavy Navy style anchor. Have plenty of rope....as much as 100 to 150 feet. Too little rope and the anchor won't hold. If you anchor a lot, it's best to have two anchors onboard. Even sitting still, the wind can give your bait motion. Cast slip bobbers into the wind and let the breeze blow them back past the boat to cover a larger area.

Another new tool in the arsenal is called the Talon (new Talon design pictured). This is a mechanical shallow water anchor that's placed on the transom of the boat. You have a control that moves a rod up and down, and the rod sticks into the lake bottom, preventing the boat from moving. It's much easier to deploy than an actual anchor.

* GPS is also a great tool. Speed measurements are far more precise using satellite technology. Check how fast the boat is moving as soon as you catch a fish so you can replicate the speed.

You can vary the speed and direction of your baits in other ways, too. When searching for suspended fish, troll with the wind and make S-turns to vary the speed. Outside lures travel faster, inside lures go slower. Stall your baits once in a while, too. Sometimes that's all you need to do in order to trigger a bite.

Vary your retrieve speed and direction when casting jigs or crankbaits. Rip a crankbait and let it stop. Pop a jig, pop, pop, pop, then let it fall, and drag it. Move bottom-bouncers up the edges of structure and down while reaching back to tap the bottom to entice more bites.

Use the wind to your advantage and these tools to control it. You'll soon find that the wind can be your friend and help you catch more fish.



Angling with Electronics:

Five Techno-Tips for Fishing Success

By Ted Pilgrim

One of the real joys of fishing occurs when warm spring weather draws fish of all species into skinny water. Anglers don polarized sunglasses and scan the shallows for emerging signs of life. The “sight fishing” that results can be positively thrilling. It’s high-level sensory stuff that combines stalking, hunting and casting into a singular stimulating experience.

But before you know it, spring gives way to

summer. Waters warm; the shallow bite shifts deeper. And if you’re not careful, you can quickly lose track of the fish you’d been catching earlier.

Summer and fall certainly yield terrific fishing, but they’re also the seasons during which great anglers often separate themselves from the pack. The difference usually resides in their ability to find fish. It’s a





talent to be sure, and one that often begins with intuition. But the fact is, nearly every successful angler makes wise use of electronics; fish-finding sunglasses segue to sonar, GPS mapping, and underwater cameras. In a sense, each of these tools become our underwater eyes, solving mysteries and piercing the watery veil that otherwise separates us from big fish below.

Before you launch the boat this summer, consider these simple high-tech shortcuts to success.

#1 - Ditch the Paper Maps

We've all got 'em. Stored in the glovebox, stuffed into a bulging Ziploc bag; those old paper lake maps provide basic navigation and occasional fishing spot info. But try to unfurl one in the wind, or break one out in a downpour. Not good.

By now, most of us know about or have used a digital contour map displayed on a modern sonar/GPS unit. The advantages of a dynamic, interactive lakemap on your sonar screen is pretty profound. Products from LakeMaster (compatible with Humminbird sonar units) and Navionics (compatible with Humminbird and Lowrance) display lake, river and reservoir depth contours right on the screen, plus show your boat's position as you move along and over various depths. When you catch a fish or see something that looks promising, you hit a button and drop an icon right on the map, so you can return and fish it anytime. You can even sit in your boat in the driveway, call up the map and drop waypoints on likely spots for later.

Most products also allow for specific depth shading and water level offsets. The latest mapping technology, called Auto Chart, allows you to create your own 100-percent accurate depth maps of previously uncharted lakes, ponds, rivers or coastal areas. Simply turn on the unit, drive around the lake, and the map begins to magically take shape.



#2 - Spend an Afternoon "Just Looking"

If you haven't yet experienced ultra-realistic side-looking sonar, such as Humminbird's original "side imaging," it may be time to upgrade the old electronics. This progressive sonar

technology shoots its fish finding beams both left and right of the boat, showing you a photo-quality image of the real estate way up in the shallows, along drop-offs, under boat docks and more. While traditional 2-D sonar shows what's below the boat, side-looking units can reveal fish that are off to the sides and unaware of your presence, making them prime targets for casting or trolling.

Want to discover those coveted hot spots that are unknown and untouched by other anglers? Spend a day on your favorite lake or river just cruising around and studying the side-looking sonar screen. When you mark an interesting object or location, simply drop a GPS waypoint on it. Boom, spot saved forever.

Scattered and hidden across the floors of most waterways lie a treasure trove of hidden fishing locations—scattered rockpiles, discarded Christmas trees, isolated clam beds, bridge foundations and old roadbeds. All of these can be angling goldmines, and side-looking sonar is an awesome tool for finding them.

#3 – Probe Cover with a Camera

So you've found that hidden heap of old Christmas trees, but how to know if anyone's home? Sonar might show generic fish "arches." But without knowing the species, size or position of the fish, you might use the wrong lure and fail to get bit. Worse, you could end up spending valuable time angling for carp that you thought were bass. It's why some of the sharpest anglers today deploy an underwater camera, which shows you in real-time video exactly what's happening below.



While sonar might display a beautiful brushpile, the camera reveals what's living there. It shows that some brushpiles are void of fish life. But it also shows you the good ones, those that hold heavyweight largemouths, pods of crappies or big catfish. Armed with this all-important intel, you're now ready to tie on the right lure or bait and experience some fantastic fishing.

Increasingly popular among anglers today are Aqua-Vu's Micro systems. These self-contained underwater viewers sport tiny camera optics the size of an acorn, which easily slide into all those nooks and crannies in cover, and show you a real-life picture of every crappie, crawdad and clamshell in the vicinity. The LCD monitor is as small and compact as a smart phone, too, and the whole system stores easily inside a tackle box or even a coat pocket. If you're not using a fishing cam, you're could be missing out on some amazing and overlooked opportunities.

#4 – Deploy a New Wave Anchor

While this tip might not help you locate fish, it will certainly help you catch a few more once you do. Two new forms of boat control now allow you to hold the boat in a specific position without repeatedly heaving a 20-pound chunk of lead.

“Spot Lock,” a GPS driven function built in to several trolling motors, including Minn Kota’s Terrova, holds your boat continuously on an exact waypoint, simply by pushing a button on a remote control. Anytime the boat drifts 5 or more feet off course, the motor quickly propels you back to your position.

Performing a similar task in shallow water, various hydraulic pole-style anchors drive a spike into the lake floor, by again, simply pushing a button. Shallow water anchoring systems like the Minn Kota Talon allow for automatic, effort-free anchoring in water from 2 to 12 feet deep. In wind, waves or for when you just want to stay put, these new wave anchor systems are almost priceless.

#5 - Sight Fishing On the Screen

If you’re a fan of sight fishing in shallow water, you’ll love the visual aspects of doing the same on a sonar screen. When fish such as bass, crappies, walleyes, stripers and catfish drop deeper or suspend, you can position your boat right above them, drop a lure and watch them react on screen. Not only is sonar sight fishing entertaining and exciting, it’s also a very effective way to catch fish.

Using Minn Kota’s Spot-Lock function or an anchor, position directly above fish in 15- to 30-or-more-feet of water. Next, tune your sonar unit so the transducer is using the narrowest beam (cone angle) possible. This can be done by switching from a wider beam to a narrower 18 or 12 degrees. Narrower beams provide more detailed information, and will allow you to watch your lure drop in the water column, as well as fish, as they swim over and bite.



On screen, your lure will read as a continuous solid line. When you jig, you’ll note immediate wavy lines corresponding to your movements. Tune the unit’s sensitivity so you can see your bait clearly, but without additional clutter on the screen.

When a fish approaches, try various jigging moves until you get a positive response. As fish get closer, they’ll appear as a darker, thicker signal. With practice, it’s often possible to detect a bite by watching the fish’s response on screen, even before you feel your line jump. Some compare it to a video game. But can a video game tug back, leap out of the lake or slap water in your face?

New fully-automatic Minn Kota Ulterra raises the bar in boat control. Boat control is critical in the quest to catch more fish, and electric trolling motors have long been a key ally in positioning our fishing platforms, especially when wind, current and other complicating factors come into play.

Still, even the finest trolling motors at times leave us wanting more, particularly when we're faced with the prospect of manually deploying, stowing and adjusting the height of the powerhead.



Boat Position Breakthrough

By Dan Johnson

That is, until now. Minn Kota's new Ulterra bowmount trolling motor gives anglers complete, automated control over these critical functions, revolutionizing the art of boat positioning in the process.

"Along with a full suite of high-performance features such as integrated i-Pilot Link, the fast-response, electric steer Ulterra packs the groundbreaking punch of auto deploy, stow and power trim features," says veteran guide, tournament champ and all-around fishing expert Scott Glorvigen.

While the technology is cutting edge, the concept is simple. "With the push of a button, Ulterra makes us more effective, efficient and safer fishermen," Glorvigen continues. Operated by handheld remote or foot pedal, the unit responds to Auto Stow, Auto Deploy, Power Trim and a host of other commands. Plus, thanks to the i-Pilot system and slick features such as Spot Lock, it offers complete, fully automated boat control.

"It's a huge advantage in a variety of situations," says Glorvigen. "For example, shallow water cover and structure can be fish magnets. With traditional trolling motors, you really have to pay attention to follow tight contours and manually respond to changes in water depth and the height of the cover. Ulterra automates and dominates these scenarios, so I can focus on fishing.

Effortless operation also encourages anglers to drop the hammer in areas they previously passed up. "Manually deploying and stowing traditional trollers is enough of a hassle that there are times we elect not to use them because it's easier to leave them in the cradle and move on," says Glorvigen.



Examples of commonly lost opportunities include downsized slices of structure and cover that seem too small to justify the effort required to drop the trolling motor, along with current- and wave-washed areas where the boat would quickly slip out of position before we could fire up the bowmount. Sadly, such areas can be sweet spots, meaning the cost of not fishing them adds up to countless missed catches.

"Also, think about how many times you've burned daylight idling over dead water while moving from one high-percentage

area to another, only because it's such a pain to run up to the bow and stow the trolling motor," Glorvigen adds. "Ulterra takes away all the excuses."

On the safety front, Ulterra eliminates the need to bend over the bow to stow the trolling motor. "Although I've never fallen overboard, there have been many times, especially in rough water, where I've had to be really careful," Glorvigen says, noting that Ulterra's auto stow and deploy also puts an end to out-of-control drifts while toggling between main engine and trolling motor. "No more scrambling between the bow and the helm while the boat's at the mercy of wind, waves and current," he explains. "You're in control the whole time, with no chance of drifting into nearby boats, the dock or other water hazards."

Other safety features include a low-battery alarm that warns when power levels approach the minimum needed to stow the unit. "You can still use the motor when an alarm sounds," says Glorvigen. "And if the power does drop too low to raise the powerhead, you can always manually store it." Both the foot control and handheld remote are also armed with failsafe measures to prevent accidental deployment.

To accommodate a variety of boats and uses, the new Ulterra is available in 24- and 36-volt systems yielding 80 and 112 pounds of thrust, respectively, with shaft lengths of 45 and 60 inches. "The longer version is critical in heavy seas when you need the powerhead as far in the water as possible," says Glorvigen.

"In deployment mode, both sizes rise vertically, then drop the lower unit straight down," he adds. "So you can deploy them amazingly close to a dock or other structure. It's one more convenience and safety benefit of this great new boat-positioning system."

