



ODU MAGAZINE™

**Spring to Summer
Transition
Fishing Edition**

May/June 2015

**Soft
Plastic
Time**

**The
IGFA
Bass
Quest**

**Bruins
of
Northern
Canada**

**Big Time Walleyes
on Small Time Water**




Big Water Panfish, Pg 15



Tie On A Matzuo Ikari And Speed It Up, Pg 30



Rethinking Jigs For "Roller Coaster" Bass, Pg 79



The IGFA Bass Quest, Pg 6
Keep the Kids Fishing, Pg 13
Early Season Northern Pike, Pg 22
Big Time Walleyes on Small Time Water, Pg 25
Tie On A Matzuo Ikari And Speed It Up, Pg 30
Fishing Rod Selection & Application Demystified, Pg 33
Seven Reasons To Better Catfishing, Pg 45
Fish Can't Resist Crappie Kickers, Pg 53
Five of Fishing's Diamonds in the Rough, Pg 57
Soft Plastic Time, Pg 61
THE ORIGINAL WIGGLE WART, Pg 62
Fish, Frogs, and Fireflies: Growing up with Nature, Pg 63
The Deepest Secrets of Fishing Line, Pg 65
Catch More Cold-Water Crappies, Pg 66
Top Bass Fishing Techniques to Employ This Season, Pg 74
Rethinking Jigs For "Roller Coaster" Bass, Pg 79
HT's New Ice Fishing Products For 2015/2016, Pg 86
Bruins of Northern Canada, Pg 90
Ruger® M77 Hawkeye "Alaskan" Rifle, Pg 95



Memorial Day has passed and the summer pastime of boating and fishing is in full swing. Our schools are drawing to a close and the kids will be hitting the beaches, parks, fields, streams, and while others look for their computer games to play and mischief to find.

Being a dad has been an exploration that I thought I was prepared for, but little did I know that after ten years as a dad, raising my small pack of three would be such an eye opener. Not only do I get to see my own children grow, share, experience and of course ask many questions, I also get to see their friends do the same. Here is where the learning process really gains steam as a parent.

I was watching a video by Marc Mero (a former professional wrestler gone motivational speaker) about a month ago and a quote he made about success has jumped out at me like no others. It sums up the whole subject of who are my kid's friends and who will not be my kid's friends. Marc said this: "You Show Me Your Friends, I Will Show You Your Future." Every time I read what Marc said, it makes more and more sense. Get involved with your kids, know their friends, know their friends parents, encourage questions, be a teacher, guide them and share the outdoors with them. Here is a link to the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZ_jWMh9by4.

Here is an example of how this short quote has improved the way I look at the children in my kids lives.

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

Publishing Team: Bill Schwarz & Richard Barker

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

Contributing Writers: Bill Vanderford, Jake Bussolini, Ted Pilgrim, Joe Balog, Bob Jensen, Jason Mitchell, Steve Mui, Lawrence Gunther, Damon Toney, Brad Wiegmann, Jason Mitchell, Captain Mike Gerry, William Schwarz, Dr. Jason Halfen, Tom Michael, Glenn Walker, Steve Pennaz & Jim Cunningham

Thank You All!

Photos: Cover provided by Frank Tellez, a Snag Proof Pro-Staffer and the rear cover was provided by the Amazon Lord, the leading Amazon River guide service targeting trophy peacock bass.

[Register To Receive ODU Magazines For FREE:](#)



After 6 plus years of being asked by a good friend to go to a local state park for a family and friends weekend getaway, it finally happened. I packed up the family and we headed up for a full day visit. The group that goes up to the state camp has grown over the years, and now includes nearly ten families and several that visit just for a day. Our first visit was fantastic and it brought summer time fun for the kids, their friends and the outdoors all into one little nut shell.

The families that go up every year are great to be associated with; down to earth and most importantly grounded by the way they raise their kids and what they expect out of them. Yes, some play video games from time to time, but rest assured they don't play them day in and day out. All the kids in this group go on family hikes and other outdoor outings to connect with nature and appreciate what we have as a country. All of these kids have manners and do chores. All are involved in some type of sport or social club that is supported by other experienced mentors and

coaches. They don't sit at home, getting in trouble or stew in front of a computer/TV.

We are lucky as outdoorsmen to be able to see what we see. We go hiking and can pick out the cry of a pileated woodpecker. As anglers most of us can catch a fish without stress and know exactly what to do to show someone else how to do it. Hunters can identify many types of signs in the woods, determine what animals were there and make great decisions to finish a hunt with success. More importantly many of us take our kids outdoors and are involved in their lives and if we are involved in their lives we can point them in the right direction and steer them away from bad influences.

You Show Me Your (Kids) Friends, I Will Show You Your (Their) Future. Keep yourself in your kid's lives, ask questions, help choose their friends, listen and give those computer games less time.

This next edition of OutDoors Unlimited Magazine will make your spring end in a boom of fishing success. We hit on bass, catfish, walleye, pike, crappie, perch, flounder, gill and bear hunting.... Plus a whole lot more.

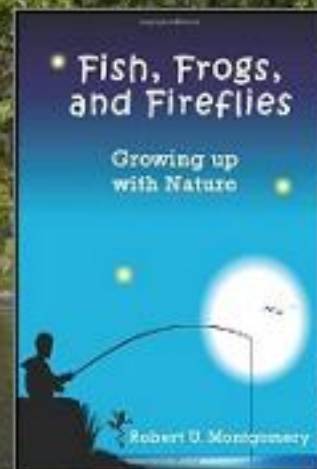
And please, enjoy the outdoors.

Larry Thornhill and William Schwarz

Co-Founders of OutDoors Unlimited Magazine. 207-310-3117



2015 Photo Contest





The IGFA Bass Quest

By Bill Vanderford

It all began last fall with an email from Captain Dan Kipnis from Miami Beach, Florida with a strange request. He asked me if there was a possibility that we could catch seven species of bass in one week to set an IGFA record in Georgia. I thought about it for minute and told him that it was, but would require lots of travel. He was thrilled and said let's do it! So we set a date and started planning.



Many emails and calls later, Dan arrived at my house with his rental car about midday on a Sunday in April. I already had my jet boat hooked up and ready to go, so after getting his equipment together, we loaded it in the boat and headed to the upper Chattahoochee River. Dan had already caught a largemouth bass, so I figured that the hardest of the species to catch would be the shoal bass and the upper hooch was the best place to get one of those.

Once we put the boat in the water, we ran all the way to Bull Shoals before wetting a hook. We fished hard for more than four hours without catching a shoal bass, but we caught plenty of spotted bass, which were also on his list. Getting one species out-of-the-way made the trip worthwhile, but my mind was already thinking about the next day and where Dan could catch a shoal bass.

Over a tasty dinner at the nearby Mexican restaurant, we discussed what we might do the next day. I decided that we would go back to the upper Chattahoochee, but farther up where we could walk the banks and might catch a shoal bass from the shoreline.

Pictured below: Capt. Dan and his shoal bass

The following morning we drove to Duncan Bridge and park



Pictured above: Capt. Dan and his White Bass from a Little River on Lake Allatoona

ed at Wildwood outfitters. Dan started fishing the river there as I scouted down river for a better place to catch a shoal bass. I found the perfect shoal in the river that would certainly have plenty of bass nearby. It took less than 30 minutes to land a small shoal bass, so we hiked back to the truck and headed for home.

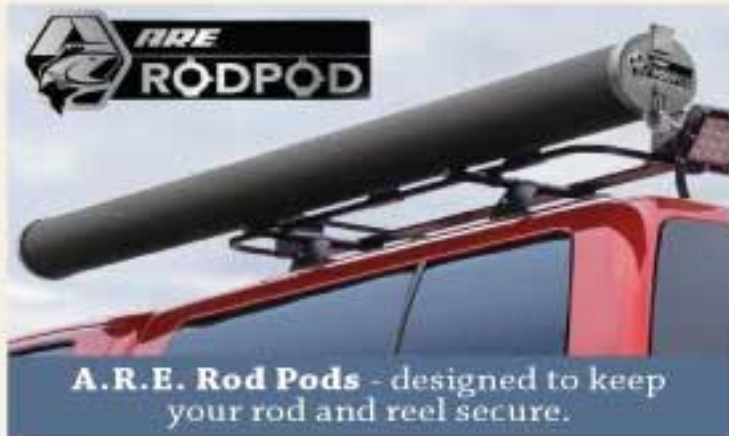
THE BEST ON THE WATER DESERVE THE BEST ON THEIR TRUCKS

BASSMASTER ELITE SERIES ANGLER JUSTIN LUCAS

In 2014 Justin fished his rookie season on the Bassmaster Elite Series. He finished 2nd in the Rookie of the Year standings and 11th overall while knocking down 3 top 10 finishes.

Justin's truck is equipped with an A.R.E. Z Series truck cap and A.R.E. Rod Pods providing him with the best fitting cap and accessories on the market today.

We have Justin covered - so he can just go fish.



A.R.E. Rod Pods - designed to keep your rod and reel secure.

\$200 COUPON FOR B.A.S.S. Members

There's no need to sign up for a rewards program to try and earn money back on your truck cap or cover purchase. You're already a winner in our book.

Visit www.4are.com/bassmaster and enter code ARE0615BASS to access a special \$200 off coupon - and you're covered!

A.R.E.
Outfit for Life™

Toll Free: 800.649.4ARE
www.4are.com/bassmaster

*Pictured
below: Capt.
Dan and his
striped bass*

Since we still had the whole afternoon to look for another species, I decided to go to Lake Lanier to try for a striped bass. We hooked up my bass boat and stopped by the bait shop to get some blueback herring then preceded to Balus Creek ramp near midlake.

Halfway back in the creek we saw some action on the surface, put our baits out on flatlines and eased around where we had seen the feeding activity. In less than 30 minutes one of the rods screamed, and a few minutes later Dan boated



a 16 pound striped bass for the fourth species needed in the quest.



*Pictured left:
Capt. Dan and a
Tugaloo River
Hybrid from
Lake Hartwell*

The next species on the list was a hybrid bass and I knew the best place to be sure to catch one was the upper Tugaloo River on Lake Hartwell. So, The next morning we hooked the jet boat up again and headed towards South Carolina.

With some help and directions from the Georgia Game and Fish biologists, we found a ramp right on the Georgia/South Carolina line that would allow us to go to the headwaters of the Tugaloo River. As we were launching

the boat, however, another angler was coming in to the dock and I asked him if he knew where any feeding hybrid bass were located. He immediately directed me to a set of power lines that cross the lake and said that he had caught 16 hybrid bass there this morning. We quickly headed down to that area, pitched out a couple of live baits and within 10 minutes Captain Dan landed a 6 pound hybrid bass for our fifth species.

Thanks to first-hand information from my good friend and former editor of Georgia Sportsman Magazine, Jimmy Jacobs, we headed to Little River on Lake Allatoona the next morning to catch a white bass. The small headwater stream was high and muddy, but within 10 minutes I landed a white bass. It took Captain Dan another hour before he landed a white bass as well, which now had us down to one species to go.

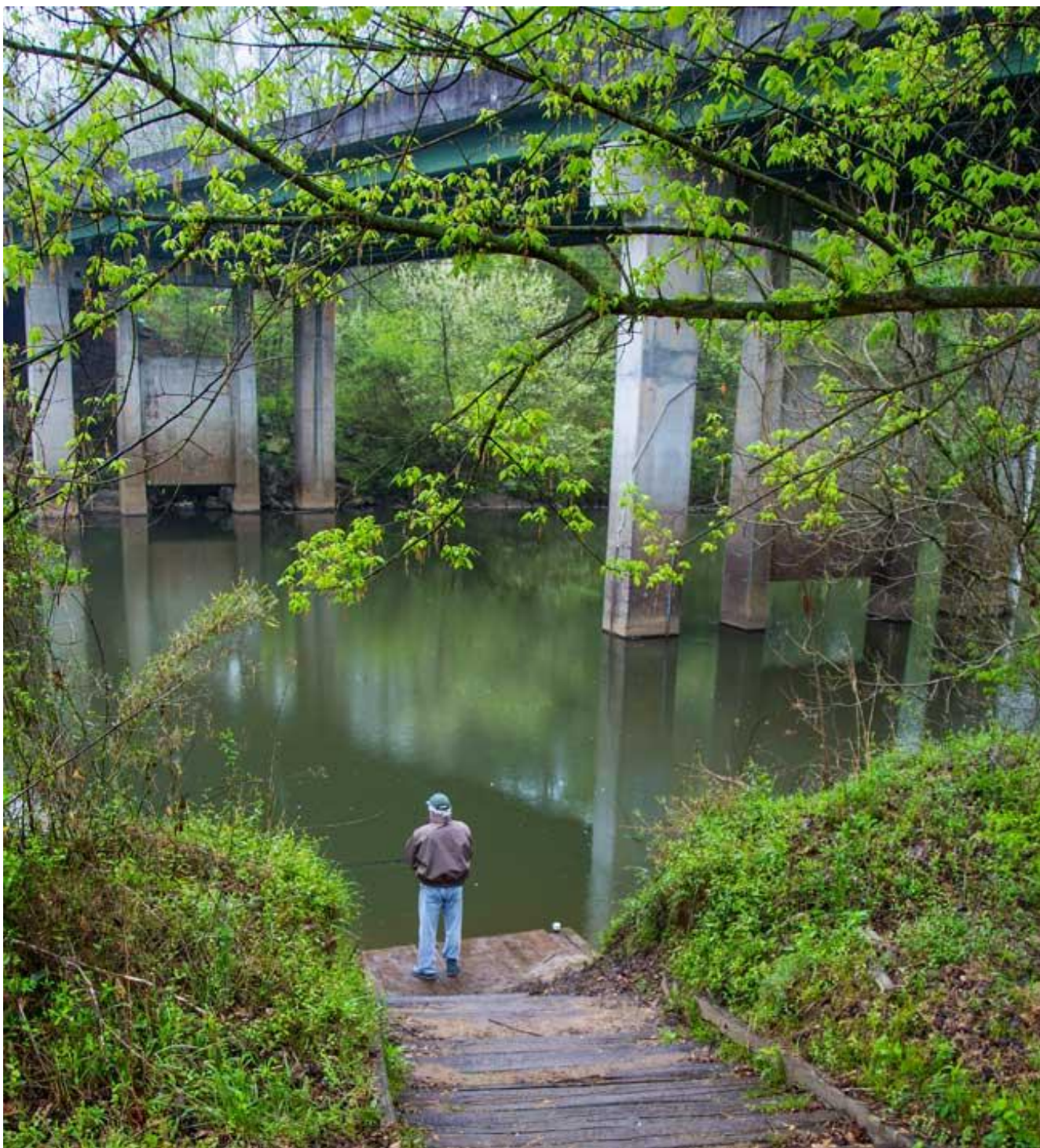
I knew that the only place in Georgia where you could still have a good chance of catching a smallmouth bass was Lake Blue Ridge in the North Georgia mountains. I had spoken to my friends Mary and Johnny LeSesne, who run the Lake Blue Ridge Marina www.lakeblueridgema.com, and they

*Pictured left:
Capt. Dan with a
Upper
Chattahoochee
Spotted Bass*



told me that I would have a chance to get a smallmouth bass near their business.

The next morning we again hooked up the jet boat and headed to the mountains. When we got there we were met by Destin LeSesnse (706-633-0450), who is the son of my friends and a very good fishing guide on the lake. His new Ranger boat was already in the water and he offered to take us in search of our smallmouth bass.



To make a long story shorter, Destin put us on some great spotted bass fishing and tried his best to find a smallmouth bass. The young fishing guide actually caught a nice smallmouth bass late in the day and lost another larger one, but Captain Dan didn't get the one he needed to complete the quest.

It was a fabulous five days of great fishing on numerous diverse waterways, but in the end we only got six of the seven bass species. Nevertheless, Captain Dan and I had an unforgettable time!



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 jfish51@aol.com or at his web site: www.georgiafishing.com.

ENJOY THE NIGHT LIFE



NEW
FOR
2015

Mudville Catmaster
NIGHTLIFE

GLOW-IN-THE-DARK PRODUCTS



9IN GLOW
CATFISH PLIERS

GLOW FILLET KNIFE
AND GLOW SHEATH



GLOW STICK REFILLS



12IN GLOW
FLOAT



Enter to **WIN** a trip to **NEW ORLEANS**
Experience legendary **NIGHTLIFE**
Log on to **MUDVILLE.NET**
for contest information and to enter



Keep the Kids Fishing

By Jake Bussolini



We have made great progress over the past five years bringing youth into the outdoor sports, especially the world of fishing. When I started working on my end of the problem in 2010, I was concerned, as were many other anglers, that the sport was going stagnant because of the lack of new young blood. It seems that all around the country, there were others that had the same fear that I had because suddenly there was a flurry of activity to bring the young folks into the sport.

In 2012, for the first time since records were being kept, the number of fishing licenses issued throughout the country increased over the previous year. That trend has continued each year since that time. The growth in

interest is coming from the young folks. Fishing clubs have popped up around the country in middle school and high schools, and college fishing competitions are a regular occurrence nearly every weekend during the school year.

Our activities here in Mooresville North Carolina started with interest that was created in the Harbor Fishing Club, a group of mostly retired professionals. This small group is located on Lake Norman and our first teaching ventures started with a few boats to take the kids and their parents out for a day of fun and fishing. We didn't only teach the basics of fishing but included water safety, conservation and water courtesy.

When the interest grew beyond our boating capability, we used local land based locations throughout the area. Surprisingly, the numbers of interested kids were dominated by the gals with 60% of all program registrants representing females, both as the anglers and the accompanying parents. This trend has continued each year.

Getting kids interested in fishing does not have to be an organized effort. Every one of us anglers has a vested interest in keeping the sport alive and healthy. I have suggested that every experienced angler make it a point to offer a free day on the water for any child that wants to learn to fish, as long as they are accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult. It's important however to pick a time for these trips that will produce a lot of fish. Kids are impatient, they need to

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

Meet your new fishing & boating shoes.

INTRODUCING
THE FIN



- Self-draining
- Fast-drying
- Lightweight
- Slip-resistant
- Non-marking

Shop online at SoftScience.com

SoftScience™
Supreme Comfort Footwear

see results in fifteen minutes or they lose interest. I generally discourage the use of cell phones and other social media electronics. I try to point out all of the things of interest that are around us while we are on the water. Make the kids understand the basics of fishing conservation, the caring for the fish and the water in which they live. This is all part of keeping their interest in the overall activity. Above all, make sure that the kids are always practicing safety while on a boat.

The reward for all of this is to see the looks on the faces of the kids when they land a nice fish. An example is these two sisters that I recently had out for a couple of hours on the water.

Four year old Gemma Caminiti on the left boated this beautiful 2 pound crappie while her sister Gracie brought in a nice white perch at the same time. Gracie later learned one of those disappointing lessons when a 10 pound blue catfish broke her line just before she was able to get it into the net. The most rewarding aspect of this recent experience was upon leaving the boat Gracie asked when she could go out fishing again.

Most kids at a young age are very eager to learn and one of the best ways to teach is with a hands-on fishing experience. If we get today's youth on board with good fishing experiences, they will become the future leaders of our sport and lead the way to continued growth and health of this wonderful sport.

Jake Bussolini is a freelance writer who has written six books about freshwater fishing. His books can be previewed at two of his web sites, www.jakestakeonfishing.com and www.booksbyjake.com.



BIG WATER PANFISH

SPRING TO SUMMER SLEUTHING FOR SUNFISH, CRAPPIES AND PERCH!

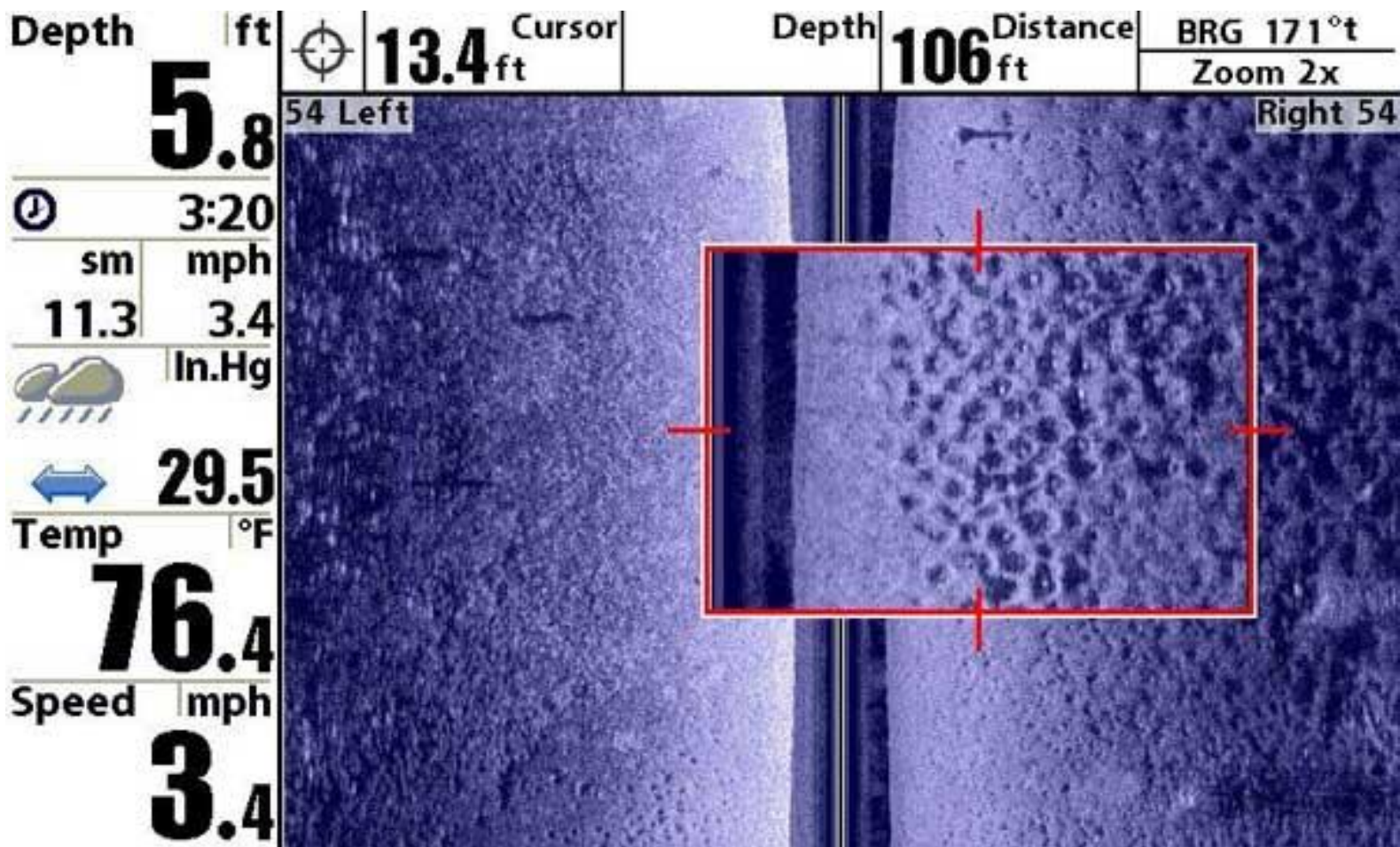
By Ted Pilgrim with Joe Balog

It's one thing to find spring and summer panfish in a pond, creek or small lake. But what do you do when your home water is one of the Great Lakes? Or a giant reservoir? Or a sprawling water body best known for bass, walleyes, trout or other predators? Good news pan' fans. Even on big water, finding sunfish, crappies and even perch can be simpler than you think. And once you find them, these sweet species can be among the most palm-stretching specimens found anywhere.

Especially in sprawling freshwater environs, sunfish and crappies tend to be homebodies, haunting relatively confined zones throughout the calendar year. No matter how big, deep or intimidating a water body, most contain prime shallow habitat used by panfish: boat harbors, marinas and other manmade backwater locales, plus natural bays, coves and creek inlets. Beginning in spring, nothing could be simpler than laying out a lake map and red X'ing vast portions of water in the main lake, particularly the stuff deeper than about 10 feet. Usually, what you're left with is 5-percent of the lake's area—the good stuff near shore that always holds panfish.

Searching for Sunfish

Best known for his success in bigwater bass tournaments, Joe Balog is also a confirmed panfish sneak, hunting shallow habitats from ice-out in March all the way through summer. A resident of Michigan's Lake St. Clair—



which lies between lakes Erie and Huron and encompasses 430 square miles—Balog loves chasing springtime pumpkinseeds. An intriguing, exotically beautiful member of the sunfish clan, ‘seeds, says Balog, are a bigtime mussel eater that spawn on hard bottom, often near mussel beds. “Pumpkinseeds possess unique grinders in their throat that give them the ability to dine effortlessly on zebra mussels, crayfish and other invertebrates,” he says. “What’s neat is that on a lake like St. Clair, you’ve got real confined shallow bays that possess both hard-bottom and pondweed (cabbage). So I can take a giant lake and quickly narrow it down to just a few dozen acres—spots easily discerned on a LakeMaster digital map. The fish will often linger in these zones, spring through summer.

“Some of my favorite spring fishing occurs on warm, mostly calm days when you can get out and sunglass the water while cruising around with the Minn Kota. Because the fish often bunch into little areas like a 6-foot by 6-foot patch of cabbage, it’s real easy to miss ‘em. So it’s probably some of the most weather-dependent fishing I do all year. Certainly, you can get out on cloudy or windy days, and search. But then, it’s a matter of using my Humminbird side imaging to canvas these flats and look for both weed patches and small pods of panfish on screen. Once they begin spawning, I can even spot the beds right on my Onix unit, which is a huge advantage.”

On his favorite warm spring days, Balog relishes pitching small 1/32-ounce tube jigs and Beetle Spins into pockets in the vegetation, or along subtle transitions, such as a 3 to 5 foot break where mussels and crayfish often cluster together between the weeds and hard bottom, right on that little edge. The Beetle Spin, Balog says, shines as a search tool.

Once fish reveal themselves, working them over with tiny plastics, such as a Custom Jigs & Spins Finesse Plastic or Wedgee—either on a light jig or beneath a slip float—yields fast action. Balog wields

FIERCE...TOUGH...PROVEN™



Cuda 7.5"
Mono/Braid
Fishing Pliers &
Wire Cutters

Cuda 4" Titanium
Bonded Fillet Knife

**GET HOOKED
ON CUDA**

CUDA FISHING TOOLS

www.cudabrand.com



**TITANIUM
BONDED®**

an ultralight 6-foot Daiwa Presso rod with 4-pound test mono for most of his 'seed fishing. Likewise, St. Croix's Panfish Series rods have also proven themselves as "new classic" sunfish sticks.

Marina Crappies

On some of these same days—when water temps linger in the low to mid 60s—Balog's boat often slips inside one of St. Clair or Erie's manmade harbors. Here, the usual suspects are big black and white crappies, as well as sunfish and the occasional ponderous perch. Crappies, however, provide the most consistent fishing. "Crappies live in some of these deepwater marinas all year long," Balog notes, "as well as in many of the channels and canals on St. Clair's north end.



"In the marinas, it's funny how crappies can be real picky about which stretch of docks or pilings they relate to, or even spawn on. A great method for

locating the exact position of the fish is to use an Aqua-Vu Micro Camera. I like to mount the camera on a telescopic painter's pole (10 to 15 feet long), and periscope under docks, large boats and around concrete or metal pilings. Crappies often cling super tight to specific objects, and often won't budge more than a foot or two to grab a lure. Once I identify the types of cover the fish are using, and how they're positioned on it, I can usually catch them with tubes, slip bobbers or little hair jigs."

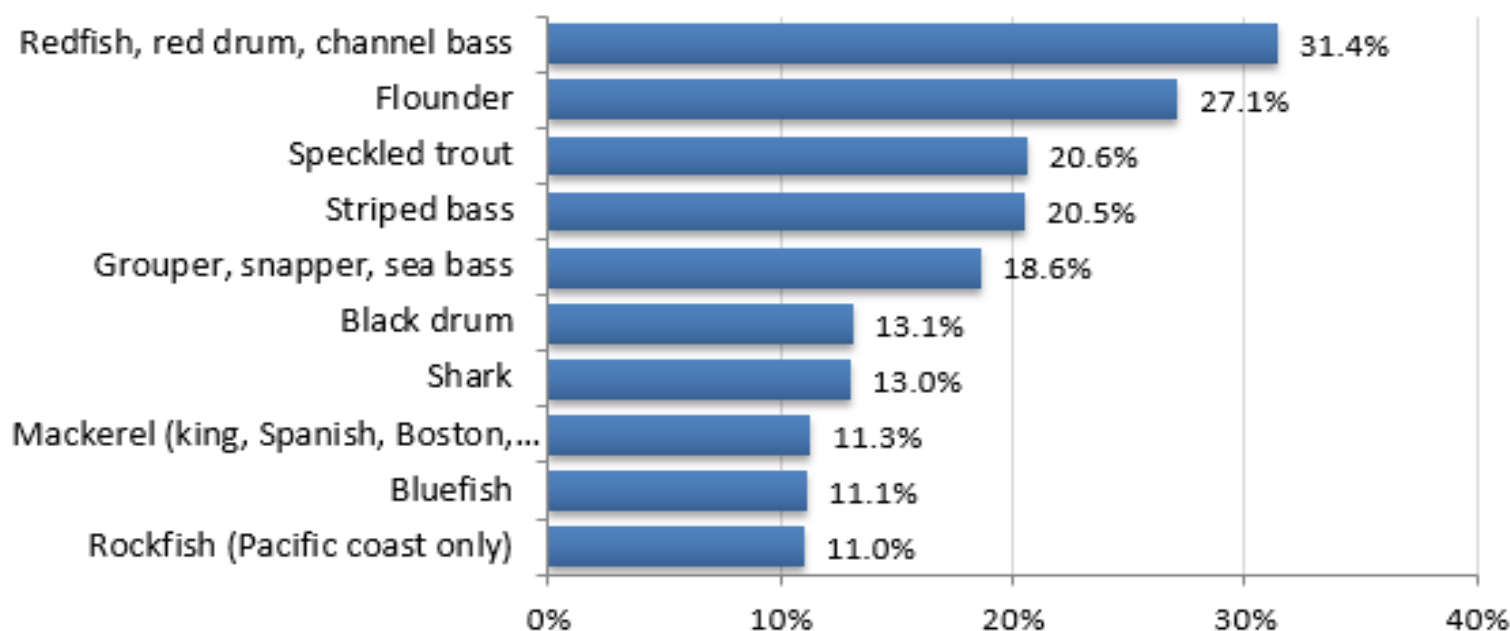


Wolfpacks of Perch

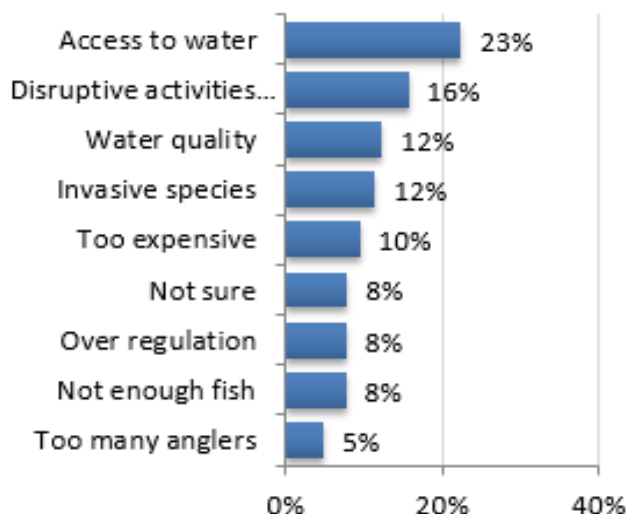
While sunfish and crappies are comfortable hanging around relatively small home ranges, yellow perch often range much further, season-to-season. Balog finds small pods of big perch, some upwards of 14 inches, roving through shallow bulrushes and pencil reeds, rooted on hard bottom flats. The move usually occurs in postspawn—from late May into June—on many inland lakes, including St. Clair. A similar pattern also occurs in late summer into early fall, when perch return to shallow bulrush flats.

Bass anglers frequently collide with big perch while throwing spinnerbaits, as well as plastic worms. "These fish are super aggressive," says Balog. "Finding them is the biggest obstacle, but by fishing fast with Beetle Spins, small plastics or even cranks, the fish actually tend to find you pretty quick. Once or so each spring, you get one of those days when the system clicks on all cylinders, and you connect with beautiful pound-plus panfish of all three species. Big water. Big fish. A ton of fun."

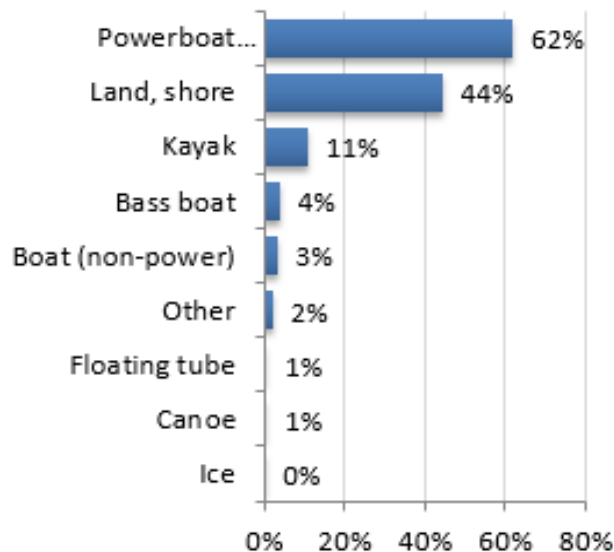
Saltwater Species Targeted, May - June 2014



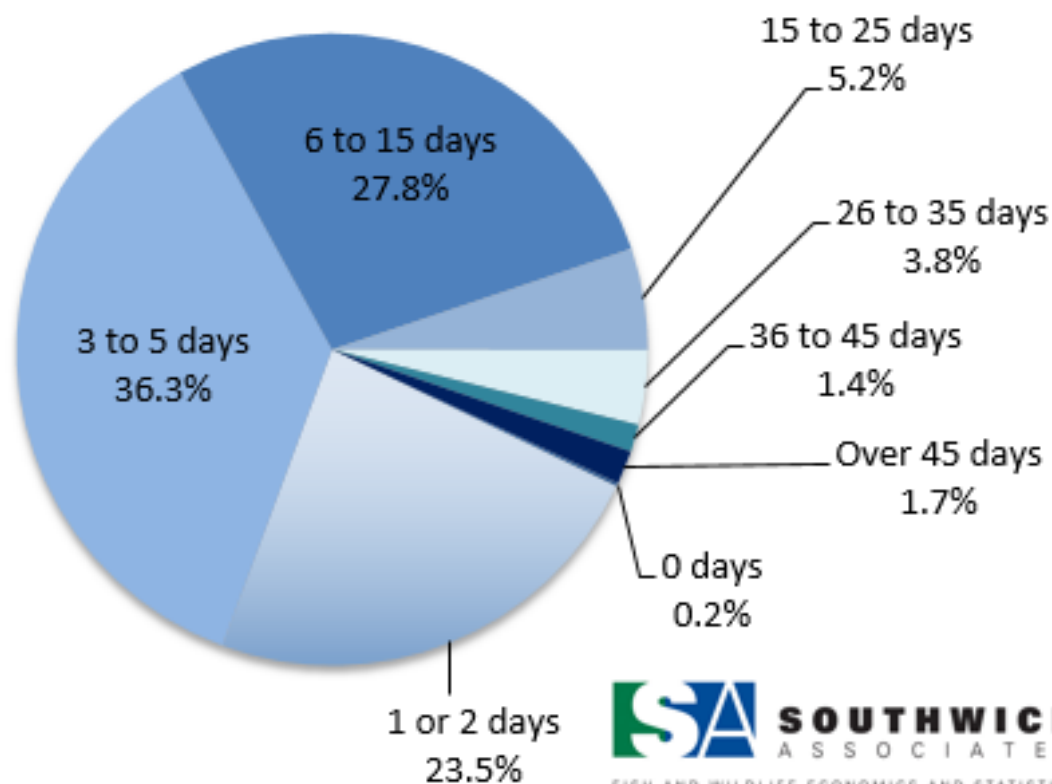
What is the biggest problem facing fishing today out of the following answers?



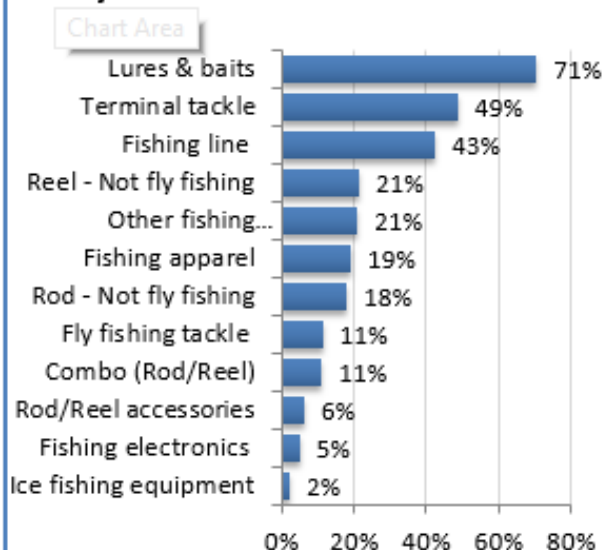
Places From Where Saltwater Anglers Fished, May - June 2014



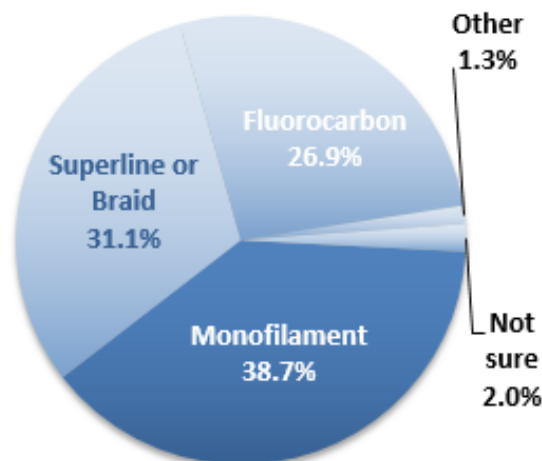
Days of Fishing in the Last Two Months by Saltwater Anglers, May - June 2014



Fishing Equipment Purchased, May - June 2014



Type of Fishing Line Purchased, May - June 2014



Early Season Northern Pike

By Bob Jensen

When anglers gather and the talk turns to early season fishing, walleyes are a popular topic in many areas. In other regions, chasing largemouth bass gets the conversation going, and in other areas, it's crappies. One fish that is ignored, or at least doesn't generate as much early season fishing interest is the northern pike. That's too bad: Pike are willing biters early in the year and they're fun to catch. If you want to catch early season northern pike, consider the following ideas.



First and obviously, you need to be on pike water. Some areas have pike, some not so many. In most bodies of water where pike live, they'll be the first spawners. They're back in the bays or slack water areas dropping their eggs before walleyes, bass, or panfish do so. Often times, even early in the year, the pike we catch will have completed the spawning ritual.

On large rivers or lakes, pike will be found in areas that have warmer water and vegetation. Bays often have those requirements and are where you'll find the largest gathering of pike. If you're quiet and the water is clear, you will often be able to see the pike cruising.

In the smaller rivers that criss-cross much of northern pike country, bays and backwater areas aren't too abundant. If that's where you fish mostly, look for pike around anything in the water that will break the current. A log, rock, broken piece of culvert or tile, just anything that a pike can get behind that provides a current break will frequently be a pike's temporary home.

Another good spot on a small river can be where there's a turn in the river. When a river turns, it creates a corner. The current washes into the outside turn of the corner, and the opposite side has substantially less current flow. Northerns will often be found on that inside turn where current flow is light.

Lots of baits will take northern pike early in the year. Slow moving baits will be best to start. As the water warms, larger, faster moving baits will be more appealing. The larger baits will be more attractive especially to the larger fish.

If the pike are especially lethargic, something below a bobber will be best. Some very successful pike-catchers prefer a dead minnow under the bobber. Suspend the bait above the bottom, maybe a foot up, and patiently work it where you think the pike are. Rig the bait on a quick-strike rig so you can set the hook right away.

A jig/minnow combination can be productive, but a jig/plastic offering will usually be just as good and is a lot less hassle. In many areas, a three inch Impulse Swim'n Grub on an eighth ounce Slurp! Jig will be as good as it gets. Use a swimming retrieve and keep the bait within a foot of the bottom.

Spinnerbaits and minnow-imitating stick baits like a Salmo Sting or Minnow will also be productive. If you choose the spinnerbait, go with about a quarter ounce. If the stick bait is your choice, tie on something in the four to five inch size.



Keep in mind that the waters we're talking about are not those lakes and rivers in remote areas where the pike grow huge. We're fishing where most people fish. You'll get a big pike every now and then, but most of them will be those willing biters and hard fighters in the four to ten pound range. Those guys are fun and they're biting right now. Get out and catch one!

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



BILL VANDERFORD'S SWIRLEYBIRD SPINNER

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](http://www.georgiafishing.com/swirleybird-spinners)

BIG TIME WALLEYES ON SMALL TIME WATER

By Jason Mitchell



Larger established bodies of water get a lot of attention from walleye anglers. Well-known destination fisheries are some of the surest bets for experiencing great fishing. Locations like Devils Lake in northeastern North Dakota or Lake Sakakawea in western North Dakota are two premier walleye fishing destinations in North Dakota. I also love Fort Peck Reservoir in

eastern Montana. Walker is one of my favorite little communities in Minnesota on the shore of Leech Lake... that is where I like to hide out with my family for short mini vacations and Leech Lake is one my favorite places to film a fishing show. Also fell in love with Kabetogama Lake in the north country of soda land.

What so often gets overlooked or unsaid however is that there are truly great fishing destinations on small lakes scattered across the Midwest. Small lakes can offer the same challenges as big lakes. The really good lakes get little fan fare because small lakes can't take a lot of angling pressure so anglers are much tighter lipped to protect these fisheries. We film a lot of television on small lakes and at times, viewers get upset with us for not naming the actual lake. On smaller lakes less than a few thousand acres, we will often just say which area or county we are fishing and leave the lake unnamed unless the lake is large enough to support the pressure. My reasoning for doing so is because I know in my heart that a lake will get devastated if a couple hundred anglers descend on a tiny lake.

Not all big time walleye fishing opportunities are on big time water. There are a few areas in the Country that really stand out to me for having numerous small lake fishing opportunities that are top notch. The Glacial Lakes Region of South Dakota is as good as fishing gets. There are also many small lakes in central and southern North Dakota that are similar by design. If you look at a map of North Dakota between Bismarck and Jamestown and look north and south of the interstate by about seventy miles, you are looking at a lot of untapped walleyes. Ottertail and Becker Counties in western Minnesota are fun but there are hidden treasures all across the Midwest. The DNR or Game and Fish websites are helpful resources for each respective state where net surveys and stocking reports can help you find some of these under the radar gems.



Biggest challenge of finding good walleye fishing on some

SONAR PHONE T-POD



smaller bodies of water is finding which lake to fish. The other challenge is breaking down a lake fast to find fish. The prairie dish bowl lakes of the Glacial Lakes Region of South Dakota along with the new lakes in central North Dakota are just that...

dish bowl lakes with little structure across the basin. For much of the year, you can't go wrong working the shoreline. Shoreline contours that have the right depth profile combining either weeds or a harder bottom like sand, gravel or rock often hold walleyes for much of the year. Another top location is any saddle that was basically a high spot between two potholes when the water was lower. Submerged roadbeds and points are other good locations. At times, fish will randomly scatter across these basins but any structure present can be a calling card for walleye.

Reality with most small lakes is that there are few good maps available. Accurate GPS maps are such a valuable tool and once you use good mapping, it is tough to fish without it. Logging sonar data and creating your own map has long been possible but very time consuming with some fairly expensive equipment and some know how. One new piece of technology that is really going to change how we fish small lakes is actually a couple of Apps on your cell phone if you use iPhone or Android. The Sonar Phone is a free App that requires installing a Wi Fi signal transducer manufactured by Vexilar that has a retail price of less than a couple hundred bucks.

After you upload the Sonar Phone App, you also upload the Navionics GPS Mapping App, which costs about fifteen dollars. Navionics has a new feature that offers a live chart update using the Sonar Phone. You basically make a map as you fish. The more you fish a lake, the better and more detailed your custom map becomes. What is nice about this technology is that it is cheap and easy, all you have to do is have your apps running as you fish. I have gotten into the habit of wearing my iPhone right on my wrist as I fish so that I always have my sonar in front of me no matter where I am standing in the boat. Many of these small natural lakes in the Dakotas and western Minnesota are predominately shallow and fertile, the result of a high water cycle. These lakes often fish extremely well early in the season (which is typical of small water) and often an advantage as this water warms up more quickly. What will sometimes surprise some anglers is just how well these lakes can sometimes fish through the dog days of summer.



The water will often get extremely stained from algae blooms but these fish will often be aggressive and shallow. When the

water greens up, troll hard vibrating lures like a 4.5 or 5 Salmo Hornet around that deepest contour where the shoreline meets the basin. If there are good stands of cabbage or pondweed, cast swim baits along the outside edges where you can physically see the break.

These lakes can sometimes be very turbid and windswept where weed fragments can sometimes get blown all over the lake fouling up your presentation. During high winds or whenever weeds and algae are fouling up your presentation, switch over to a bottom bouncer and spinner harness. A bottom bouncer serves as an excellent weed guard that will accumulate weed fragments and slime while your spinner can run clean.

Hard vibration and bright colors often work best in these environments. Even though these lakes may indeed be shallow, the light penetration is often cut down by wind and turbidity caused by algae blooms. Deep cup spinners that have a hard thump often work best. Hard working crank baits like the Hornet are often necessary. Good colors include chartreuse, hot pink, gold, white and lime greens in different combinations. This often isn't a situation for subtleness or finesse. When you find the fish, you want the fish to find you. This season, make a point to go down a few roads less traveled and enjoy the search for nontraditional hot spots. The quality of walleye fishing available on many small lakes continues to surprise many walleye anglers.

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

Catch-Document-Release for Conservation & Prizes



TrophyCatch

My trophy swims in Florida



Prizes begin at \$100 in gift cards from Bass Pro Shops, Rapala and/or Dick's Sporting Goods for verified catches.



Visit TrophyCatchFlorida.com

TrophyCatch is a free program that provides valuable rewards to anglers who document and release largemouth bass over eight pounds. Bass legally caught anywhere in Florida are eligible.

Go to **TrophyCatchFlorida.com** for details on how to register and submit your catches.

Photo © GlenLas.com



3 Easy Steps

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



Required



Recommended



2- Bass must be released.



3- Submit entry at:
TrophyCatchFlorida.com.



Enter for a **FREE** chance to win a Phoenix bass boat, powered by Mercury and equipped with a Power-Pole, trailer and cover. Just register at **TrophyCatchFlorida.com**.



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.

WHEN THE FISHING IS SLOW TIE ON A MATZUO IKARI AND SPEED IT UP

By Steve Mui

Most fishermen think slow moving baits in spring when the water is cold—but bass aggressively attack the loud, fast-moving Ikari!

Matzuo's Ikari

Lipless crank baits are some of the most versatile baits on the market. Lipless cranks will catch all species of game fish including, but not limited to bass, northern pike, and walleye. New to market in the lipless crank bait category is the Matzuo Ikari. Unlike anything on the market, the Matzuo Ikari features the signature Matzuo flared gills, an aggressive action, and loud stainless steel balls for a loud high-pitched rattle. With a head down action the Ikari will fight through rocks and other obstructions with ease.

When to fish the Ikari

The Ikari really excels early in the year when a large number of fish move shallow towards spawning





grounds. Bass use shallow flats to feed and ambush prey early in the year before they move up to spawn. They also use these flats right after they spawn before heading out to deeper waters. When bass are up shallow in the grass, speed kills. Most people think slow moving baits in spring when the water is cold, but bass aggressively attack a loud, fast-moving Ikari. Make as long of a cast as possible across shallow flats in 2-6 feet of water and burn the Ikari back as fast as you can.



How to fish the Ikari

If you get caught up in grass, rip the Ikari out with a hard snap of the rod. Immediately after you rip it out of the grass allow the bait to slowly sink back down, and start burning it back again. You only need to let the bait sink down for a second. The key is to keep the bait burning just over the tops of the weeds. Fish sit in the weeds and wait for food to come over them and ambush it. The Ikari's high-pitched rattles trigger violent strikes. Most of the bites you get will occur immediately after you snap your rod and rip the bait out of the grass. These bites are mostly reaction strikes, meaning the fish are just eating the bait out of reaction, rather than a feeding action. In short, the fish

don't have hands to swat at it, so they eat it instead!

Which Ikari is best?

In spring, try the Ikari in Red Craw or Rusty Craw. Since spring is a time when crawfish are emerging from long winter hibernation under the mud or rocks, they are an easy meal that is very



high in energy. In lakes with large populations of shad try the Giz Shad or Chrome Blue. The most versatile size for both shallow and deeper water is the 3inch – 1/2oz size. The smaller 2.5inch 3/8oz bait really shines in super shallow water or areas where smaller baitfish is present. Fish your Ikaris on 12-15 pound test line and a 7' medium rod with a high-speed reel.

PAST EDITIONS OF OUTDOORS UNLIMITED MAGAZINE



**COMING IN TWO
WEEKS..... THE
SUMMER FISHING
EDITION.**

**EXCITING FEATURES ON CATCHING
SNOOK AND TARPON ON THE SAME
TRIP, TROLLING FOR PANFISH,
COLUMBIA RIVER CHINOOK, WINTER
WALLEYE BAIT FOR BIG SUMMER
BASS, CATCHING BIG TRASH CARP
AND MUCH MUCH MORE....**



As an angler without sight, understanding rod characteristics is extremely important. Just as my white cane conveys information by extending my reach, like a fishing rod, it also serves many other purposes. The following is a breakdown of the characteristics that make different rods better suited for accomplishing specific goals.

Six Functions:

Fishing rods perform six basic functions:

1. extend the angler's arm to launch baits further and more accurately;
2. position and manipulate baits to impart action to simulate actual prey;
3. visually indicate through movement of the rod tip that a fish has contacted the bait;
4. transmit tactile information conveyed by the fishing line down the rods blank to the hand;
5. leverage for setting hooks quickly and effectively; and,
6. Controlling the movement and ultimate capture of hooked fish.

All of the six above functions demand different characteristics in how a rod performs, which is why the design, formulation and building of fishing rods has become a highly evolved form of engineering.

The Perfect Rod: With so much choice it's becoming quite the challenge to select a fishing rod. Never mind the best rod, or a rod that will meet all your needs, I'm talking selecting a rod that will match the specific fishing style and species of fish you want to target. There probably exists a



FISHING ROD SELECTION AND APPLICATION DEMISTIFIED

By Lawrence Gunther

Host of Feel the Bite TV, and the Blue Fish Radio Show

single rod that could meet many of the fishing applications you plan to pursue, but as with all professions, there exists different specialty tools for a reason.

Technique Specific Rods: Rod manufacturers have capitalized on the different techniques and fish species pursued by recreational and sport anglers to introduce to the market rods for every conceivable application. These manufacturer recommendations can take the guess work out



of selecting the right rod, but that doesn't mean a technique-specific rod can't be used for more than one purpose. They are a great idea when your local tackle store has plenty of each technique-specific rod in stock, but what happens if they are sold out or never bothered ordering the rod you travelled to the store to try first-hand? Consider the following when combing through your existing rods prior to going out and buying

yet another stick to add to your collection.

Rod Power: Power ranges from ultralight all the way up to extra heavy. This refers to the ability of the rod's blank to lift dead weight. If you're planning on swinging Bass into the boat weighing up to 6-8 lbs, you want a rod that will be able to perform the job without it bending all the way through to the handle. The rod should curve comfortably under the load you expect to lift and still leave room for a bit more when that trophy fish makes that sudden lunge.

Keep in mind that these power ranges are repeated as you move up the fish ladder. A medium-heavy Bass rod has little in common with a similarly ranked rod designed for fighting Muskie, just as a medium saltwater jigging rod has nothing in common with a medium-powered jig-fishing rod meant for Walleye.

Manufacturers repeat these power ratings throughout their various species-specific rod designs because, if they didn't, we would have everything from ultra-ultra-light all the way up to extra-extra-extra-heavy, making rod selection even more confusing. Assess a rod's power according to the size of fish you expect to catch. Don't get too concerned over the species-specific marketing used by

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK (www.odumagazine.com)

manufacturers to sell rods.

Thankfully, different manufacturers use similar ratings to avoid adding even more confusion when comparing brands. I won't get into the different proprietary materials, formulations and processes used by manufacturers to differentiate themselves from their competition, but let's just agree that cheap rods are cheap for a reason, and expensive rods are generally made with the very best. Thus, you are likely to get the most for your money by selecting something in the middle price range (\$100 to \$200).

So why is selecting the correct power relevant? It has to do as much with avoiding breakage to under-powered rods when stressed beyond their tolerance, as it does with the rod's ability to control fish during the capture process. Under-powered rods are unable to make a significant enough impression on a fish to be able to turn their heads back towards the boat, dock or shore. Rods bent to their maximum have nothing left to aid anglers to land trophies, and put the onus 100% on the reel's drag.

No doubt, fighting fish with light tackle can be both exhilarating and challenging, but can also overly tire fish to the point of either experiencing heart failure, or unable to recover after the release. Not a big issue if you plan to eat everything you catch, but how often is that the case?

Alternatively, too strong a rod will result in lost fish. We've all hooked fish that manage to wrap the line around a solid object and then use their brute strength to simply yank the hook from their mouth. Fish

will do the same thing when being played on rods that are vastly over-powered. . The rod should flex at least half way down the blank. Even when catching fish in heavy cover at short distances, you want the rod to give a bit to absorb a fish's thrusts while you lift and swing the fish out from thick cover and into the boat.

Rod Action:

The action of a rod references the degree of taper throughout a rod's blank or shaft. Moderate action rods bend almost uniformly or parabolically throughout their entire length. Extra fast rods taper much more aggressively in the top third giving the rod a stiffer bottom two thirds in relation to their much softer tip area. Moderate fast and fast are two additional intermediate categories that further differentiate moderate rods from extra fast. Knowing which of the four possible actions to use for different fishing applications will both simplify rod selection, and increase your catch rate.

Moderate Actions:

Moderate action rods are generally used when trolling with downriggers. The ability of the rod to bend almost 180 degrees when the line is clipped to the downrigger allows the rod to quickly pick up slack the moment a fish bites causing the line to be released from the downrigger's line clip. Moderate rods also prevent powerful fish from using their significant strength and aerobic skills to shake free of hooks,

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

such as when playing Salmon or Steelhead in rivers.

Moderate action rods offer little control over fish, and are commonly used when fishing vast open bodies of water, or rivers where it's possible for anglers to follow their fleeing fish either up or down stream. They also provide anglers with a more fight-like experience since the bend in the rod means the angler



has to pull just as hard as the fish at the other end of their line to narrow the gap, if not harder. Finally, charter guides often select more moderate rod actions for their less skilled paying customers to both lessen the chance of hooks being pulled, and to accentuate the fish fight; leaving customers with an inflated impression of a fish's actual power.

Moderate-Fast Actions:

Moderate-fast rods have much of the uniform bend that moderate rods offer, with slightly more stiffness in the bottom half of the rod. Their purpose is to give anglers the bend needed to effectively use smaller hooks such as those commonly found on crankbaits to catch big fish. They provide enough bend to prevent a fish's powerful lunges and headshakes from straightening out fine-wire hooks or pulling them from their mouths. The slightly stiffer lower blank section gives the angler sufficient control over where a fish wants to go, by allowing the angler to use the rod as a lever.

The problem with moderate or moderate-fast rods is that they have little ability to transmit the feel of the bite all the way along the rod to the handle. The Bend in the rod absorbs sensations being telegraphed up the line much like springs on a car's suspension. These are great rods for retrieving crankbaits where fish pretty much hook themselves, but far less effective when an angler needs to detect subtle bites and execute powerful hook sets to sink home stronger single prong hooks.

At the other end of the equation are fast and extra fast rods. These are rods designed more for both telegraphing tactile information to the angler's hands, and for imparting lightning fast hook sets before fish spit the bait. So what's the difference between the two?

Get OutDoors Unlimited Magaizne Emailed To You Monthly For FREE. Bass, walleye, crappie, pike, trout, ice fishing, lake/pond fishing, river/stream fishing, ICAST, product showcases and much more are covered in all the editions of OutDoors Unlimited Magaizne.



**REGISTER NOW
COMPLETELY FREE!**



WORLD
FISHING
NETWORK

Sunday - 7am and 4pm

Wednesday - 7pm

Thursday - 10am

Grand Master Angler
Captain Bill Miller
host of "Fishing with Bill Miller"
seen on the World Fishing Network

Salt Life
SPORT OPTICS



Bill Miller Show Open



<http://youtu.be/RZOTx3RiKjQ>



Awesome angling action balanced with detail-rich lessons on tackle selection, rigging, bait presentations and finding fish – that's what Fishing With Bill Miller is all about.

Hosted by Grand Master Angler, Capt. Bill Miller, this combination of entertainment and education exists to optimize your angling experience.



Fast Action:

Fast action rods have actions that are better suited to fishing reaction style baits with larger hooks, the exception being crankbaits with fine-wire hooks. Buzzbaits, spinnerbaits, swimbaits, frogs, spoons, spinners, and swimming jigs, to name a few. The idea being the bait is in continuous forward movement causing pursuing fish to first attempt to injure their pray prior to taking the bait into their mouth to be consumed. The rod needs to bend enough to convince fish that they are in fact impacting the forward momentum of their pray, and that the bait doesn't possess bionic strength. The fish has to be able to come up from behind, grab the bait and turn back towards their home base.

Fast action rods allow fish to turn 90 degrees to the angler before the angler sets the hook. If the rod is too fast and doesn't allow this turn to occur, setting hooks is made near impossible since the hook set simply pulls the fish towards the angler before the fish's body is turned and water resistance can be employed to execute an effective hook set. Without this resistance the fish simply glides forward until it realizes its mistake and releases the bait from its mouth. Setting stronger hooks made from thicker wire requires that fish be positioned at a right angle to the angler so water resistance generated by the fish's body braces the fish while the hook is being set.

Extra-Fast Actions

Extra-fast rods have slightly thicker blanks 2/3 the way up the blank, and then taper quite quickly at the tip. The rationale behind the thicker blanks is to provide the angler with more instantaneous hook-setting and responsive fish handling abilities.

The thinner more flexible tip on an extra fast rod does two things. One, it works as a visual indicator to the angler that subtle activity is taking place at the end of their line, and two, it prevents fish from sensing an unnatural resistance to the bait when tasting, smelling or feeling with their heads and mouths.

People commonly assume the tip on extra fast rods are better at telegraphing tactile information to the rod hand. True, they are better at doing this than moderate or moderate fast rods, but in reality, their thinner more sensitive tips visually display more than they transfer.

Extra Fast action rods excel at fishing when the presentation calls for slowing things down and fishing more vertically then horizontally. Dropshotting, jigging and most live bait presentations are best accomplished when using extra-fast rods.



Whereas fast action rods excel at setting hooks on fish that are engaged in pursuing moving baits, extra-fast action rods are better suited for hook sets when fishing vertical presentations. Being positioned above fish means they are already positioned at right angles to the angler eliminating the need to allow time for the fish to turn, such as when fish are pursuing baits presented more horizontally.

One or Two Piece:

Two piece rods possess a joint section where the rod overlaps. This slightly stiffer area of the rod is commonly believed to reduce a rod's effectiveness by as much as 10% due to the lack of uniformity in the rod's bend. This is more problematic with shorter rods than with longer fly rods that commonly possess three such over-lapping connecting sections.

If not properly assembled, two-piece rods can separate under load, twist causing line friction, or break at the joint. However, when properly assembled two-piece rods work quite effectively, and have the added convenience of being able to fit more easily into a vehicle for transport, which reduces the chance of breakage.

Handles:

Much can be written about different rod grip styles and handle materials. Synthetic materials often out-





last natural corks, both because of rough handling and rod holders on boats, but cork just feels so much nicer to the hand. Graphite rapped handles are the lightest and transmit tactile information the best. Rods with wrapped graphite handles also cost the most, with cork coming in a close second. However, on cold wet days there's no beating cork for warmth and grip.

Balance:

Lighter rods mean less fatigue to anglers throughout the course of the day. Of course, this is irrelevant when using rod holders. What's more important is the balance of a rod once you have attached the reel. With reels getting lighter and lighter rods are having a hard time keeping up. A properly balanced rod and reel should possess a tipping point just ahead of where the reel attaches to the rod. The further up the tipping point, the less comfortable the combination is to use. The muscles in the arm shouldn't be fighting to hold a rod tip up as this only interferes with the hand's ability to feel incoming tactile transmissions being sent up the line and down the blank to the handle. Thus, don't always reach for the lightest reel on the market when selecting a new winch for your lever.

Lure and line Ratings:

What strength line to use with a rod has to do with the application for which you intend to use the selected rod and reel. Think of the size of fish you intend to catch, the conditions you plan to fish in, and choose the line, rod and reel accordingly. The outfit should feel properly balanced in your hand, cast comfortably, and properly control the fish you're targeting. The reel you selected for the rod should have sufficient capacity to store, retrieve and play out under drag the line you've chosen without breaking or binding the line, or even worse, getting spooled.

Lure ratings are slightly more complicated. It comes down to the tip of the rod. The tip should bend slightly after you tie on a bait. Not enough bend and there will be little control in casting accuracy and distance. Too much weight and the rod's tip will be bent fully, making it difficult for the rod to cast accurately. At most, the rod should engage no more than half way down the blank during the cast.



Once the bait is in the water and slack line taken up, the rod's tip should still have sufficient room to easily bend either up or down without engaging the power range of the rod. This will allow fish to move in any direction after grasping the bait in their mouths without immediately feeling resistance, but still change the feeling of pressure in the rod's handle by increasing or decreasing the bend in the rod's tip. It will also allow the tip to perform to its maximum potential as a visual bite indicator.

Being able to quickly apply personal experience and knowledge when assessing a rod's characteristics



means no longer having to look at the specifications and marketing claims of the manufacturer. By applying the information found in this article you will be better able to select rods that will appropriately meet your specific needs. Who knows, it may just help you keep the number of rods in your boat, garage and basement from expanding into a regular forest.

O'Neill
Williams



Watch O'Neill Any Time and
Download
Episodes to Keep!



Presented by

ROCKWELL

Tools



O'Neill Outside Now

O'Neill Outside Now
Brought to You By



SouthernLINC
Wireless

A Southern Company

vimeopro.com/oneilloutside/oneill-outside-2015-shows



Seven Reasons Why Cheese Baits, Dip Baits, Sponge Baits & Punch Baits Don't Work!

By Damon Toney

Prepared baits promise time savings. Not everyone has time to catch bait. For instance if you only had three hours to catfish, plan on an hour to catch bait, an hour to find the catfish, that leaves only an hour to fish. I hope you pick the right spot! If you pick the wrong spot, running up and down the river wastes a lot of time as well, even with a 200 horsepower motor.

Cheese baits, dip baits, sponge baits and punch baits are all baits prepared or manufactured ahead of time. This allows you to fish immediately.

After browsing videos on YouTube, surfing blog posts, and reading forums posts, some people swear that prepared baits don't work. The more I've read and investigated their troubles, the more I saw skewed methods emerge. It comes down to seven basic misunderstandings about how to use prepared

baits, especially cheese-based baits: wrong rig, rod, place, time, species, reason and/or system. Here's what I mean:

The Wrong Time

When catfish move from winter haunts, they're hungry. Rapid springtime temperature swings and weather changes take a toll on shad and other bait fish. Many die off.

Fish do best in stable conditions. Springtime is anything but stable. Cold fronts, warm fronts and stalled fronts whip around, move each other out of the way, and sometimes intercept each other like a Russian MiG-25 intercepting on an old America B-52 strategic bomber from the Cold War.

Before spawning catfish head up river to the dam and feast on dead shad that have spilled out of the flood gates and turbines. Some of these shad were dead before they hit the turbine blades, others met their doom on a nice morning swim too close to the turbines. Either way it's a feast for these cats.

Late winter and early spring is a time for old-fashioned cut bait. It's the old match-the-hatch scenario. Use prepared baits during the spawn and postspawn.



Once channel cats are done feeding after a long winter's fast, they're ready to clock-in and get the spawn going. From there males protect the spawning beds in the cracks and crevasses along rip rap walls and bluff banks. (If those structures aren't available in your area, try snags, log jams and such.) They'll attack anything coming near the beds. Why spend so much time catching bait fish?

For the postspawn channels still hit prepared baits, especially when used with soured grain chums like milo, wheat, corn or chicken scratch. Chum attracts scattered fish and triggers them to bite. Prepared bait also acts as a chum. It clouds the water with scents and amino acids, drawing in more channel cats.

You can catch a lot of channel cats this way, and so far I've talked about channel catfish only. Here's why:

The Wrong Species

Prepared baits work well with channel cats. Blue cats prefer cut baits like shad, skipjack or bream. Flatheads like live bait.



Take these as general principles. General principles work except for when they don't. All these fish will bite if they're hungry enough. Consider this though: If you offered a child a choice between an apple, candy bar or chicken tenders, he won't choose the apple in general. Catfish are the same. Present the baits taken the most often by that species, and you can increase your odds.

The Wrong Reason

Yes, you can catch big fish with prepared baits. There is always the chance, but pay dirt with prepared baits is in eating-sized fish. Think stock-the-freezer, not win-a-trophy. If you want to win a trophy, go with cut or live bait and target flatheads and blues.

Most of us don't live on trophy-class channel catfish waters, but even for trophy channels, I would use cut bait. Ask yourself why you're fishing, this could save you a lot

of frustration.

Use big fish methods to catch big fish. Use small fish methods to catch eater-sized fish.

The Wrong Rig

Cat men often fish off the bottom. Hey, it's tried-and-true: Carolina rig and it's variants. It catches fish today, and it will always catch them.

However, make yourself open to new concepts, new ways. Try something





new from time to time. The summer of 2014 change my catfish angling forever. I started catfishing with a bobber. Seriously, a bobber, rather I call them floats, raised eyebrow implied.

Sensitive floats work. Catfish often swim around the bait tasting your offering with their whiskers long before you know it. Sensitive floats indicate these movements showing you when to set the hook. Use a beefed-up bream or shellcraker-type rig. Instead of six lbs. test line, I used 12 lbs test. A rod that can cast 0.75 ounce weight is plenty. This makes a sensitive setup, especially when used with treble hooks.

Circle hooks are all the rage in catfish circles. There was a time when you couldn't pay catfish anglers to use anything other than their old, trusty treble hooks.

Circles haven't replaced trebles. Trebles often work better with cheese-based baits than circles. Circle work well while drifting or fishing multiple rods in holders. No need for quick-reaction hooksets. The fish will hook themselves.

Want to kiss more fish like this?
Then switch to
Daiichi Hooks!

Jimmy Houston



There is more to
Daiichi than just
being "sharp".

High carbon steel
and scientific
tempering means
your hooks will
stay sharper,
longer.



Daiichi®

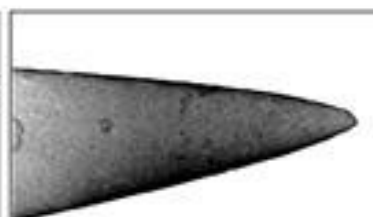
World's Sharpest Hooks



Brand "A"



Brand "Z"



Daiichi!

To target huge numbers of channel catfish, you're much better off with a single rod in hand and a treble hook.

Because channels play around with cheese baits. You have to set the hook fast, not letting them “run” with it, or they'll spit the bait. A treble hook is great for fast-reaction hooksets performed with a single rod in hand.

The Wrong Rod

Speaking of single-rod action. I use a lighter rod than most. I come from a fly fishing background. Medium-heavy rods feel like oak tree trunks. I prefer a channel cat rod built from a 9wt fly-rod blank, nine foot minimum length. That's longer and lighter duty than most cat men are used to. However saltwater fly fishermen catch big fish with 8 weight fly rods. A 9/10 weight is plenty for eater channels. Fatigue sets in with too heavy a rod. Most people hope to catch a 50lbs blue, but only use tactics to catch 5 lbs channels. I've caught 5 lbs channels on 5/6 wt fly rods blanks that maxed out the gear. That's fun fishing! Cat anglers can get away with a lot lighter gear than what has been marketed to us in the past.

Choose a rod that will get the job done, let you have a little fun playing the fish, but will reduce fatigue on those long summer days.

The Wrong Place

Chase place, not bait. Spend your time looking for the places catfish haunt. Bait is secondary. When I first started catfish angling, I bought a can of fairly popular punch bait. I had no clue. I loaded the bait up as per the instructions, cast out, and nothing. No bites.

What did I do? I ran and bought a different punch bait and fished the same empty water! Maddening. It's easy to blame the bait when you've spent hard-earned money on something that “didn't” produce. I didn't know that I was fishing in the wrong place.



Instead of fishing at the boat ramp, I should have been fishing down river on bank of riprap. I used the same bait in a different place and caught my first mess of cats for nice little fish fry. How do you find these places?

Spend time studying. Read articles. Buy books. Attend seminars. Book trips. Take an online course or go through an online program. Learn. Unlearn. Relearn. This is the way to catch more catfish. There are no short cuts. It's a process. It takes time, not a popular thing in an instant gratification society.

The Wrong System

That leads to my last point of why prepared

baits for catfish angling don't work. It's the system. You have to learn to think in terms of systems of fishing.

For example a guy backs up his truck to the river, casts out two or three rods, puts them on his rod rest, cracks open his favorite beverage and bag of chip, and waits. If he catches a couple fish, that's a good day.

This is passive catch, pure-D luck, hope you picked the right spot and the fish will come swarming to you. You're better than that, boat or no boat. Switch to active catch. You're way better off finding the fish, looking for the places they haunt.

The great thing about cats is they bite. You don't have to make a thousand casts just to catch five or 10



A Quick Story About These Channel Catfish Floats...

They came about in a funny way. Having a hard time in life, faced with a difficult decision, I said, "Forget get it, I'm going fishing, but first I need to make some floats."

After that I found a great deal on used wine corks via eBay, that same with birch dowels. I remember that first successful trip with these floats. I had never had that much success in catfish angling before. It felt a lot like bream fishing to me but using heavier equipment.

From there I started offering these for sale. Some people buy a dozen or two at a time. Some just want to try them and only buy two or three.

That's why I put together this offer for those of you who have wanted to try them, but weren't sure. With the coupon code, I'll buy it for you, so you can prove to your self if they're worth it!

Damon Toney
Chief Pencil Pusher
BlackWarriorLures.com

Catfish Float Coupon Code

If you want to try one of these floats, I'm willing to pay to ship one of these out to you. That way you can judge for yourself.

Here's the deal though, I'm only going to open this up to the first ten people who use the coupon code from this magazine ad.

Use the code below on my Web site's shopping cart or checkout page. (Be sure to use the code without the quotation marks.)

Web site: blackwarriorlures.com/shop

Coupon Code: "odumagazine"

fish. You can make 50 casts and catch 40 fish! You have to be active.

What about these guys who chum? Doesn't chum make fishing passive, drawing them in? Well, it draws them in, especially in the summer when they scatter after the spawn. However, it's still an active process. You still have to fish the right spots at the right time in the right way with the right bait and the right gear.

If I chum five spots, two will be worthless, one will produce a fish, the last two spots fill the cooler. There are no short cuts. Chumming is as much work as drifting or bottom bouncing or fishing below the dam. You have to make the chum yourself, allowing enough time to ferment and such. It's work, but it sure pays off.

That About Sums It Up

If you're fishing with the wrong rig, with the wrong rod, in the wrong place, for the wrong reason, at the wrong time, for the wrong species, and all implemented and executed with the wrong system, how well do you think prepared baits will work? I'll let you answer that one.

Good times, tight lines!

Damon is the Chief Pencil Pusher at [Black Warrior Lures](#) where he designs, tests and makes custom fishing tackle for catfish anglers along the Black Warrior River. If you'd like to try one of his fishing floats, use the following coupon code: "[odumagazine](#)" to get one fishing float. See terms and conditions on the page. YouTube: [Black Warrior Lures](#)

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)



FISH CAN'T RESIST CRAPPIE KICKERS

By Brad Wiegmann

Sometimes crappie lures can fool an angler. What looks good in a package doesn't always mean it will



catch crappie. A great example of this is the Crappie Kicker with its straight tail doesn't look like it would have any action, however, once the lure is put in the water its tail has an irresistible, lifelike action.

For crappie anglers, the Crappie Kicker with its minnow shaped body is a perfect lure for catching keeper crappie. In fact, there is a science behind the reason why it's such a good lure. Small crappie will generally feed on small invertebrates like copepods and cladocerans until growing bigger when its diet changes over to fish.

Don't let the simple design of the minnow shape and straight tail fool you. "Three years ago we developed the Fle Fly Go Go Minnow with a big, heavy curl tail that's fantastic for fishing in open water or where you need a curl tail lure. We had an older gentleman come into our office and said you guys really need to take a look at the Fle Fly Go Go Minnow when you take the curling section off the tail it leaves a long, straight ribbon tail or flat tail; it makes the best straight tail lure I've ever used and I've used a lot of different ones over the years, but that little thin tail you have on that Go Go Minnow really does have

a lot of action," said Jeff Williams with Outdoor BrandZ and Fle Fly Fishing Tackle.

Keeping the suggestion in mind, Williams went to work on building the perfect body and straight tail. "So we started trimming the tails of the Go Go Minnow and ended up with a product we call the Crappie Kicker. The Crappie Kicker has a minnow shaped body like the Fle Fly Go Go Minnow, but has a

straight tail that can flop 180 degrees. It has the thinnest, floppiest tail of any crappie bait that's available out there for anglers," said Williams.

A straight tail on a soft plastic minnow shaped body lure can really be misleading. An angler would tend to believe a straight tail has little if any action. That's possible if the tail is not designed correctly or is too big and bulky.



"As soon as you put the Crappie Kicker in the water, the tail will float up and I promise you folks, you won't be able to hold the Crappie Kicker still under the water. Every time the wind moves it or your rod tip moves this tail is flipping all over the place," said Williams.

One way Williams likes to rig the Fle Fly Crappie Kicker (www.flefly.com) is on a 1/16-ounce Blakemore Road Runner jig head when he is in open water and doing a lot of casting. "The blade on a Road Runner does a fantastic job with both our 2-inch and 2 1/2-inch Crappie Kicker for attracting and catching crappie," said Williams.

As for lure color, Williams bases his selection on water color. "You have three water clarity conditions

when it comes to fishing; you have clear water, muddy water and stained water that's in between. In the springtime you will normally have stained or muddy water then clear water in the summer or wintertime. In really clear water conditions, you are looking for a natural presentation like Electric Blue not a bright presentation. While in muddy water or stained you want a bright color crappie can really key in on like Lemmon Pie, Pearl/Chartreuse or Electric Chicken," said Williams.

A color Williams likes to use in any water clarity is pearl. He believes its natural color makes it perfect no matter what color water he is fishing in on that day. His personal favorite is Lemmon Pie with a chartreuse back and white belly.

Don't let the straight tail fool you. Crappie can't resist the wagging temptation of the Crappie Kicker's straight tail. It's just too lifelike to resist.

To watch the video on rigging the Crappie Kicker below:



ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)



FIVE OF FISHING'S DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

By Jason Mitchell

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and such is the case of fish popularity. Walleyes for example are held in snob regard across the upper Midwest. Trout purists hold down the west and everyone south of Des Moines Iowa is obsessed with bass. Easy as an angler to get caught up with that tide and chase after the most popular girl in the class.

Across the Midwest, there are however some incredible fishing opportunities that often fly under the radar. Overlooked species that provide an extremely high quality fishing experience for what is often trophy caliber fish. In some cases these overlooked fisheries are just victim of geography in that they would receive much more pressure and interest if they were located in a different region of the Country.

Regardless, as we travel across the upper Midwest with cameras in tow, we have experienced some of these angling under dogs and have to marvel at the fact that we often have some of these bites to ourselves. Note this list doesn't necessarily mean that a fish isn't popular... at least somewhere but perhaps a better way to summarize, because of local attitude and location these fishing opportunities are grossly under appreciated.

1. Red River Catfish (North Dakota/ Minnesota)

National angling polls show that channel catfish in particular are one of the most popular fish species to target. In the upper Midwest, particularly in both North Dakota and Minnesota there are fewer anglers who hold catfish in high regard. What a shame because this border river between the two states is arguably one of the premier channel cat fisheries in the Nation especially for trophy size fish. On most water where these kitty cats swim, you would be hard pressed to ever see a twenty-pound fish, not so on the Red.

Anglers often crack really big fish by fishing fresh cut bait next to the bottom. Anchoring up river of logjams and wood snags or deeper holes. Both sucker and gold eye are native forage fish in the river for big catfish and these two species of fish are often used for cut bait along with leopard frogs during the fall of the year.

2. Devils Lake White Bass (North Dakota)

This massive body of water in northeastern North Dakota is renown for walleye and jumbo perch but if anglers discover a school of these temperate bass, they are in for a game of bloody knuckles. These schooling fish fight as hard as any fresh water fish pound for pound and will often hit top water and shallow running lures. Some of these fish reach well past three pounds and are extremely strong.



Anglers often find white bass along shallow rip rap or the inside edges of weed beds. Casting shallow shorelines in the back ends of bays is a great way to search for early season bass. As summer progresses, vertically jig a jig and minnow near any current around the several bridges that divide up the separate lake basins.

3. Chequamegon Bay Smallmouths (Wisconsin)



Catch and release regulations over the past twenty years have quietly turned this Lake Superior Bay into a trophy class smallmouth bass fishery. The shame is that so many local anglers in that region regard bass as a trash fish and would rather target walleye, perch or salmon. You can find bigger top end fish off Door County on Lake Michigan and Lake Erie but as

far as an average size, this estuary is tough to beat. You can catch more nineteen inch fish in a couple of days of fishing on this body of water than what you would catch an entire season on most good inland smallmouth water.

While fish will shift over deeper shipping channel and some deep boulder piles, the cold water of Lake Superior keeps these fish up shallow for much of the season. Target shallow rock, weed beds or logging timber remains.

4. St. Louis River Walleyes (Minnesota)

Weird to see walleyes on a list of underutilized fish in Minnesota but this walleye run truly is an incredible success story for pollution control and conservation that is often overlooked. Not too long ago and the St. Louis River near Duluth, Minnesota was one of the most polluted rivers in Gopher State.

With more stringent pollution regulations and improved water quality, this river has quietly developed a



walleye population that is comparable to the Rainy River or the Mississippi River without all the fanfare or notoriety. Ironically, many of the local anglers cut their teeth on big water fish like lake trout and salmon on Lake Superior and the strong population of both walleye and musky are one of this region's best kept secrets.

5. Clear Lake Muskies (Iowa)

When anglers think of Iowa fishing opportunities on the larger lakes in Iowa like Spirit Lake, Storm Lake or Clear Lake, anglers often think of panfish like bluegill, crappie, perch or even yellow bass. Besides a heavily targeted panfish population, anglers often target walleye extensively.

What surprises some anglers is the quality of the musky fishery that has quietly developed on Clear Lake. When

looking at the law of musky averages comparable to other noteworthy lakes, Clear Lake seems to have an astonishing catch rate. There must be a lot of muskies in this lake and they seem to be getting bigger. Fish from thirty six to forty inches seem abundant by musky standards and some fish are closing in on fifty inches. Fortunately, more Iowan anglers seem to be appreciating these top of the line predators and specifically targeting them. The anglers actually fishing for skies are finding some untapped fishing for big fish.

Caption for Photo: Underutilized fishing opportunities can often create some true trophy fishing experiences in the upper Midwest. Pictured is Red River Guide Josh Burgett and outdoor television host Jason Mitchell straining to lift a giant Red River catfish.

The Ultimate Poppin' Frog!

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

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

WRANCE

ISOLATE

SNAG PROOF

50th Anniversary

Made In The USA!

1-800-762-4773

www.snagproof.com

ORDER TODAY!

SOFT PLASTIC TIME

By Captain Mike Gerry



If you haven't gotten out your bags of different soft plastic baits then you're probably missing some great times on the water. The key is what to use, how to set up the proper rod and reel and where to fish them; like all worm fisherman location, location is everything.

As the bass continue to move up for this year's spawn getting to the shallows and placing your favorite creature type bait on a bedding fish is always lots of fun. I don't know that there is any magic advice I can give you but if you like setting the hook

then your time is now and being rigged for success is important.

The thing I notice mostly about inexperienced fisherman is they don't take the time to match proper equipment to fishing with soft plastic baits. Many of my clients that get in my boat with their own equipment substitute cheap combo rods and reels not knowing that there is a big difference in your end result when you're improperly set up. When you're setting the hook rod strength and stiffness are very important; if you are fishing a soft tip or even a medium tip rod you're probably missing many fish. Sensitivity in worm fishing is everything and a stiff tip or heavy action rod is imperative. Speed of retrieve also matters as being able to quickly take up line can mean the difference in catching fish as many times bass pick up you're bait and run toward you so you must be able to quickly catch up to the fish. I rig with a Duckett heavy action 7'3" worm rod, Lew's 7:1:1 reel and for sensitivity of line I use Vicious Pro Elite fluorocarbon line generally 14 lb. test.

It's also imperative that the correct soft bait is used in the right places, for me it's all about Missile Bait D-Bombs or Missile Bait D-Stroyers; these 2 baits catch fish they are not only great soft plastics but they are the ultimate design for bedding fish as they look like many of the water creatures roaming around the shallows on any fresh water lake. Imitation, location and equipment all make a difference every day on the water for the worm fisherman.



Fish Lake Guntersville Guide Service

www.fishlakeguntersvilleguideservice.com

www.facebook.com/FishGuntersville

Email: bassguide@comcast.net, Call: 256 759 2270

THE ORIGINAL WIGGLE WART

Forget shadows and groundhogs, as nothing signals spring's arrival like warts and craws — Storm® Wiggle Warts® and crawfish, that is. And now that Wiggle Warts come in four new craw colors, fish will be wishin' they had six more weeks of winter to hide. "As soon as crawdads start coming out of hibernation in the spring, fish start keying on them," says two-time Bassmaster Elite Series winner and Storm pro Brandon Palaniuk. "So that's when I start throwing craw-pattern Wiggle Warts. I'm excited to have four new craw colors in my arsenal."

Palaniuk's enthusiasm is easily understood. On the final day of the 2013 Bassmaster Classic — in which he finished runner-up — he caught four of the five fish he weighed on a craw-pattern Wiggle Wart. Storm's legendary Original Wiggle Wart and Original Mag Wart both feature an inimitable wide-wobbling action and rattle that mimics the movement and sound of crawdads, which fish instinctively eat more of in the spring. Crawdads make a better meal for fish at that time, because they are bigger than newly hatched minnows and fry baitfish.

Available in both the Original Wiggle Wart and Original Mag Wart lines, the new craw-color patterns — Moss Back Craw, Creek Craw, Red Craw and Orange Brown Craw — will help anglers better match the hatch, as crawdad colors vary widely by species, water body and region. "I like to cycle through the colors to see which ones they eat a little bit better," Palaniuk says. "Most of the time, I'm going to start with something with some green in it."

The new Moss Back Craw pattern features an olive-green back, green/chartreuse sides and belly and a black craw-body pattern. The new Creek Craw pattern features a brown-green back, a white belly and a black, craw-body pattern.

Green and brown craw patterns are best in clearer water, Palaniuk says. Red and orange craw patterns work better in dirtier water. "That red shows out a little bit more, where the fish can track it a little bit better," he explains.

Storm's new Red Craw pattern features a red back, a red-orange fade on the sides, an orange belly and a black, craw-body pattern. The new Orange Brown Craw pattern features a brown back, orange-brown belly and a black, craw-body pattern.

Built from Storm's original molds, both the Original Wiggle Wart and Original Mag Wart come equipped with premium, super-sharp VMC® Treble Hooks — No. 4s and No. 2s, respectively. Designed to run to depths of 7-to-18 feet, the Original Wiggle Wart is 2-inches long and weighs 3/8 of an ounce. Built to swim at depths of 13-to-24 feet, the Original Mag Wart is 2-3/4 inches long and weighs 3/4 of an ounce.



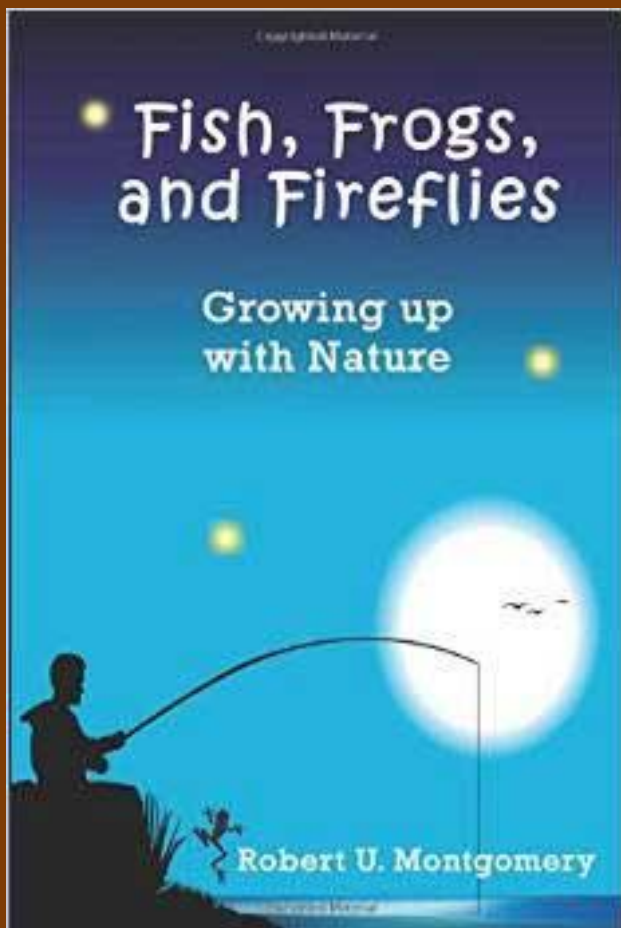
Fish, Frogs, and Fireflies: Growing up with Nature

By William L. Schwarz

Book Review

Do you like reading to your kids? It's a simple question and I hope all parents say yes to this very simple one. My dad was not much of a story reader, but he was a story teller when I was a kiddo. As I got older I read books like White Fang, Tales of Fishes, Zane Grey on Fishing, Moby Dick and the Old Man And The Sea. Sometimes you just need to take this love of the outdoors, sit your kids down and read to them. They will travel with you in these stories you choose and truly get more out of life than Super Mario and other computer games.

This past fall I received a book in the mail called "Fish, Frogs, and Fireflies: Growing up with Nature" from Robert U. Montgomery. This book is made up of 42 short stories that will bring you back to your childhood, remind you of those adventures on nearby streams, your hikes to nowhere, and life lessons you learned on your own through trial and error.



Some of these stories take 5 - 10 minutes to read, others a bit longer. They are perfect for you to sit your child down and escape with them to nature. You will not only be reading to them, you will start connecting your childhood adventures to your child's and start story telling yourself.

Robert didn't write all these stories, but called on 13 well known outdoor enthusiasts to share their adventures in nature. Teeg Stouffer, Andy McDaniels, Brenda DeGree, Capt. Ron Presley and Steve Chaconas are just a few of the story tellers. They did a fabulous job setting my family up for evening stories before bed.

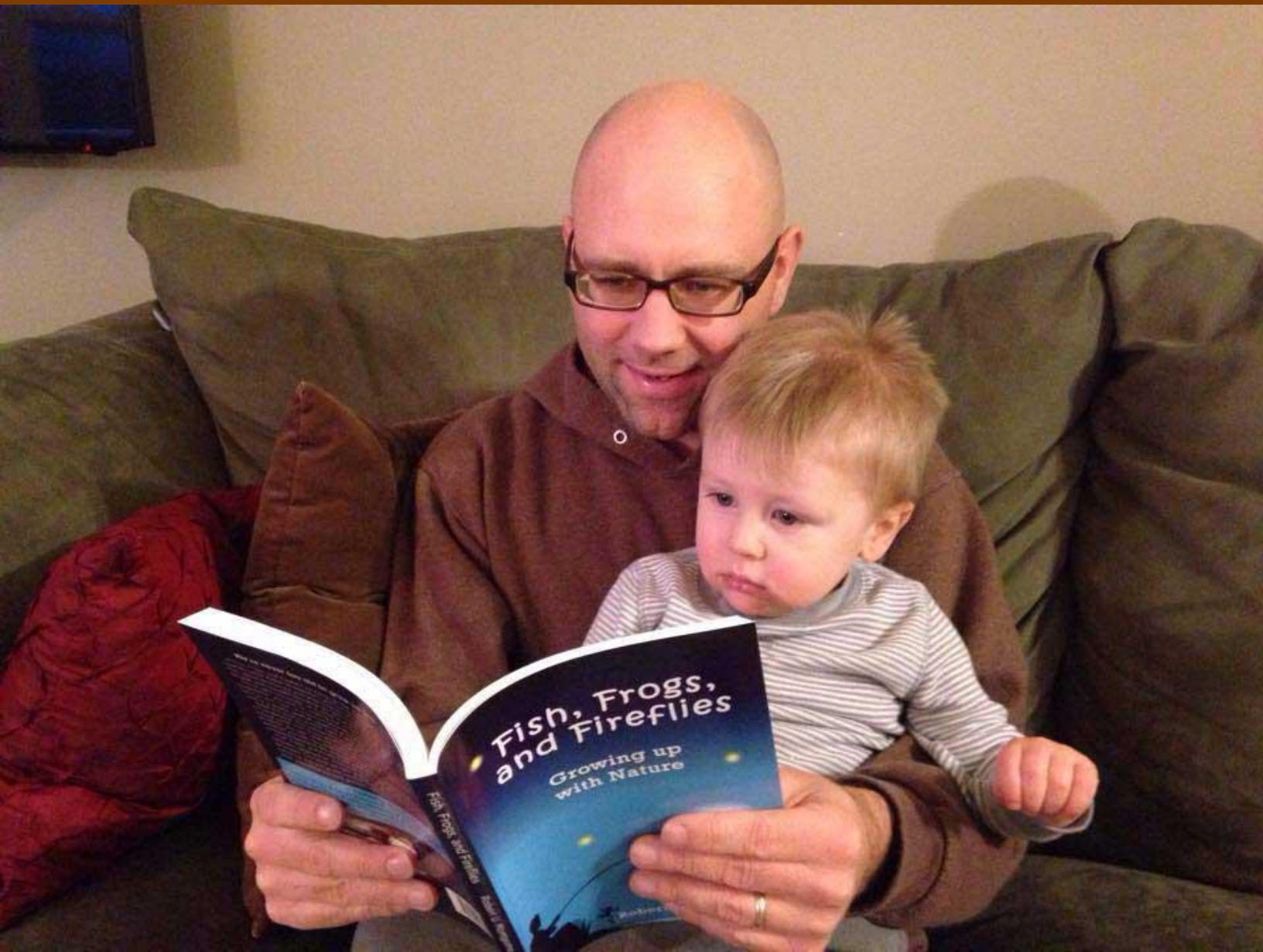
Stories to look forward to (all are perfect though) are Dinosaur Hunter, The Fishing Triangle, Turtles and Rats, and lastly The River. I can easily mention all the titles, but you get the idea.

You will connect with these stories, connect more with your

children, you will begin to think of new joint adventures and as we are doing in my home start planning the next one.

I am starting to read this book the 2nd time through now. It spring and soon summer and adventures are coming our way.

About the author: Since he opened the backdoor on his own at age four and stepped outside, Robert U. Montgomery has had a lifelong love affair with nature. His degree in journalism from the University of Missouri helped him build a career writing about its many facets, including fishing and environmental issues. He is author of *Why We Fish* (NorLightsPress), *Better Bass Fishing* (Countryman Press) and founder of *Activist Angler*, a website devoted to promoting and protecting recreational fishing. He is a long-time Senior Writer specializing in conservation for B.A.S.S. Publications, and a Contributing Writer for *Fishing Tackle Retailer Magazine*. In addition, the Missouri native is winner of the prestigious Homer Circle Fishing Communicator Award. He serves on the Board of Directors of Recycled Fish, a national conservation organization, and on the Conservation Pro Staff of Vanishing Paradise, a National Wildlife Federation initiative to restore Louisiana's fish and waterfowl habitat by reconnecting the Mississippi River to the state's wetlands. He has fished and photographed wildlife in Africa, South America, Central America, as well as North America. Montgomery lives on a small lake in the eastern Ozarks with his dog, Pippa.



THE DEEPEST SECRETS OF FISHING LINE

By Captain Mike Gerry

When you're on the water and trying to land that big fish for the day, understanding fishing line, knowing its good points and bad points can be the difference maker as to whether or not that big-un gets to the boat. One thing you can bet on is that not all fishing line is created equal, some of it is strong, thick, thin, and or stretches and you need to know where and how you can benefit from the differences.



There are basically four types or general categories of fishing line; monofilament, copolymer, fluorocarbon, and braid. Monofilament has been around us for many years, it is the life line for many fishermen, it's relatively strong, it floats it has some stretch and is generally hard to break, many say it is still the best all around line for fishing. Copolymer is a mixture of fluorocarbon and monofilament, meaning that this line has some stretch but not as much as mono, it is thinner than mono and resists breaking fairly good and it has a little more memory than mono, it also floats. Fluorocarbon is the thinnest of all the fishing lines, it requires a lot of maintenance, retying, checking for abrasions and replacement are very common when you use this line, but it sinks, it does not stretch and is great for deep water presentations on many deep water baits, like crank baits, shaky heads and jigs where sensitivity and line size is important to catch fish in clear lakes or pressured waters. Braid is the strongest of all the lines, it is just about maintenance free, although the sun does weaken it, it's great for hauling big fish out of heavy cover, it does not stretch and has a long use life like no other line on the market. Braid can be thick and require a bigger profile reel to hold 75yds. Of line, where spooling out is very possible.

All four of the lines have good points and bad ones, and there are many manufacturers of each available for you to purchase. Manufacturers do not make all these categories of line the same, they have different processes and use different mixtures of chemicals, the key is finding the one that fits your fishing needs; for me it's Vicious Line!

Fish Lake Guntersville Guide Service

www.fishlakeguntersvilleguideservice.com

www.facebook.com/FishGuntersville

Email: bassguide@comcast.net, Call: 256 759 2270



As the cold water of winter fades slowly into spring, crappies and other panfish begin a predictable transition from thermally stable, deep water basins towards warming shallows where the food web of the lake is beginning to bloom. This general movement may take a number of weeks, and can be easily interrupted by unstable spring weather. However, in general terms, during the weeks after ice cover leaves the lake (or water temperatures begin to rebound from wintertime lows), crappies are on the move with shallow water as their ultimate destination. This is a movement that will eventually lead to spawning, but reproduction is not driving this initial transition; feeding is!

Many anglers will impulsively head to the shorelines and back ends of soft-bottomed bays as soon as surface temperatures begin to increase. While some panfish may be found in these waters, though, the vast majority of the population, and nearly all of the quality fish, are most likely to be located in transition areas between the deep water basins and shallow spawning grounds. They will remain here until the shallows become consistently warm.

My most important tool for locating cold water crappies is my Humminbird ONIX system equipped with Side Imaging. I will patrol transition areas between deep water basins and shallow feeding (and eventually spawning) grounds until I locate large numbers of fish. I am specifically looking for large collections of white "spots" against an otherwise darker background; these represent schools of crappies that are in transition from deep to shallow water.

For example, in this screen capture from my ONIX10ci SI system, there are two groups of crappies (circled in yellow) in deep water (10-18 feet), as well as a large group of crappies on the right



CATCH MORE COLD-WATER CRAPPIES THIS SPRING

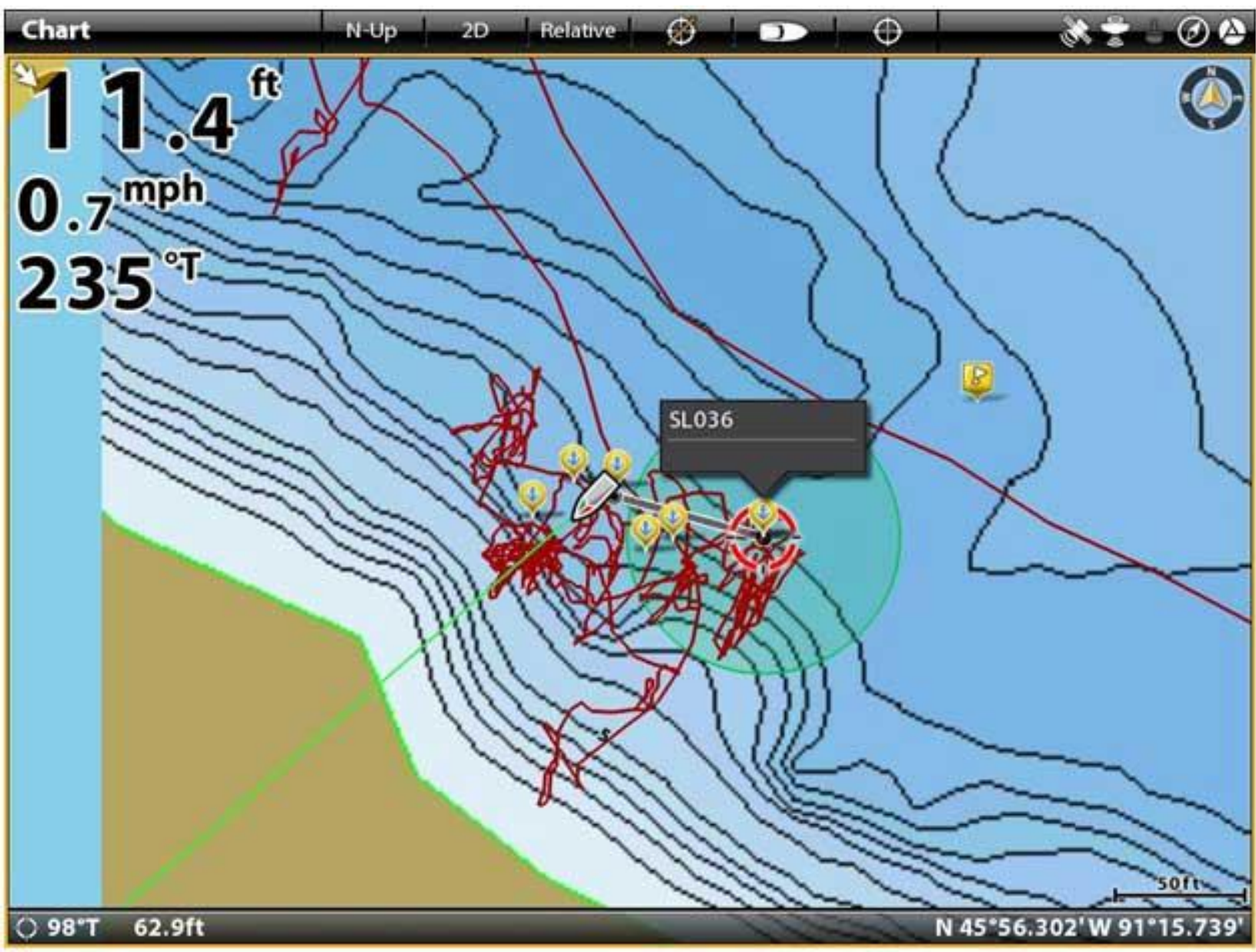
Dr. Jason Halfen

www.thetechnologicalangler.com

side image, patrolling a deep weed edge (circled in red). Notice that the shoreline is nowhere in sight; these are transitioning crappies that have not yet reached the shallows. Side Imaging is such a powerful tool for finding fish that I will not stop to try to catch fish until I identify those fish using Side Imaging.

Precise boat control is important for staying on top of these groups of transitioning crappies. I make extensive use of the Minn-Kota iPilot Link Spot Lock feature when targeting cold water crappies. When crappies are actively feeding in a specific area, like the deep weed edge illustrated above, I use the Spot Lock feature to hold my boat in position near the school, so I can focus all of my attention on presenting baits and catching fish. If I lose contact with the school, or if the biters turn from slab crappies to "Tiny Tims", I will reposition the boat by 10-20 feet along the weed edge until I make contact with the school again.

You can see an example of this Spot Lock/reposition cycle in this screen capture from my ONIX system, as I adjust my boat's position along the weed edge. Remember, the fish are here to feed, and much like a herd of cattle, they will graze in one area until the food source is exhausted. Then, they will be on the move again – it's your job to stay with them. (Figure 3)





A classic technique for targeting cold water crappies is to dangle a lively minnow above their heads, suspended from a bobber. Allow

me to encourage you to try something different this spring: fish exclusively with subtle soft plastics rigged on light jigheads. I rely on the Ratso from Custom Jigs and Spins to put spring and early summer crappies (as well as bluegills and perch) in my boat. The subtle action of the Ratso's tail is an outstanding trigger for cold water panfish, and the small profile is an excellent mimic for the insect larvae and other invertebrates that constitute the primary forage in these

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

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!



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.

Click Here
to
**Order
Online**

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.



warming waters of early spring. Check out the Ratso in action in this video: (Link to YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVVyiEHR8-U>)

Cold water crappie fishing offers some of the most consistent and reliable opportunities of the year to catch fish. Take advantage of this period to share the outdoors and your love of fishing with a young person. If you invest a little time and effort to find fish with Side Imaging, and position your boat for effective bait presentation using the i-Pilot system, your young guest will reap the benefits of your efforts and reward you with smiles, laughter, and maybe even your first fish fry of the season. So shed those winter coats and enjoy some spring crappie fishing with a youngster today!



Dr. Jason Halfen owns and operates "The Technological Angler", a media company dedicated to helping anglers learn to use their onboard technology to find and catch more fish. Their first full-length instructional video production, "The Technological Angler, Volume 1: Success with Side Imaging", was the winner of the 2014 AGLOW awards-in-craft competition in the TV-fishing division.

"The Technological Angler, Volume 2: Integrated Technology" teaches anglers to harness the power of 2D sonar, Side Imaging, Down Imaging, 360 Imaging and the i-Pilot Link system, to find and catch more fish.

FLUKE TACTICS AND TIPS

By Tom Michael

Fluke, aka Summer Flounder, is one of the most sought after saltwater gamefish during the vacation season along the northeast coast. It's a fish that can be caught on back bay flats, in creeks, and along channels emptying into the ocean. They provide plenty of entertainment for everyone and are fantastic table fare. To consistently hook up with these tasty treats an angler should study the fish itself.

They migrate east and west, wintering on the edge of the continental shelf then head into the back bay shallow flats in the early spring, enjoying the warm flats throughout the summer. Once the seasons start to change with the approaching winter, they return to the deep waters outside of the bays and inlets. Understanding how fluke relate to structure is the key to having multiple fish days.

Understanding Structure

Knowing where they want to be; mussel beds, sandbars, and flats with the slightest drop offs will put you in areas with concentration of fish. They will set up on structure allowing current to wash prey right into their quick, awaiting jaws. Small and medium size fish will dominate structure in back bays and out in the surf. The largest fish, nicknamed "doormats", usually prefer the deeper structure.

In the early part of the summer season fluke arrive on the flats, soaking up the warm rays of the sun, sometimes in the inches of water. As the summer rolls on, they will reside in the creeks and channels, just off the flats, till the water temperature forces them into the inlets. The later summer into the fall has them returning to the deeper water near lumps, reefs, and wrecks.

Tidal Flow and Wind

Settling in to a good drift using the tide or wind to pull you along will greatly increase the amount of water that can be covered. In current, the Hobie MirageDrive can act like a drift chute giving the user the ability to create vary drift speed or allow you to stem the tide, slowing yourself down to present the bait in just the right manner.

Proper Bait Selection

The best all time proven lure is the bucktail. It is always a lure to start with because jigs varying in weight can be changed out with one knot. Other techniques that require multiple knots and attachment points take a little longer to change weights, hook and leaders. Over the years I have found the best color jig heads have been white, pink, and chartreuse. The weights will all depend on the depth your fishing: 1/8 to 1/2 ounce weights will serve most back bay waters. 1/2 to 2 ounces will cover most inlets, depending on how strong the tide is. When targeting fish in deeper water, weights can range from 1/2 to 8 ounces, or even heavier in really deep water or strong current. Sweetening the hook with a





fresh cut strip of squid, herring, blue fish, mackerel, or even sea robins work great for attracting the more reluctant bigger fish.

Rigging up a section of leader with a dropper loop, tied 18 inches above a bucktail, is one of my favorite rigs to fish. Adding a strip of bait to the bucktail and putting a smaller bait on top, like a 3 or 4 inch Gulp shrimp or swimming minnow, completes the rig. Fluke follow the bucktail, but sometimes refuse it and instead eat the lure just above the bucktail. One trick I use (especially if there no tidal movement) is to use a minnow on the top hook to give some extra action on the bucktail below. Fluke crush the minnow most of the time with explosive strikes.

A fluke rig is another proven set up and a good choice for new anglers just starting out. It consists of a hook tied to a 2 to 3 foot leader, tied to a three-way swivel that is connected the main line and to a lead weight. Also adding a dropper loop to this rig will bring the bait off the bottom to entice those violent

strikes and prevent sea grass from fouling the set-up.

Other Options

There are several other jigging style lures that work well. Using jig heads and shad darts tipped with rubber baits like flukes, worms, shrimps, and scented baits ex. Berkley Gulp! are effective when bait is tough to catch or you want to challenge yourself. The past few years I've been using paddle tail swimbaits with great success. The slow vibrations of the swimbaits, such as Power Team Lures Swinging



Hammers (pictured below) have been producing some of my bigger fish.

Where do you start with rubber baits? Fin-S, Zoom's, Super Flukes, Gulps Swimming Minnows, and shrimp all produce well. Rubber worms added to the bucktails will entice the bites too. If you really want that doormat using live bait such as spot, small bluefish, and peanut bunker will give you ample opportunity to catch the bragging right size fish.

One thing to remember is do not be afraid to change your presentation. Experiment with baits, as some will work better over others at times. There is so much that could be written about baits and tactics. These are just a few basic tips. Hopefully they will help you put a few more fish on the dinner table. Just getting out and enjoying the experience with friends and family makes it all worth it anyway.



TOP BASS FISHING TECHNIQUES TO EMPLOY THIS SEASON

By Glenn Walker

As you begin to look ahead to your first bass fishing trip of 2015 or maybe it's already your second or third trip in 2015, here are six ways that you should be catching bass in 2015.

Flipping Jigs/Plastics – Not only does this technique allow an angler to slow down and catch sluggish bass, but it is such a rush when you are flipping your bait into and around shallow cover, feeling a tick and rearing back on the rod and feeling the tug of a big bass. From spring to fall, flipping a Texas-rigged soft plastic bait or jig is a great way to dissect fishing holding cover and give you the opportunity to catch some big bass.

When I lock into a specific pattern for fishing shallow water cover and am making multiple casts to my target, I'll drop my Minn Kota Talons so I don't have to worry about moving into or away from my target. This allows me to keep my mind on fishing and not worrying about boat control. My go to flipping rig is a 3/8 oz Lazer Sharp Tungsten Weight above Lazer a 4/0 TroKar TK130 Flipping hook, tied to 20 lb Seaguar TATSU. This rig will allow for rigging of multiple styles of plastics baits, such as the new Zoom Z Craw. I like to use a 7'6" Wright & McGill Victory Pro Carbon flipping rod as it helps me get a solid hook set and get a bass out of the heavy cover before they can bury themselves in it.

A Snag Proof Frog prowling the vegetation filled shallows.

Topwaters – As soon as the water temperatures begin to creep close to and then above that 60 degree mark, bass are actively feeding and I'll always have a topwater rigged up and ready to go. When fishing around vegetation or ultra-shallow water, I'll toss a 3/8 oz War Eagle Buzzbait in white or black. If the bass need more of a tempting cadence over their head, a walk-the-dog style plug, such as a Zara Spook is a good choice. As the year progresses and bass are feeding more I'll use a popper style plug.



It is important to swap out the stock trebles on your topwater plugs with the super sharp Lazer TroKar Treble hooks; I especially like the extra wide gap ones as they increase the hooking percentage of short striking fish.

Employing both spinnerbaits and crankbaits yielded these healthy bass.

Topwater Frogs – Once the vegetation of the year has grown up to the water's surface and has created a canopy for bass to hide under, you'll find me throwing a Snag Proof topwater frog, either the Bobby's Perfect or Ish's Poppin' Phattie. Some areas that I'll use this technique is over and around lily pads or matted vegetation. Looking for key features in the vegetation is one way to help eliminate water and locate key stretches of frogging vegetation. Fishing in these conditions require the use of a braided line that has no stretch and will cut through the vegetation, I'll spool up with 65 lb Seaguar Smackdown.

Spinnerbaits – The spinnerbait is a lure that was a staple for any bass fisherman and still is for many, but

WWW.SNAGPROOF.COM

TRASH WALKIN leads to TRASH TALKIN.



WORLD'S FINEST



WEEDLESS LURES

800-762-4773

many anglers trend to fishing a swimming jig or vibrating jig more frequently these days. What makes a spinnerbait still so effective is the ability to alter your retrieve based on the depth of water you are fishing and the activity level of the bass. For instance in the spring, I'll slow roll a ½ oz War Eagle single Colorado model as I can barely turn my reel handle, yet the blade puts off a lot of vibration. Then in the summer or fall when bass are on the prowl feeding, I can go with a 3/8 oz double willowleaf blade combination as it mimics baitfish better.

Crankbaits – Crankbaits give an angler the ability to target bass from under a foot of water to twenty plus feet of water. The first step to effective crankbaiting is figure out what you want that crankbait to emulate, a bluegill, crawdad or a shad. Then determine the water depth you'll be fishing and what cover is present. If you are fishing shallow cover, you'll want a bait that will bump into the cover and not get hung up, such as square billed crankbait.

Come the summer months, many bass will be locked in on their deep water structure and using your Humminbird Side Imaging Unit with a LakeMaster Mapping Chip in it, will help you locate the key structure spots that you want to fish with your deep diving crankbait, doing this will help you save time and put you in the position to catch more bass.

Drop Shoting – Fishing deep water structure, whether it is a rock pile or weedline, these are great places to catch a lot of bass, both largemouth and smallmouth during the summer months. One of the most effective ways to target these fish is to finesse them into biting with a drop shot. Fishing a drop shot is easy to rig and very simple to fish.

Depending on the bass's level of activity will dictate how much action you give your bait, sometimes just dead sticking it works, while other times you'll need to shake it a few times. The two key items I rely on when drop shoting is a high quality hook, such as the Lazer TroKar Drop Shot Hook and a good rod that has a soft tip, but a strong back bone allowing for solid hook sets. The Wright & McGill Victory Pro Carbon Drop Shot rod has performed flawlessly for me over these last few seasons.

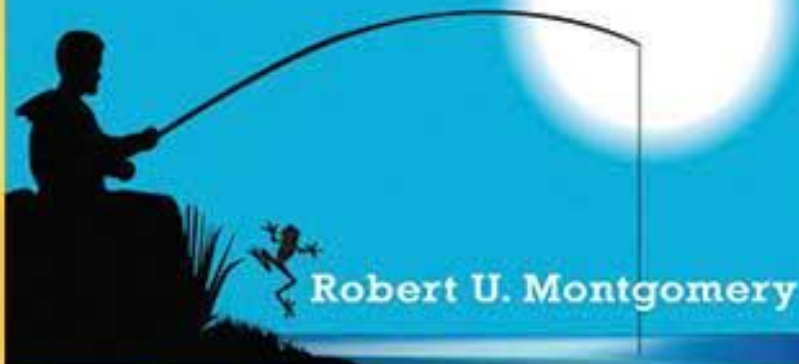


Top bass lures shown include: Zoom Z Craw, Zara Spook, Snag Proof Bobby's Perfect, Spro Fat John and War Eagle Spinnerbait.

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

Fish, Frogs, and Fireflies

Growing up
with Nature



Fish, Frogs and Fireflies: Growing up with Nature

A book for all nature lovers

Award-winning outdoors writer
Robert Montgomery and 12 friends
explore what and how we learn
about life from the everyday
miracles of nature

www.fishfrogsfirelies.info



Rethinking Jigs For “Roller Coaster” Bass

By Steve Pennaz

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

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

During a TV shoot in Texas a few years back the producers asked me to burn the bait back to boat so they could get a shot of the reel handle rotating. So I start drag racing a jig through two feet of water and all of

sudden an 8-pound bass grabs the bait. Here again, I never would have fished a jig that fast, but it produced a solid fish and once again opened my eyes to the efficacy of breaking conventions.

And why is that?

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

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



Like modifying your jig routine to offer bass something different.

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

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

Roller Coaster Swimming

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

The bait spends very little time on the bottom, and this retrieve offers multiple triggering points on

**WiFi sonar
for your
smartphone
or tablet.**

SONAR Phone™

T•POD
CAST IT - TROLL IT

T•BOX
PERMANENT BOAT
INSTALLATION

T•BOX
PORTABLE BOAT
INSTALLATION



SP100



SP200



SP300

WiFi

DID YOU KNOW the Navionics Boating app now offers a SonarPhone split screen option!

Turn your smart device into a GPS/Sonar system for a third of the cost of conventional systems—and you can make your own Lake maps!

Requires SonarPhone T•Box hardware (T•Pod not supported) to power this dynamic GPS/Sonar technology.

Check it out at navionics.com



SonarPhone Key Features

- ▶ Water temperature
- ▶ Automatic range
- ▶ Zoom bottom track
- ▶ Shallow water alarm
- ▶ Fish alarm
- ▶ Low battery alarm
- ▶ Water activated
- ▶ Surface clarity
- ▶ Noise rejection
- ▶ Keel offset
- ▶ Wifi signal range 300 feet
- ▶ Supports multiple receivers
- ▶ Freshwater/saltwater
- ▶ No cellular service needed
- ▶ App-integrated digital owner's manual
- ▶ One year warranty

SonarPhone SP100

T•Pod WiFi transducer pod

\$129.95

SonarPhone SP200

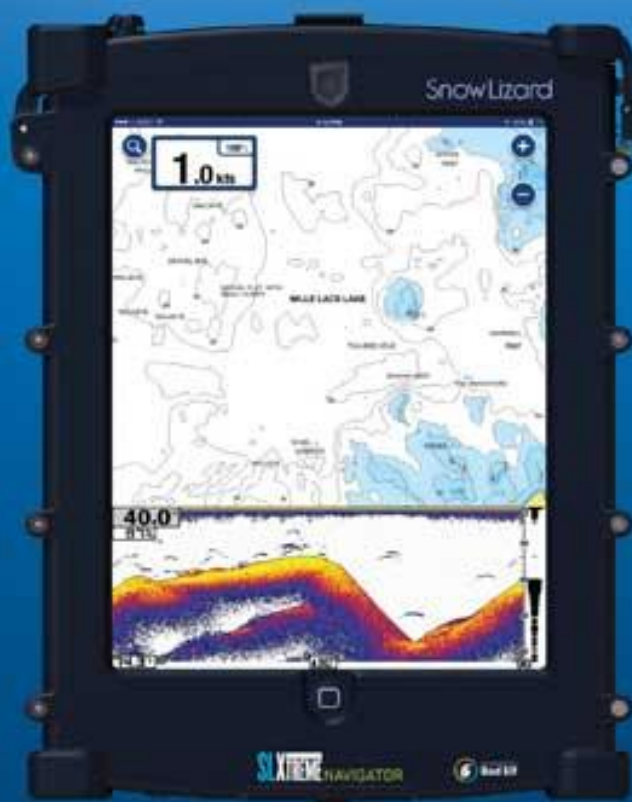
T•Box permanent boat installation

\$149.95

SonarPhone SP300

T•Box portable boat installation with carry case, battery and suction cup transducer bracket

\$199.95



Smartphone / Tablet not included. Tablet case not included.



sonarphone.mobi

Download the FREE SonarPhone App today and test drive the Sonarphone functions.

This is no toy or gimmick, but real sonar brought to you by one of the most trusted names in marine sonar for over 50 years...Vexilar.

Vexilar, Inc. • 6667 West Old Shakopee Road, Suite 101, Minneapolis, MN 55438 • 952-884-5291 • www.vexilar.com

every cast—there's strike potential during the sweep, the drop and the pause. The technique works in channel areas, flats, around stumps, and open areas off emergent vegetation like cattails—and a lot of other areas, too.

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

Fall Rate



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

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

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

More Tips

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

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

Final Word

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

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)



2015/16 Ice Fishing Products



HT'S NEW "ARCTIC FUSION TX" SPINNING COMBOS

HT ENTERPRISES, INC., introduces an all new specialty ice fishing combo system for this winter, the Arctic Fusion TX! In addition to exquisite blank tapers combining unmatched presentation control with superior sensitivity and lightweight, single footed, specialty E-Z ice out guides, these new breakthrough systems feature a patented "total touch" handle and reel seat assembly. The Total Touch Handle is engineered to enhance the transfer of even the most

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)



subtle lure movements immediately from the line to the blank—and right through to the user's fingertips by keeping them in direct contact with the blank itself!

Each Arctic Fusion TX combo comes with an ultra-smooth three bearing, infinite anti-reverse spinning reel. For more information, write: HT Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 909, Campbellsport, WI 53010, or visit WWW.ICEFISH.COM today!

For more information, write: HT Enterprises, Inc., P.O. Box 909, Campbellsport, WI, 53010, or visit us at WWW.ICEFISH.COM.

HT'S POLAR TIP-UP WITH “QUICK CHANGE” INTERCHANGEABLE SPOOL

Serious ice anglers know they can trust the smooth, unsurpassed reliability of HT's Polar Tip-Up family. After all, HT has been blazing new advancements in Polar tip-up technology for over 40 years.

When it comes to performance, the Polar is still the industry gold standard...and with over fifteen unique models to choose from, also the most versatile.

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

Notably, HT's Polar family remains the ONLY series of tip-ups on the market fully guaranteed against freeze-up!

The innovations continue for 2015, with the tip-up experts at HT taking another bold step forward by developing an interchangeable spool system. That's right! Now you can change spools with just the simple twist of a wing nut. Is a frustrating wind knot preventing you from getting your line back on a hot bite? Change spools! Want to switch from a lighter to heavier backing? Change spools! Think switching out your leader, rig, hook style, size or color might be beneficial, but need to do it fast, without retying? Change spools!

This winter, change things up! Increase your versatility and productivity with HT's new PTUI-50D Polar Tip-Up, featuring the industry's first interchangeable spool system.



Six Pack™

1660 MAG

SCREEN SHELTER

FEATURES:

- ▶ Water resistant roof with taped seams
- ▶ Triple layer corner pole pockets
- ▶ Picnic table fits inside
- ▶ Includes six deluxe tent stakes and tie down ropes
- ▶ Includes oversized carry bag
- ▶ Lab tested hub assemblies — largest in the industry
- ▶ IC TABLSQR-90-245 fire retardant
- ▶ Compliant in both USA and Canada

SPECS:

ITEM #: 9281

TOTAL SQUARE FEET: 94'

CENTER HEIGHT: 90"

HUB-TO-HUB: 140" X 140"

WEIGHT: 34 lbs.

**45 SECOND SET-UP
AND TAKE DOWN!**

**NO ASSEMBLY,
NO LOOSE PARTS,
READY TO USE!**



EXTRA LARGE,
HEAVY-DUTY
ZIPPER PULL



TEAR RESISTANT,
DURABLE
NO-SEE-UM MESH



EXTRA LARGE,
FLEX TESTED
FIBERGLASS POLES
(11 mm)



210 DENIER
POLY-OXFORD
FABRIC



AVAILABLE ACCESSORY:
PORTABLE WIND PANELS
ITEM #: 9294



Hunting



BRUINS OF NORTHERN CANADA

By Jim Cunningham, Passion for the Hunt Television

Canadian spring black bear hunts in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan offer an outdoor overdose for hunters and anglers. Long days are often combined with close proximity to incredible fishing with evenings and mornings capped off with bear hunting. The ultimate cast and blast experience if you love



to both hunt and fish.

Russ Bettschen and his family have operated Wolverine Lodge, a drive to destination near Lynn Lake, Manitoba for over thirty years. Fly Inn Outposts are also available out of nearby Lynn Lake Outposts by the same family operation. This is one of the furthest north drive-to camps, virtually the end of the road. There is also no doubt that you will drive by plenty of bears, pike and walleye, but the remoteness and quality of both the hunting and fishing bring bear hunters and anglers to the far north each summer. Everything seems bigger and better the further north.

Most of the bears harvested each season are all Pope and Young caliber animals. Most of the bears have probably never before seen a human. There is also several color phases fairly abundant. Gigantic black bears with practically no hunting pressure in assorted color phases.

While spot and stalk is an option for bear hunters in some western States and Provinces where there is more open range for spotting, the heavily timbered Canadian Shield typically requires baiting sites. Hunters typically wait in tree stands over the site, which is really conducive for archery. Baiting the perfect location with barrels of frosting and other sweets however doesn't necessarily guarantee that a bear will visit. Bears have a lot of other forage options that can vary

from season to season. In the far north, suckers running up extremely small creeks provide spring bears with an unending supply of protein.

Boars also start to roam during the rut, which coincides with the spring hunting seasons. Russ Bettschen and his staff stack the odds by running several bait sights over a large area, which is a tremendous amount of work. To cover as much of an area as possible, boats are often used where the bait sites are accessed by water.

For many archery hunters that have cut their teeth on Midwest whitetails, hunting these remote north woods bear is a completely different but exhilarating style of hunt. The location is so far north that there is only about three hours of twilight darkness at night. There is about twenty hours of daylight each day.

"We typically went out to the stand at about five in the evening and just hunted the evenings till about eleven at night. During the day, we spent a lot of time fishing and napping," explained Jason Mitchell who hosts the outdoor hunting program *Passion for the Hunt*.

Both Mitchell along with his videographer each harvested an impressive bear last season while filming. Mitchell added, "If you hunt whitetails, it can be really easy to over think bear hunting when you are hunting this far north. Wind blowing your scent towards the bear doesn't seem to matter for example. Despite the fact that bears have a much better sense of smell than even a bloodhound, the reality is that these bears haven't smelled enough people to even comprehend the threat. The smell of food and the human scent is one and the same. Just like whitetail hunting during the rut, boars get preoccupied as they begin to cover a large territory in search of cooperative sows. The boars don't eat as much and often move in and out of bait sites relatively fast but they will still often check out bait sites for signs or sows in the area."

Outfitters like Russ Bettschen are often required to use ladder stands just because many of the trees are small at this latitude. Russ also keeps the ladder stands closer to the ground at about ten or twelve feet up for a better double lung shot on a bear.

"Bears are an easy animal to kill with archery equipment, explains Russ but a mistake that has happened to many bear hunters is shooting too far forward where the arrow hits the shoulder blade." Bettschen strongly recommends fixed blade broad heads that have a lot of kinetic energy for punching through bone if necessary. The shots are close often less than fifteen yards. Cribs are set up over the bait site to hopefully direct the bear so that it stands broad side while slightly angling away. The best-shot



Manitoba's "Bucket List" Hunting Destination



PASSION FOR THE

HUNT



www.bearhunt.net

www.bearhunt.net

opportunity often occurs when the bear lifts its facing front foot forward exposing the kill zone behind the shoulder blade.

Another crucial piece of equipment in these north woods is a Thermacell. Bring plenty of mosquito repellent and don't worry about the bears smelling you, the key to success is simply staying on stand over good bait sites and without any mosquito repellent combined with a Thermacell,

there are very few men who could do it. The number of mosquitoes (especially towards dark on land) is hard to describe.

Hunters from across the United States have made this journey. Three hundred pound or larger bears will make your knees shake. Several desirable color phases can be found including cinnamon, blond and brown. The number of bears in this region is incredible but with the dense wooded terrain, you can be around a lot of bears and never realize it. These animals are reclusive and shy moving through these heavy woods like ghosts. Amazing how an animal as large as a bear can slide by below your stand without making a single slight noise. Not one leaf gets moved as their large padded paws step over moss and limbs.

Perhaps Jason Mitchell sums up the northern Manitoba bear hunting experience best. "Bears are just an incredibly cool animal to observe and watch and they will absolutely make your heart race because they are so quiet where they seemingly sneak up on you."

When you combine bear hunting with the high quality fishing experience typically available in this part of the world, the entire day is the equivalent of a hunting and fishing overdose. According to Russ Bettschen, Wolverine Lodge is located on a premier trophy pike lake where anglers routinely see pike over forty inches with fifty-inch fish verified.

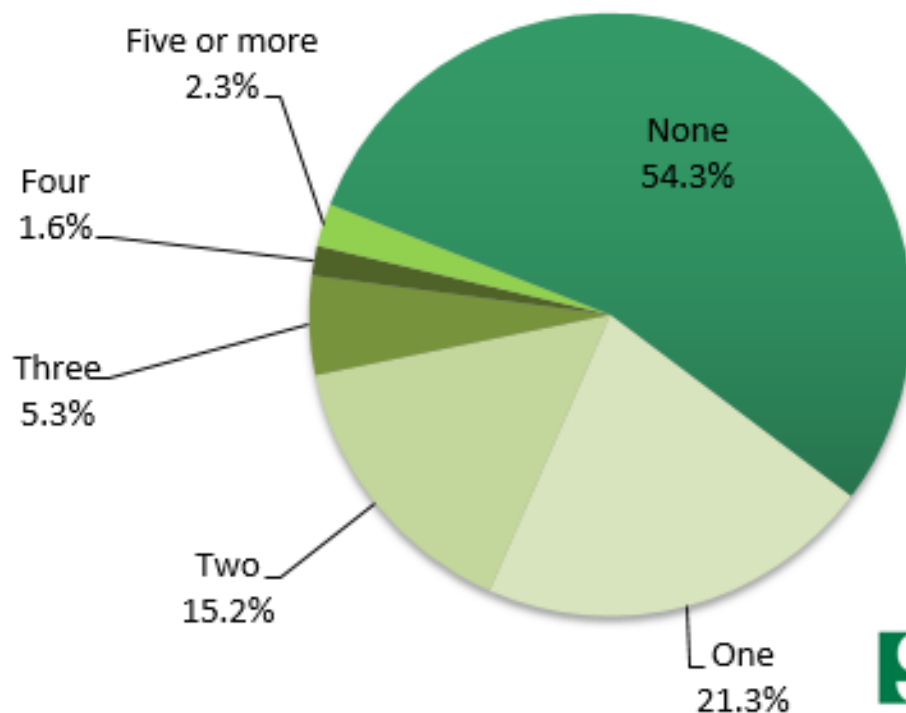
"There were times where I would make twenty casts in a row, added Mitchell, and catch a walleye between eighteen and twenty four inches on every single cast. If I missed a fish, another fish would bite a few cranks later. It truly was absolutely incredible. A long drive for sure but worth every effort."

With twenty hours of daylight each day, it is very possible to gain status in northern Manitoba's "Exclusive 300 Club." Catch at least 300 fish in a boat in a day and shoot at least a 300 pound boar in the evening and you can be a member.

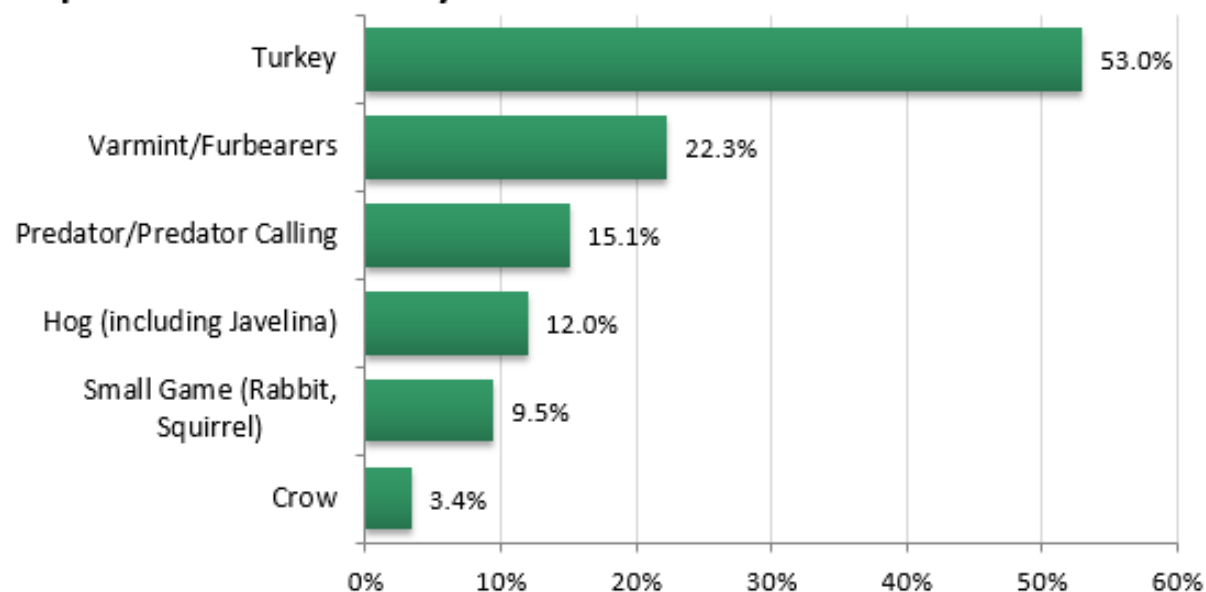
Additional Information: Passion for the Hunt TV, www.passionforthehunt.com and Wolverine Lodge Bear Hunting, www.bearhunt.net

ODU MAGAZINE VIDEO BLOCK
(www.odumagazine.com)

How many children have you taken hunting within the past 12 months?



Species Hunted in May - June 2014



RUGER® M77 HAWKEYE "ALASKAN" RIFLE



"The interest in the M77 Hawkeye rifles chambered in .375 Ruger has been phenomenal," said Ruger President Stephen L. Sanetti. "The responses at the SHOT and Safari Club Shows

**Gun
Spotlight**

indicated outstanding acceptance of the Hawkeye rifles and the .375 Ruger cartridge. The shorter-barreled 'Alaskan' rifle is the perfect gun where quick handling and hard-hitting cartridges are needed, and the interest in the Hawkeye matte stainless All-Weather rifle demonstrated a need for this latest version of the Alaskan."

This new M77 Hawkeye "Alaskan," chambered in .375 Ruger, joins the two models introduced in January. The original "Alaskan" features an ion-bonded Diamondblack™ finish, a handy 20" barrel, and a Hogue® OverMolded™ synthetic stock. The latest version is virtually identical, except for its matte stainless steel finish. A left-handed model will be available in mid-2007.

Like both earlier versions of the M77 Hawkeye rifles chambered in .375 Ruger, this latest version features a windage-adjustable shallow "V" notch rear sight, and large white bead front sight for instant sight alignment. All are delivered with Ruger's patented scope rings that install on the integral mounts that never shoot loose. The rifles also have new, more effective recoil pads and the great new light and crisp Ruger LC6™ triggers.

The .375 Ruger cartridge, co-developed with Hornady Manufacturing, perfectly fits the Ruger standard

M77® HAWKEYE®

R I F L E S



STANDARD



AFRICAN WITH RUGER® MUZZLE BRAKE SYSTEM



ALL-WEATHER®



MAGNUM HUNTER



PREDATOR



SPORTER



COMPACT



TACTICAL



LAMINATE COMPACT



LEFT-HANDED

length action, the same one used for .270 Winchester and .30-'06 Springfield cartridges. The new beltless cartridge delivers performance from a 20" barrel that equals the venerable .375 H&H from a longer magnum-length action with a 24" barrel.

For more information on the New .375 Ruger caliber Ruger M77 Hawkeye rifles and the extensive line of Ruger products and services, visit

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

www.amazonlord.com.br



Contact Leticia Provinciali to book a
fishing package with the Amazon
Lord: 954-793-0091