Summer Fishing Continues July/August 2015

ODU MAGAZINE"

The Healing Affect of Bass Fishing CARTER'S JEL COLUMN KICKS OFF

Salmon Tactics Northwest Giants Lures for Striper Bass

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ASK ODU? At ODU Media we get all sorts of outdoor media, news, articles, trophy catch/hunt announcements, new product releases etc. Topics in hunting, fishing, camping, fly fishing are all covered and all come into our media email account odu.media@odumagazine.com. We were recently



asked how we decide what to share on ODU News and what goes off to the rubbish pile of sorts.

Our goal for posting news to the website is to keep it fresh, balanced between fishing, hunting and gun topics, but most of all it must meet a simple litmus test. Would a fisherman or hunter care to read about this topic? We do our best to get this right day after day, but over all we believe this works best for our growing readership.

Advertising partners do have the opportunity to share promotions, company news, contests, new product releases and their press releases. This ensures that our partners are represented well and are

Editorial Team Leader: Bill Schwarz, Bill@odumagazine.com

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Advertising inquirers for our fishing magazines, ODU Fishing and Hunting News should be e-mailed to: <u>odu.media@odumagazine.com</u>

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Thank You All!

Photos: Cover photo of PJ Connor. Photo taken by dad and ODU contributor Bill Vanderford (www.georgiafishing.com/).

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able to share their message with our readers.

"I am new to writing and want an opportunity to get published. <u>Does ODU Media accept</u> fishing tips, articles and special interest <u>pieces</u>?" is another question we received an email on recently. The answer is yes and we look forward to not only helping new writers, but producing a website that is diverse.

When ODU Magazine was founded, it was founded on the principals that Larry Thornhill established over 26 years ago when he first launched his media company called Outdoors Unlimited. Principals like promoting all anglers and their fishing endeavors, growing the sport fishing industry and encouraging sportsmen to be themselves and grow the sport one person at a time.

This edition of ODU Magazine is jammed again with a diverse selection of fishing features. Bass fishing is hot all over North America and we hope this edition supports the excitement anglers have in chasing largemouth and smallmouth bass. We also touch on walleye fishing, sturgeon, salmon, grouper, African tiger fish, striped bass and a host of other stories we hope you enjoy and gather a few

ODU MAGAZINE" Daiichi. Fish, Frogs, and Fireflies Growing up rith Nature 2015Photo Contest

tips to improve your time on the water.

At the end of August we will release the 2nd edition of the Top 99 of ICAST. We are reaching out to company's who have been chosen to be included for photos and comment and of the reported 800

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products newly released we had a tough time making this happen. Keep an eye out for this edition.

And please, enjoy the outdoors.

Larry Thornhill and William Schwarz Co-Founders of ODU Magazine. 207-310-3117

기대하다 1315~20~ **ON THE WATER** DIESIEIRVIE THEIE BIEST **ON THEIR TRUCKS**

11:13

BASSMASTER ELITE SERIES ANGLER JUSTIN LUCAS In 2014 Justin fished his rookie season on the Bassmaster Elite Series.

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By O'Neill Williams

I wish you could have seen us, an attentive little boy with big ears and stately old а gentleman in a dark suit. What a team we made! I called him Granddaddy; he simply referred to me as "Son" and always with a smile. То everyone else he was Elder Nash, more about that in a moment.

My father was a pilot in the Army Air Corps and died in a place crash when I was six weeks old. When my mother remarried when I was 3, I not only got a fine man and war hero to be my father, I got a built-in fishing partner and Granddaddy. We fished for catfish and bass in the small ponds Walton, farm in Rockdale and Gwinnett Counties in Georgia. Using worms, chicken livers, dough balls, just anything gathered that might work, we up generally made a formidable duo. The light line zipped from

the little spinning reels we used singing the baits as far into the ponds as we could and then when the rods were mounted on forked sticks along the bank, we manned quite an arsenal.

What I remember most about him was his gentleness; never, and I mean never, raising his voice or declaring anything sterner than an occasional "Gee Whiz" when a sneaky little catfish stole his bait. But what a sight he was! Get this picture; black wing-tip shoes highly polished, dark charcoal grey pinstriped suit, starched white shirt and striped tie, white gloves with the fingers cut out all topped off with an expansive straw hat. He just did not like the sun. O'Neill was dressed in baggy jeans with 6 inch cuffs rolled up, a red, white a blue t-shirt and an Atlanta Cracker's baseball cap. I was a fan of the Crackers and would one day play a series of high school championship games at the old Ponce de Leon park. Some days we spent together on those ponds were quite productive. Seventy-five or more nice cats fell to our tactics. The pond owners always liked having Elder Nash visit. I guess it was a bit of payoff for his preaching to the congregations for free all those years. We didn't catch anything big you see, but that didn't matter. He was 60+ and I was 11. He was attentive to me and I was to him.

And the Elder Nash part? Well, Henry Nash was an unpaid preacher to several Primitive Baptist Congregations both in Atlanta and the various county churches. My father, mother and little brother that had come along when I was seven attended about once a month in the picturesque locations. Names like Harris Springs, Loganville, Big Haynes Creek, and others come to mind. After the early morning service, we had dinner on the grounds; long tables covered with white cloths all spread out with delicacies. Some of the best food I have ever had came from those Christian women. It was usually warm and bright in my memory, Dogwoods dotted the forest with white delight and I knew Elder Nash and I would be fishing soon.

We spent dozens of fresh spring and warm summer days together, each being a treasured memory. From him I learned patience, and the positive effect of soft words. More than anything though, I remember his quiet reserve and his love for all things. I wish I could see him again. I'll bet we could still catch'em.





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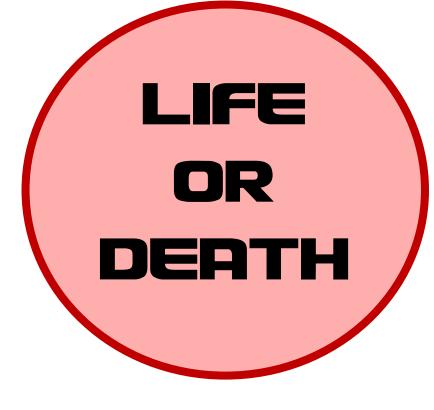
A LIFE OR DEATH SITUATION

By Bill Vanderford

The bright-eyed and exited young boy watched as his dad battled a small bass then lifted it into the boat. Since the fish certainly wasn't а trophy, the father decided to teach his son about young "catch and release". As soon as the bass quit flopping around at the end of the line, the older angler grasped the fish around its midsection, carefully removed the hooks, and pitched the bass back into the water.



The youngster seemed disappointed and somewhat puzzled by this action, so the father explained,



"Son, that bass was pretty small, and it's a lot better to release him now so that he can grow up. We might even catch him again when he's a lot bigger."

Having appeared to satisfy the boy, the father was sure that he had done the proper thing by teaching his son about "catch-and-release", but was he correct? The answer is definitelyNO!

What the father didn't know about fish could contribute to the eventual death of the one he caught. Considering the rough handling the small fish received before being released, it would have probably been more humane to have kept the bass to eat.



Though many anglers seem to view the fish's scales as some sort of armor coating, what they don't realize is that the actual protective barrier is an almost invisible screen of slime on the exterior of the scales. This slime shield is the equivalent of the skin on human bodies. Without this mucus coating, the fish is vulnerable to any infectious bacteria that could eventually kill it.

Since the father in the opening scenario had grasped the small bass around the midsection, he had certainly removed or damaged much of the fish's slime coat. So, rather than doing a good deed, he had actually sentenced the bass to a slow death by infection, which happens consistently during most bass tournaments...especially during hot weather.

The proper way to handle a bass or other fish with fine teeth is by firmly grasping the lower jaw. This can be greatly enhanced by placing the thumb slightly into the mouth, pointing the index finger of the same hand upwards under the jaw and forcing the fish's jaw downward. When done properly, this practically paralyzes the fish and allows easy handling or hook removal.

Handling a fish in this manner eliminates trying to hold a slimy, squirming fish by the body. It also takes away the possibility of damaging the mucus or squeezing the fish enough to hurt it internally.

Some dangers, however, are always present when holding a bass by the lower lip, especially if it has a crankbait with several treble hooks hanging from the lure. Extreme care must be exercised when



attempting to grasp a hooked fish. First wait until the fish has ceased to fight, and then insert the thumb into its mouth on the opposite side from the lure.

Other practices that are detrimental to fish would have to include nylon or wire nets. These tend to scrape off the fish's protective coating as well. Soft rubber nets may not be as strong or last as long, but they are much better for the fish.

Though fish fight valiantly and appear to be strong and hardy creatures, a slight action like rubbing one's hand down its side might spell death. "Catch-andrelease" is great, but sentencing a fish to a slow death by mishandling is inhumane!

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 <u>ifish51@aol.com</u> or at his web site: <u>www.georgiafishing.com</u>.



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By Captain Mike Gerry

Today's busy world and today's busy people need a way to rest their mind, to look to tomorrow with a clear head and continue when times and days are tough. Many of us today use bass fishing as their way out, a means to the end of the tough world we live in and a way to cope with the never ending strain of daily life.

I know that many look at the bass fishing industry as an expensive way to have a little fun to make big boys spend lots of money on big toys; but too many of us, it is a relaxing way to forget the tough times and move forward with a clear head. When you're on the water problems go away, your past is behind you and fishing soothes what taunts you and gives you a sense of personal freedom and release from daily routines.

As a guide I put all kinds of personalities in the boat with me, the sick, the disabled and all in-between but one thing that is common among the many I serve everyday that is the pure fact that watching someone catch a fish

SET THE HOOK ! TO WAIT OR NOT?

By Danny Barker

The popular thinking is to wait until you feel the fish take it down. I've done this for while and have lost so many fish it's not funny. The theory is by waiting you avoid the swing and miss to the visual attack of the fish. Hence the wait until you feel the fish pull approach. My thought is swing hard right out of the shoot with a little rod positioning. Here's what I do now to avoid the guick hook set and miss. I keep my rod tip down which in turn gives me a little delayed hook set by having it low. I know this flies in the face of what folks think and feel works. By all means go with what works. Some days it's a crap shoot on catching frog fish no matter what you do.....one thing I do know is Snag Proof gives me the best odds no matter how the bite is.....

Good luck..... Stay on Em !

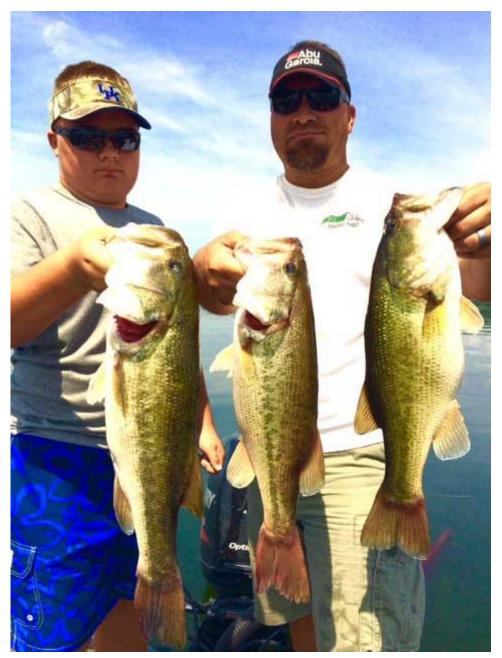


changes their day and soothes their mind. It doesn't matter if they are 10 or 70 years of age the change to a person pulling in a bass is as noticeable as the person who has found an old friend or renewed an old relationship or found the Lord; it just makes them enjoy the moment. If you want to see a child smile or see a vet of our armed services smile when he has a past that haunts him, watch them change when their pulling in a big bass. The sense of pride, of ownership and self respect just lights up all over a fisherman and it is what drives me at my age to continue to bring great people fishing every day. It is a joy that I cannot explain, but I can tell you this anyone and everyone can see the joy of fishing they just have to get in the boat with you and you will see it!

ICAST 2015

By Captain Mike Gerry

With the 2015 version of I cast behind us and some 889 new products introduced to the public there are



some out-standing new products that will have a great impact on the fishing industry. As always is the case at I cast the show of nearly a week long and some 270 companies in attendance it was once again a great success.

A Szo

Even though my personal fishing style does not put me into the kayak fishing world the improvements and innovative concepts as the kayak fishing takes more of a position in bass fishing keeps getting better. The kayak has become a great fishing tool for many and I applaud their effort to continually make them better and more adaptable for the bass fisherman.

With 12,000 representatives at the show the bonanza affair of fishing tackle and tackle companies is a site to be seen for all. The display bonanza for some of my sponsors took on their own positive progress as Lowrance introduced dimensional three а Structure Scan product allowing you to see 3-D bottom contours and structure to depths of 300 ft. Where you will be



able to see unprecedented details, giving Lowrance users an opportunity to learn more how fish position themselves around bottom structure than ever before. John Crews and Missile baits has taken its D-Stroyers to another level introducing the Baby D-Stroyers (pictured) which should give the fisherman a chance to down size when necessary; to me this product is the ideal flipping bait small enough to slide through the holes of the grass yet big enough to attract that big fish bite. As all of the John Crews Missile Bait products this will be a big hit for his customer's base.

Lastly the I-Cast show has reached a new level of products designed by garment manufactures like Under Armour adding apparel that not only styles and high-lights the fishing industry but it also helps protect you from the dangerous sun rays that can cause skin cancers. The creativeness coming to the fishing garment world is just unprecedented and will add a long life to the out doormen looking for a healthy way to stay ahead of the dangers of bright sunlight.

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Crankbaits For Summer Fish

By Bob Jensen



Crankbaits are a great way to catch summer fish for several reasons. Crankbaits allow an angler to cover lots of water in a short period of time. Crankbaits appeal to most species of gamefish regardless of where you're fishing. Crankbaits can be cast to precise areas that are holding a concentration of fish, or they can be trolled over open areas, picking up fish that are scattered. Crankbaits come in a wide variety of colors, shapes, sizes, and actions, enabling an angler to give the fish the exact bait that the fish want.

There are other reasons why crankbaits are a good choice for fishing in the summer months, but let's talk about some ideas for using crankbaits on your next fishing trip.

Unless you really have the fish pinpointed, trolling is a great way to present a crankbait. In the summer, the fish like the bait moving pretty fast. Two to three miles per hour is not an unusual trolling speed. I run an "a" Series Ray-

marine sonar that has a built-in GPS which provides speeds to a tenth of a mile. When a fish hits, I immediately check the speed and also mark the spot on the GPS. By doing so, we can duplicate the productive speed and go back over the exact area where that fish came from.

Many trollers like a medium action rod in the six and half to eight and half foot length, with a seven footer being perhaps most popular. These longer rods are more forgiving. Cabela's has some combo trolling rods and reels in the Depthmaster Series that do a nice job at a very affordable price.

I like to spool up with Sunline SX1 Braid in twelve pound test. This line is very strong, yet small diameter, so your bait runs deeper. It's also very sensitive so you'll know right away if you pick up a weed.





It has become apparent that planer boards are a huge asset in trolling crankbaits. They allow an angler to spread lines effectively, and also prevent the fish from being spooked by the boat going over head. Off Shore planer boards are as good as it gets.

When trolling, use baits of different colors, sizes, and shapes, and try different speeds until the best combination is discovered. Salmo Hornets and Executor crankbaits have developed a very loyal following over the years. They run true at high speeds and the fish really like them.

On a recent fishing trip, on one trolling pass, we caught walleyes, yellow and white bass, a northern



pike, and a channel catfish, all on crankbaits. A smorgasbord of fish is not unusual when pulling crankbaits in the summer. Now is the perfect time for you to discover that for yourself.

PHOTO CAPTION: Mike Frisch trolled this crankbait summer walleye up on a Salmo Hornet.

To see all the newest episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, go to <u>www.fishingthemidwest.com</u>. If you do Facebook, check us out for a variety of fishing related things.



PAST EDITIONS OF OUTDOORS UNLIMITED MAGAZINE



COMING IN FOUR WEEKS... THE TOP 99 PRODUCTS OF ICAST EDITION.

WAS AT THE SHOW? WHAT WHAT WIN THE BIG **PRIZES. DIDN'T** BUT SHOULD BE A PART OF YOUR FISHING TACKLE. WAS THERE A KAYAK THAT STOOD OUT? WHICH RODS AND REELS SPLASH? A YOU HAVE MADE DO PRODUCTS BOATZ WHAT MARINE WERE FEATURED THAT ARE A MUST?



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BOBBY MURRAY A FISHING STORY

bass season opener (fourth Saturday in June) Bobby Murray and his friend Steve Hoskins travelled from their homes in Hot Springs Arkansas, to come up and fish Lake Simcoe for the first time. They liked it so much and caught so many big smallmouth bass, that an annual pilgrimage to Ontario's 6th largest inland lake has become a rite of passage. Some of you may recognize the name Bobby Murray as a two Bassmaster Classic time Champion.

Shortly after the 2013 Simcoe

I met Bobby and his twin brother Billy, back when I was in college 1979 and 80. in was volunteering for the "American Bass Fishing Institutes" ... and travelling to various universities in the northern US to help set up huge auditoriums that would house thousands of anglers eager to learn about such new techniques as flippin', pitchin', crankin' and wormin'. The sessions were taught by bass pros

like Bobby and instead of having to pay an admission price, my bit of volunteer work allowed me to sit in on all the super-huge classroom sessions at no cost. I was like a kid in a candy store and learned a ton.

By Wil Wegman

By the mid 1980's I brought a much smaller classroom concept north of the border – and began teaching my "Successful Bass Fishing Courses" at various campuses of Seneca, Georgian and Fleming colleges ... something I did for 20 years.

Bobby was one of the competitors at the three Bassmaster Superstar events I covered from 1993-95 in Peoria Illinois, however today he is long retired from tournament fishing.

Anyway, when Steve contacted me in early June and let me know he and Bobby were coming up to fish Simcoe ... and could use a little local knowledge; I was more than happy to help out. Unfortunately, we were unable to hook up in person during their short visit, but when I heard how well they did I just had to ask a few questions about their first trip to Lake Simcoe. With this perspective in mind ODU readers perhaps you may want to make the pilgrimage up here as well? After my interview with Bobby, I realized his perspective of a first time- visiting angler to our very special Lake Simcoe was worth sharing even a couple of years later.



1) How did you hear about Lake Simcoe ...and how much did you know about the lake before your visit?

I heard about it from Dwight 'Custom Bait' Keefer who lives in Phoenix Arizona. He's a former Classic qualifier who heard there were a lot of big smallies up here. I love to chase big smallmouth bass wherever they reside in North America – so I began setting my sites on Lake Simcoe. All I really knew about the lake itself though was the information I received from you.

2) How many times have you fished in Ontario before?

I've been fishing Ontario since the mid 1970's and love coming up here for big smallmouth, great scenery and friendly people. I often alternate trips between Alaska and Ontario. This year it was Ontario!

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

3) Even with a bit of guidance on some early season bass areas, many first time visitors to the lake are overwhelmed by its size. (Lake Simcoe is 280 sq miles) What did you think?

First the size really didn't bother me. I am used to fishing the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. Here you don't see shore in any direction ... and that can be a little daunting at first. Simcoe sure is big for an inland lake, but with the Premium Navionics Chip mapping systems for my Lowrance HDS8 sonar unit I had a very accurate electronic map of the lake. I also fish from a large Pro Guide Lund that is a very good big-water boat.

4) How long did it take to catch your first Simcoe bass?

On my very first cast with a drop shot rig, I hooked and battled a bass right close to the boat that may have gone 7 lbs, but it came off. Not long after I picked up a Zara Spook and landed one about seven. I never looked back and threw this topwater bait for much of our trip ... and we caught a bunch of smallmouth on it. This 'one knocker' topwater has been around for ages and you can cast it into the next zip code back home, or into the next postal code when in Ontario! That's very important when fishing a lake as clear as Simcoe because bass can become pretty gun-shy and long casts are key.

5) Did your first fish help you to develop a pattern?

Yes! First it came off of one of the shoals you recommended, so after we finished fishing it, we looked

for similar water and habitat. We caught many that were 8 or 9 feet deep but as deep as 17-18 feet. We loved having those big bass come up and engulf the spook, so it was tough to put that lure down.

6) Did you get to fish a large section of the lake and try many different areas?

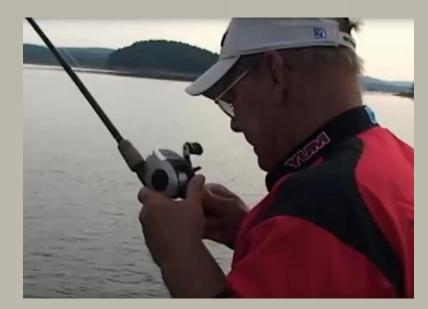
Yes we toured the lake once when it was flat and calm. We fished many areas like Long Shoal, the islands and other shoals along the way ... We actually made a complete circle around the whole lake ... so got to see quite a bit of it.

7) What was the biggest bass for you and Steve?

We both had one over seven. For Steve, that was a Personal Best smallmouth because before our trip, his biggest was 4lbs and he only ever caught one of those. He became a big bass expert overnight fishing Simcoe though!

8) How about your heaviest five-fish

Bobby Murray's Tournament Career: Murray started on the Bassmaster Tournament Trail in 1969. In his 12 year tournament career, he won three B.A.S.S. events, including the inaugural Bassmaster Classic in 1971 and the 1978 Classic. He recorded 16 other Top 10 finishes.



Today the 69 year old Murray still does work for PRADCO Fishing Lures in public relations and product development and appears on various fishing shows.

(tournament) limit for smallmouth bass? Was your Simcoe weight a PB for just smallmouth? (The current all-time Canadian record for the heavies bass ever weighed in, was during the 2010 Bass Pro Shops Lake Simcoe Open, hosted by the Aurora Bassmasters. That weight came in at 31.5 pounds ...





and that same year an 8.5 pound smallie was weighed in that still holds the Canadian record for the heaviest bass ever weighed in at a tournament here.)

Hmm, for just smallmouth, I think it would have to be when you consider we had five that would have been close to 30 lbs and we actually did that twice in our short visit.

) How would you

compare Simcoe to some of the other great smallmouth lakes you have visited around the world?

The Great Lakes – like Ontario and Erie would have more smallmouth to catch ... and plenty in the three, four and even five pound range. Other inland lakes all have their charms and some have great bass fishing opportunities. However, when it comes to true giant smallmouth in that 6-8 pound class, I have never seen anything like what Lake Simcoe has to offer in my entire life ... in any of my travels. It's just incredible what y'all have right there so close to Toronto! (Lake Simcoe is less than an hour north of Toronto.)

10) So - famous world renowned smallmouth lakes like Pic Wic in Tennessee or Dale Hollow in Kentucky (where the 11-pound, 15-ounce world record came from) don't hold up to Simcoe?

No ... there are the occasional giant smallmouth that still come from those lakes, but they are few and far between and certainly people rarely catch five, five pounders or bigger in a day. In fact most of the big smallmouth bass caught in these big; clear US reservoirs are caught at night.

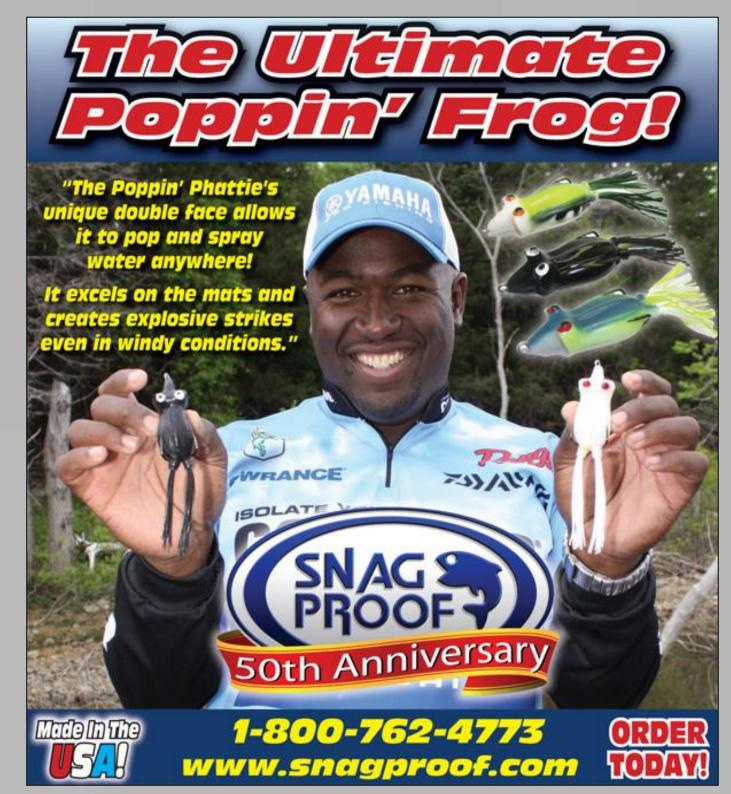
11) What are your lasting impressions of Lake Simcoe and her bass fishery?

One of the best kept secrets you Canadians have ever kept from us! Can't believe I have been in the industry for as long as I have and didn't know about it. It is the best trophy smallmouth lake there is anywhere on the planet - bare none! The size of those Simcoe bass is awe inspiring- every one of them is a treasure. I can tell y'all hold them in high esteem – or there wouldn't be any left! These smallmouth are not table fare. In Ontario, y'all are blessed with so many other species that are fine to eat – like walleye, perch and crappie but your big smallmouth are truly something special that you gotta protect and maintain for future generations!

Lastly- I can't wait to return. I gotta try fishing it at night- I just can't stand it- how good it should be!

So, there you have it ODU magazine readers. A week or two ago, Bobby called to say he and Steve are already pumped for their trip up here to Lake Simcoe. Summertime really is a great season to visit the lake, because honestly you'll see more recreational boaters around than other anglers. For some crazy reason more people fish Simcoe during the winter than all other three seasons combined ... making it the most intensively fished inland lake in the province. So ... come on up for a visit and you too may catch your PB smallmouth ever and come to love Lake Simcoe ... just like Bobby, Steve and I!

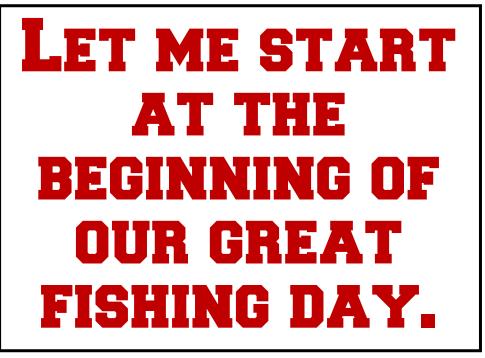
Wil Wegman is an award winning outdoor writer and seminar host who is the Hooked On Fishing columnist for Lake Simcoe Living Magazine. Wil is two-time winner of the Bill Bond Memorial Award for his "dedication to conserving and protecting the fishery of Lake Simcoe". He can be reached through his Focus on Fishing website at <u>www.wilwegman.com</u>





No Tarpon But A Huge Surprise!

By Lou Mintzer



When you catch a huge fish that takes 3 men to bring it up on 900 pound test line you have every right to scream and holler like kids!

Tom Phelan, my fishing buddy and I drove to the Gasparilla Marina and met Captain Chris O'Neill and mate Ethan Williams at the dock for a day of fishing.

Capt. O'Neill was highly recommended by Jennifer Huber, Charlotte Harbor and the WannaB Resort in Englewood.

O'Neill gives fishing seminars at the resort and sometimes fishes right in Lemon Bay.

About two weeks before my trip I just happened to watch an outdoor show, Majesty Outdoors and there was Capt. O'Neill fishing with the host Bill Blodgett and guests. They were staying at the same resort.

O'Neill and I discussed what we wanted to fish for days before we met. "I would love to catch a tarpon but I don't want to spend the entire day trying if they aren't biting. Let's catch whatever is biting," I told him and he agreed.

After exchanging greetings we headed out on his 24 foot Pathfinder into Charlotte Harbor toward Boca





We jockeyed for position near the tailing tarpon and Capt. Chris cast a line and handed it off. A few minutes later we moved again and tried again. After about 30 minutes of this, the captain said, Let's go catch a big fish."

Grande Pass for some tarpon fishing. The livewell was full of pilchards and live crabs.

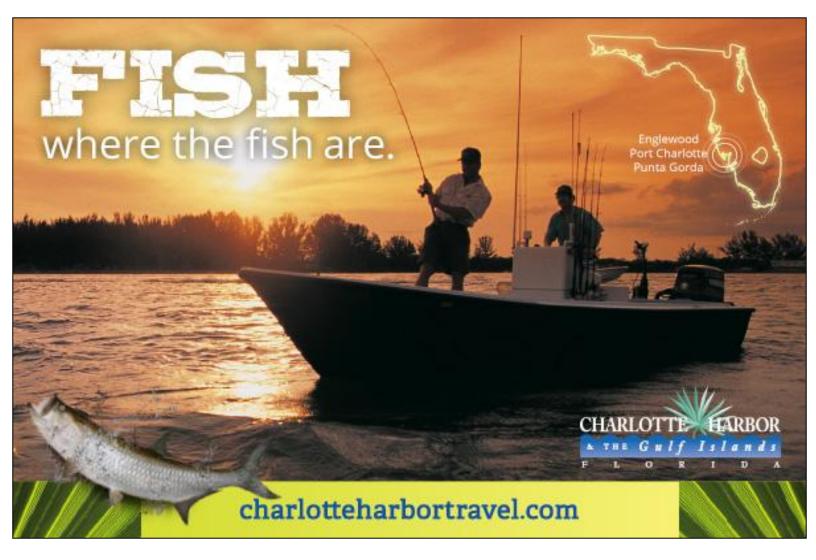
We slowed along the beach near the pass and the captain could see tarpon from his tower. They were rolling, tailing and jumping, a sight to behold. We moved in close and threw some live crabs at them on Penn spinning rigs, but no hits. There were only a couple other boats in that spot.

A ten pound Jack Crevalle hit my bait and gave me a nice fight. Ethan threw him in the live-well, "for grouper bait later."

About a mile away lots of boats were dancing for position. "That is the famous Boca Grand Pass," said Capt. O'Neill, "The best tarpon fishing in the world."

We moved into the pass and were in awe by 50-60 boats circling several spots. Tom and I had never fished in such heavy traffic and the boats were rocking and rolling from the wind and the boat traffic. Tarpon were everywhere but nobody seemed to have one hooked up. We were excited just watching the tarpon. "This is not very crowded, you should see this place on the weekends or on a tournament weekend," O'Neill told us.





We motored south along some old pier pilings and cast for whatever. We got a few small jacks and moved on.

The boat pulled up close to a huge old pier piling left over from the days of phosphate mining. Ethan



picked a huge, stout, short rod with a big Penn reel from the rack. The line was huge, 900 pound test with a pound of lead and a 20/0 Mustad circle hook. Ethan netted the jack from the live well and put him on the hook.

"Pay attention guys," he told us and dropped the bait off the front of the boat. "We're in about 60 feet of water," yelled the captain, "Is that bait on the bottom yet?"







"Just about," replied Ethan.

Tom and I were just standing there enjoying the scenery when Ethan yelled, the rod bent to the deck and he almost went overboard. "Give me some help, we got a big one!" Tom grabbed Ethan around the waist, I grabbed Tom and the fight was on.

The captain backed the boat slowly away from the structure. Ethan had the rod over his left shoulder, Tom had both hands on the rod, I had one hand on the rod and one one the reel, trying my best to crank it. It sort of reminded me of some kind of a workout routine; Ethan would go down in a deep knee bend with Tom and I trying to keep up. I reeled as we went down and when Ethan struggled to stand up we would raise the monster 3-4 feet. The drag was locked down so there was no play, just manhandling. The rod bent to the deck but we slowly started gaining on the big fish. When the giant grouper came to the surface we were all yelling and screaming. Capt. Chris was doing a loud play by play on his cell phone for his radio show. What an experience!

We horsed the grouper to the port side, the captain wearing Kevlar gloves, had both hands in her mouth struggling to keep her against the boat. As quick as possible we took pictures, yelled some more, high-fived everybody and then the captain removed the circle hook and pushed her





away. It took about a minute for her to catch her breath and then she was gone.

Drenched is sweat and with huge smiles, we agreed that we just had the catch of a lifetime.

"That was a 30 year old giant goliath grouper about 6-7 foot long and weighs over 400 pounds," the captain told us. "I participated in a 3 year migration study and we tagged about 300 of them. The giant





grouper fishery has been closed to harvest since 1990," he continued.

The captain told us, "We like to use stingrays for bait and we go to Pine Island at night and shoot them with a bow and arrows. Grouper eat almost anything but rays are a favorite."

The day was not over; we headed out to an island to try our luck with snook. You could see fish laying along the weeds in shallow water close to the island. Using Penn Spinfisher V 3500 reels on Penn Regiment rods we threw our baits just past the fish and waited. Almost every cast got a hit by a nice snook and a few more jacks. We saw some redfish but they didn't seem to be hungry.

Finally we were worn out and headed back to the marina with some great fish stories and pictures.



ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

Captain O'Neill spent 20 years as Hovercraft pilot and Master Vessel operator with the U.S. Army before starting his Tail Chaser Fishing Company in 2004 and is regarded as one of the top fishing guides in Florida. He has appeared on many fishing shows like Big Water Adventures, Mark Sosin's Saltwater Journal, Majesty Outdoors, Florida Sportsman and many others and has his own "The Reel Saltwater Outdoors" live radio show every morning from his boat.

> Check out his website WWW.TAILCHASERCHARTERS.COM

To make sure you have the best information about the Charlotte Harbor area contact <u>Jennifer.Huber@charlottefl.com</u> or the website, <u>www.charlotteharbortravel.com</u>. She gets 5 stars from me and my friends.

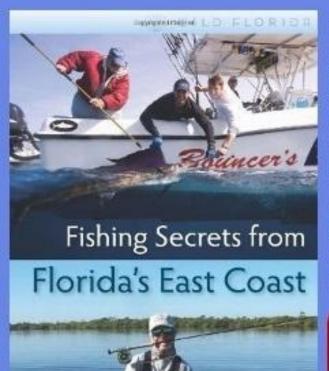


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Ron Presley offers anglers valued fishing insight and information on Florida's saltwater angling opportunities, detailed in the following two books.

FLORIDA FISHING AT IT'S BEST!



Ron Presley

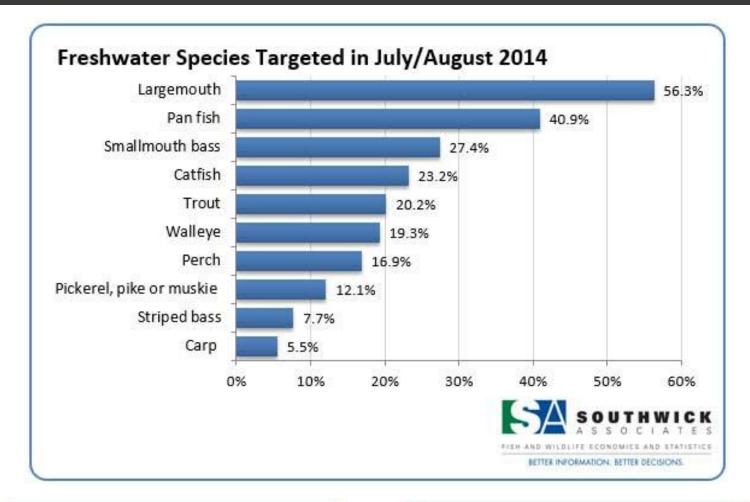
Author and experienced fishing guide Ron Presley offers practical information to anglers of all skill levels and interests in this clear, concise guide. He provides the essential information anglers need both to have a successful excursion and to protect the fishing resource for future generations. Also featuring valuable contributions from twenty-eight local guides and experts—all discussing the communities and waters they know best.

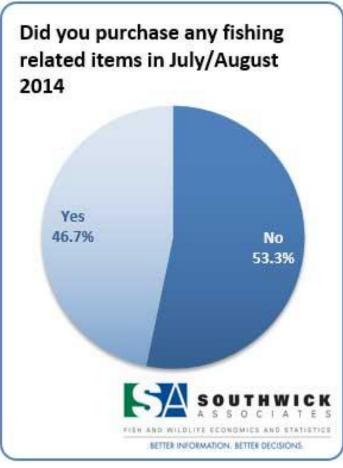
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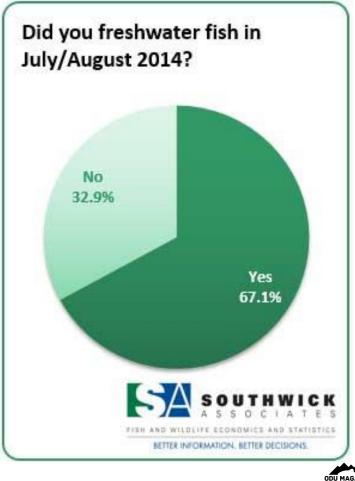
Secrets from Florida's Master Anglers offers both tourists and natives a fishing resource like no other. Professional fishing guide Ron Presley conducted privileged interviews with twenty of the state's top charter boat captains. The result is this collection of tips and techniques sure to make your next excursion a success whether in Florida or your own home waters.



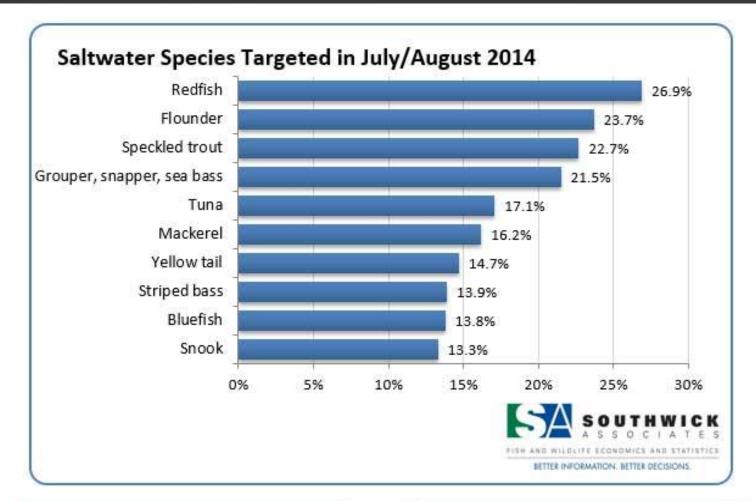


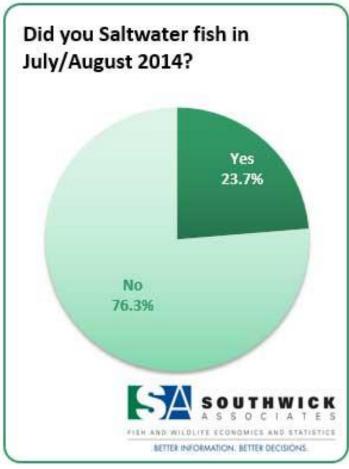


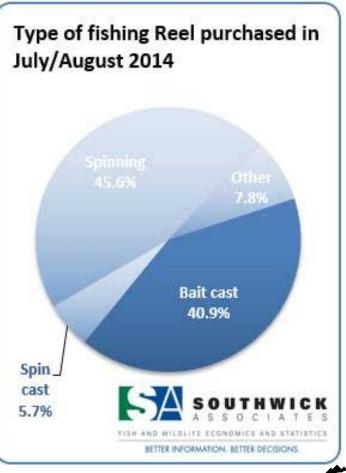




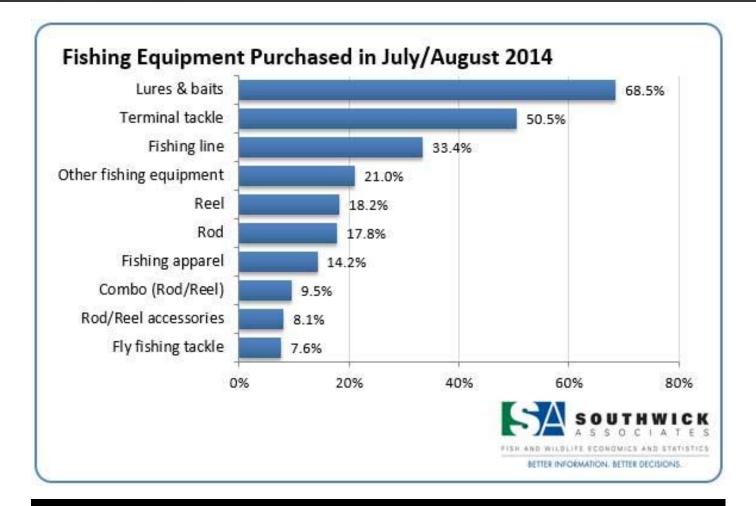












ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)



NORTHWEST GIANTS

By Michael Rischer



Sturgeon are rather abundant in the Pacific Northwest and can easily grow over 10 feet in length and weigh over 1000 pounds. Targeting these river monsters from a Hobie kayak is not only a rush of adrenaline, but can be a serious workout as well. White sturgeon are primarily bottom feeders and spend most of their life searching for food in the ocean and fresh water rivers. Targeting these massive fish along the Columbia River and its many tributaries isn't tough, you just need to understand what these fish are eating. Sturgeon have a very keen sense of smell and will travel multiple miles upriver in search of a potential meal from a single scent trail.

Alactorial and

The bait is a very important factor in hooking these ancient beasts. One of the more effective baits that I have success with is squid. You can find this bait in the freezer at most local fishing stores or also in Asian markets. A few other options that produce great results are herring, anchovy, shad, tuna belly, salmon eggs, or anything that's high in flavor, scent and oil.

The rods I typically have the best success with are 8' boat rods,



similar to a Daiwa Proteus rod with MH power and fast action. Sturgeon large or small have a soft bite and you never really know what you're hooking into until you first set the hook. A soft tip is important so you can feel the light bites of a sturgeon, but you'll need the backbone of a sturdy rod for a massive fish.

For the reel I run a level wind like a Daiwa Sealine. When reeling up a sturgeon, it's important to have a quality reel that won't slip, strip, or skip. These fish can put some serious pressure on your equipment, so having a quality setup is important. Sturgeon only want to get straight back down to the bottom, so get comfortable and get ready for a tug-of-war.

For the line I always run an 80# braid that will hold up to a sturgeon's razor-sharp scutes (hard razor sharp scales along the lateral line). Sturgeon like to roll up the line and having a heavier braid will help keep the scutes from cutting the line. Between the main line and 7/0 barbless circle hooks, I run a 3-4 foot section of 72# Dacron line. Because Sturgeon don't have teeth like other fish, they use their long snout or lips that pick the food up, inspect it by nibbling on it and then attempt to swallow. Dacron line

in important because it's a thick silky line, isn't that as noticeable on their lips like mono. They will lightly chew on bait for your а couple seconds prior to committing to swallow, it's SO important to have a soft Dacron leader attached to the bait.

An Anchor Trolley is important because it allows you to face either upstream or downstream while on anchor. I usually prefer to face downstream. This allows me to detach straight into a sleigh ride when the big ones bite.



E LERGERS DREELSUUE SEINIGE

The Swirleybird Spinner is World Famous and has the perfect size and action to imitate any baitfish! It casts easily and maintains its attractive qualities from the time it hits the water until the end of the retrieve with no extra effort. These attributes make this unique lure perfect for anglers of all ages and skill levels anywhere in the world, for almost any predator fish and during every season of the year.

Buy them online at: http://www.georgiafishing.com/ swirleybird-spinners

HOW TO CHOOSE LURES FOR STRIPER BASS

If you've ever hung a big landlocked striped bass on an artificial lure, you know it's a jarring experience. There's nothing tentative about the way a striper hits a surface plug, crankbait or jig -no slight peck, no mushy feeling, none of that maybe stuff. "How will you know when a fish strikes?" A striper doesn't strike a lure, it creams it, smashes it with a vengeance, blows it to kingdom come.

Most die-hard striper anglers rely on live bait 85% of the time. They may chunk topwaters or



crankbaits at dawn and dusk, then snip them off and use bait for the remainder of the day.

Sure, live bait works great. But you can catch stripers all day long on artificials, too -- even on days when they're turning up their noses at shad or herring. We've classified various lure styles and gathered some inside tips on fishing 'em. Some of the lures we'll mention may be familiar to you, others not. Try 'em and see if they don't bring an exciting new dimension to your striper fishing.

Topwater Fishing Lures

Fish topwater lures anywhere you see stripers surfacing, which can include open water. Be sure to try them where these predators are most likely to intercept schools of bait -across the ends of reservoir



points, on shallow flats, in protected coves, against bluff banks, in river eddies, etc.

As a rule of thumb, use the bigger, noisier topwater styles in low-light situations -- at dawn and dusk, after dark, on rainy days and when the water is choppy. As light levels intensify, switch to a progression of quieter, more realistic lures, saving your most subtle and lifelike offerings for mid-day.

<u>Prop Baits</u> -- These are the first lures to use at daybreak and the last ones to cast before darkness falls. They're also good during the day if it's stormy or rough. These are big-fish lures; if the stripers in your local waters run in excess of 20 pounds, ignore bass-sized prop baits with wimpy hooks and hardware and use big, stout ones like Luhr-Jensen's Big Game Woodchopper (pictured).



Inside tip: Stripers often strike these lures repeatedly without hooking up. If a fish blows up or rolls on the bait but misses it, twitch the lure gently, making the props barely sputter -- she'll come back and eat it.

<u>Poppers</u> -- Favored by saltwater striper anglers for schooling fish, these noisy lures will work well on landlocks, too. Use them in low-light or choppy conditions. You can cast big saltwater poppers a country mile; this makes them useful when a striper school is in hot pursuit of bait and moving quickly.

Inside tip: for some reason, poppers work better than any other topwater style in churning tailwater boils -- even bank anglers catch monster fish on them.



<u>Surface Minnows</u> -- Easily the most popular of all landlocked striper lures, with the Cordell Red Fin (pictured) being the classic example. They can catch stripers in bright sunlight, but their best application is early and late in the day. Use a slow, swimming retrieve, keeping the rod tip high while reeling the lure just fast enough so it sashays back and forth across the surface, throwing a tell-tale wake behind it.

Inside tip: Remove the hooks from a big surface minnow and scrape the paint off the lure body. This usually reveals bone white plastic underneath -- this color is deadly on stripers! Replace the front hook, but substitute the rear hook for one a size larger. This sinks the tail slightly, allowing you to retrieve the lure faster while maintaining the right wake-throwing action -- a real asset in clear water.

<u>Stick Baits</u> -- Exceptionally good in moderate light. You'll love 'em when morning fog begins to break up on reservoirs and tailwaters. The erratic "walk the dog" retrieve is hard to beat; use a short (under 6 foot) rod, point the rod tip to the water's surface and snap the slack out of the line with a single downward stroke at the same time you turn the reel handle.

Inside tip: on bright days, bass-sized stick baits like Heddon's Zara Spook are often more deadly than larger saltwater styles. To help keep big stripers from pulling the hooks out of these baits, remove the screws holding the hook hangers, dip in epoxy cement and replace.

Soft Plastic Lures

<u>Soft Jerkbaits</u> -- Incredibly realistic lures that will catch stripers from daybreak 'til dark. Especially deadly in shallow, gin-clear water where stripers may turn away from other artificials. Our favorites are Bass





Pro Shops Stick-O worm or Lunker City's 10-inch Fin-S Fish (pictured) and 9-inch Slug-Go; they perfectly capture the look and action of big forage fish upon which megastripers dine. Bass anglers fish soft jerk baits slowly; for clearwater stripers, try fishing 'em fast, darting, twitching and skipping 'em on or just under the surface. Inside tip : when rigging soft jerk baits, use the big worm hook that comes with the lure, but add a treble stinger. Stick the worm hook through the lure's head, bring it out the bottom and simply run it through the eye of a big treble hook before reinserting it into the lure, so the treble hook dangles freely. This rigging will stick

even those fish that slap at the lure without eating it.

<u>Leadhead Trailers</u> -- Big twist-tail grubs like Kalin's Mogambo top this list. Fish them on either bucktail (hair) jigs or plain leadheads. Try bucktails up shallow in early spring -- they're deadly in coves and long points when heavy rains have stained the water in a normally clear reservoir or river. Eel and shadtail trailers may be substituted for twisters; work these with a bottom-bumping or fast-twitch retrieve.

Inside tip: in rivers and tailraces, stripers often use submerged trees as ambush points. Swim twisters through the ends of the branches; use heavy line for added abrasion resistance.

<u>Tube Baits</u> -- The biggest examples of these lifelike lures are deadly for stripers. Consider them finesse lures -- they don't have the noise or frantic action of many other artificials and are best used when the

bite is slow. Try rigging a big tube on a Carolina rig with a heavy sinker; fish this around reservoir points and river ledges to the 35foot level. They can also be rigged on a saltwater leadhead and bumped along the bottom.

Inside tip: Fill a big tube with Styrofoam peanuts so it'll float, then fish it on a stout hook.

Spoons & Blade Lures

<u>Jigging Spoons</u> -- For stripers, use 3/4 to 3 oz. spoons, depending on depth, current, wind conditions, etc. These spoons are best used in water 15 feet or deeper. Watch your bass pro jigging spoongraph for "hooks" indicating suspending fish, position your boat over the target and lower a spoon to just above its depth level, then jig repeatedly



(make sure your reel's drag isn't too tight!). Adjust the depth level until you contact fish. We like the like the Bass Pro Shops XPS Tungsten Jiggin Spoon Pictured prior page).

Inside tip: if small stripers are schooling on top, go for a bigger fish with a spoon. Cast beyond the surface activity, hold the rod high and reel quickly so the bait tumbles across the surface.

Nailer Spoons

'Good Enough To Be Called A Nailer'

Our Northport Nailer spoons are the best value on the market today, made with a paint finish that does not disappear. The 100SK & 300HS-K are made with spring brass to hold their shape, and then silver-plated and painted.



<u>Trolling Spoons</u> -- Lightweight aluminum downrigger spoons like the Northport Nailer (pictured) are commonly used by Great Lakes anglers for trout and salmon; stripers will eat 'em too. They are intended solely for downrigger use and will run at the exact depth of the cannonball, enabling precise presentations for suspending stripers. They'll catch bass, trout and walleye as well.

Inside tip: during mid-day, stripers often move offshore and suspend, feeding on deep baitfish schools. A good place to find them is between two main-lake points. Graph the area, locate suspending bait/stripers, note their depth level and troll a spoon just above them. Avoid trolling with a constant speed; stripers often respond immediately when you speed up or slow down your presentation.

<u>Blade Baits</u> -- Fish these either with a fast, steady retrieve like a crankbait, or vertically like a spoon. Often considered clear-water lures, their intense vibration draws strikes in murky water as well.

Inside tip: you can cast a big blade bait extremely long distances, so try them on windy days. Jarring strikes are commonplace with these lures; keep the drag loose.

Crankbaits

Best used in spring and fall, when stripers are shallow but not surfacing. Noisy, rattling styles are good night lures. Ideal on points and humps in reservoirs and around submerged wood in rivers.

<u>Lipless Rattlers</u> -- Bill Lewis' Rat-L-Trap and similar noisemakers, in the larger sizes, are ideal for active stripers in shallow water. Reel them in quickly just beneath the surface through baitfish schools. Best colors: blue back chrome, black back chrome, bone white.







I am more than a weekend warrior.

I'm also a dad. Soon my kids will be old enough to be out here with me. That's why I switched to lead-free weights and biodegradable baits. I pick up and recycle used fishing line. I never dump unused live bait into my lake. It's SAFE Angling, and it will ensure that my kids enjoy a clean and healthy lake. Now I'm more than a weekend warrior.

I am a steward.



Inside tip: bass fishermen use a high-speed reel when fishing lipless rattlers, but it's a poor idea for stripers. The higher gear ratio gives you very little winching power to control a big fish. Instead, use a wide-spoon reel with standard retrieve.

<u>Medium-Divers</u> -- Long, slender baitfish-imitating divers like Bomber's Long A (pictured) run to a depth of 15 feet and are ideal for probing points, humps and standing timber. Best colors: shad, bone, chartreuse, rainbow trout.



> Inside tip: try fishing these lures at night. Stripers often move up to feed on shallow bars and flats



Recommended models include Rebel's Spoonbill, and Heddon's Hellbender (all pictured). They're ideal for probing deep points and humps as well as trolling for fish suspending in open water. Best colors: shad, rainbow trout, white, fire tiger.

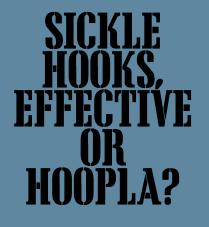
Inside tip: attach a short length of stout line to the trailing hook of a deep-diving crankbait and tie a 1/4 oz. leadhead jig with a white or chartreuse twist-tail to the end. When trolled through a school of stripers, you'll often hook two fish at once.

This article was produced for <u>Bass Pro</u> <u>Shops 1Source</u>, where it appeared first. after dark and will nail a big crankbait hout hesitation.

<u>Deep-Divers</u> -- These can reach depths of 20 to 30 feet when trolled on a long line, which is their best application for stripers.







By Barry Dodd

Bass anglers oftentimes do not fish for crappie and crappie anglers do not fish for bass. In fact, disdain for each other is very common. However, each group could improve their angling skills by fishing for both species. The reasons: both bass and crappie relate to the same type habitat, both prefer basic the same water temperature, same grounds spawning and same food sources. With all similarities, it only the makes sense to target both species to increase one's overall knowledge base. As a fulltime bass and crappie fishing guide, my mental database has acquired many megabytes of useful data gained while fishing for both species. However, whether you are

encouraged to reconsider your targeted fish species or not, there are relatively new advancements in hook design which improve hook-ups for bass and crappie anglers.

This hook design, called "Sickle[®]", was introduced at the 2003 Fred Hall Fishing Tackle and Boat Show by Matzuo America[®]. The unique hook design received the coveted Tackle Tour's "Best of Show" honor, for its category. Here is an excerpt from their March 19, 2003 publication: "Matzuo also showcased a patented hook design that features an angular bend. By applying these bends the Sickle hook gains a superior amount of strength and at the same time a thinner wire hook can be used for finer





with a follow-up email from Don Hoben, the now retired Matzuo founder and Sickle hook designer. In our conversation, I learned that Hoben's vision was to create a hook specifically designed for people who jerk to set the hook (as opposed to pressure setting circle hooks) while retaining all the fish holding characteristics of the circle hook. His design inspiration came while catfishing in the Philippines. Realizing the direct relationship between hook sharpness, strength and shape to penetration, wire diameter and fish holding ability, he concluded, in theory, that an angular design could possibly solve all three troubling issues associated with round bend hook. After much trial and error, the Sickle hook design was created. What makes the 43.405 degree angle optimal, I will leave to the experts. I just know, from years of use, that the darn things work...remarkably. And, although I have no scientific evidence to substantiate the claims I am about to make, I do have loads of clients and a freezer full of fillets to bear witness to these claims regarding Sickle style hooks.

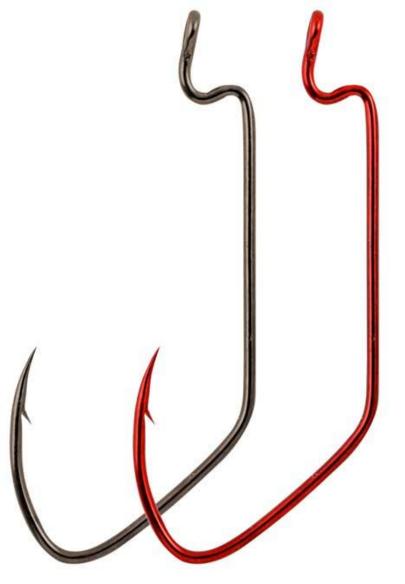
1) The lighter gauge wire and super sharp points penetrate the

presentations of lures and bait. The thinner diameter wire also means that the hooks will be exceptionally sharp."

That was twelve years ago when relatively few Americans had ever heard of Matzuo products. Today, Matzuo should be flattered by the number of quality angular hooks being produced by various companies that are similar to their patented design. There is only one reason for these other companies to invest and market similar angular designs...effective performance!

The Matzuo website says their forged Sickle hooks are bent to an optimal 43.405 degree angle. In an effort to learn more, I emailed a request for additional information about the Sickle hook design. A couple weeks later I received a personal phone call





fish's mouth better even with lighter line and softer hook-sets (10 to 30% reduction).

2) Smaller diameter wire means that less damage is done to live bait causing the bait to stay alive longer.

3) Lighter wire means less weight to interfere with bait or lure action.

4) The deep-set angle next to the point, in conjunction with the angular throat bend design (rather than round bend), substantially minimizes the hook from rotating when the fish is slinging its head from side to side. Minimizing the hook rotation which effectively minimizes thrown hooks and lost fish.

5) The correct tensile strength of the lighter wire allows for enough flexing of the hook to pull lose when snagged.

A couple key points to remember about fishing with lighter weight wire hooks. Real hard hook-sets with heavier line WILL flex and bend the hook enough to miss the fish. This generally occurs with bass anglers learning to use light wire

finesse drop-shot

hooks before properly learning to down-size equipment in conjunction with softer hook-setting techniques. The other consideration is getting a stuck hook dislodged with light line. The proper method is to point the rod tip directly towards the lure or hook and apply firm steady pressure rather than trying to jerk it lose.

As far as I am concerned, the only real negative to the Sickle angular hook design is not having a broader selection of technique specific hooks available to the general public. Some companies are making limited quantities of specialized angular hooks designs for pros but, at this point, are not mass producing nor marketing to the general public. However, I am confident it's just a matter of time, because the effective performance evidence is obvious.

For those who wish to test these Sickle style hooks, the following information will help with specific products to buy.

Crappie Fishing

1) Minnows - Matzuo #157 Aberdeen Sickle style, sizes #2 mostly and some #1. These are produced with extra thin wire in red chrome and





have slightly heavier wire.

3) Texas rigged worms – Matzuo Sickle J-Bend Worm # 142 and X-tra Wide Gap Worm # 143, sizes 1/0 to 5/0. Vary the size hook to the length and thickness of the worms. Example: Zoom's 7" Trick worms work well with 3/0 #142 while Gary Yamamoto 5" Senkos work better with 3/0 # 143. These hooks, as well, are made with heavier wire.

Whether you are determined to fish only for one species or multiple, you should seriously consider and experiment with the new angular style hooks Matzo designed, patented and introduced to the market as "Sickle". Ask yourself, why would other companies spend research and production dollars to market similar designs, if evidence did not support their effectiveness?

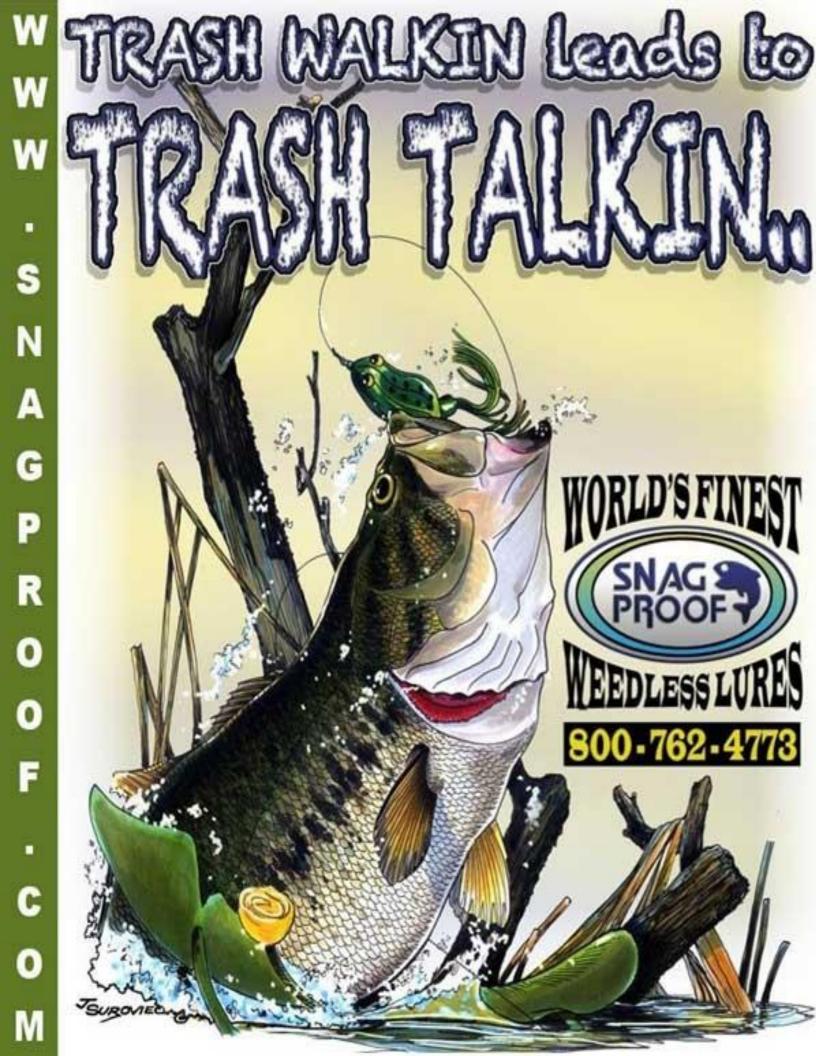
bronze. I normally use red but cannot prove it makes a difference in numbers of bites. 2) Jigs - Round ball, minnow shaped and banana shaped with a spinner - Matzuo #149 90° Sickle jig hooks. Jig weights of 1/32 to 3/8 but most often about 1/8 oz with #2 hook.

Bass Fishing

1) Drop-Shot weedless Owner Down Shot Offset #5333, sizes 1/0 to 3/0, mostly 2/0. These are used when snagging is problematic so rigging weedless (Texas style) is desired. They are not Matzuo's patented Sickle but are a thin wire angular style which, hopefully, Matzuo will make in the Sickle design, someday.

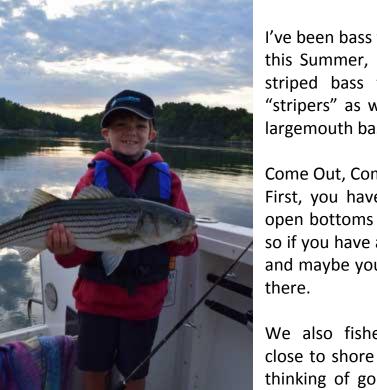
2) Drop-Shot exposed hook – Matzuo Octopus Sickle Offset # 141, sizes 2 to 1/0, mostly 1. These hooks





BOBBER BITES

BALLOONS AREN'T JUST FOR BIRTHDAYS HOW TO CATCH A STRIPED



By Casting Carter

I've been bass fishing on lakes since I was two-years-old. But this Summer, I was invited out not once, but twice to go striped bass fishing on the ocean! Striped bass – or "stripers" as we call them in New England – are a lot like largemouth bass you catch on a lake!

Come Out, Come Out Wherever You Are!

First, you have to look for structure. Fish don't like wide open bottoms – they like to hang around things on ground so if you have a fish finder, look for structure on the bottom and maybe you'll find stripers

We also fished for stripers close to shore – so if you are thinking of going out on the ocean and you have never been, it's great for beginners!



You can even get your "sea legs" (that's how you learn how to stand up with the waves) and because you are near shore you are less likely to get seasick. Plus the fish aren't that deep so it's not that far to bring in a fish – not like when you are fishing for haddock (they were 250 feet down – I had to reel until my arms were so tired!)

How Are You Gonna Catch 'Em?

Just like fishing for bass, you can catch stripers from a kayak,



on shore, or from a boat. Just keep in mind about structure and also that they like moving water current because it moves food for them! The little creatures get caught up in the current and become dinner when they float by.

Oh, and they love worms! Not night crawlers though – these are seaworms! Watch out – they have little pinchers that can sting you. But, if you don't have worms you can catch stripers on almost anything you can catch a bass on – jigs, top water lures, rubber worms, live bait, etc. When I went out on a boat we used a "bobber" set up with live mackerel and herring but instead of a bobber we used a balloon!

Live Action!

When you hook them – they are fighters! Oh, they fight like a smallmouth! They can jump out of the water really high too. Great live action. Also, when you catch them you can lip them – just like a regular bass because they have no teeth! We like to do CPR – Catch, Photo, Release. But if you do keep them, check for your local size limits and obey the law!

Cool Striper Fishy Facts

I learned some neat things about these great fish too – so, striped bass can also be called "rockfish" because they like to hang out

near...rocks! They migrate – which means they move from north to south and back north – to stay in warm water. And they can live in both salt water and fresh water! Wow! The female (girl) fish go into fresh water to lay their eggs and that's where the baby fish are born – then they find their way down the river back to the ocean and salt water where they live. Young stripers are called "schoolies" and old female stripers are called "cows." Also, you can tell how old a fish is by counting scale rings – almost like



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counting the rings of a tree!

Striper fishing is fun. I hope you get out and try it!

Have an idea or want me to answer a question in a future Bobber Bites column? Write to Casting Carter at: carter@castingcarter.com

Bio: Casting Carter is a seven-year-old kid entrepreneur from Manchester, NH. He founded Kid In Outdoors, LLC with the mission to get kids off of video games and outdoors and is nationally recognized as an industry spokesperson and advocate. <u>www.kidinoutdoors.com</u>



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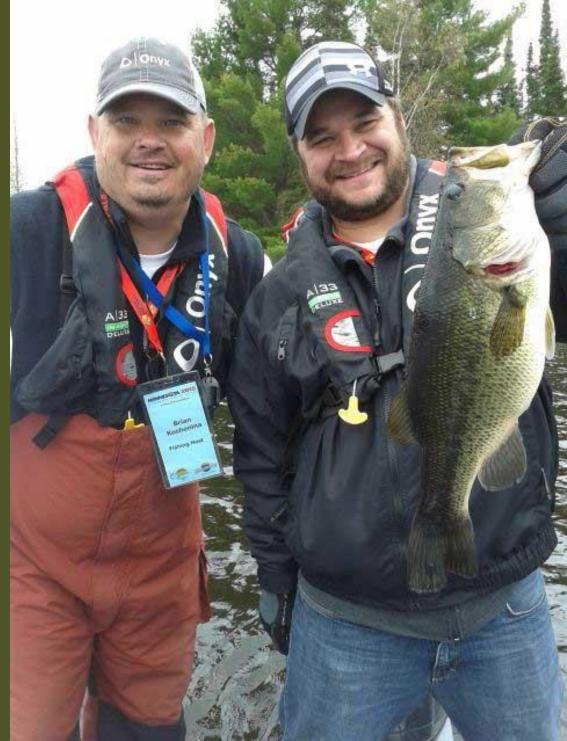
no fish can resist

LURES, LURES AND MORE LURES FOR BASS SUCCESS

By Brian Koshenina

Crank baits, spinner baits, jigs, plugs, stick baits, spoons, poppers, soft plastics are just a few choices we have for catching Bass. Our choices are endless, colors plentiful, shapes are many but knowing what, where and when to use a lure can determine the amount of success you have.

It's been a long week; its early Saturday morning and you're prepared to catch as many Bass as possible. You have a game plan that is sure to work,



heck; you've been using the same plan for years. After a few casts in your favorite spot you have no luck. You start to think, and then over think. You break into your tackle box and tie on a new lure. A few more cast and you tie on a different lure. No luck. Your day is not going the way you thought. It's time to take a break, relax and access the situation.

First things first, why did your plan fall apart? Most of us "panic" when the Bass don't bite the way we want them to. Most of us use lures or techniques that brought us success in the past or that we are comfortable with. Problem is that most of us will only use this one technique. This is a bad approach. You need to be able to adapt. Prepare to use a couple of techniques and stick with them.

All lures have a time and place for their use. Some lures are designed to be worked fast as others slow. Some lures are for top water and some lures are for catching Bass deep. Many lures "mimic" bait fish and others are designed to look like bait fish. There are a few things you should know before you pick a lure to use. Look around you, is it sunny or cloudy? Can I see fish shallow by sight or deep on the fish finder? Is the water cold or warm for this time of year? Is the water clear or murky? These are clues that will help you with your lure selection.

When fishing cooler water temps with cloudy skies I tend to rely on finesse techniques. Bass will be moving in shallow, transition areas looking for warmer water. I like to cast a Wacky Rigged worm in this situation. This technique requires no jigging or movement of the lure and the soft action of the worm sinking won't spook the fish. If the skies are clear I will cast the Wacky Rig under docks, under over



hanging trees or just about anywhere I can find a shadow on the water.

If you hear the "Sweet sound" of frogs croaking at night, it's time to break out top water lures. As Frogs become active so do the Bass. Frogs tend to shallow gravitate towards thick weeds and lily pads and that is where you will find Bass. Cast a "Snag Proof" frog past the pads working it slowly back, pausing in open pockets. The key is "slow down". Try different areas and if this doesn't work try a popper or a Zara Spook. Sometimes the action of a frog isn't enough to entice them to bite. Walk a Zara Spook across the top of an area close to pads or submergant vegetation and your sure to get a Bass's attention.

In the summer months, the sun heats up the water fast and Bass will seek cooler water. You can still cast worms under docks and catch them but if they are not there try a "Search bait". A "search bait" is a lure that you can cast far and cover a lot of water. You can work them fast and slow depending upon the fish's mood. Crank baits and spoons work well for trying to find Bass when they are not shallow. Crank baits make noise and are erratic making them perfect for working weed lines both shallow and deep. Spoons often attract Bass out of cover with their subtle action and wake. Bass often follow these lures finding their action hard to resist.

In the fall we find Bass scattered all over the lake. Some days they are shallow and some days they are deep. It is at this time of year where many techniques will work. For a shallow bite try a "Spinner bait. The action of these lures attracts big bass that are just looking for an easy meal. Work it shallow and

parallel to shallow weed lines.

If the fish are on deeper structure try working a "Hair jig" or a "Skirted jig" with a plastic trailer. Work it slowly, dragging the bottom and pausing for a few seconds. Bass tend to pick up the jig on the pause so watch your line for the slightest movement. You can also try a gumball jig and a deeper worm on structure. Cast it out and let it sit. If there is a Bass in the area you



will know it. Bass tend to hit this presentation hard so watch your line. Bass will grab it and swim away thinking they have an easy meal so set the hook hard and expect a fight.

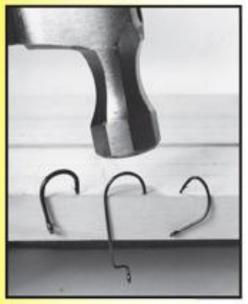
There are many lures and techniques proven to catch bass. It's just a matter of knowing when, where and how to use them. Take my advice or use your own either way you should be more successful on your next outing using some of these lures and techniques.

Sources: <u>http://www.snagproof.com/</u>, <u>http://www.heddonlures.com/product/zara-spook-3/</u>

Brian Koshenina is a profesional guide in Minnesota, <u>http://muskiesandmore.com/</u>, volunteer, <u>http://simplyoutdoorexperiences.org/</u>, outdoor writer, radio personality, <u>http://knsiradio.com/podcasts/ask-pros/outdoors-more-show/</u>, certified mentor, <u>http://www.mpmn.org/Home.aspx</u>, and tournament fisherman.

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CATCHING CATFISH WITH A TOPWATER LURE?

You better believe it and much more!

By Jake Bussolini

My friend and sometime fishing partner Mac Byrum is the established North Carolina expert on all that is to be known about catching catfish. One lazy afternoon in May, Mac was sitting in his rocking chair on his porch facing the waters of Lake Norman. It was a warn day and a gentle breeze was blowing off the lake causing

Mac to periodically close his eyes and think about the many years that he had been fishing these waters and writing words for his regular postings on the Catfish One web site. He is known as the Dean of Mac Byrum's Catfish University on this site and for years he has shared his wisdom about catching catfish with anyone interested.

In recent years Mac has been plagued with health problems which sometimes have cut into his fishing activities, and on this day he was quietly thinking about all of the knowledge that he has shared and wondering if there might be some fact or technique that he had never discovered.

Earlier that day, Mac had gone through some of his older fishing gear and noticed several jerk baits that he had not used for years. They were Smithwick, Devil Horse lures, a top-water lure that had been popular as an early morning noisemaker. Mac had used this type of lure many years ago when he was an avid striper angler. Like some other surface lures, the Devil Horse had small propellers on both ends that created that top water noise that once drove the early morning bass crazy. For some reason, while rocking quietly on his porch, these lures kept popping up in his mind. Half dreaming and half calculating, Mac invented a new rig using the

Devil Horse attached to his regular catfish rig. Using a one ounce slinky weight to hold the lure close to the bottom and attaching the Devil Horse to a four foot leader, this rig could be trolled through the water much like his normal catfish rig.

Mac jumped from his chair and rushed to his garage to retrieve those old Devil Horse lures. He quickly scampered to his boat and modified one of his regular rigs, attaching the lure in place of his hook and bobber. The only question remaining was the speed through the water that would make the propellers



THE CATFISH HUNTERS

JAKE BUSSOLINI and MAC BYRUM

spin fast enough to create a sound detectible by the fish. He quickly fired up his motor to run a test. Macs normal trolling speed for catfish is about .5 MPH but this wasn't fast enough to properly spin the props. However, at about .8 MPH the blades spun perfectly." That's not bad" Mac thought, "that's still slow enough so as not to out run the catfish".

Mac was starting to get excited by this new discovery. It was getting late that day, no time for a real trial but plenty of time to rig up a few more rigs for a real test the next morning. Five AM came none too soon the next morning. Mac rushed to his boat without making any coffee and not even taking a break for a quick smoke, he was one the water and fishing. On that first trial this new lure not only caught several catfish, but also caught bass, crappie and perch. Over the period of the next week Mac ran several more tests and with each test his excitement built. This was amazing, a lure that could catch any fish in Lake Norman.

That evening, at diner, he told his wife about his discovery and she asked him what he was going to call

the new rig. Mac responded that the rig was catching all species of fish so he would call it the "Mac's catch all" rig.

A day or so later Mac called me on the phone and showing excitement that I had never seen from Mac, he asked me to come out fishing with him to witness the effectiveness of his new discovery. Mac and I had co-authored a book titled "The Catfish Hunters" years earlier and he knew that I was always interested in understanding the science of different fishing techniques. He also knew that I loved to crush some of the more popular myths about fishing, like the one that says that catfish need to smell their prey. Sure enough, my first reaction was that catfish are attracted to smell not to sound, but I had learned over the years, not to doubt Mac Byrum on anything concerning catfish, especially when he was acting like a kid in a candy store with his excitement about his new discovery.

The morning we got together to fish was probably one of the worst days that we could run this test. The Lake Norman area was in the middle of a serious heat wave. There had been little or no rain for weeks and the water surface temperature was close to 90 degrees. We left the dock at seven thirty and the sun was already pouring down from a cloudless sky and there was little or no wind blowing to break up the rays of the sun on the water. I thought to myself, "what a terrible day to try and prove anything about this new rig". Admittedly I was very skeptical.

We had agreed that we would fish for about two hours since we both had other commitments. No more than two minutes after the lures were in the water we got our first fish and to my shock it was a nice black crappie. Following almost immediately after the first fish we got two more crappie, each larger than the other "WOW"! I should, crappie on a catfish lure. "Don't doubt me" stated Mac, "I told you



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Len Andrews, Hall of Fame entrant, with a Florida largemouth bass.



P. Gabrielse holds a lunker bass, showing the fish with weight visible on a scale.



1- Photo with weight visible on scale, ENTIRE bass body visible

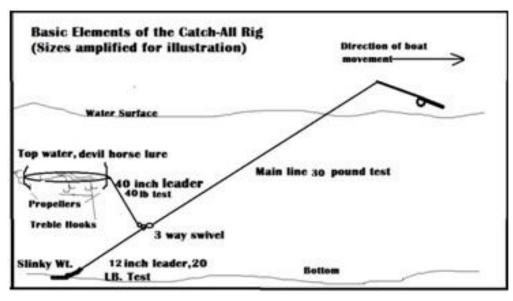




2- Bass must be released.



3- Submit entry at: TrophyCatchFlorida.com.

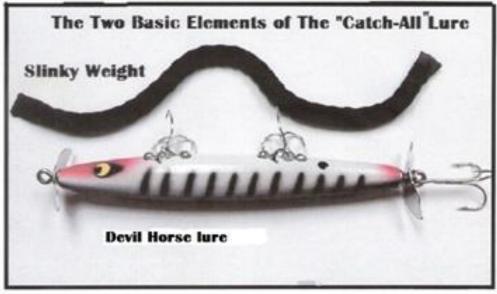


this rig catches all species of fish". Mac held up the first legal sized crappie for this photo just to serve as proof to those who will certainly doubt this story but I assure all my readers, the crappie pounded this new rig.

At one point in the test we had a triple hit, bringing in three catfish at one time, including this nice six pound blue catfish.

In the next minutes that passed we caught channel catfish, blue catfish and even a 20 pound flathead catfish. Our totals for the two hour fishing test included, three crappie, one large flathead, three channel cats and five blue cats. During that time we also lost three fairly good sized blue catfish.

"I think we proved your point", I indicated to Mac, "this is certainly a catch-all rig". We headed home with the satisfaction that at 77 years of age, Mac Byrum is still creating new ways to outsmart the fish in Lake Norman. This is an amazing guy who continues to contribute great knowledge for all of us who love to fish.



The design and operation of the "catch-all" rig is shown in this illustration.



The two most important basic elements of the rig are shown in this photo, being the Devil Horse lure and the slinky weight.

We have found that slinky weights are an excellent way to hold the bait or lure close to the bottom. A One ounce or even a 1/14 ounce weight is perfect for the Devil Horse surface lure. The lure, of course wants to rise to the surface but the slinky weight holds in down. As the boat moves forward the slinky drags along the bottom, sometimes even giving the fish the effect of a fast moving crawfish scampering along the bottom. At speeds of between .8 and 1.0 mph, both propellers spin creating a cavitation behind the lure that leaves a trail of vibration that can be detected by all fish through their lateral line. The six treble



hooks dangling from the Devil Horse lure are an awesome threat to any fish that comes to investigate. This is a slightly faster boat speed than we generally use for catfish but it seems not to be too fast to catch the whiskered monsters once they see the lure.

The beauty of this new rig is its ability to attract all species of fish. The line strengths listed in the illustration above are set for the largest fish that we expect to catch, which in this case were catfish. The reason that the leader strength for the slinky weight is lighter than the other lines is that the slinky, if hung on brush, will break off before any of the other elements of the rig. It is cheaper to lose a fifty cent



slinky than it is to lose a \$5 or \$6 lure. With the Devil Horse or other topwater lure always trying to float to the surface, the lure will be moving above most debris or other structure and will rarely get hung.

If you doubt the effectiveness of this new rig, try it vourself and ľm sure that you will be as impressed as I was at Mac Byrum's new discovery. Mac can be reached on his cell phone at 704-641-4727 or on web his site www.fishingwithma c.com. He is always available help to answer your questions or take you for a guided trip on Lake Norman.

Jake Bussolini is a freelance writer

that has written several books about freshwater fishing. His book can be reviewed at <u>www.booksbyjake.com</u> and his other fishing ventures can be seen at <u>www.jakestakeonfishing.com</u>.



As we are quickly progressing into the summer time fishing a few things change the fisherman's thought process; the first and most important is location. "Fish where the fish are." You just cannot be successful in the heat of the summer unless vou understand the factors that move fish to certain locations; especially the bigger fish.

There is probably no time of year where fisherman struggle more than

Location, Location, Location



By Captain Mike Gerry

in the summer time and to me this is just a failure to find the right type of location and to find that area holding fish, it takes some understanding of what typical patterns are holding fish. I tell many customers that the first thing you must do is start looking where all the research says they ought to be located. Do your research, understand the typical patterns and start there. My summertime is divided into two phases; the early summer time is all about deep fishing deep structure, ledges and deep humps off the river areas.

I fish all the deeper structure I can find from stumps to shell beds, my baits are pretty typical as I love to run a deep running SPRO crank bait especially over shell beds, when that crank bait gets hopping off the bottom it is deadly. Deep structure fishing wouldn't be without a ½ to ¾ oz Tight-Line football jig with a Missile Bait trailer, presenting it over deep structure can be very rewarding.

The second half of the summer is finding shallow water near deep water, like points, the mouth of coves and humps around bridges, these areas become targets for bass as the bait moves quickly to the shallow water facing the rivers ledge. You see the warmer water in the shallows as the summer progresses actually hold the bait and have more oxygen than the deep water. To me this starts the fish being active as we progress toward fall fishing, where baits like Missile baits Shock Wave swim baits and top water ought to produce. "Fish where the fish are," old cliché with lots of great meanings!

Fish Lake Guntersville Guide Service, <u>www.fishlakeguntersvilleguideservice.com</u>, <u>www.facebook.com/FishGuntersville</u>, Email: <u>bassguide@comcast.net</u> and Call: 256 759 2270

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TROLLIN', TROLLIN', TROLLIN'



By Bob Jensen

If you go fishing in the summer and want to catch fish, trolling is a great way to do so. Following are some ideas for more effective and productive trolling.

Anglers can troll with either a bow mount or transom mount electric motor, or with the boat's main engine. I use my main engine most of the time, especially when a little more speed is called for, and in the summer, many predator fish like a faster moving bait. Not always, but often.

When the fish are spread out, or when you're after fish species that don't school, such as northern pike or muskies, you'll want to cover water, and forward trolling is the best way to do that. Put the motor in forward gear, put baits in the water, and get going.

As you troll, make gradual "S" turns. By doing so, you'll be presenting baits at different speeds. As you turn, the bait on the outside line will speed up, the bait on the inside line will slow down. If you notice that you're

getting a lot of strikes on one line or the other during a turn, you should speed up or slow down.

Planer boards work great when trolling, especially in states that allow anglers multiple lines. They allow you to get more lines in the water, so you can experiment with different lures shapes, colors, and sizes. When we're forward trolling, many anglers like to put their rods in rod-holders. That's about the only way that multiple lines can be fished, but it's also much less tiring. Holding onto a rod pulling a big crankbait wears on your arm after a while.



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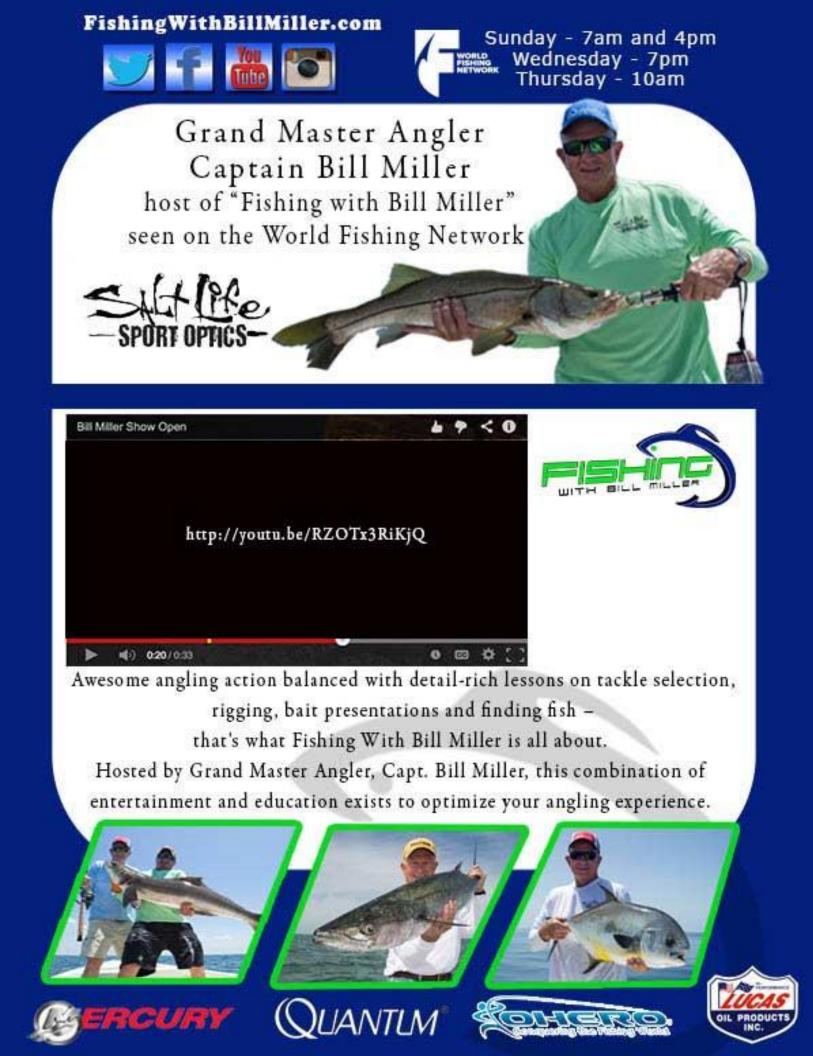
However, even when trolling forward slowly for walleyes with bottom-bouncers and spinners, it works well to put the rod in a rod holder. Use a longer, more limber rod, and let the fish pull the rod over pretty good before taking the rod out of the rod holder. It seems like when we hold the rod, we set the hook too soon and miss too many fish. Folbe rod holders (pictured) are the strongest I've found, and it's very easy to get the rod out of the holder when a fish hits.

When the fish are schooled tightly in a small area, backtrolling is a great way to effectively work an area. Backtrolling enables an angler to have precision control, and also allows us to go very slowly. Walleyes, crappies, and smallmouth bass will often school on precise spots. When they're on deeper structures, as they often are in the summer, we usually don't start fishing until we locate fish on the sonar. I have been using Raymarine sonar all summer and am very impressed with the detail of what it reveals. When fish are located, we set up a backtrolling pass that will take us through the fish. Jigs or live-bait rigs are what we usually use when backtrolling.

Modern outboards are trolling machines. The ninety (90) horsepower Evinrude E-TEC HO that I use gets my almost nineteen foot boat up on plane quickly, but also trolls down as slow as I need. There are no fumes like there used to be years ago, it's quiet, and very fuel efficient. With today's outboards, trolling is a breeze, and that's good, because trolling is a great way to catch fish any time of the year, but especially during the summer.

To see all the newest episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, visit <u>www.fishingthemidwest.com</u>. If you do Facebook, check us out for a variety of fishing related things.







PRESERVE OUR Sport Fishing and Take the Lead From REBAITS

By Eamon Bolten

The ReBaits[®] program, is considered to be this generations "Catch & Release" movement. It's a necessity for the environment, our lakes, and fish. The goal of the ReBaits[®] program is to install collection bins in locations from Coast to Coast, Lake to Lake and State to State. The program focuses on the number one selling fishing product, soft plastic baits. The bins provide a safe way for recreational and professional anglers to properly dispose of their used soft plastic baits. Retrieve-Recycle-ReBaits[®]

ReBaits[®] was founded by Eamon Bolten, Florida B.A.S.S. Conservation Director, Avid Tournament Angler and Conservationist. His passion for the fishing industry and the environment began a journey of collecting used soft plastic baits at tournaments, tackle shops, fishing piers, parks and public waters, both fresh and salt-water, while educating anglers of the importance. His vison was to help keep our waterways free from litter, promote healthy fisheries and prevent regulations or bans on the use of soft plastic baits.

The ReBaits[®] program is growing rapidly and has many supporters including The State of Florida, HOA's, DNR's, Parks and Recreation Departments, FWC's, High School and College Fishing Teams and youth organizations and individual anglers to name a few. The program has also caught the attention of the major leaders in the fishing industry like B.A.S.S., Berkley, Shimano, BoatUS, ASA, West Marine, Dick's Sporting Goods and many others.

Advocating and lobbying has played a big role in the success of the ReBaits[®] program. In the State Maine legislation was introduced that would have put unnecessary regulations or possible bans on the use of soft plastic baits. Had this bill passed, untold numbers of jobs would have been lost and major retailers may have pulled out of the state. The economic impact from loss of angler tourism, fishing clubs and tournaments would have been greatly impacted and other states could have used this measure as precedent to do the same. ReBaits[®] played a major role in preventing this from passing.

The collection bins are popping up on piers across the United States and Canada, they are made of steel which is powder coated to withstand abuse and the elements. They are painted blue to represent the international color for recycling and water. Each bin comes with a universal mount able to be affixed to

TIPS: Thick Mats, Froggin' Heaven

By Glenn Walker

The thickest and nastiest mats of vegetation of a given body of water stand a good chance of holding some big bass. To dissect these dense blankets of green cover, you will want to look for the small key characteristics of them. These small items include:

✓ Secondary forms of cover, such as if there is a laydown or stump located in the middle of the mat.

✓ Depth of water, does a section of that mat extend out to deeper water?



✓ Open water; is there an open water pocket that is locked inside of that mat?

✓ Current, if you are fishing a river system, current is always key and if there is some current running through or adjacent to that dense mat, that is a good place to focus your casts.

 \checkmark The quality of the vegetation in that mat is key. The greener the better, so if one section of that mat is a luscious green, that section gets my first casts.

When froggin' these mats, you need to use a frog that has a large profile as this will help disturb the water and get the bass's attention. The two <u>Snag Proof Frogs</u> that I turn to when fishing dense mats is the Bobby's Perfect Frog to cover water quickly and then when I want to dissect a key section and call up a bass to the top, I'll fish the Guntersville Frog. With the dual rattles in the legs and its compact profile I can keep that bait in a key area and just shake it, making plenty of noise with those rattles!

Glenn has been fishing tournaments for over ten years, spreading his passion and knowledge of the sport via articles and videos. For more information check out www.glennwalkerfishing.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/glennwalkerfishing.

just about any surface; wood, metal, posts, railings and more. Each bin is designed to hold a prepaid mailer insert, so when the discarded baits are placed into the bin they fall directly into the mailer. When the bin/mailer is full, the locking hinged lid is simply opened using a provided security screw bit. The mailer is removed, placed in the outgoing mail and sent to us for data recording (i.e.: weight of plastic to be recycled, amount of trash or any non-soft plastics, etc...) There is no need to handle the



discarded soft plastics, only remove the prepaid mailer insert and add new one in its place.

We record the data on the baits before packing them in EPA approved containers and sending them off to our recycling partner. During the recycling process they remove all the scents, glitter, salt, etc. and turn them into a material used in the coating of power lines.

The statistical data of the discarded baits collected is used in our lobbying efforts to ensure that soft plastic baits can stay in our tackle boxes, as proof that the program is working. This will allow future generations to enjoy the environment as we do, all we need to do is Retrieve-Recycle-ReBaits[®].

We are currently in the process of completing our filing to be an official Not-For-Profit organization. ReBaits[®] does not financially support itself from the bins or the collection/recycling service. ReBaits[®] sustains itself solely through grants, donations and sponsorships. We offer organizations and individuals the opportunity to sponsor a bin on a monthly basis. The cost of the bin including the monthly collection is \$35/mth. If you or your organization would like to get involved please contact us at <u>info@rebaits.com</u>.

There are over 80 million anglers currently residing in this great country, it's time to spread this initiative across North America. Making recycling discarded or used soft plastic baits common practice. The ReBaits[®] program is designed for all bodies of water and all kinds of fishing enthusiasts including; tournaments, coastal waters, lakes, recreational or professional alike. Help us help the environment and our passion for fishing by being a part of this movement.

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FISHING

FISHSTOP BITING, TRY DEPENDENTIE SPEEDS AND LURES

Fish rarely "stop biting," despite claims to the contrary when we return to the dock with an empty livewell! If you get skunked today where you thumped 'em yesterday, some factor out of your control — weather, water clarity, current — has re-positioned the fish or prompted them to favor a different forage profile. So the next time a hot bite shuts down, fish a different depth, speed up your retrieve and throw some different baits.

So says James Lindner, director, producer and co-host of Lindner's Angling Edge television show and a Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame Legendary Communicator.

"To be really successful as an angler, you can't just say 'I caught 'em here yesterday, but today the fish weren't biting," Lindner says. "There's a lot of environmental factors that could have changed overnight. So you've got to change your baits and tactics — shapes and sizes, speeds and depths.

"But a lot of people don't do that," Lindner continues. "That's why really successful anglers are so successful — they have a wide variety of baits and they're not afraid to experiment."

That being said, the best time to experiment is not when the fish aren't biting. But rather, when they are biting so well they're practically jumping in the boat.



"The best way to build confidence in a bait is to catch something on it," Lindner says. "So the best time to experiment — not just with new products, but also with lures you've had a while but never caught fish on — is when you're really catching 'em."

The next time you're having a great "numbers day" — one of



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those days you're catching multiple "cookie cutters" on one or two go-to baits — that's the time to tie on a new or under-used bait or two. "Not only will you garner confidence that they do indeed catch fish," Lindner explains, "you'll also learn the subtleties of how to retrieve them best. Not to mention, you might just catch some bigger fish."

If you wait to try new lures until you can't get bit on your favorite baits, chances are you'll never gain confidence in them. "When the fish 'won't bite,' you're often just in the wrong location or fishing too fast or slow," Lindner explains. "But what happens is you tie on a bunch of different baits, throw 'em six or seven times and then cut 'em off and try something else — 'Well, they won't bite that one!' And back in the box it goes."

Often, the best way to determine the "right" bait is cutting off the wrong bait. "What's the wrong bait?" Lindner asks. "It's the bait they're not biting! And the fish are telling you that. If you'll listen, you'll start catching 'em again."

Because Rapala "has a lure for just about every different imaginable species and every imaginable



condition — and is coming out with new baits all the time," Lindner says, you'll catch more and bigger fish more often if you gain confidence with more baits.

"You should use all the different baits in your tackle box to their maximum potential," he says. "The key is the willingness to experiment and then to listen when the fish tell you what





they want."

Need For Speed

When the fish stop biting where you thumped 'em yesterday, do you tie on smaller baits and fish more slowly?

"That's absolute reverse thinking!" Lindner exclaims. "For walleyes, smallmouth bass, muskies, what have you, speed is a huge trigger — especially in the warm-water months. Some of the best anglers in the world understand this dynamic and they're not afraid to radically change their presentation."

Lindner can recall countless scenarios in which he and a fishing partner have cleaned up with crankbaits and spinnerbaits behind anglers barely getting bites by fishing painfully slow with live bait on small jigs.

"You can go through those exact same fish with those high-speed baits and clobber 'em, you really can," he says. "What it does is force the fish to make a split-second decision to strike your bait. Their brains



are just wired that way."

When Lindner tells the following story in seminars, he says, many people nod along and laugh:

"A lot of people say, 'Well, the fish aren't biting, let's move to another spot.' And then they reel in their baits really fast so they can leave. And then they'll catch a fish!



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"But what happens next? They say 'Hey, let's make a few more casts here.' But then they go back to reeling in their baits slowly — just like they were doing before they caught that fish. That fish just told you what they want! You gotta listen. It can be the difference between catching two or three fish or catching 30."

Location, Location, Location

When fish seemingly disappear, do one of two things, Lindner r on the same structure, or go deeper."

says — "Either go shallower on the same structure, or go deeper."

"Sometimes in tournaments, you'll smoke 'em in a certain spot for days and then come back the next day and you cannot catch those fish," Lindner recalls. "But then you try a spot at a totally different depth — some place you only caught maybe one or two the day before — and you start lighting 'em up again."

He's seen this time and again, he says, while targeting numerous different species. "Fish of all kinds move up and down on structure in relation to environmental conditions," he explains. "They're following their food. It's very easy for them to slide up or down 10 feet."

Wind, water temps and clarity, and current can all re-position baitfish. When they do, gamefish follow. And you've got to follow with them. So when you're catching fish well, take note of bottom- structure changes on your maps and sonar displays. When a hot bite cools, move deeper and shallower on that same structure until you find the fish again. More time than not, they'll be nearby.

When you look at an underwater structure, any big point or sunken island, look for where they fish are likely to go if and when conditions change," Lindner instructs. "If they go shallow, where are they going to go? If they go deep, where are they going to go? Many times, it won't be too tough to see some obvious spots on your graph."

After a dramatic weather change, for example, fish will likely "slide out to the first really distinct ledge drop-off," Lindner explains. An influx of muddy rainwater, on the other hand, will often push fish up into



the shallowest water near vegetation, which filters sediment and offers a cleaner-water environment.

Another example? Changing wind direction can reposition fish from a weedline to the nearest offshore humps or reefs. Wind moves the microorganisms baitfish feed on, causing gamefish to follow. "The fish stopped biting,

you say?" Linder jests. "I bet they didn't stop biting at all — they just turned around and headed to the next restaurant that's open!"





FOR TIGERFISH

On The Hunt For Tigerfish

By Delina Alwanger

The TigerFish, the Original Gangster of the Zambezi River. smart Aggressive, and a master of the art of Hit n Run. It's latin name literally means 'striped water dog'. It occurs naturally in the freshwaters of Southern Africa and is prolific in Lake Kariba and the Zambezi in Zimbabwe.

Commonly regarded the ultimate as game fish in Africa, the Tiger is an aggressive predator that moves and hunts in like-size shoals for fear of cannibalism. It has a signature bluefusiform silver shaped body with and yellow red pointed fins which have black trailing edges. The large head is bony and boasts eight sharp, conical teeth. These teeth will regenerate during the course of its life. Its primary



food is the kapenta, bream, catfish, squeaker or smaller tigers up to 40% of their own body weight.

The male of the species is generally smaller reaching 500mm at maturity. Females reach 700mm at maturity and can weigh more than 10kgs.

"Landing a 9.1kg Tiger on a 7 pound monofilament line wasn't easy" says fishing guide, Takesure Dzambukira. On principle he won't use braid because 'Braided line

would give me an unfair advantage. I must use my skill as an angler to land the fish. We do a dance, me fighting to bring him in and him fighting to escape." His personal best was an impressive 9.1kg Tiger

caught along the lower Zambezi in November 2014. At the age of only 32, he has been a fishing guide for 15 years already. Being a lifetime resident of the area he understands the river and the ultimate goal of every client he takes out on the water. Everyone wants a trophy Tiger! He lives and works at Tiger Safaris, in Chirundu on the Lower Zambezi. The resort enforces a strict Catch n Release policy to ensure the continued preservation of the species.

Takesure's Top tip for catching a Tiger, "I recommend the Gamakatsu G-hook commonly used for Bass, size 4.0 or 5.0. They are slimmer, sharper, rustproof and stronger. These hooks



give you the best chance of getting your fish on the hook because the Tiger's mouth is so bony. Without a sharp hook you don't stand a chance of landing a tiger."

As a predator the Tiger patrols the deep channels looking for prey. For bait he recommends live bait.



Rigging the bait is key. The tiger will attach from behind but will only swallow head first to avoid getting caught on the fins of the bait fish. The best times of day for fishing Tiger are early between sunrise and mid morning and late afternoon.

Fishing at Tiger Safaris is good all year round. During the summer months fish are plentiful but in winter the quality of catches is better. Add to that the daily parade of elephants and other wildlife and you have a perfect fishing destination.



HOBIES IN THE SAWGRASS

By Bob Bramblet

The sub-tropical environment of South Florida enables many different exotic fish species to survive in the many scattered creeks, canals and lakes. Occasionally, I enjoy the adventure of finding remote areas and trekking out away from the crowded saltwater flats in favor of areas that are better known for their world class trophy largemouth bass fishing. I have heard rumors of a group of small ponds or "borrow pits" deep in the Everglades hold peacock bass, Mayan cichlids, Oscars and snakeheads that are uncommon to the United States. And when you are seeking adventure, nothing beats fishing from the dynamic kayak.

Fishing buddy and fellow Hobie Fishing Team member, Jim VanPelt, and I checked out one of these areas a short time ago. We committed ourselves to exploring these back waters hiking there on foot and found success catching largemouth bass, peacock bass and Mayan cichlids. We talked about dragging the kayaks out there, but it sounded like a daunting task with muddy, swampy ground and the long walking distance away from our vehicle.

Well, after much planning, we decided to try it. Jim and I, along with fishing buddy Joe Jones, trailered





our Hobies into the swamp for what proved to be an epic adventure. Jim brought an Outback, Joe a Revo 13 and I brought my Pro Angler 12. Each brought carts hoping they would be effective in the Everglades sawgrass. After travelling as far as we could go by vehicle, we untrailered, loaded our gear and began the long trek. Now, I am not saying we had to cover miles of ground, but it was an effort dragging the kayaks along muddy trails and over the wet Everglades landscape.

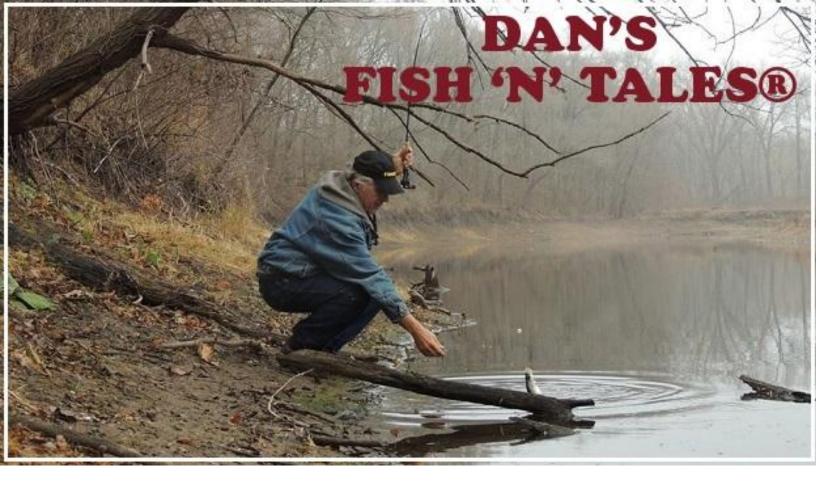
Eventually, the hard work paid off and we arrived at the first lake. The water was crystal clear and a deep rock face surrounds the shore. We launched and within seconds scored the first peacock bass. We peddled our Hobies around the lake with mixed results. Joe, using a spinnerbait, and wasn't having much luck. Jim caught a couple of peacocks on a Rapala minnow lure. I trolled an Unfair Lures Stickminno and caught largemouth bass and a big mayan cichlid. We spent most of the morning exploring the lake; eventually we ended up switching to live shiners.

It was late morning and the temperature had climbed quite high. The bite had slowed down but the switch to shiners seemed to do the trick. Immediately the fish reacted and we began to catch larger fish. Joe scored his first peacock bass ever, and then followed with a bigger one. Jim took a nap while I caught more peacocks, mayans and even a

big Oscar. I had completed an exotic slam! All too soon, however, it was time to go.

We loaded up our gear and began our journey out of the swamp. The gear seemed much heavier and the distance twice as far, but eventually we reached the vehicle. On the long drive back to civilization we looked at pictures and talked about our adventure. Sometimes the planning and hard work is a gamble, and sometimes it pays off, but it's always worth it!





DAN'S FISH 'N' TALES[®] Barometric Pressure Headaches By Dan Galusha

How the barometric pressure changes effect fishing has long been a question of controversy. While I have brought myself to fish whenever I must, and ignore a lot of the conditions that could cause problems, there is definitely some sort of correlation with the barometric readings.

Just before, or during a pressure drop fish tend to hit. This is usually as a front is approaching, or when it is overhead.

I've found that the next day, as the pressure starts to rise again, fish are still hitting. However, as the clouds clears, to what is called a "blue bird sky", the pressure goes higher, and the fishing gets tougher. When the fishing gets tough, depending on the cover, fish usually hold tighter, such as into a weed bed, around rock ledges, or brush piles. They will also head to deeper water – holding near drop offs, ends and sides of points, old creek bed, outer edges of deep weeds, and bluff points.

I've had to fish a lot of these conditions during my fishing career. Most of the best fishing was as the front was overhead, or immediately after the passage. There have even been times that the following day has been good if the sky has not cleared.

One time, while shooting a TV show in Bull Shoals, Arkansas, we were on the lake as a tornado came into the area. We made it back to the dock, and immediately after the storms had cleared we headed



back out. The fishing was some of the best I've ever experience d.

The trigger seems to be the fast change in pressure, in either direction, that sends

The barometric pressure was very active on this day as heavy storms can be seen passing the Jimmie Creek area of Bull Shoals Lake. the fish into a feeding action. As the hours pass, and the sky completely clears the fishing starts to slow down. This could be from a few to several hours, leading to the following day, as mentioned earlier.

A theory told to me many years ago was that when the pressure is high the fish get something similar to a headache. I don't know how true this is, but during this same time humans supposedly have more headaches.

As for fishing these conditions, the general rule for bass is using faster lures (spinnerbaits and crankbaits) as the

change is taking place. After the front has passed enough hours to slow the fishing action, it is time to start using slow crawling techniques with plastic worms, tubes and jigs. Be sure to bump the structure, which many times will induce a strike from a negative feeder. Flipping and pitching heavy brush cover, and working the lures very slowly throughout the cover is another way to trigger a strike.

In deeper bodies of water fish will often suspend. At these times long casts with deep diving, sinking, rattling, lipless crankbaits, and a slow retrieve through the area in which they are holding will work. Another technique is to vertically jig spoons in the depth in which the fish are suspended.

As mentioned before, I've had some very good action the next day after a frontal passage before the sky completely clears. In most of these cases it has seemed like the best action has been using Rat-L-Traps in areas where schools of baitfish are found on or near the surface, especially if feeding action is spotty. A rip-and-pause retrieve many times works as the sky is starting to clear, and just before the action drops off.

Barometric pressure is one of the most unpredictable fishing conditions, and will always be a problem



The rain was starting and some of the fish, as seen here, were still hitting on top of the weeds when using Blitz Phrogs. Other bass were starting to hold tight to the weeds, where I was using a black/blue Blitz Spider Finesse Jig with Pit Boss Jr., and working it very slowly around big clumps and edges of weeds – allowing it to go as far to the bottom and possible and then picking it up, often jerking it loose from weeds, which many times produced strikes.

for anglers. Following the basic guidelines as stated in this article will not guarantee 100percent success, but it will at least give an angler a good starting point.

One thing to always remember is that no matter how good the fishing; don't take the chance of having a storm hook you. Get off the water before a storm hits, and don't return until there is a long enough passage of time - even if that means the next day.

If you have any questions about this or another fishing subject, drop me a line





through the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales[®] website at <u>www.dansfishntales.com</u>, or the Dan's Fish 'N' Tales[®] Facebook page where you can click the "like" keep posted on my fishing trips, news and tips.

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

This was a day when although the front had not started clearing the sky the fishing was slowing down, which had Bill Blomgren using a Texas rigged tube along the outer edges of deeper brush.

ODU MAGAZIN

THE HAR JIG IS MAKING A COME BACK



By Captain Mike Gerry

Those of you that have been around the fishing world as long as I have started your jig fishing with a traditional hair jig; it was to say the least the "Cat's Meow." Not only was the best of the hair jigs great bait, but if it was made of bear hair it was even better. The bear hair seemed to compact quickly when wet into a slick quick dropping effective profile that resembled the crawfish like no other bait you could fish.

As time progressed the bait manufacturers in their quest to keep the jig cost down developed the rubber profile and the results were staggering, not only did the rubber skirt become the

norm but the move from a traditional Pork-Rhine as a trailer moved to a rubber/plastic trailer and was cheaper and effective. If you used the pork trailer as much as I did you noticed that the solution that the trailer was stored in if spilled in your boat ate the clue from the carpet of your boat and carpet loosened as a result.

Today as many of our baits have changed over time the most effective jig is one that has a big hook, a large pulsating rubber skirt and adding a trailer now as many different options that are effective. As all things in bass fishing change today's jig has taken some hits on effectiveness for many and as we all struggle to find effective baits many anglers on the professional tour have started going back to the hair jig as a change of pace. It is a change of look as it drops to the bottom quickly, and its effectiveness is



once again gaining ground. The change is that today we have so many options for the trailer that you can change its look very easily by changing trailers.

The effectiveness of the hair jig as a new look is making a change once again to the bass fishing industry and this one has turned a full circle and is back as a bait of choice for many in the bass fishing world.

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Though every kayak angler I meet is different with unique stories and talents, I have found a common trait; if they had not yet caught a salmon from Lake Michigan in their kayak, they have wanted to. However, most of them thought it would be too complicated or not feasible based on their perceptions of salmon fishing. Well, you can catch salmon in your kayak, and it is not as complicated as you might think. Most likely, you do have the right gear, and if you know the basic principles, you will catch fish this season.

I always tell people to treat Lake Michigan like it is an ocean. I say this because Lake Michigan can be very dangerous during certain weather



LAKE MICHIGAN SALMON TACTICS AND TIPS

By Colin Belle

conditions and this must always be remembered. Ideally, you want the swell to be less than two feet. It is wise for beginners not to venture out into waters alone. In all situations it is safest to stay close to shore, have a properly functioning marine radio, and fish near bigger harbors like Milwaukee or Chicago. Take into account the water and air temperatures; I always wear my NRS Chinook PFD and Kokatat Tropos dry suit when the weather demands it to stay warm in cold conditions.

Some of the best Coho Salmon fishing on the lake stretches between Waukegan, Illinois and south towards Gary, Indiana. However, the King Salmon fishing tends to be better up north between Milwaukee Harbor and Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and it is my personal opinion that the fish get bigger the further north you are.

The months of April and early May are the best time to catch Coho Salmon. While the fish that are accessible are smaller this time of year, the quality of the meat is amazing and it is the reddest flesh you will find in any freshwater fish. However, when the Coho Salmon come back to spawn in the late fall they are much larger fish in the 10-15 pound range and they have undergone a transformation in order to prepare for spawning; they change color, get hooked or curved jaws, and are basically dying. Unfortunately, eating these fish is usually not a good idea this time of year because the meat is spoiling



due to the fish exerting all of its energy into the spawning process, which ultimately proves deadly for them.

Coho Salmon put up a tremendous fight and they love to jump, spin and do death rolls similar to that of an



alligator, especially once you get them in the net. It is not uncommon to have a 50% catch rate of fish you have hooked while trolling. In the spring, Coho Salmon are found in areas that have warmer and more hospitable waters such as harbors, tributaries, and especially in or around power plants and other sources of water point warm discharge. This is because these traditionally hold areas more

baitfish year round.

I prefer lighter fishing gear so I can see hits better, thus giving me a better chance to set the hook. I use a 7-foot medium light spinning rod with 8-10 pound fluorocarbon or monofilament line on it. Early in the season when the water is still pretty cold, I stick to crankbaits 90 percent of the time – AR Lures are my preferred trolling crankbaits. When the water temperatures begin to get closer to 50 degrees (usually closer to May) then I will be running orange dodgers with peanut flies almost exclusively. I troll three lines off my Pro Angler 14 by utilizing mini planner boards made by Offshore Tackle Company. They are florescent yellow making them easy to see. This allows me to run a line straight down the back or middle of my kayak. I troll at about 2.1 mph because this is right in the middle of the optimal range of speed. Rather than trolling in a straight line, I make gradual S-turns to reach my destination. This method allows me to cover more water while at the same time helps find the best speed to troll at for the day. For instance, if fish are hitting my outside line, I will increase my trolling speed; if they hit the

inside line I will slow down. Once I find that optimal speed, I stick to it and stay on a straighter path.

Lure Figure

1) AR Lures Crank D50, 6-8ft depth,

2) AR Lures Crank 50, 2-4ft depth, 3) Bomber Crank Bait, 8-14ft depth, 4) Custom Painted Crank Bait

Orange Dodger

#00 Orange Dodger, ¼ bead chain 6ft up, peanut fly 12"-16" below dodger.



In the spring, king salmon can be caught closer to shore as they follow baitfish into shallow waters. However, they are unpredictable and very hard to track down in a kayak this time of year. As summer progresses, they begin to move farther offshore in search of cooler waters and you will find







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salmon 100 feet below the surface in 200 feet or more of water. There are ways to target these fish in a kayak, but it can prove to be extremely difficult. Therefore, fishing for king salmon in a kayak is usually done in late summer or early fall. The kings will begin to "stage," and congregate in numbers at tributary mouths and harbors across the lake as they prepare for their fall spawning run up rivers. Fish are concentrated in 20-50 feet of water. It is not uncommon to catch 25 and 30 pound fish this time of year.

King salmon are extremely powerful, have an enormous amount of energy, and take a good deal of time to tire out before netting them. I still try to run three rods at all times if it is not too wavy or windy. When the weather becomes more adverse and you try to run three lines, you will be spending most of your time untangling messes. Lines cross and get twisted up much more frequently. I prefer a large spinning rod and reel combo because it allows me to adjust my drag with ease when a salmon runs or changes direction abruptly. While trolling, rod sensitivity is not very important to me. I use an Ugly Stick Salmon/Steelhead Rod that is 8'6" medium heavy as it can take the abuse and the price is right. I pair these rods with a Penn Battle Spinning reel loaded with 30 pound braided line and a 15-20 pound fluorocarbon leader.

There are a few basic types of salmon trolling lures and attractants: plugs, flasher and fly combo, large crankbaits, and trolling spoons. I do not use flasher and fly combos or j-plugs to often from my kayak. The Rapala DT16 is a great example of good salmon lure that just needs to have upgraded hooks and split rings before it gets wet. One of my favorite trolling lures is the Brads Killerfish, one of my go to baits in the fall. King Salmon hone in on their food by feeling vibrations in the water, so baits that have

internal rattles and have a powerful wobble action tend to work the best. Trolling spoons, on the other hand, rely more on the fish's sense of sight. As they flutter and shimmer through the water, they mimic a wounded baitfish.

Wigglewart

1) WiggleWart, 2) Strike King XD6, 3) Rapala Taildancer, 4) Brads Killerfish

Fishing for Coho and King Salmon on Lake Michigan can seem like a daunting task to any kayak angler. With the right knowledge, a good safety plan, and proper outerwear the task becomes very possible even for those first timers out on the "Big Pond".

Remember that every chance you get out on the water, whether a fish is caught or not, is still a chance to learn and refine your salmon trolling techniques.



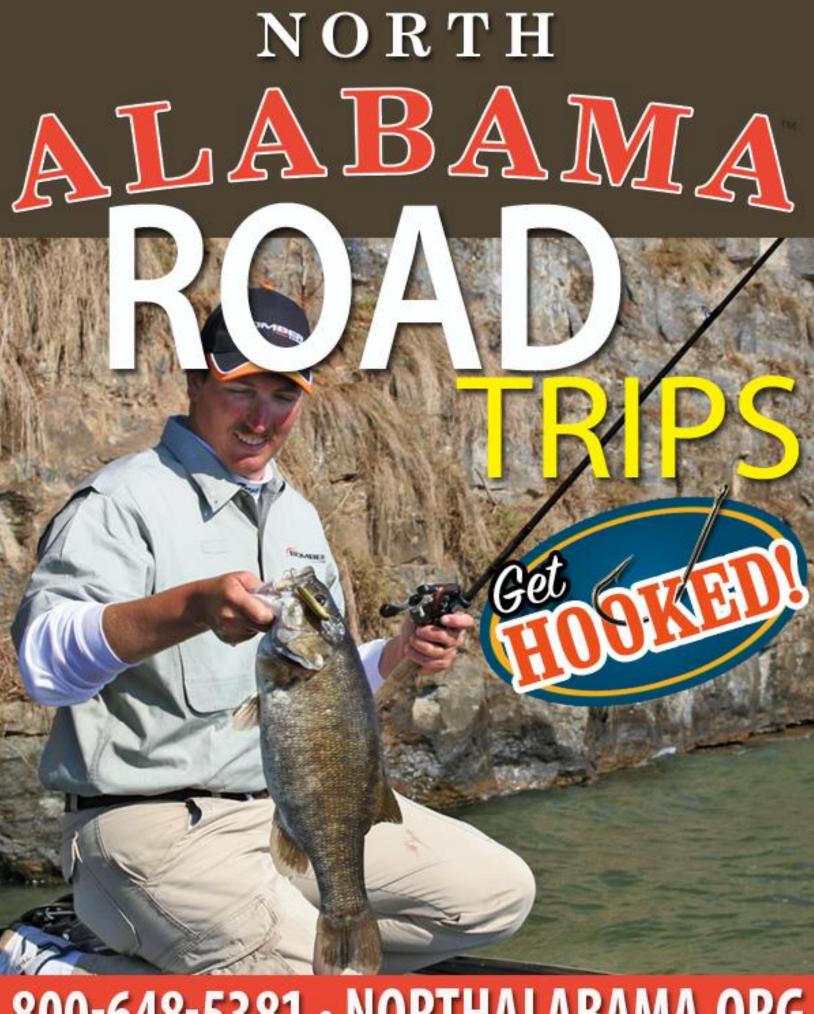


Across North America, we're in the dead middle of summer. Fishing can be good, or it can be tough. If it's tough though, it generally doesn't need to be. There are some things we can do to catch more fish right now. Following are some of those things.

Many of us have a tendency to fish memories. Maybe a month ago in mid-June, we were catching walleyes on jigs in shallow water, or we were catching crappies near logs along shorelines, or we were catching largemouth bass in the rushes all day long. Now in the end of July or August, we're fishing those fish in those same places using the same techniques and our success isn't so good. It's not because the fish aren't biting, it's because they're probably not there in numbers they the were earlier in the We need to year. adapt: We need to look for the walleyes and crappies and bass in different



By Bob Jensen



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places, and we probably need to use different baits.

Weather can be a factor. Just a few days ago I was in northern Minnesota fishing for largemouth bass. A severe weather front had gone through. Air temperatures dropped twenty degrees overnight, the skies were clear, and the bass didn't want to eat. However, northern pike were very willing to smash our spinnerbaits. They weren't real big pike, but they were fun to catch. When weather conditions change, if we want to be successful, we need to switch species or switch techniques, or maybe even switch to a different body of water. Oftentimes, river fish won't be as affected by weather conditions as lake fish.

When fishing conditions are good, meaning the weather has been stable for a few days, a faster presentation will often be productive. A faster presentation enables you to cover water quickly, so you can show your bait to more fish. Summer fish are often hungry, so the more fish you show your bait to,

the more bites you'll get, usually.

There are a lot of baitfish in the water in the summer, so the predators have lots of choices of what to eat. Some anglers subscribe to the "match-the-hatch" theory that we should use baits that resemble the baitfish that are abundant, and that idea works. However, there are a good number of anglers who like to give the fish something completely different. It's kind of like people: When we eat cheeseburgers for several days, eventually a piece of



pizza looks pretty good. A walleye that's been eating perch for the past few weeks might prefer something that looks completely different. I don't know how fish think, or even if they do think, but I know that sometimes a bait that looks nothing like what lives in the water can be very productive.

In many bodies of water, a variety of fish will live in the deeper water in the summer. There will still be shallow fish, but the depths will hold the numbers of fish. Many anglers that are fishing deep water won't even put a bait in the water until they see fish on their sonar. Many of today's sonar units draw an amazing picture of what's below the surface of the water. They show baitfish, big fish, vegetation, whatever is down there will be revealed. I started using Raymarine sonar units this year and have been so impressed with their ability to show me walleyes hovering right above the bottom. We don't always catch them on the first trip to the location, but we know they're there, so we keep coming back during the day to see if we can make them bite, and usually, eventually a couple will open their mouth and take our bait.

Summer is a great time to be fishing. If you keep these ideas in mind, you'll have an even better time because you'll catch more fish.

To see all the newest episodes of Fishing the Midwest television, go to <u>www.fishingthemidwest.com</u>. If you do Facebook, check us out for a variety of fishing related things.



