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JULY 2020

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STAINS 101

THE SCIENCE OF STAINS MADE SIMPLE

Keeping your boat looking great is easy when you know the basics. Those basics include four common types of stains that can be frustrating if you don't know how to remove them. This handy *Stains 101 Guide* will help you properly identify and remove each of the four basic stains, and keep your boat looking like new.

It's the science of stains made simple!

SURFACTANT TECHNOLOGY

TO COMBAT

DIRT & GRIME

THE STAIN

Dirt, grime, gunk, muck. Fish blood, food, drinks. These are your surface stains.

THE SCIENCE

Most surface dirt will wash right off with boat soap and water. However, some gets ground in, especially on non-skid surfaces. That's where surfactants come in. Surfactant molecules fully surround the dirt molecules and lift them from the surface that you're cleaning. This allows them to be washed away with water. Chelating Agents are supercharged surfactants for specialized cleaning.

THE SOLUTION

Star brite Boat Wash will definitely remove most surface dirt. For tough grime and gunk, use a cleaner/degreaser, such as Star brite Xtreme Clean or choose a surfactant based on the surface: Non-Skid Deck Cleaner for non-skid, Vinyl Cleaner for vinyl, etc...



ACID TECHNOLOGY

TO COMBAT

RUST & TANNIC STAINS

THE STAIN

Tree leaves, hull stains, rust stains, waterline stains, hard water stains, orange stains.

THE SCIENCE

Tannins are naturally produced in the decomposition of plant-based matter, and their signature orange-hued stains are dyeing your hull and fiberglass. Rust stains occur on the fiberglass around metal, where water leaches color from underneath the metal and deposits it on the surface. Removing these stains requires a chemical reaction with an acid.

THE SOLUTION

Star brite Instant Hull Cleaner contains a modified oxalic acid that safely neutralizes tannins and rust. There's much more science behind it but trust us on this one, simply spray or wipe on and watch the stain disappear.



BLEACHING TECHNOLOGY

TO COMBAT

MOLD & MILDEW STAINS

THE STAIN

Black, brown, green, and pink mold and mildew stains.

THE SCIENCE

Similar to grass stains, these stains are caused by organic material, and need something stronger than a surfactant alone to remove them. The oxygen in a bleaching agent attacks and breaks up these types of stains, and removes any discoloration.

THE SOLUTION

While most people believe that regular chlorine bleach is the answer, it also causes a lot of problems, such as breaking down fabrics and stitching and destroying gelcoats. Instead use Star brite Mildew Stain Remover—a buffered bleach formula—that attacks the stain without harming the surface.



ABRASION TECHNOLOGY

TO COMBAT

SCUFF MARKS

THE STAIN

Black shoe marks, rub rail and bumper scuffs, marks left from dragging hoses and equipment.

THE SCIENCE

Scuff marks—or “transfer stains”—happen when material is transferred onto a surface and is mechanically bonded. Chemicals are rarely strong enough to remove these marks, since many times the material that has transferred is chemical-resistant (think of a rubber shoe). These abrasive marks require the same to remove them: abrasion.

THE SOLUTION

Star brite Ultimate Magic Sponge uses nano-sized scrubbers to grab hold and erase most marks easily. For your hull, use Premium Cleaner Wax to buff the stain away.

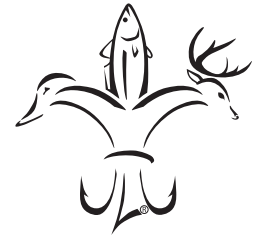


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SUMMER TIPS FOR BILOXI MARSH



46 PICK 'OLD' FOR 'NEW'



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It's a long ride to these barrier islands across Mississippi Sound, but it can be worth it when it comes to catching speckled trout.

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Try holding off your bass-fishing trips until after dark when summer really takes hold in Mississippi. You'll be pleasantly surprised to find big fish doing business when it's pitch-black.

> By Mike Giles

39 SUMMER CRAPPIE? HERE'S HOW

Guides, pros share their tactics for catching slabs when the temperature skyrockets and the fish change their haunts and habits.

> By Phillip Gentry

46 PICK 'OLD' FOR 'NEW'

Consider the .25-06, a century old cartridge, if you're getting ready to look for your next deer rifle. It might just be the best purchase you ever make.

> By Andy Douglas

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ON THE COVER:

July means great speckled trout fishing in the Gulf of Mexico out of Mississippi ports. Learn how to fish the Biloxi Marsh and the waters of Bay St. Louis. Photo by David Brown.



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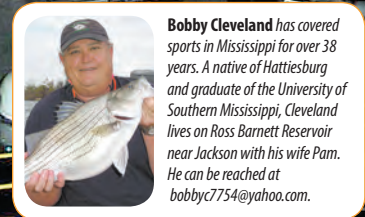
 Weyerhaeuser



When the mercury doesn't leave the 90s while the sun's out, Mississippi bass fishermen have one great option to escape: fish after dark.

Outdoor UPDATE

with
Bobby Cleveland



Bobby Cleveland has covered sports in Mississippi for over 38 years. A native of Hattiesburg and graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Cleveland lives on Ross Barnett Reservoir near Jackson with his wife Pam. He can be reached at bobbyc754@yahoo.com.

Photo by Bobby Cleveland

CAN SUMMER FISHING SAVE 2020? LET'S HOPE A BUNCH OF BIG FISH CAN MAKE US FORGET THIS YEAR'S TROUBLE

Now comes July, when nature sets Mississippi's thermostat on miserable, and 2020 just gets worse, like it added steroids to its already vile existence.

The list grows: flood, pandemic, tornadoes, tropical storm, trashed economy and of course, high heat and humidity.

OK, COVID-19, let's see what you got. Can you exist in our torrid heat? The conventional thinking was that you could not, that once our summer arrived you would disappear. If that happens, then maybe, for once, our summer would be worth the misery.

Mississippi sportsmen are a tough bunch, though, and not even our summers slow most of us down. There are fish to be caught, hogs to be eliminated, food plots to be planted, and hunting camps to be prepared for the fall and winter.

In between, there will be the necessary respites spent in our recliners, under both air conditioner vents and ceiling fans, with the latest issue of *Mississippi Sportsman* in hand. This month's edition has features to peruse to keep the hunting and fishing juices flowing.

Writer Mike Giles offers an alternative style of fishing that can

help anglers avoid the heat: chasing lunker largemouth bass at night. Hearing a bass explode on a topwater lure is exciting; at night it's downright electrifying.

Phillip Gentry takes us out on the lake to find crappie, with emphasis on where these popular gamefish hide from the summer heat. Hey, Gentry, is it possible to catch crappie and generate a cooling breeze? Trolling, perhaps?

We've got an assortment of trips to the Gulf Coast and the Gulf of Mexico, always a popular destination in the summer. One gives us a look at locating and fooling big sow red snapper offshore, while another takes us on a shorter trip to find redfish and speckled trout in the Biloxi Marsh. A third by Bryan Hendricks offers a different take on taking big specks — on swimbaits and topwater lures out of Bay St. Louis.

Hunters will enjoy a piece by Andy Douglas on why adding a .25-06 rifle is a good idea for white-tailed deer.

There's more, too, so sit back, turn the fan on high and enjoy. Read on. ■

CWD FORCES SOME DEER SEASON CHANGES

Mississippi's 2020-21 deer season will see some big changes in areas impacted by chronic wasting disease, including the resumption of supplemental feeding in some areas, harvest of deer in excess of the state bag limits and the reclassification of CWD management zones.

The changes were approved by the Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks at its May meeting. A basic part of the changes is how the previous CWD management zones will be managed.

The North Mississippi Zone and the Issaquena Zone will no longer be called CWD management zones, and instead will be referred to as surveillance zones, according to Russ Walsh, wildlife chief of staff for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. He said that within each surveillance zone will be management zones, four in total, that are much smaller in size.

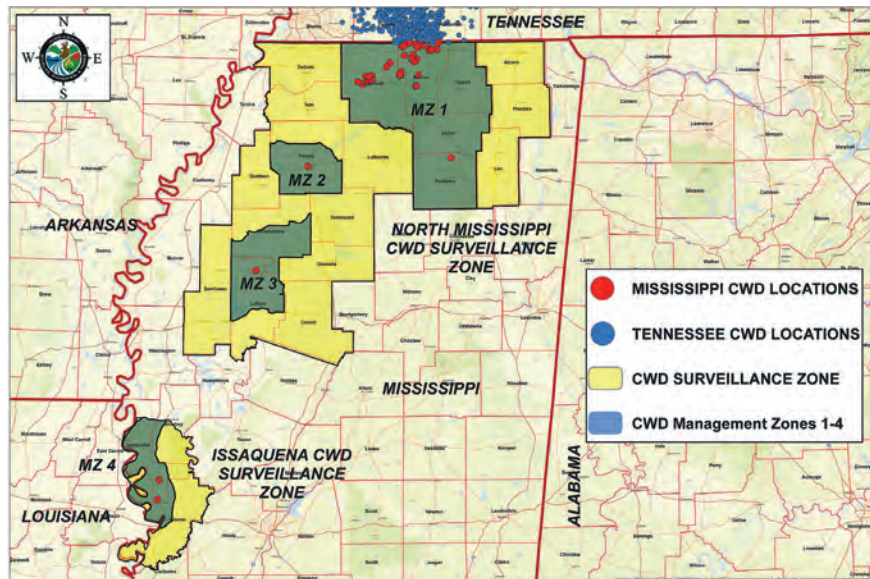
The boundaries of the surveillance zones are the same as the areas formerly classified as CWD management zones. The new management zones are as follows:

Zone 1: All portions of Benton, Marshall, Pontotoc, Tippah and Union counties.

Zone 2: All portions of Panola County south of Mississippi Highway 315.

Zone 3: All portions of Leflore County north of U.S. Highway 82; and all portions of Tallahatchie County south of Mississippi Highway 32.

Zone 4: All portions of Warren County north of I-20 and west of U.S. Highway 61; and all portions of Sharkey and Issaquena counties west of U.S. 61 and south of Mississippi Highway 14 and Mississippi Highway 16, excluding lands west of the Mississippi River main channel.



The new management zones include lands surrounding areas where CWD-positive deer have been certified, and restrictions within those zones remain the same. Supplemental feeding, salt licks and mineral licks remain bagged in the four management zones.

In other areas of the two surveillance zones that are outside

MISSISSIPPI ADDS TO CWD TESTING

In an effort to improve on the 8,184 deer submitted for CWD testing in the past year, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks has established mandatory testing dates for all deer harvested on certain days in certain areas to give biologists a better understanding of the distribution of the disease.

- Mandatory CWD sampling is required of all deer harvested Nov. 21-22 in any county or portion thereof in the North Mississippi and Issaquena CWD surveillance zones.

- Mandatory CWD sampling is required of all deer harvested Jan. 2-3 in the following counties: Adams, Amite, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pike, Walthall, and Wilkinson.

- Mandatory CWD sampling is required of all deer harvested Jan. 16-17 in the following counties: Covington, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Stone and Wayne.

The MDWFP intends to add additional check stations in these areas to ease the burden on hunters. Details on the mandatory testing will be announced before the 2020-21 deer season. ■

the four management zones, hunters can resume supplemental feeding, along with the use of salt and mineral licks. However, there remain restrictions on the transportation of deer carcasses out of the surveillance zones. No deer parts can be transported

from the surveillance zones — and that includes the management zones — except the following list:

- Cut or wrapped meat;
- Deboned meat;
- Hides with no head attached;
- Finished taxidermy;
- Antlers with no tissue attached;
- Cleaned skull plates (no brain tissue);
- Cleaned skulls (no lymphoid or brain tissue).

Walsh said hunters within the four management zones may be able to harvest deer in excess of the limit by applying for tags under the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMap). He said hunters within a 3-mile radius of a known CWD-positive deer may apply for DMAP-CWD tags that will allow hunters to harvest both antlered and antlerless deer during any open deer season with no weapon restriction. Hunters must apply for the tags and deer taken using a tag must be

submitted for CWD testing. Tagged deer in this program will not count against a hunter's bag limit.

Walsh said the DMAP-CWD tags are being created to reduce deer density in those areas to mitigate the spread of CWD. ■

Mississippi's Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo has been cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

COVID-19 CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTIM: DEEP SEA FISHING RODEO CANCELLED

What two of the worst hurricanes — Camille in 1969 and Katrina in 2005 — and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill couldn't do the Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, the coronavirus and COVID-19 pandemic have done: forced the cancellation of the Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo scheduled for July 2-5.

For 72 years, it had endured without fail, but that ends in 2020 as it becomes another victim of COVID-19.

If there is to be a 73rd annual Rodeo, it will have to be in 2021 at the earliest. Insuring that can happen is why the Rodeo's organizers pulled the plug this summer.

Richard Valdez, the Rodeo's president, said there was little choice — cancel this year or see the popular event die forever.

Social-distancing requirements from both the Mississippi governor's office and the federal Center for Disease Control related to the pandemic made it impossible to hold an event that depends on one year's funding to pay for the next.

"It was just going to be too much of a gamble if we spent the money and we were only allowed 100 to 200 people," Valdez said



Photo by Bobby Cleveland

in an interview with WLOX-TV. "The rodeo would fold, and that would be the end of the rodeo.

"We decided to hold the money until next year. Hopefully, things are back to normal, and we can go forward from there."

Valdez said that the non-profit Rodeo, staged every year for the past 72 years over the Independence Day holiday to promote the Mississippi Gulf Coast's fishing industry, depends on gate revenue to exist. The event typically draws more than 50,000 people to the carnival-like atmosphere and giant fireworks show.

"We go broke this year, we'd never be back," he said, adding that it had nothing to do with local, city or state entities but was simply a decision on what was best for the long-term viability of the Rodeo.

Money for the 2020 event will roll over into 2021 to, as Valdez said, to "help us come back bigger and better than ever." ■

TEENS CHARGED WITH POACHING GATORS

A month-long investigation that closed in May resulted in charges being filed against five Warren County teenagers involving killing alligators in Issaquena County, according to the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and local sheriff's offices.

Tracy Tullos, an MDWFP enforcement captain, said the teens were charged in May, but the agency declined to name them;

some were minors.

Three of the suspects were charged with illegally killing alligators without a possession permit, which carries a fine of up to \$5,000 and five days in jail.

Two of the suspects were charged with unlawful possession of an alligator without a possession permit, which carries a fine of \$25 to \$100, plus court costs.

Tullos said because of flooding and vulnerable wildlife, the area was already being patrolled, but due to the complaints and information, efforts were increased, especially for illegal shooting from the main Mississippi River levee. Tullos said more resources were used along the backwater and main levee area and said that at least six alligators had been killed in those areas.

Warren County Sheriff Martin Pace said that his office and that of the Issaquena County sheriff also agreed to increasing patrolling levees. Pace said that whenever the South Delta experiences high water on either side of the levee, wildlife is pushed to seek higher ground, exposing it to unlawful shooting. He said his office receives more complaints as the water rises. ■



JULY'S HOTTEST FISHING SPOTS

Grab the sunscreen and let's hit some July hot spots. These possibilities top the list of can't-miss fishing holes this month.

• **Chotard and Albemarle Lakes, black and white**

bass: This connected pair of oxbow lakes can be fun in the summer, with the bonus of having lots of shade for a cooling break. In July, both produce largemouth bass and white bass, with both species often seen blasting shad on the surface. Try Chotard for white bass on the ends of boat ramps and other gravel areas, while Albemarle is the better choice for largemouth action. Both will hit a variety of topwater baits while feeding on the surface. When they go down, throw plastics and crankbaits for largemouths and try a tail-spinner for the whites.

• **Sardis and Grenada Lakes, crappie:** While it's the spawn and prespawn periods that make these two large U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood-control reservoirs in north Mississippi among the highest-ranked crappie lakes in the world, it's the consistent summer trolling that keeps anglers coming back. Crappie will move out on the deep ends of the main-lake points where they are in perfect position for trolling with crankbaits. A bonus: trolling keeps the air moving.

• **Mississippi Sound, tripletail:** Tripletail, aka black fish, is arguably the best-tasting fish in the Gulf of Mexico, but there's no doubt they are quite literally the coolest fish to chase. You can catch them basically by running at high speed, watching for them floating around debris, pilings and crab pots. Tripletails migrate into the shallows in the summer and like to use any surface cover — crab pot buoys for example — to hide and ambush shrimp and other forage fish. Pitching a live shrimp fished about a foot under a popping cork does the trick.

• **Barnett Reservoir, striped bass/crappie:** Staying with that trend of creating breezes to stay cool, Barnett Reservoir offers trolling with crankbaits for both striped bass and crappie relating to contour changes. Bandit 200 and 300 crankbaits will work on both, using the 300s on the deep side of the drops and the 200s



Trolling crankbaits along ledges close to deep water will produce stripers in July on Ross Barnett Reservoir.

Photo by Bobby Cleveland

on the break line. The only time you will want to stop is when a school of stripers starts busting shad on top. Catching 7-, 8- and 9-pounders on every cast makes it easy to forget the heat.

• **Mississippi River, jugging for catfish:** Here's another opportunity to stay cool. Once the river falls to normal summer levels, juggers hit the water and usually leave with more catfish than they really wanted to clean. Two men can legally fish 50 jugs, and they will stay busy chasing down the hooked fish. No bait beats cut skipjack shad, which can be caught in running water in big numbers on ultra-light spinning gear and small jigs, which is also fun. ■

GOT PICS? We want 'em

Email images to: images@ms-sportsman.com

All images will be considered, but those taken on the water or in the woods will have the best chance of being featured.

*Digital images must be sent in jpeg format. High-resolution images (taken on your camera's highest setting) will work the best. All images (physical and digital) become property of Mississippi Sportsman and cannot be returned.

WILDLIFE EXPO ON SCHEDULE BUT UNLIKELY

The first Wildlife and Outdoor Expo is still scheduled to begin on July 31, but in reality, it faces long odds due to pandemic restrictions.

The event, which remains controversial — with a lawsuit filed against its organizers by the Mississippi Wildlife Foundation (MWF) after it took over the Foundation's long-held weekend at the Mississippi Trade Mart for its Wildlife Extravaganza — is expected to be cancelled.

"We've been in touch with the Fairgrounds Commission, the Agriculture Commissioner and every entity involved and at this point (six weeks before the event), we're still a go," said Don Brazil,

director of the Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Foundation, one of the event's lead sponsors. "Saying that, we realize it's a foregone conclusion that we won't be able to do it this year."

It's mostly an inside event, Brazil said, and is expected to attract similar crowds that visited the Extravaganza for the past 30 years — about 30,000 for the weekend.

"I don't see the (social distancing) restrictions allowing that in July or August," Brazil said. "However, if we do have to cancel the event, we are looking at holding two events in 2021, one in the spring in addition to our summer event, if we can get the spring date worked out." ■



Hunting/Fishing SCRAPBOOK



Ava Guidry

Ava Guidry poses with her very first deer. It was an Issaquena County 6-point buck that weighed 200 pounds.



Morgan Kreher

Morgan Kreher, 12, helped catch this 9-footer this past season in Hancock County on her first trip alligator hunting. She is hooked for life.



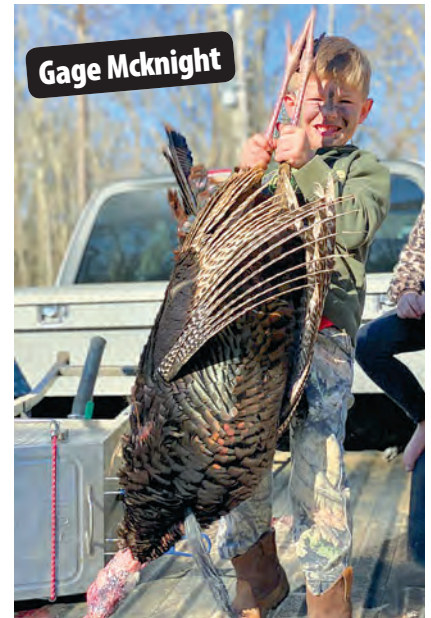
Manning Moody

Manning Moody of Wiggins caught his biggest bass, weighing in at 9 pounds, on light tackle with 6-pound line using a Beetle Spin.



Adam Haygood

Adam Haygood killed this 175-pound buck with a velvet drop tine in Lowndes County on Oct. 4, 2019.



Gage Mcknight

Gage Mcknight holds up his first turkey. It was taken in Monroe County.

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GIVE SOW SNAPPER 'THE FULL MEAL DEAL'

BILOXI CAPTAIN BELIEVES IN THE 'BIG BAIT, BIG FISH' MANTRA

By Bobby Cleveland

Capt. Robert Earl McDaniel decided that the fish pecking around our baits weren't what he was looking for and got serious about his search for his favorite fishing targets, the ones he calls "the sows."

As in big female red snapper, which at full maturity can:

- Surpass 30 pounds;
- Fill a fish box even at a limit of two per angler;
- Break a grown man's spirit and strain his muscles.

"Here, drop this down there, and if I was you, I'd have a good firm hole on that pole," McDaniel said, grinning.

This time, instead of a small, 2-inch slice of cut bait, this rod/reel combo had a big, 5- or 6-ounce chunk of king mackerel — probably more like a half-pound of meat.

"That's a pork chop; that's what the sows like," he said. "I've had enough of this pecking from little fish that can't even swallow the hook. Let's offer them a grownup-sized portion. I know there's big ones down there; I can see them on the graph."

The bait sank quickly, dropping through the little nippers too fast for them to grab a bite, until it hit the bottom 128 feet below our feet.

"Reel it up about 20 feet and get ready," McDaniel said as he prepped a second rod with another big hook, a heavier weight and, of course, a pork chop-sized portion of mackerel sliced right through the backbone. "Won't be much of a warning. It'll just suck it down and keep on going."

Which is exactly what happened, a millisecond later.

The stout rod, resembling a full-fledged tuna stick — a broom stick with a rubber handle — bent in a giant arc, more than you'd think geometrically possible. The fisherman uttered a deep guttural moan, sounding more painful than you'd think possible.

"Yep, that's a sow," McDaniel said. "Enjoy the ride."

It took a good 5 minutes to break the fish's initial power, another 5 minutes to start moving it up the water column, and 5 more to get it up all 128 feet to the surface.

It took two men to get the 34-pound red snapper over the rail. By then, the second pole was bent in another arc, and a second angler was groaning under the strain.

"With big snapper, it's go big or go home," McDaniel said.

"When they get ready to eat, they don't mess around, and I don't know that they're never not ready to eat a big pork chop



Leslie Golden with a big snapper from a trip last July with WhipaSnapa Charters.

piece of cut bait."

Two hours later, four two-man limits of two red snapper each, nearly 200 pounds worth, were iced in the box. There was little room for anything else.

"When the limit is two per person, as a captain, you try to get the biggest you can for your customers," said McDaniel, owner of the aptly named WhipaSnapa Charter boat out of Biloxi. "That's why we threw back those smaller keepers that were biting when we got to the (oil) rig. Those were nice 'eaters' — 18 to 25 inches, some in the 5- to 6-pound range — and we could have limited on those quick."

"But I knew there were some big fish there. I could mark them. They were suspended about 20 feet off the bottom, above the smaller ones. That's why I had y'all drop to the bottom and reel it up. I wanted you in their strike zone."

Tristan Armer, an attorney and avid fisherman from Ocean Springs, has a different philosophy that serves him well, as evidenced by a May trip off the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Pinpointing the exact depth of the fish is his key.

"The size of the bait doesn't seem to matter to me as much as where the bait is dangling," Armer said. "Those fish (in May) were caught in 95 feet of water but the fish were hooked at 45 to 50 feet. On the sonar, the fish were swimming around the reef and a good 50 to 70 feet above the reef."

Armer used two different types of bait.

"Two were caught on half a piece of a good-sized pogey and the others on half a piece of good-sized squid," he said. "The bite was slower, and when it's slower, the fish are more select. At least that's what my anecdotal fishing evidence says."

Bobby Cleveland

McDaniel remains adamant about the big-bait, big-fish theory.

"You noticed the sows didn't hit anything until we dropped the big pork chop down there, and there was no pecking like you normally get when snapper fishing," he said. "They just come up, eat it and go own about their business until you set the hook. Then, they aren't so happy."

That day, a few years ago, was not the typical sow snapper day, McDaniel said, simply "because there's no such thing as typical with them. Sows vary in their positioning in the water column. Some days, they are bottom-huggers. Some days, like today, they are suspended just off the bottom. But, there's also days when I find them about 40 feet deep in 200 feet of water." ■

The Gulf of Mexico, Mississippi and Louisiana red snapper seasons are currently open. The limit is two red snapper per day per person with a 16-inch minimum length. Mississippi's first segment of its 2020 season runs through July 12, when it will close and the catch determined before the second part is set.



Capt. Robert Earl McDaniel loves chasing the big "sow" red snapper, and offers them a big meal to get their interest.

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LUCEDALE MAN SPEARS 4 RECORDS

By Bobby Cleveland

In a year when state-record fish — both saltwater and freshwater — have been rare, Harley Havard of Lucedale has been on a one-man spearfishing crusade to rewrite much of Mississippi's saltwater all-tackle record book.

He's got four this year.

Havard's run started with a 4-pound, 7.36-ounce red hind, which was certified by the Commission on Marine Resources at its April meeting.

Then, at the May meeting, his name was back before the panel for:

- a 37-pound, 1.44-ounce African pompano;
 - a 5-pound, 9.6-ounce ocean triggerfish;
 - a 1-pound, 14.08-ounce Spanish hogfish.
- His run was prolific but was not a solo act.

Also at the May meeting, the Commission certified another all-tackle record for a "monster" .78-ounce highfin goby caught by



This 37-pound, 1.44-ounce African pompano is the largest of four Mississippi all-tackle saltwater records set this year by Harley Havard of Lucedale.

Abigail Daniels, 13, of Pass Christian. She caught the mighty fish with a cast net. ■

An advertisement for Louisiana's Cajun Bayou. It features a man in a blue jacket and a young boy in a dark shirt fishing together in a wooded area. The text is overlaid on the image.

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SUMMER SPECKS CAN'T BE BEATEN

BAY ST. LOUIS PROVIDES PLENTY OF GREAT TROUT ACTION AS JULY ARRIVES *By Bryan Hendricks*

Speckled trout are ravenous this month off Bay St. Louis, and you can tag-team them all day with topwaters and soft-plastic swimbaits.

Catching speckled seatrout is easy. Finding them is the hard part. With Sonny Schindler of Shore Thing Fishing Charters (www.shorethingcharters.com) at the helm, we came, we saw and we conquered.

Birds are key. Gulls, terns and pelicans follow baitfish and shrimp, as do trout. When you see a flock of gulls plunge into the water, you can count on catching trout. The birds move with the bait; you have to follow them. As long as something doesn't happen to disperse the school — such as another boat running through it — the bite can last for an hour or more.

Five of us — Schindler, my son, Matthew, along with Tommy Akin and Mike Jones of Vicksburg — caught 130 keeper trout in two mornings, as well as scores of sub-legal trout. Almost all of them hit Strike King Redfish Magic swimbaits on ½-ounce jigheads. Trout hit all colors, but they preferred the pumpkinseed/red flake. After that, pearl/chartreuse was best, followed by pearl/rose. We threw them on tandem rigs and often caught two at a time. The Redfish Magic is a tough, durable bait.

When trout school, you can also hit them on top with MirrOLure Top Dogs and She Dogs, plus Strike King's Sexy Dawgs.

You must cast constantly to keep the bite going, Schindler said. He ran from angler to angler, unhooking and boxing our fish to avoid delays. Any gap in the presentation can cause fish to get disinterested and scatter, he said. As long as they're engaged, a feeding frenzy can go indefinitely unless sharks or dolphins show up.

Of course, the bite can also go cold with no apparent provocation. One such lull lasted several hours as Schindler tried one spot after another. Finally, he found a flock of gulls diving at baitfish on the surface.

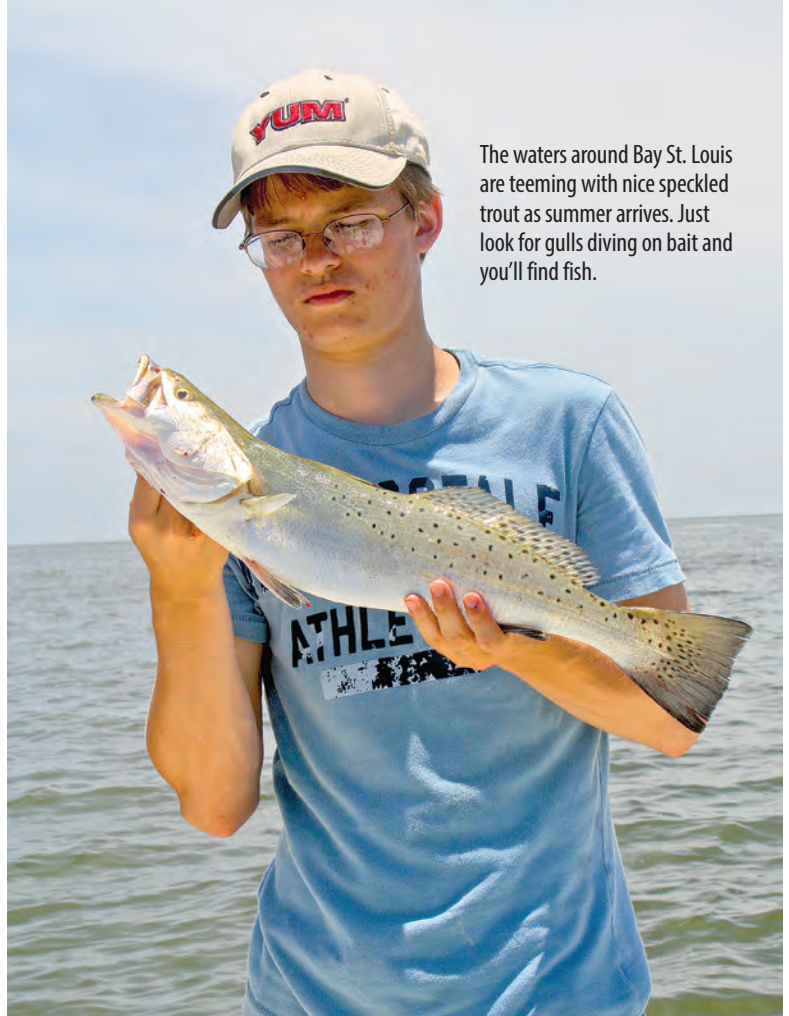
"Cast at those birds," Schindler said. "Throw right at them! Trout'll be under them!"

He was right. Trout struck the baits the instant they hit the water. All of us caught doubles simultaneously, and soon, we had big trout flopping all over the boat.

When the gulls left, so did the trout. A flock of terns dove on bait, and we cast at them, too. Instead of trout, however, we caught ladyfish.

"My experience out here is that the gulls tend to follow trout, and terns tend to follow ladyfish and things like that," Schindler said.

Around 11 a.m., we circled another island. Gulls and terns rode at rest on the lee side. On a hunch, Schindler dropped anchor.



Bryan Hendricks

The waters around Bay St. Louis are teeming with nice speckled trout as summer arrives. Just look for gulls diving on bait and you'll find fish.

That spot produced the "melee" that Schindler wanted, and soon, everyone in the boat had one or two trout on a line at once.

We put 60 keeper trout in the box before the day ended. They keep that kind of news quiet around Bay St. Louis, but it's definitely worth a visit. ■



Casting into schools of feeding specks with a tandem rig of soft-plastic swimbaits can result in double hook-ups.

Bryan Hendricks



VIDEO: Go to ms-sportsman.com/bay-st-louis-summer-specks/ to see more about summer fishing out of Bay St. Louis.

Storms to the north broke loose about 1:45 p.m. in the small-boat harbor in Pass Christian, 15 minutes before Capt. Ronnie Daniels had scheduled the beginning of a trip across to the Biloxi Marsh.

The next hour or so was spent with Daniels and the father-and-son fishing team of Dana and David Sanders, visiting with a fourth angler while the rains passed.

When he finally left port, Daniels pointed his bay boat's bow south and ran the 11½ miles to the first spit of land.

When he pulled off plane, he was just off Isle au Pitre, the northeastern tip of the Biloxi Marsh, and the surface of the beautifully clear water was alive with rain minnows flipping and fish blowing.

While Daniels and Dana Sanders fiddled around getting gear ready, David Sanders was on the bow, sending a Matrix Shad into the fray. On that first cast, he set the hook and dragged the first trout of the trip into the boat.

As he unhooked the schoolie and tossed it overboard, the older and slower anglers got into gear and put lures in the water.

IT'S A LONG RIDE TO THESE BARRIER ISLANDS ACROSS MISSISSIPPI SOUND, BUT IT CAN BE WORTH IT WHEN IT COMES TO CATCHING SPECKLED TROUT.

SUMMER TIPS FOR

BILOXI MARSH

CLOUDS OF BAIT WERE CREATING NERVOUS RIPPLES AS PREDATOR FISH SWEEPED THROUGH THEIR SCHOOLS.

That's why Daniels, owner of Fisher-Man Guide Service, loves to fish the area — the waters are teeming with life.

The tide wasn't much, but you wouldn't know it by the conditions he found: a text-book tide line had formed and was flowing around the eastern tip of Isle au Pitre, with storm minnows being swept along the clear side of the current break.

Daniels (228-323-1115) said that sets up the perfect situation for anglers.

"(Trout) are going to be along this tide line, on one side or the other," he said. "They can sit in that muddy water and run out into the clear water to ambush bait. At some point, they will be feeding here."

David Sanders seemed intent on proving that trout were there and that he was the best angler on the boat.

He did so by reeling in nice trout while Daniels and the fourth angler played with ladyfish, while Dana Sanders hung around on the back of the boat making some casts, pretty much enjoying the scene of his son spanking us.

To his credit, David Sanders didn't rub it in. Too much.

But with all of that, by the time they were chased back across the Mississippi Sound by another storm, thoughts about how getting back to this area to fish were already abounding.

Daniels said he sees a Louisiana boat here and there, but for the most part, this section of the Biloxi Marsh is only fished by Mississippi anglers. Isle au Pitre acts as a magnet, attracting a lot of attention.

"It's the jumping-off point," Daniels said. "So not only do you get a lot of pressure, you get a lot of beginners."

That can lead to frustration, as boats crowd around the relatively small island. The virtue of patience can truly be tested, especially on the weekends.

So when there are a number of boats surrounding the island — or if he's working the area and crowds build — Daniels simply moves farther into the Biloxi Marsh to find waters free of the pressure and frustrations.

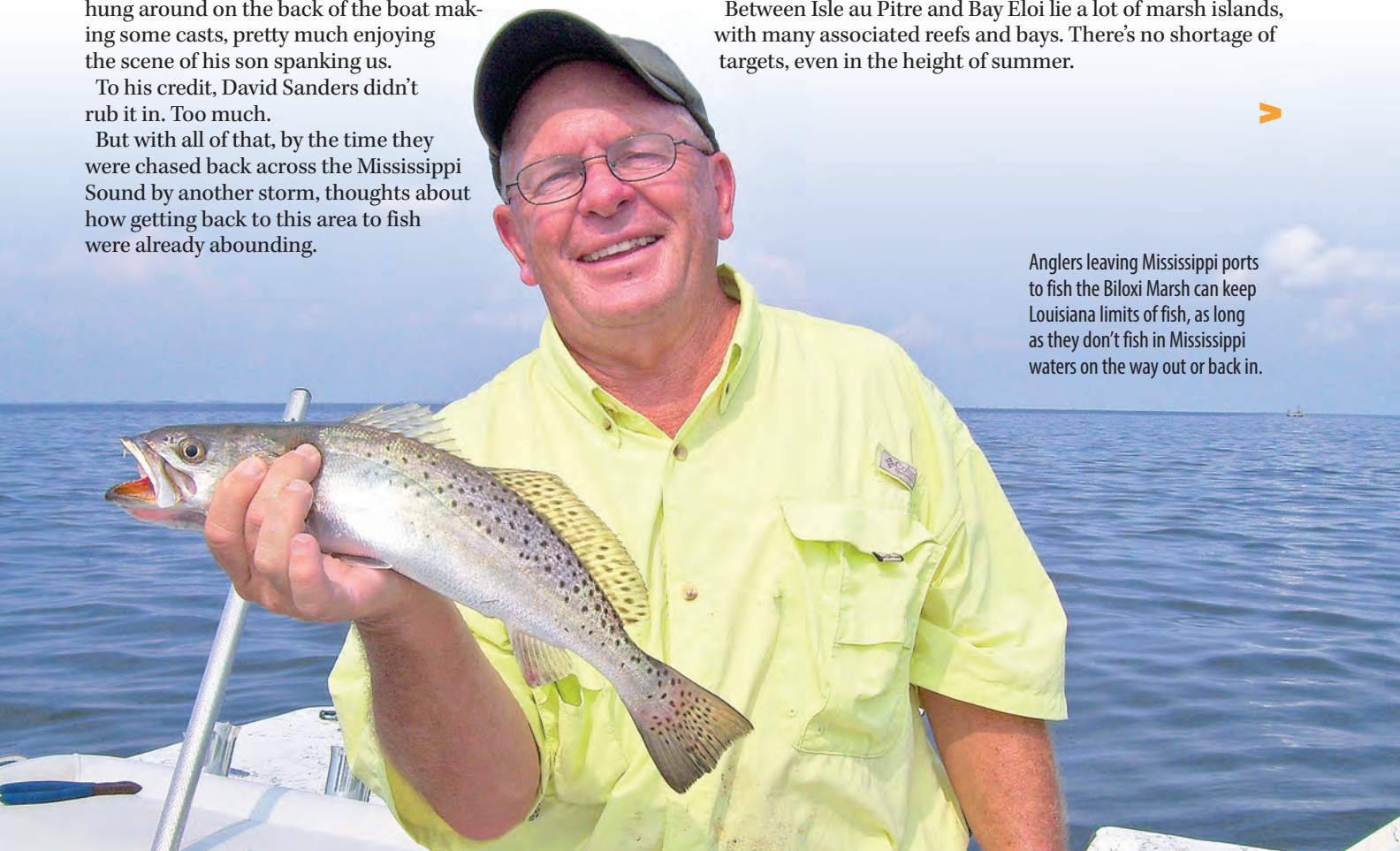
Normally, Daniels sticks to areas from Door Point north, but runs to other areas is not unreasonable.

"It's 35 miles to Bay Eloi," Daniels said.

Between Isle au Pitre and Bay Eloi lie a lot of marsh islands, with many associated reefs and bays. There's no shortage of targets, even in the height of summer.



Anglers leaving Mississippi ports to fish the Biloxi Marsh can keep Louisiana limits of fish, as long as they don't fish in Mississippi waters on the way out or back in.





LOUISIANA FISHING LIMITS OK WHEN LAUNCHING FROM MISSISSIPPI

The entire Biloxi Marsh is located in Louisiana, but what if you decide to launch in Mississippi? Do you have to abide by the 15-fish daily creel because you'll cross Mississippi waters on the way in?

Nope. Louisiana regulations prevail, according to Mississippi's fishing regulations.

"Recreational fishermen not fishing in Mississippi waters may transport and land fish that meet the minimum size and creel limits of the waters in which they were legally caught," the regulations read.

So you can legally catch and keep the Louisiana-allowed 25-trout or 5-redfish creel per man, as long as you only fish in Louisiana waters.

And you don't even have to purchase a Mississippi fishing license to catch them.

"Said recreational fishermen must possess a valid saltwater sportfishing license as may be required in the waters where the fish were caught," the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources regs stipulate.

And if you want to just hire one of the guides who fish out of the Pass Christian Small Boat Harbor, you also are good to go.

"You can keep Louisiana limits, as long as I don't stop on the way in," Capt. Ronnie Daniels said. ■

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Live shrimp become extremely productive baits in the Biloxi Marsh when bigger baits turn off speckled trout during summer.

When he's working Isle au Pitre and islands on the eastern edge of the marsh, Daniels said it's important to use the tidal flow to determine where to set up.

"On an incoming tide, we'll fish the north side (of an island), because the fish are waiting for shrimp to be swept around the islands," he said. "On an outgoing tide, there will be a big, looping tide line around the points, and the fish will be on that side of the island. They're just sitting there waiting on all those shrimp to come across that point."

As summer really takes hold, catching trout in the shallow flats off these islands becomes an early morning and late-afternoon game.

"When that water temperature gets up, they're conserving their energy and hunker down," Daniels said. "You get an early morning bite and a late-evening bite, but during the middle of the day, they're not feeding. They're there; they just aren't feeding."

After picking off fish early along the islands, Daniels will head to deeper water if he needs to round out limits. He focuses his efforts on two kinds of structures: oyster reefs and shallow-water rigs.

There are three keys that have to be considered when looking for just the right place to begin"

- Clean water
- Tidal movement
- Bait

"Any time you can find clear water pushed up against muddy water that's a good ambush point," Daniels said. "We know there are shrimp and rain minnows here because we see them flipping, and we have tidal movement. There's going to be some good fish feeding here at some point today."

He normally puts up his artificials when he's searching midday bites.

"We typically go to live bait in the middle of the day in that deeper water — and by deeper, I'm talk-



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ing about 8, 10, 12 feet," Daniels said.

While croakers are part of his arsenal earlier in the summer, he said shrimp become more important when the broiler of summer heat really kicks in.

"We're not using croakers as much any more," Daniels said. "They get too big, and the trout just seem of turn off of them."

While Carolina rigs are the norm for croakers, when he turns to shrimp Daniels other means of delivery.

"If I'm throwing shrimp, a lot of times it's drop-shotting," he said. ■

You can rely on a known, productive fishing area, but expanding your horizons may be a real plus for your fishing. This nice red was caught by Daniel Zinc while fishing in the Biloxi Marsh.



HOW TO LEARN NEW FISHING AREAS

An intimate knowledge of a specific area can produce quick limits of fish, Capt. Ronnie Daniels said. He simply knows where he should go given the specific conditions on a given day.

Building such a library of information took time, and that's something Daniels said many anglers seem unwilling to invest.

"A lot of guys try to learn too much too fast," he said.

That leads to a lot of running around — especially in places like the Biloxi Marsh, where there are many options — with the result that little information is gleaned about any particular spot.

"They spend so much time running around trying to learn everything that they never learn there's a shell reef that comes off that point and the tide sweeps around it on an outgoing tide," Daniels said.

What anglers should do instead is to focus, the captain said.

"Pick out a small area, say two square miles, and learn it," Daniels said. "Learn the drop-offs. Learn the reefs. Learn the tides."

That way, you'll know where fish concentrate and how to pick them off when you arrive.

Once you know that smaller area very well, then you can widen your search and add to your library of knowledge, Daniels said. ■

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PICKING APART A FLAT >

PICKING APART A FLAT

Capt. Ronnie Daniels said effectively working a flat extending off a spit of marsh is about knowing how fish like trout relate to the underwater structure.

"I find that a lot of times they'll be on the upcurrent side," Daniels said. "They can just group up in the eddy and eat, and not have to work so hard."

Understanding how fish use a flat and its associated drop-offs is the key to quickly putting a box of fish together.



He said often these flats will have a ledge on one side and taper off on the other side, and it's that drop-off that sets up a the eddies that allow fish to conserve their energy.

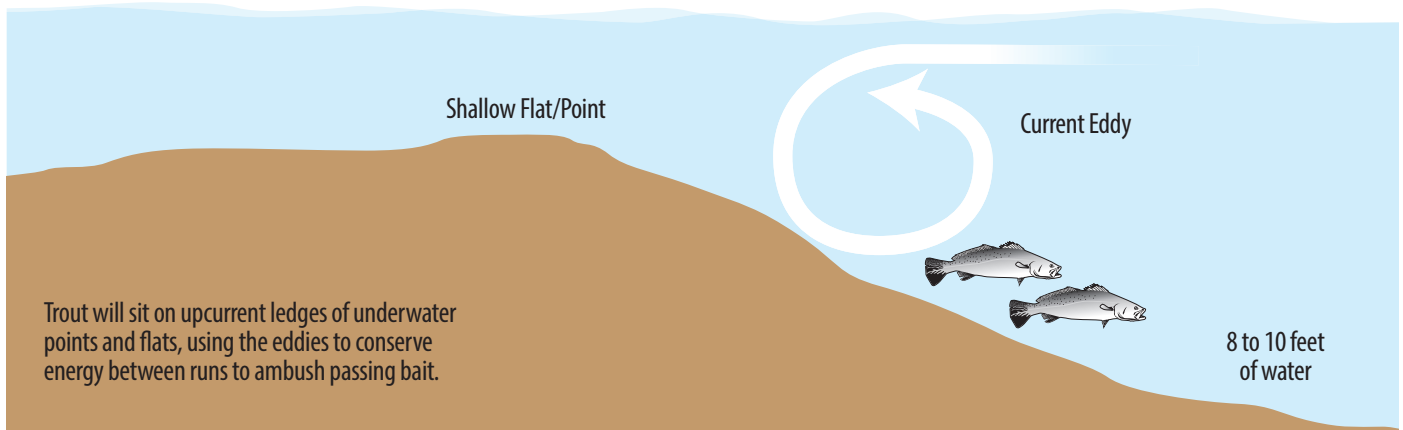
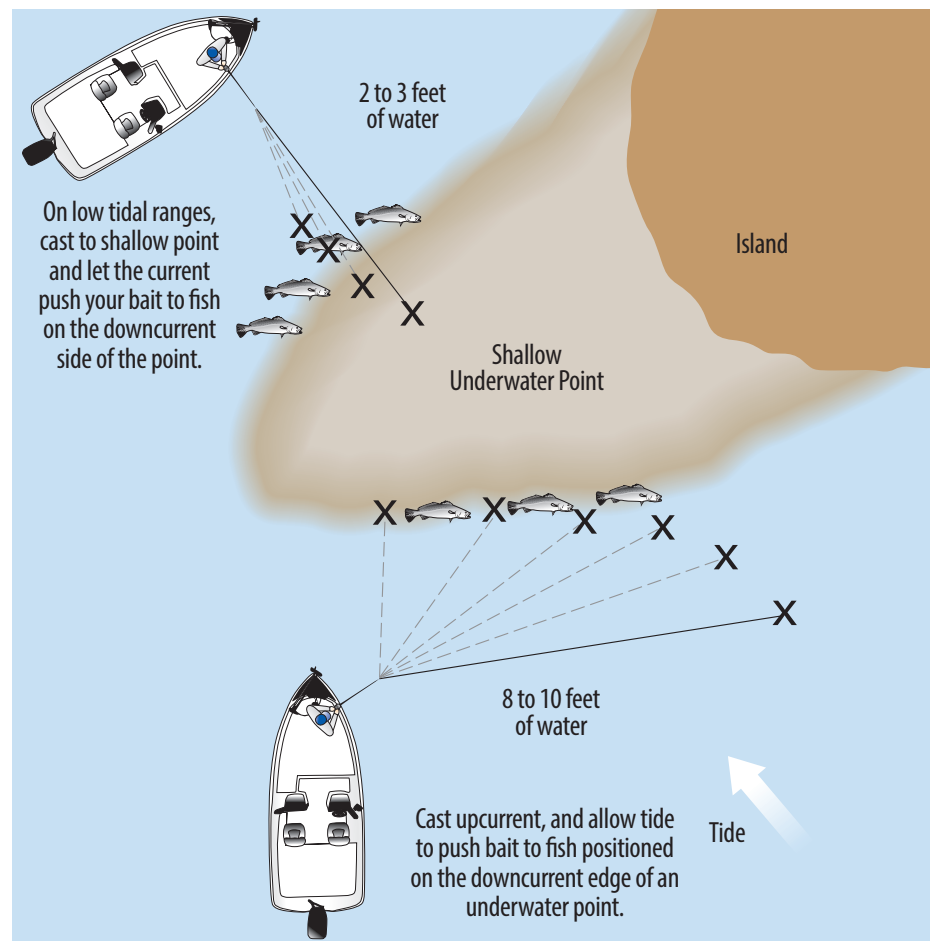
That's not to say some fish won't be on the down current side of a flat — but they will only be there when the current

is fairly slow because there is no eddy.

"If it's a high tidal range, they can't stay in that current," Daniels said. "But when it's a low tidal range, they can sit there and swim in that current and pick that bait off as it's swept over the flat."

In either situation, the guide uses the current to position his bait properly. That means he will cast up current and let the tide drag his lure to the fish. ■

SPECKLED TRUTH >





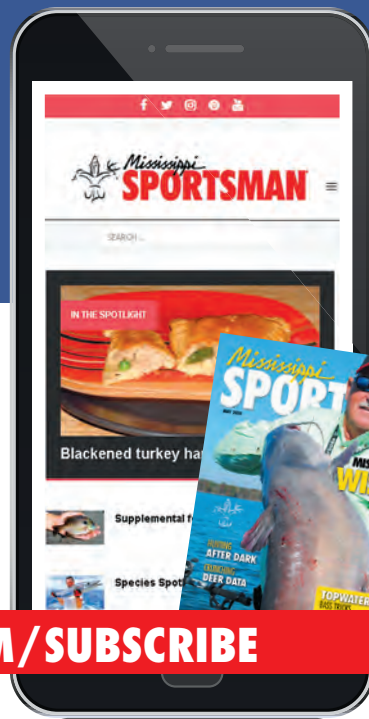
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SPECKLED TRUTH

Chris Bush

Different jighead styles work better with different styles of soft-plastic baits in different fishing situations.



Christopher Bush

JIGHEADS 101: HOW TO PICK THE BEST

SITUATIONS DICTATE WHICH STYLE OF LEADHEAD, SOFT-PLASTIC BAITS MATCH UP BEST

One of the most-versatile and effective ways to catch speckled trout is with a soft plastic and jighead pairing.

Seamlessly transcending the range of experience levels, they allow anglers to target fish both shallow and deep.

With all kinds of different jigheads saturating the market, it's worth spending some time discussing their capabilities. Keep in mind, there are no absolutes in fishing. Exploring different brands and styles is what makes targeting big trout so much fun.

ROUND, ASPIRIN

Admittedly, these are probably the most-popular styles, and for good reason. Most lure manufacturers produce a 3½-inch soft-plastic swimbait that pairs perfectly with these styles of jigheads.

I mostly use either of these when fishing deeper water — 5 feet or more — or areas with heavier tide or wind, and I

always pair them with some “boot” tail style soft plastic. Since all of the weight is on the front of the plastic, it allows the bait to go up and down in the water column. Also, the weight of the jighead displaces a fair amount of water, allowing the boot tail to kick while ascending/descending.

Jigheads preferred: Deathgrip, Golden Eye, H&H, 10 Mile

Soft plastics preferred: Matrix Shad, Egret Wedgetails, DOA Cal Shad, MirrOlure Marsh Minnow Jr.

MUSHROOM STYLE

The NED Rig is a complete fish-catching deal, and the unique, stand-up feature these jigheads gives small, finesse baits drives fish of all sizes crazy. Designed to rest nose-down on the bottom, your soft plastic stands straight up. This technique is exceptionally effective in clear sky, clear water, calm situations when fish are particularly finicky.

Jigheads preferred: Owner Blockhead (⅓-ounce) and ZMan NedLockZ (½-ounce). Go up and down in weight as needed based on depth, tide and wind.

Soft plastics preferred: ZMan Finesse TRD, ZMan Trick ShotZ, ZMan HogZ and Cajun Lures T-NED

ARROW STYLE

Designed as a modified, stand-up jighead, arrow-style heads are typically more slender than most. As a result, these compliment jerk shad-style baits perfectly, since they enable a more erratic action. I typically like to throw an ⅓-ounce or lighter head over shallow grass, and they work extremely well in



Chris Bush is an Air Force officer and a licensed charter captain, husband and father. He spends his time targeting big speckled trout and sharing knowledge on his website, Speckled Truth.

cloudy, clear-water situations in 4 feet of water or less. I normally prefer the 1/0 or 2/0 size hook, and since these are paired with plastics 5 inches or larger, castability normally isn't an issue.

By going as light as possible with your jighead, you're allowing the weight of the soft plastic to keep pace with the descent of the jighead. In other words, your offering will descend in a more horizontal fashion instead of straight up and down.

Jigheads preferred: Texas Custom Lures' Jay Watkins Series Jigheads, Saltwater Assassin Pro Elite, Mirrolure Push On & Pro Series, Norton Lures GFX

Soft plastics preferred: Down South Lures (Southern Shad and Super Model), Mirrolure Provoker, KWiggler BTS, Gambler 6-inch FlapN Shad, Norton Sand Eel, Big Bite Baits Jerk Minnow, Mann's 6-inch Hard Nose Jerkshad

DOMESTYLE

Dome-style jigheads are incredibly versatile and work in any situation, and they pair well with most soft-plastic brands and sizes. However, I specifically

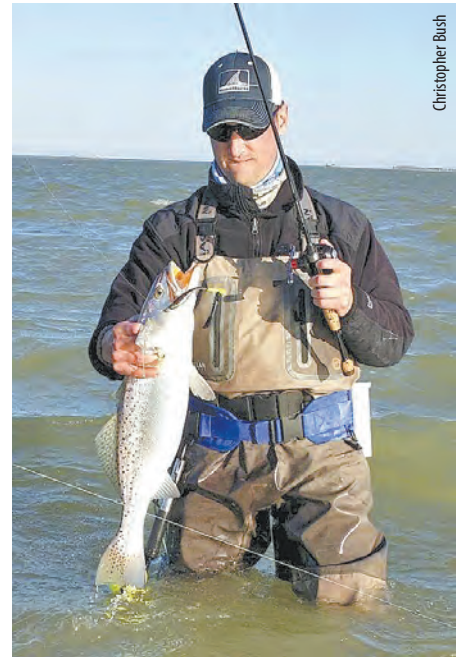
use them on smaller, darter-style baits. The shape of the head, combined with the shape of the soft plastic allows your offering to descend through the water column very quickly. This means you can reduce the weight of your offering as much as possible given the wind and tide and allow the slower descent to the bottom. Also, the contour of the jighead paired with the bait allows it to move in an erratic action, typically drawing strikes from bigger fish.

Jighead preferred: Yellowmouth Baits (1/8- or 1/16-ounce)

Soft plastics preferred: Capt Lanes Ghostminnow, Pure Flats Lil' Slick, Mirrolure Lil John, Cajun Lures T-John, Norton Lures Sand Eel Jr, Deadly Dudley Jr.

As you can see, there are many jigheads on the market, and they range in size, style and shape. My goal for you to start thinking about the different things you can do by just changing your jighead. ■

MARSH MAN MASSON >



Christopher Bush

The author unhooks a big speckled trout caught on a jighead and soft-plastic bait.

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MARSH MAN MASSON

Todd Masson

Big speckled trout have made a pretty good appearance in the waters around Venice the past three years. Will it continue and/or get better?

ARE TROPHY TROUT MAKING BIG RETURN TO VENICE WATERS?

Capt. Brandon Carter watched several 8-pound speckled trout cross his gunwales this spring, supported by a rubber-coated landing net. Does that mean Venice is reclaiming its mantle as one of the premier trophy trout destinations along the Gulf Coast?

Time will tell, but Carter thinks it might. “Up until 7 or 8 years ago, this was normal,” he said. “In the last 7 or 8 years, we’ve had a lot of high rivers, and the numbers of bigger fish have been more scarce.”

Carter, who has been guiding at the extreme southern tip of Plaquemines Parish for more than two decades, began seeing evidence things were picking up 3 years ago.

“Our fishing was kind of tapering down until 2017, and then it kind of exploded,” he said. “That was the best year in at least the previous 10. We had guides who were targeting redfish in redfish spots, and they’d leave a couple hours later with their limits of speckled trout. On

the radio everyday, we’d talk about how it was like the old days.

“Then, in ’18 and ’19 we had even more days like that. The last couple of years, we’ve seen glimpses of the old days. I had a few days last year that would rival any bite I’ve ever seen in Venice in my entire life. I had one day in particular where we were catching no 5-pounders but no 2-pounders. Every fish was between 3 and 4 pounds.

“It was like they were jumping out of the water to catch the bait, and when you reeled a fish in, there would 10 or 12 fish swimming in with that fish trying to get the bait from it.”

NUMBERS ARE BACK

Not every day this year has been **THAT** productive, but Carter said the fishing has been good even on days when it really shouldn’t have been.

“I don’t think it’s been as consistent this year as it was 20 years ago, but we’ve caught a lot of fish this year despite the

wind being absolutely horrific,” he said. “The conditions have been terrible, but we’re still catching fish. That tells me the numbers are pretty strong.”

The 8-pounders Carter and his clients have caught this year haven’t come on any special baits designed specifically for trophy trout. Every single one has been caught on either a live shrimp or midnight mullet-colored Matrix Shad, he said.

But they have come from areas that historically produce trophy trout.

“Certain spots are going to hold bigger fish in general,” Carter said. “All the big fish I’ve caught this year have come from spots where I expected them to be. We haven’t just lucked up and caught



A former editor of *Louisiana Sportsman*, Todd Masson has published the *Marsh Man* Masson YouTube channel since 2017.

Trophy-sized speckled trout have been more plentiful around Venice this year, according to veteran guide Capt. Brandon Carter.



any in a place where I thought, 'Man, what is a big fish doing here?' They've all been in places that they should have been."

A STRONG JULY?

Will that strong action for big fish continue into this month? Quite possibly. Carter said most anglers don't think of July as a prime trophy trout month, but he's seen STAR winners hit the scales down in Venice in July. The fishing, in general, benefits from a falling Mississippi River.

That doesn't mean the fish move inside yet, however. Quite the opposite, Carter said.

In May and June, he was still catching trout in interior bays, but that'll change in July.

"They'll still hold small trout, but they won't hold any quality fish," he said. "(In July) I'm fishing the extreme outer edges of the delta, I'm fishing the rigs, and I'm fishing the islands."

Which of those features he hits on any given day depends on recent action, he said.

"Usually we're on a 3- to 4-day pattern," Carter said. "For three or four days, everyone will be fishing the islands, the fish are stacked up like cordwood, and then things thin out a little bit. Somebody will go poking around at the rigs and find them, and for the next three, four, five days they're at the rigs, and then you have to find them again."

Located at the end of Highway 23, the waters around Venice are accessible from two full-service marinas: Venice Marina and Cypress Cove Marina. ■

Properties for Sale in AL, MS, LA, & AR

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- 32.81 Acres \$7,500/Ac.
- 402 Acres \$3,109/Ac.
- 854 Acres \$3,350/Ac.

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- Home & 28 Acres \$399,999
- Home & 37 Acres \$300,000
- 36.54 Acres \$2,800/Ac.
- 49 Acres \$4,877/Ac.
- 51.85 Acres \$4,725/Ac.
- 116.91 Acres \$3,500/Ac.
- 414 Acres \$2,500/Ac.
- 904 Acres \$3,500/Ac.
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ATTALA

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- 96.5 Ac. & Cabin \$250,000

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- 95 Acres \$5,000/Ac.

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- 105 Acres \$3,000/Ac.
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- 72 Acres \$2,055/Ac.
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- 347 Acres \$2,850/Ac.
- 600 Acres \$2,500/Ac.

JEFFERSON DAVIS

- 80 Acres \$2,500/Ac.
- 100 Acres \$2,200/Ac.
- 106 Acres \$1,700/Ac.
- 280 Acres \$1,821/Ac.

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- 220 Acres \$1,422/Ac.
- 247 Acres \$1,750/Ac.

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- 20 Acres \$8,950/Ac.
- 33 Acres \$2,750/Ac.
- 21.10 Acres \$8,952/Ac.
- 58 Acres \$2,408/Ac.
- 64.19 Acres \$5,436/Ac.
- 1118 Acres \$2,399/Ac.

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- 32.2 Acres \$3,354/Ac.
- 68 Acres \$2,800/Ac.
- 80 Acres \$2,800/Ac.
- 100 Acres \$2,500/Ac.
- 148 Acres \$2,800/Ac.

LOWNDES

- 150 Acres \$1,395/Ac.
- 459 Acres, barndominium
- 60 Acres \$2,800/Ac.

MARION

- 58 Acres \$2,408/Ac.
- 183 Acres \$2,300/Ac.
- 239 Acres \$2,716/Ac.
- 105 Acres \$2,716/Ac.

PEARL RIVER

- 67 Acres \$2,238/Ac.
- 98 Acres \$3,520/Ac.
- 188 Acres \$2,238/Ac.
- 255 Acres \$3,243/Ac.
- Home & 283 Acres \$895,000
- 20 Acres \$4,179/Ac.
- 30.75 Acres \$3,500/Ac.

PERRY

- 160 Acres \$2,500/Ac.

PIKE

- 20 Acres \$4,500/Ac.
- 24.11 Acres \$4,769/Ac.
- 28.52 Acres \$3,488/Ac.
- 32.23 Acres \$2,249/Ac.
- 36.7 Acres \$2,500/Ac.
- 40 Acres \$2,650/Ac.
- 40 Acres \$2,200/Ac.
- Home & 58.4 Acres \$420,000
- 196 Acres \$3,250/Ac.
- 200 Acres \$2,600/Ac.
- 423 Acres \$3,000/Ac.
- 48.26 Acres \$1,864/Ac.
- 41.17 Acres \$3,922/Ac.

PRENTISS

- 31 Acres \$1,850/Ac.
- 44 Acres \$2,000/Ac.
- 75 Acres \$1,250/Ac.
- 75 Acres \$1,750/Ac.

TALLAHATCHIE

- 176 Acres \$2,130/Ac.

WALTHALL

- 58.4 Acres \$7,191/Ac.
- 72 Acres \$2,597/Ac.
- 60 Acres \$2,800/Ac.

WAYNE

- Home & 26 Acres \$294,000
- 54 Acres \$3,000/Ac.
- 67.96 Acres \$1,798/Ac.

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- 30 Acres \$4,166/Ac.
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- Home & 680 Acres \$2,950,000
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SALTWATER

STATE COASTAL WATERS REGULATIONS (0 - 3 miles)

FISH SPECIES	Minimum Lengths	Creel Limit (per person)
Greater amberjack	34" FL	1/day
Blue marlin	99" LJFL	no limit
White marlin	66" LJFL	no limit
Sailfish	63" LJFL	no limit
Sharks (large coastal/pelagic)@	37" TL*	1/day or 3/boat
Sharks@	25" TL*	4/day
Cobia	33" FL	2 per day
Redfish (red drum)	18" minimum 30" maximum TL	3/day (1 over 30")
Flounder (state waters)	12" TL	15/day
Groupers (black and gag)	24" TL@	4/day aggregate
Hogfish	12" FL@	5/day
Red, yellowfin grouper	20" TL@	4/day
Scamp grouper	16" TL@	4/day
Speckled hind/Warsaw grouper	no minimum@	1/day each
Gray/schoolmaster/cubera/ mahogany/yellowtail/dog snapper	12" TL@	10/day aggregate
Mutton snapper	16" TL@	10/day
Queen/blackfin/silk/winchman snapper	none@	10/day aggregate
Vermillion/lane snapper	10"/8" TL@	20/day aggregate
Gray triggerfish	14" FL@	20/day
Golden/blueline/anchor/blackline tilefish	none@	20/day
King mackerel	24" FL@	2/day
Spanish mackerel	no minimum size@	15/day
Yellowfin tuna	27" CFL@	3/day
Bigeye tuna	27" CFL@	no limit
Tripletail	18" TL	3/day
Spotted sea trout (speckled)	15"	15/day

@ For openings and closings of federally regulated fish and updated size limits, visit gulfcouncil.org.

FRESHWATER

FISH Species (Inland waters)	Minimum Size Limit	Creel Limit (per day)
Crappie/Panfish #	%	30 crappie, 100 bream
Largemouth, smallmouth, spotted bass	%	10 in combination
Channel catfish	No more than 1 over 34"	None +
Blue catfish	No more than 1 over 34"	None +
Flathead catfish	No more than 1 over 34"	None +
Striped bass or hybrid bass	15"	6 in combination
Mountain Trout (Lake Lamar Bruce)	No restrictions	3
Sauger	%	10
Walleye	%	3
Alligator gar/paddlefish	No fish over 30" in creel	2

TL=Total Length; LJFL=Lower jaw to middle of fork in tail; FL=Fork Length (tip of snout to middle of fork in tail); CFL=Curved Fork Length (measure of a line tracing contour of body from tip of upper jaw to fork of the tail).

+ In Lake Okhissa, 5 per day, in ReCon Lake and all MDWFP lakes, 10 per day

% For lake-specific regs, see MDWFP's Regulations Digest or www.mdwfp.com/

In Lake Okhissa and Percy Quin State Park, the creel limit is 50 per day.

* Possession of certain species of sharks is prohibited.

HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
Doves	Sept. 1-Oct. 6 (n), Sept. 1-15 (s) Oct. 19-Nov. 16 (n), Oct. 5-Nov. 6 (s) Dec. 21-Jan. 14 (n), Dec. 21-Jan. 31 (s)	15	45
Quail	Nov. 28-March 7	8	
Rabbit	Oct. 12-Feb. 28	8	
Squirrel (fall)	Oct. 1-Feb. 28	8	
Squirrel (spr)	May 15-June 1	4	
Raccoon	July 1-Sept. 30	1 raccoons per party	
Rac/Opp/Bobct	Oct. 1-Oct. 31 (food/sport) Nov. 1-Feb. 28 (food/sport/pelt)	5/day, 8/party No limit	
Rails			
King & Clapper	Sept. 1-30, Nov. 22-Dec. 31	15	45
Sora & Virginia	Sept. 1-30, Nov. 22-Dec. 31	25	75
Gallinules	Sept. 1-30, Nov. 22-Dec. 31	15	45
Snipe	Nov. 14 - Feb. 28	8	24
Crow	Nov. 2 - Feb. 28	No limit	No limit
Woodcock	Dec. 18 - Jan. 31	3	9
Wild Turkey			
Fall season	Oct. 15-Nov. 15 (selected counties)	2 per season (may be either sex)	
Spring season	March 14-May 1	1/day, 3/season, longbeards only	
Youth season	March 7-13	1/day, 3/season, bearded birds only	

WATERFOWL SEASONS

SPECIES	DATES	BAG LIMIT
Duck	Teal only: Sept. 14-30 Nov. 29-Dec. 1, Dec. 6-Jan. 31	6 6
Geese (Canada, blue, Ross, white-fronted, brant)	Sept. 1-30 Nov. 11-24, Nov. 29-Jan. 1, Dec. 6-Jan. 31	5 Canada 3, Brant 1 Snow/blue/Ross 20 White-fronted 3
Light Geese conservation	Oct. 1-Nov. 10, Feb. 1-7, Feb. 9-March 31	No limit

DEER SEASON

ZONE	ARCHERY	PRIM WEAPON	GUNS
Northeast	Oct. 1-Nov. 22 Nov. 11-22 (antlerless primitive weapon) Jan. 17-31 (archery/primitive weapon)	Dec. 2-15	Nov. 23-Dec. 1 (dogs) Dec. 16-23 (no dogs) Dec. 24-Jan. 22(dogs) Nov. 9-22 (youth)
East Central	Oct. 1-Nov. 22 Nov. 11-22 (antlerless primitive weapon) Jan. 17-31 (archery-primitive weapon)	Dec. 2-15	Nov. 23-Dec. 1 (dogs) Dec. 16-23 (no dogs) Dec. 24-Jan. 22(dogs) Nov. 9-22 (youth)
Southwest	Oct. 1-Nov. 22 Nov. 11-22 (antlerless primitive weapon) Jan. 17-31 (archery-primitive weapon)	Dec. 2-15	Nov. 23-Dec. 1 (dogs) Dec. 16-23 (no dogs) Dec. 24-Jan.16(dogs) Nov. 9-Jan. 22 (youth)
Southeast	Oct. 15-Nov. 22 Jan. 23-31 (either-sex arch-primitive) Feb. 1-15 (archery-primitive bucks only)	Dec. 2-15	Nov. 23-Dec. 1 (dogs) Dec. 16-23 (no dogs) Dec. 24-Jan. 16(dogs) Nov. 3-Feb. 15(youth)
Delta*	Oct. 1-Nov. 22 (See www.mdwfp.com for details on special Oct. 15-Jan. 5 South Delta Season)	Dec. 2-15 Nov. 11-22 (antlerless primitive weapon) Jan. 22-31 (archery primitive weapon)	Nov. 23-Jan. 1 (dogs) Dec. 16-23 (no dogs) Dec. 24-Jan. 22(dogs) Nov. 9-22 (youth)



Sizzling temperatures approaching the upper 90s usually give bass a case of lockjaw almost as bad as they get after a severe cold front moves through in spring or summer.

More than a few anglers have learned the secret to success in the hot summer; they beat the heat and catch lunker bass — by fishing after dark.

BUZZBAITS/CHUGGERS >

IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT

TRY HOLDING OFF YOUR BASS-FISHING TRIPS UNTIL AFTER DARK WHEN SUMMER REALLY TAKES HOLD IN MISSISSIPPI. YOU'LL BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO FIND BIG FISH DOING BUSINESS WHEN IT'S PITCH-BLACK DARK..

■ By Mike Giles

BUZZBAITS/CHUGGERS

Joe Giles of Martin cast a custom-made buzzbait into the pitch-black darkness and started his retrieve without ever seeing the lure hit the water. As it sputtered across the water's surface Giles kept a steady retrieve and listened to the rhythmic gurgling sounds of the blades chopping the water.

Ka-Whoosh! The stillness of the night exploded as a big bass crushed the buzzbait. Giles slammed the hook deep into its jaws and turned its head around, towards the boat, his second of the night on a buzzbait. He'd arriving just before dark and settled into a cove frequented by baitfish and bass. By the time the sun had gone down, he'd caught several bass and was in position to take advantage of the cooler air and hot action.



Whopper Plopper

When the summer sun sets, bass move up onto shallow flats, along ledges and around weed beds in search of an easy meal. Knowing anglers will be there ready and waiting to give them what they want.

Giles alternated between a traditional buzzbait and a Whopper Plopper.

"I like to use the smaller Whopper Plopper in late afternoon, just before dark," Giles said. "Then, I'll switch to a medium-bladed buzzbait as the sun goes down, because the single hook is less likely to hang up, and the bass really key on the sound of old-school buzzbaits.

"I like a buzzbait that is easy to keep on top and makes just the right amount of sound to attract the bass. They really key in on that rhythmic sound of the blades chopping the water, and the resultant explosions are shocking."

FROGS, LIZARDS, BUZZBAITS

Ken Murphy of Meridian has spent the past 20 years fishing tournaments around the country and catching bass under all conditions. For 18 straight years, he won at least one tournament — and many more some years — as he fished against the best anglers. Though he doesn't do a lot of night-time fishing, he likes to catch bass late in the afternoon and right after dark during the hot months.

"I'll fish along the ledges where the shallow flats meet deep water and along any drop where the bass are found during the day," Murphy said. "If they're feeding on the bottom along the shelf, I'll switch to a black neon Magnum lizard rigged Texas-style. The lunker bass will strike that bait after dark too."

If bass move up to the surface and feed actively, Murphy will

Veteran fisherman Ken Murphy of Meridian caught these lunkers while fishing at night.



switch tactics and employ a black buzzbait or black popping frog.

"A lot of people use buzzbaits, but you'd be surprised how they explode on the black popping frogs," he said. "They're attracted to the sound of the popping frog, and the strikes are just tremendous. The chugging, popping sound is irresistible to bass, and you have to be ready to get bit at anytime — or you just might lose a rod and reel."



Zoom Magnum lizard



Z-Man Chatterbait

Some nights, Murphy catches bass after bass on a submerged ledge until it is pitch dark — and he keeps on catching fish when it so dark that it is impossible to see.

Murphy has fine-tuned his sense of touch to the point that he can almost sense when a bass has bit his worms and lizards after dark. He's learned that bass don't always bite aggressively on the surface after dark, so he's ready and willing to probe the depths and ledges, too.

REAL NOISEMAKERS

Hunter Miles, a young tournament angler from Collinsville, has had much success catching bass on large lakes as well as river systems. He knows that bass are active at night during the summer.

"I like to use lures that buzz or vibrate when fishing after dark," Miles said. "If the bass are feeding actively, I'll use a spinnerbait or Z-Man Chatterbait. If they're hitting on top, I like to use a Boogerman buzzbait or an old school P-50 Pop-R and work them steady across the surface."

When shad are spawning along the steep riverbanks on some of the lakes in Mississippi and Alabama, spotted bass will gang up and attack with a vengeance.

"If you can find shad grouped up along specific banks, I like to cast parallel to the bank and work the prime zone," Miles said. "I might not get many bites, but the ones I get will usually be lunkers in the 3- to 5-pound range. Over on the Coosa River, where I fish some tournaments, it's not uncommon to catch four or five spotted bass in the 4- to 5-pound range on any given night during the hot summer."

MONSTER BASS ON TOPWATER ➤

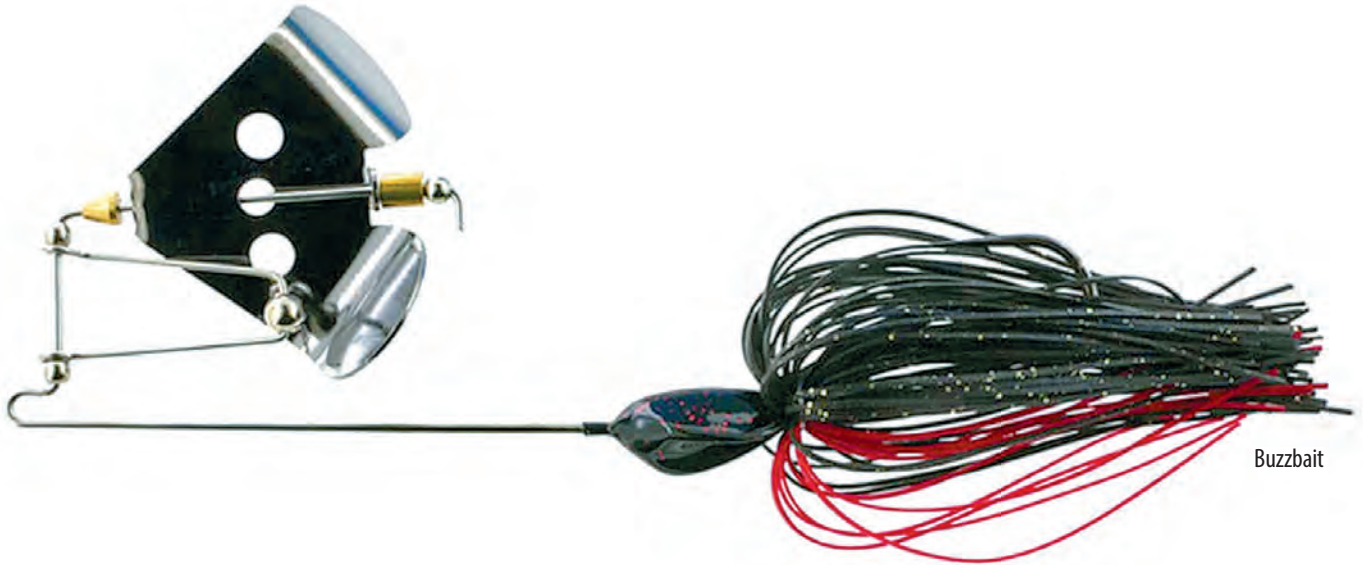
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Buzzbait

MONSTER BASS ON TOPWATER

Through a lifetime of catching bass across Mississippi, I've learned a few things, and one of them is that big bass feed at night, often at the surface.

On one trip, arriving at a structure-filled cove just before dark, we worked a drop-off with limited success, enticing only a few strikes from bass. As the sun dropped below the horizon, the surface activity heated up, and an occasional explosion was seen along a shallow, stump-filled flat.

I had already tied on a custom-made Hoot Gibson buzzbait with a red and black skirt, so I started casting among the stumps, and it didn't take long to draw a strike as a 6-pound bass smashed the lure as it went past a big stump.

We continued fan-casting around the area and picked up a couple more good bass. At pitch-black dark, I made a short cast along a stump row and could keep up with the lure's progress by the rhythmic chopping of the blades as it came across the water's surface. It was less than 8 feet from the boat when it happened.

"Ka-Whoosh!" A bass smashed the lure, almost tearing the rod from my hands. It was all I could do to hold on as the bass bore down beneath the boat. If you've never had an 8-pound, wild hawg on your line with only about 6 feet of line out in the dark, you've missed a treat. I held on and wore the bass down and finally got him in the net and into the boat.

Before our night was over, we'd caught and released six lunker bass that had not been actively feeding until dark descended and most everybody had gone home. When they're zoned in on buzzbaits after dark, the action can be nearly unbelievable.

STEALTH-FISHING DEEP LEDGES

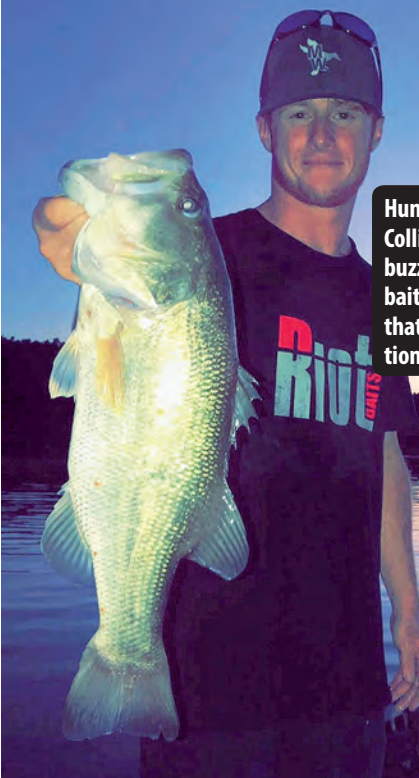
While bass may actively feed on the surface after dark, there will come a time when the water is so hot that they will quit feeding on top but will move up onto ledges and drops and feed along the bottom.

Some of my best nights have occurred when bass moved up onto submerged humps with 8 to 10 feet of water on top in the middle of a lake or along a submerged ledge.

I usually anchor down, cast into deep water and work a 9- to



A buzzbait fished well after dark produced this lunker bass for Joe Giles of Martin.



Hunter Miles of Collinsville prefers buzzbaits, chatterbaits and anything that puts off vibration or noise.



Mann's Jelly Worm

11-inch Bass Pro Shops Tournament Series worm or a Mann's Jelly worm up the slope and across the top. If there is structure, I'll concentrate on fishing that first, but it's not necessary at night, as they will move up and feed on the smooth bottom when shad move by.


I'll start with a Texas-rigged worm, and if I don't catch any near the top of the ledge I'll switch to a Carolina rig with a 3/4- or 1-ounce weight, which allows me to work deeper and cover more water while keeping the lure in contact with the bottom.

Many times, bass will strike when you pull the weight through the brush and the worm comes through and over the limbs, or over the top of the ledge. Usually, they strike aggressively; you'll feel the thump-thump, and they'll start moving away. ■

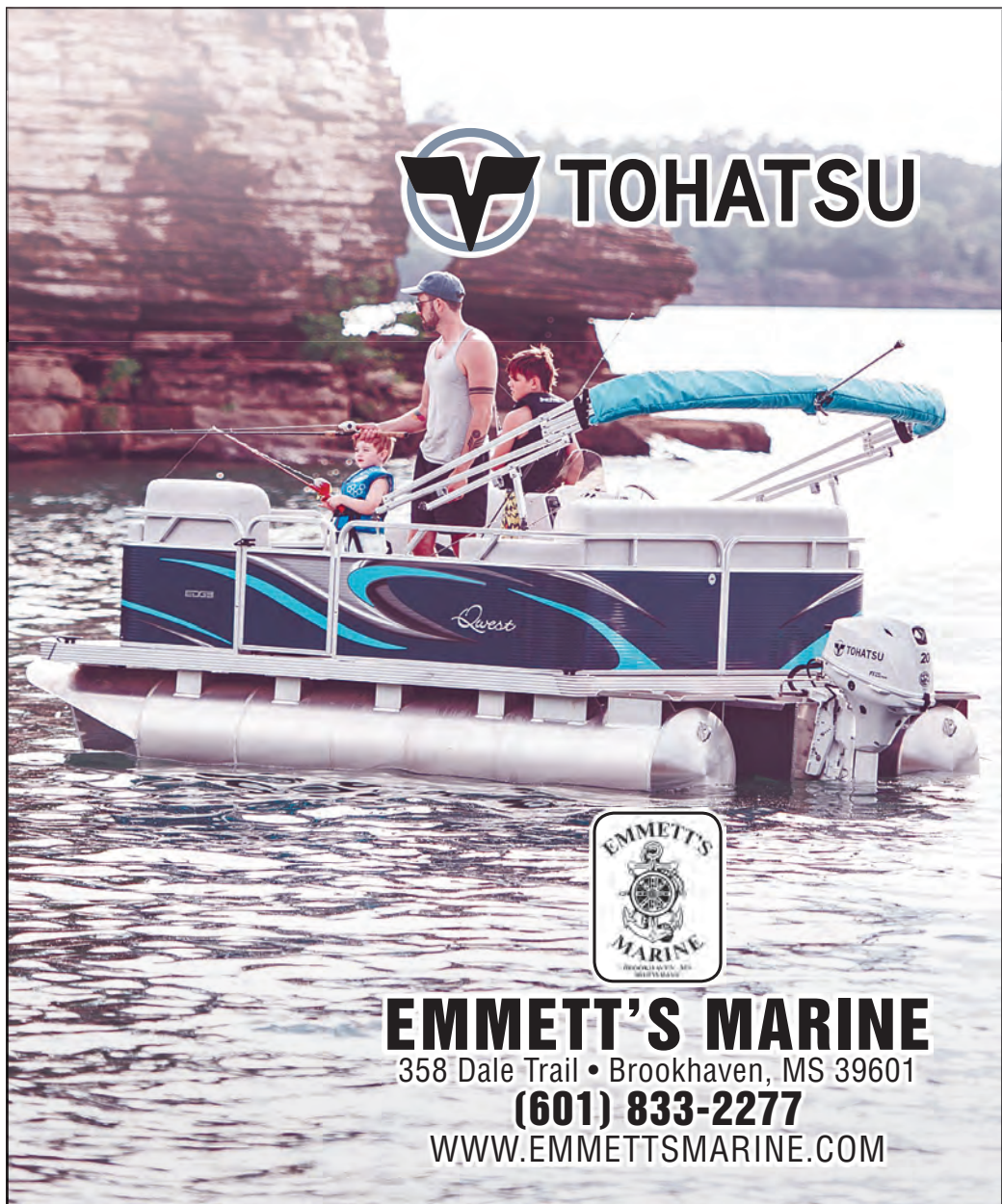



Mike Giles of Meridian has been hunting and fishing Mississippi since 1965. He is an award-winning wildlife photographer, writer, seminar speaker and guide.

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LUNKER LINES

Paul Elias

Pitching and flipping a Texas-rigged plastic worm around cypress trees and knees is a good tactic for catching Bogue Homa bass in July.



BOGUE HOMA FOR JULY BASS

July is always a hot month, and Bogue Homa is relatively shallow, but the lake provides a lot of cover for bass. I believe there are three places bass have to be: stumps along the underwater creek channel, standing cypress trees and lily pad stems. I like to crank the stumps, pitch to the cypress trees and frog the lily pads.

FISH STUMPS EARLY

At daylight, I'll start fishing crankbaits around stumps right on the edge of the underwater creek channel from the boat ramp all the way back to the shallow end of the lake. A ski area is also above the

middle of the creek channel, so I want to fish the stumps before the water skiers get out there.

The creek channel is probably 6 to 12 feet deep, and on top of that underwater creek channel, the water will be 3 to 6 feet deep. I'll fish a Mann's C-4 square-bill crankbait in the grey ghost or blue chrome colors on a 6-foot-9, medium-action FX Custom rod and use 20-pound White Peacock fluorocarbon on a 6.2:1 Bruin Elias Legend Series reel. I'll run that C-4 in the 3- to 6-foot deep water over the tops of and around the edges of the stumps. I'll be searching for bends in the creek channel with numbers of

stumps close together.

I'll target also isolated stumps in the deeper sections of the channel with a medium-running crankbait that dives 7 to 8 feet deep on a 7-foot-2, medium-action FX Custom rod with the same reel, just spooled with 23-pound fluorocarbon. You won't get numbers of bites fishing the channel, but the bass that do bite usually



Paul Elias, of Laurel, has fished 15 Bassmaster Classics with career winnings of over \$1 million, including one Bassmaster Classic Championship. Elias also holds the current record for a four-day BASS tournament weigh-in with 132 pounds, 8 ounces, on Falcon Lake in Texas.

are good sized.

When I catch a bass on the creek channel, I'll use my Garmin electronic anchor to hold my boat on that exact spot. I'll cast to that place with the crankbait four or five more times until the bass quit hitting. Next, I'll fish a SpringR worm rigged with no weight and a 2/0 weedless Gamakatsu wacky worm hook. That SpringR Worm will fall and move slowly.

CYPRESS TREES

I'll fish the creek channel until about 9 or 10 o'clock, then I'll move to the standing cypress trees. I like to fish a 6- to 7-inch stickbait, a fat, soft-plastic worm. I'll also use a SpringR worm with a 1/16-ounce slip sinker up the line. I'll pitch these lures around the cypress trees with a 7.3:1 reel, spooled with 23-pound fluorocarbon on a 7-foot-4, heavy plus action FX Custom rod with and a moderate tip.

I'll pull up to a cypress tree, put down my Power Poles and pitch to every hole I see around the cypress knees and knots. I use my Garmin LiveScope to look for bass holding under the trees. I try to be as quiet as possible to keep from spooking the bass. Although bass will generally be in the shade under the trees, I'll fish all the way around the trees. Next, I'll move to isolated cypress trees.

FROGGING THE PADS

I'll also fish a black/white Super Frog in the lily pads. I try to remain about two boat lengths away from the edges of the lily pads and cast the frog as far back in the pads as possible. I'll target places with the thicker lily pads and places where other aquatic vegetation is growing up through the pads — or where hyacinths are on top of the lily pads.

I'll be listening for the bait-fish concentrated under the pads to pop as they eat bugs and minnows. I let the bass tell me which color of frog they prefer that day by the number of strikes I get. Bogue

Homa is an 882-acre lake, and probably two-thirds of the lake holds lily pads.

You can get bites from bass on all three of these techniques this month, but you'll probably catch the biggest bass on the C-4 crankbait fishing stumps on the edge of the creek channel. Catching 10 to 12 bass will be a very good day, and one 8- to 9-pound bass may be in that number. Some of those bass will be small, however; most of the bass you catch in July with these tactics will be 15 inches long or better. ■

LURE REVIEW ➤



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WAGER'S CALCUTTA JIG

SYNTHETIC HAIR GIVES BLADED BAIT A DIFFERENT ACTION

An Opelousas fisherman has given the bladed jig a new look, and bass apparently are going ga-ga over it.

It's all about the skirt, which is a synthetic hair material, something vastly different than the skirt on many bladed jigs.

Ross Wager's Calcutta Jigs is turning the heads of bass and bass anglers near and far. The owner of Wager Baits — whose motto for his line of artificial lures is "So good you can bet on 'em" — is proud of the splash his jig has made in a short time.

The Calcutta Jig has caught bass after bass for bass pro Tyler Carriere of Youngsville; Andre Oliver of Eunice, who loves to chunk it at Chicot Lake; Zachary Dubois, who owns Cajun Lures in Nunez, and many others. Carriere has used the bladed jig to catch bass while pre-fishing and in tournaments on the Bassmaster Elite Series circuit, including a few weighing more than 5 pounds, according to Wager.

A HAIRY WONDER

The feedback he gets is encouraging, he said. Perhaps its main selling point, he said, is the synthetic hair skirt.

"The way the hair works in the water compared to silicone skirt material gives the bait a bigger profile and looks more realistic the way it moves in the water," Wager said. "People are catching fish on them, big fish, too.

"Anglers are telling me it gives more of a thump in the water, more vibration in the water. I think that's due to the size of the split ring. It gives it more range of motion."

Wager, 32, who worked eight years with a machining company in Lafayette, began making sac-a-lait jigs about two years ago. He decided to make artificial lures full time in December 2019.

"I was just tinkering with different lures," he said. "After I discovered the material to use for a skirt, (that) is when I created the Calcutta Jig. It just blew up from there."

The skirt is a synthetic hair, he said; he likes it a whole lot more than the rubber and silicone skirts he fished with from his childhood years on up. The synthetic hair he's using has a longer life compared to standard bucktail hair.

Each Calcutta Jig is hand-tied.

"The only thing that separates mine from others on the market is the skirt material," he said.

Wager's sac-a-lait jigs are tied with marabou feathers and/or Krystal flash. Silicone skirt materials also can be used for the sac-a-lait jigs, he said.

FOR SALTWATER TOO

In 2019, Wager's fledgling company sold between 200 and 250 Calcutta Jigs, mainly in Louisiana and nearby Texas, but some of them as far away as Georgia. His plan is to branch out and market the bladed jig for saltwater fishing, too, saying he has caught redfish on the Calcutta Jig.

"That's one way I want to go with it, to be universal with it," he said.

Wager also markets a Flippin' Finesse Jig and makes football jigs that aren't sold elsewhere at www.wagerbaits.com.

Calcutta Jigs are made in only one size: ½-ounce. It is the preferred weight of most bass anglers who use bladed jigs, Wager said.

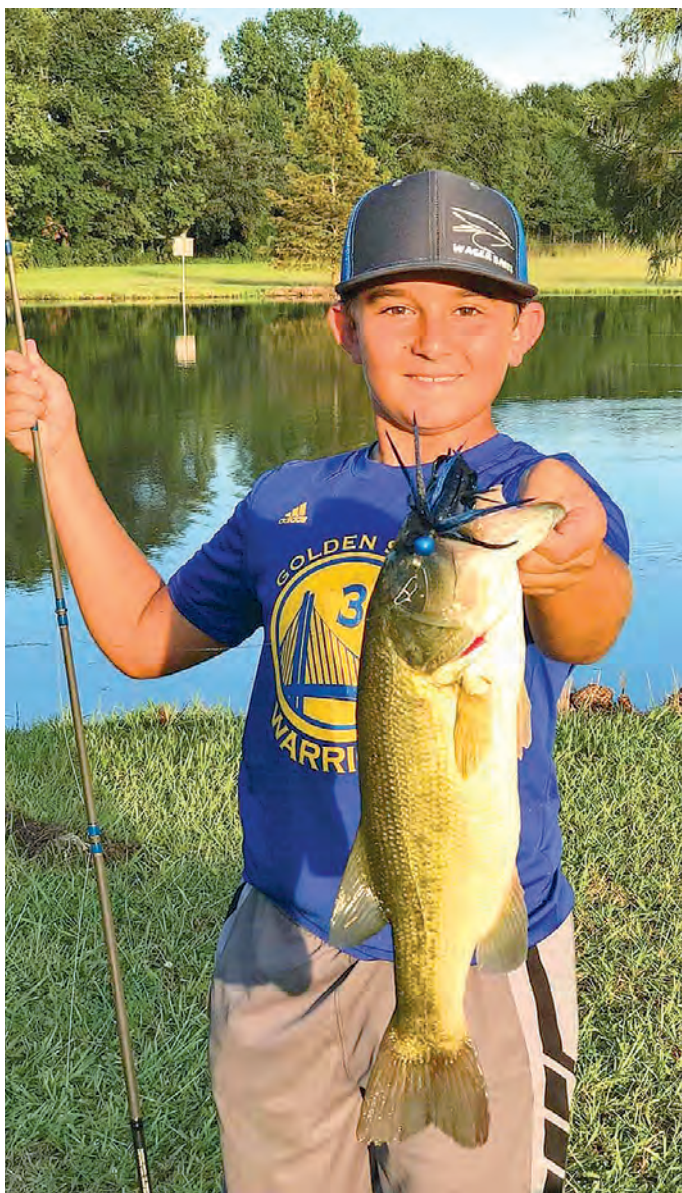
The skirt color schemes and matching



Don Shoopman fishes for freshwater and saltwater species mostly in and around the Atchafalaya Basin and Vermilion Bay. He moved to the Sportsman's Paradise in 1976, and he and his wife June live in New Iberia. They have two grown sons.

head colors are striking, bold in their appearance.
 "I have 10 available color patterns on the website, and I can customize any color needs the customer wants," he said.
 The Calcutta Jig "hot craw" color's head is hand-painted rather than powder coated to match the color of the skirt.
 The bladed jigs are armed with a 5/0 Mustad extra sharp hook, one so sharp that it'll nip your fingers or hands if you aren't careful. ■

For more information about the Calcutta Jig, call 337-692-7416, email wagerbaits@gmail.com or visit www.wagerbaits.com.

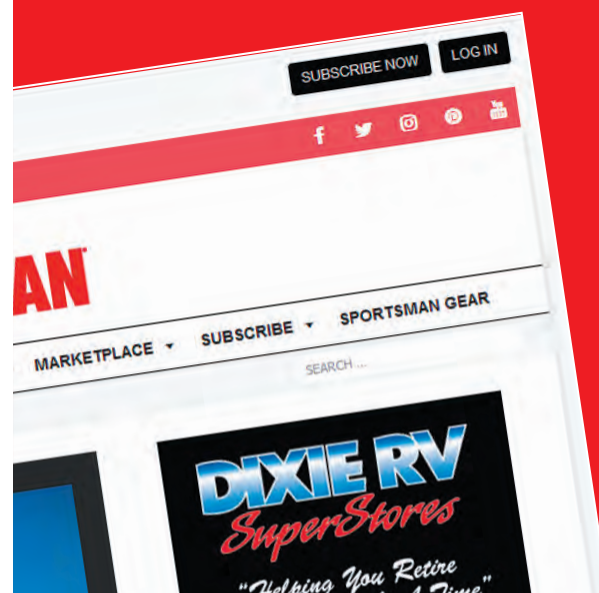


The Calcutta Jig is a bass-catching bladed jig.

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NEW ARRIVALS!



GUIDES, PROS SHARE THEIR TACTICS FOR CATCHING SLABS WHEN THE TEMPERATURE SKYROCKETS AND THE FISH CHANGE THEIR HAUNTS AND HABITS. ■ By Phillip Gentry

Summer on a big majority of Mississippi's lakes is a great time to catch slab crappie. And while they may have moved away from their spring haunts, it's not that difficult to dial in on the fish by using a handful of specialized tactics, as well as understanding where and why crappie have moved for the summer. A handful of well-known crappie pros offered several tips that will help you find and catch more slabs this summer.

LOCATE THERMOCLINES >

Summer CRAPPIE? Here's how

LOCATE THERMOCLINES

By July, any lake that can and will develop a thermocline has done so. This means crappie will most certainly be holding at specific depths in larger reservoirs to take advantage of the cooler water that provides the highest dissolved oxygen and the best supply of food.

Pro Ronnie Capps from Tiptonville, Tenn., has learned to use a thermocline to his advantage using a tight-line, double-hook minnow rig to his advantage.

“About 6 to 7 feet deep is the standard depth to catch crappie this time of year in most of the big Mississippi lakes,” Capps said. “That’s where the fish will hold, because they’re right there in the thermocline. I don’t care how deep the water under them is, whether it’s 17 or 18 feet deep or if it’s 30 feet deep.”

Capps said the best way to judge the thermocline is by the life of the bait he’s using on his double-minnow rigs. If he fishes the minnow too high in the water column, the heat will quickly kill it. If he drops the minnow below the thermocline, the lack of oxygen lower in the water column will also kill it.

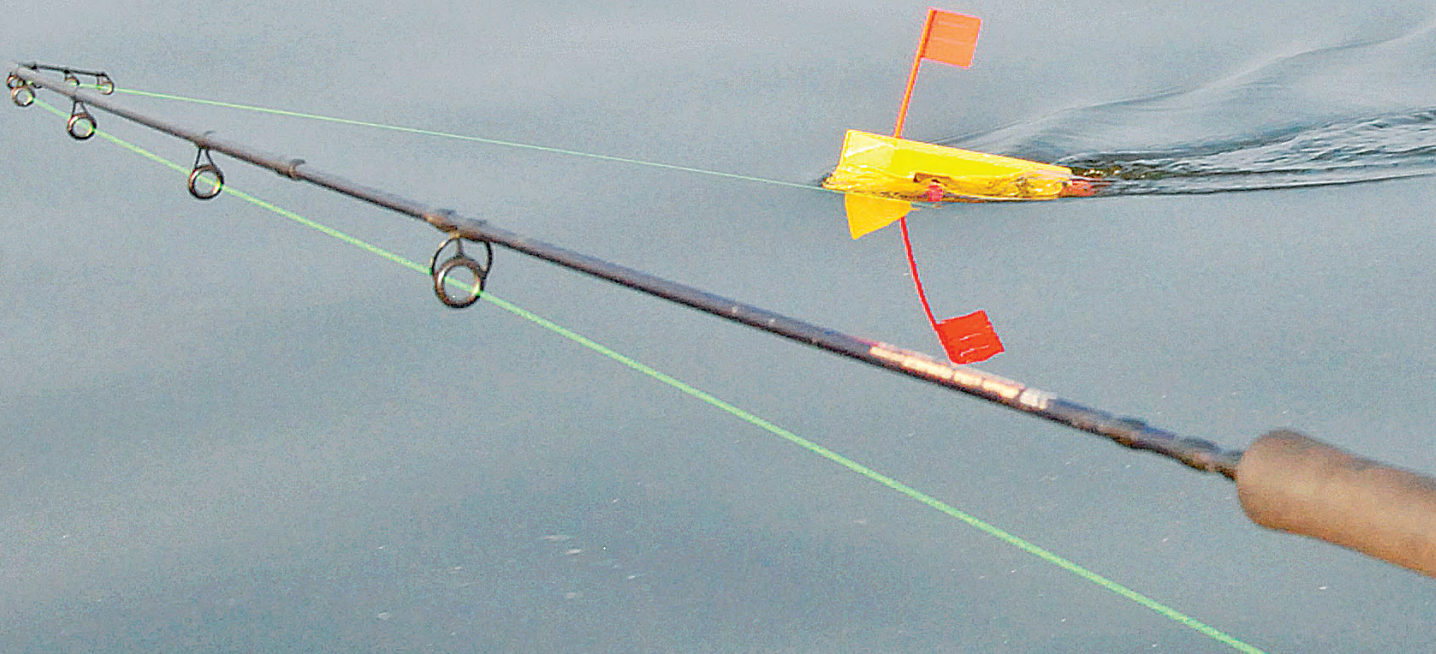
“On the murky Mississippi reservoirs, the thermocline tends to be higher than it will be in a clear water lake like Pickwick or Kentucky Lake,” Capps said. “That still leaves a lot of water to fish in, but you can narrow that down if you can find some type of structure that fish can hold around.”



Phillip Gentry

Pro angler Steve Coleman claims power trolling is just the ticket for any lake that holds populations of white crappie.

OLD-FASHIONED JIGGING >



Phillip Gentry

Planer boards and **CRANKBAITS**

Summer crappie sometimes prefer shallower, clearer waters, which makes them tend to shy away from a boat, crappie pro Kent Driscoll began searching for a way to troll crankbaits further away from his boat.


"Walleye pros up north have been trolling cranks to catch walleyes for years," Driscoll said. "I thought there might be something they do that would help down here when I'm targeting spooky crappie."

Driscoll's answer came in the use of a planer board, a wedge-shaped, side-planer that runs on the surface and to the side of the boat when attached to the line. By staggering the distance between boards, Driscoll can fish both to

the side and further away from the boat than allowed by even the longest rods.

"In depths of 15 feet or less, I have to get my baits out away from the noise, shadow and vibration of the boat," he said. "It's also a big deal when we have high-water years and all the grass and vegetation in our lakes filters the water and makes it a lot clearer than normal."

"I keep the same distances of line out as I would without using the boards," said Driscoll. "I just count from the board back to the bait rather than from the rod tip." ■



Trolling crankbaits behind planerboards will move them out and away from the boat to prevent spooking clear water or shallow crappie.

OLD-FASHIONED JIGGING

Brad Whitehead, who guides on Pickwick Lake, has seen crappie fishing move from cane poles to multi-rod spider-rigging to trolling high-dollar crankbaits. He believes all of these methods have a time and place, but one thing he has noticed on his home lake is that a lot of anglers simply overlook single-pole jigging in the late summer when crappie begin to move into their fall pattern.

“Here’s what I see all the time,” he said, “an angler has 20 or 30 brush piles marked on his GPS, and he rigs up eight to 10 poles and trolls from one spot to the next. He’ll catch a fair number of fish at the end of the day, but if you go back and look, most all the action came within just a foot or two of the brush top.”

Whitehead said that for anglers who may not enjoy trolling or who don’t have a whole day to devote to fishing — maybe even just a couple of hours — the idea of single-pole jigging in deep water is very appealing.

“Most people think of jigging brush that’s in 4 to 10 feet of water,” he said. “They can see the brush, they hit every side of it and they can really control where that bait goes. Why not do the same thing in water that might be 15 or even 20 feet deep?”

For deep-water jigging, Whitehead uses the same pole he would pick for spider-rigging, but a shorter version. Using an 8- or 10-foot graphite pole, he will go to one of the brush tops he has marked on his graph and do a little scanning to make sure somebody is home.

“I don’t rely solely on the graph,” he said. “I will mark the high spot on a brush top that has fish on it, and I’ll take a buoy and throw it off to the side — never on top of the brush. That gives me a visual reference, and I can jig fish just like I would anywhere else.”

FIND SOME GREEN BUSHES

Guiding on Grenada Lake, John Harrison spends many summer days looking for shade under green bushes that line deeper tributaries in the upper part of the lake.

“With the weather and the water in the upper 80s, most people would expect we’d be out in the middle of the lake working a deep brush pile,” he said. “Don’t let that fool you. There’s a lot of crappie that can be caught around green ironwood bushes, especially during the summer. Crappie come in here because they provide shade, cover and a good place to ambush bait. The overhead shade will make this water just a little bit cooler, and that helps draw the fish in.”



Rather than trolling from spot to spot, Pickwick guide Brad Whitehead spends time jigging the brush tops where he catches the majority of his fish anyway.

Harrison has found single-pole jigging to be the most-productive method, as the tangle of bushes can wreak havoc on multiple rods. He also indicated that any old pole wouldn’t cut it. He wants a long, limber pole that can take some abuse.

“About the only way you can fish these tangles is with a single jig pole,” he said. “Get in there and jig ’em out. A like to use a B’n’M Camouflage Brushcutter jig pole. I wouldn’t come in here unless I had a pole that could take some abuse, because when you get a bite, you have to haul back on that fish and get him out of there or he’ll hang you up in a hurry. This rod is IM6 graphite. It’s super stiff where it needs to be, but you still get a lot of feel out of the tip for soft bites.”

POWER TROLLING

When most anglers are spending time pulling crankbaits all over the lake, Steve Coleman of Tiptonville, Tenn., believes that pushing crankbaits produces better results in the summer. It's a tactic known as power-trolling.

"It's a lot easier to control where you fish if you're pushing crankbaits out the front (of the boat)," he said. "Most people who troll crankbaits troll them way out the back, and when you go into a turn, there's no way to know exactly where the baits are."

"Ronnie (Capps) and I have made a living fishing break lines over the years. We'll get on a specific break line and just follow it all over the lake. Ever since we started fishing with GPS units, we started marking every big fish we caught. At the end of the day, we'd go back and map out where we caught our best fish, and just about everyone will be on a break line at a specific depth that day."

Like most crankbaiters, Coleman targets white crappie with his power-trolling rig and has some advice for anglers who are interested crappie fishing on Mississippi lakes.

"Anytime I'm fishing crankbaits, I want a lake that has a good population of white crappie in it," he said. "Crankbaits occasionally work for black crappie, but you really have to downsize the baits, and the fish are so tight to cover that other tactics work better. White crappie suspend more and have bigger mouths, so they don't have a problem eating a 3-inch crankbait," he said.

"If I didn't know anything about the lake other than looking at it on a map, I'd start on a break line, probably in the 20-foot range," said Coleman. "You can determine where the thermocline is using electronics or by graphing fish. That's where the biggest majority of the fish will be. Start following that break line, trolling about 1.7 – 2.0 mph. A lot of it is trial-and-error, but once you start putting together a pattern, you can catch some good crappie." ■



Phillip Gentry

Don't turn your nose up at single-pole jiggling around bushes or tree limbs; crappie will often hold in the shade.

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Phillip Gentry is a freelance outdoor writer and photographer who says that if it swims, walks, hops, flies or crawls he's usually not too far behind.

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GETTIN' FRESH

Hal Schramm

These Pickwick Lake crappie are the product of sustained good recruitment.



A CASE FOR CRAPPIE STOCKING

STATE AGENCY RESTORES A STRUGGLING FISHERY, ANSWERS A FEW QUESTIONS

Many crappie populations are notoriously erratic — one or maybe two strong year-classes are often followed by one or more weak year-classes.

This variability has been attributed to reservoir water levels during and after the spawn, the amount of water flowing through the reservoir at different seasons, availability of food and predation, possibly even by the previous year-class of crappies. In general, crappie abundance is determined by the spawn and survival of the young-of-the-year.

It would seem that crappie stocking could be used to smooth out the dips in recruitment, but stocking to supplement crappie populations has generally been unsuccessful. White crappies stocked into Lake Chicot and six 140- to 1,250-

acre impoundments in Arkansas failed to increase crappie abundance. Evaluations of crappie stocking in several Tennessee reservoirs achieved mixed results.

But success was achieved in North Carolina's Lake Hickory.

THE PROBLEM

Lake Hickory, a 4,100-acre impoundment in western North Carolina, had historically supported a popular black crappie fishery. Supporting anglers' complaints, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission biologists documented a steady decline in trap-net catches of black crappies from a peak of 8.3 fish per net night in 1999 to 0.4 fish per net night in 2006.

Factors known to affect crappie populations in other waters — hydrology,

changes in primary production, loss of spawning habitat, and angler harvest — did not seem to be at play. Biological data pointed to a lack of crappie recruitment. To restore the popular fishery and to test whether crappie recruitment was the problem, the NCWRC began stocking black crappie in 2007.

THE APPROACH

The target stocking rate was 20 crappies per acre, or 80,000 per year. The fish were stocked in late summer at approximately



Hal Schramm is an avid angler and veteran fisheries biologist.

2 to 2½ inches long. The actual stocking rate from 2007 to 2012 varied from five to 25 fish per acre, averaging 15 fish per acre.

All fish stocked were marked by immersion in an antibiotic, oxytetracycline, that is incorporated into bony tissue, including otoliths used to age fish and assign year-class, and fluoresces when the marked tissues are illuminated with ultraviolet light. This process allowed biologists to identify stocked fish and evaluate the survival and contribution of the stocked fish to the black crappie population up to several years after stocking.

Crappie were sampled with trap nets in the fall. Fish were measured, counted and otoliths removed for aging and detection of marks signifying stocked fish.

THE RESULTS

Across all six years, marking success was 96% to 100%. Initial survival after stocking (24-hour survival) was greater than 96% in four years and greater than 79% in the other two years.

The contribution of the stocked crappies — the proportion of stocked fish in fall trap-net samples — varied among stocking years, but stocked crappies were present in almost all samples and across all age-classes. In more than half the age-specific samples, stocked crappies were at least 50% of the crappies collected.

The stocked crappies increased the trap-net catch rates by 29% to 41%.

Although not a component of the study, the reported results suggest a positive correlation between the number of crappie fingerlings stocked and contribution to a year-class. The higher contributions to a year class occurred in the years of higher stocking.

Angler catch rates were not monitored after stocking began (an unfortunate shortcoming), but comments from Lake Hickory crappie anglers and guides support increased crappie catches after stocking began.

LESSONS LEARNED

Unlike most other crappie stocking efforts that reported no or inconsistent benefits, this stocking effort can be considered successful. And the benefits were evident year after year. Why?

Introduced alewife and white perch may be part of the problem. Both of these non-native fish were illegally introduced into Lake Hickory in the late 1990s or early 2000s. Both fish are potential competition for native fish, and both are also potential predators of young crappie. Alewife, in particular, heavily consume larval fish. Expanding

populations of these invasive species could account for the sudden decline in black crappies in Lake Hickory. The increase in crappies from stocking, especially since the crappies stocked were about 2 inches long and less vulnerable to the introduced predators, further implicates these unwanted invaders.

And, indeed, if competition and predation by alewife and white perch is interfering with crappie recruitment, stocking advanced-size crappie is an appropriate solution. Unfortunately, both of these introduced fish will be impossible to remove, making stocking advanced-size crappies an expensive and long-term burden on NCWRC. ■

Photo courtesy David Zeis



It's slab time about three years after a strong year class of white crappie recruits to the fishery.



PICK 'OLD' FOR 'NEW'

■ By Andy Douglas

The dog days of summer are upon us — lots of sportsmen and women are spending time power-trolling for crap-pie, punching through grass beds for big bass, fishing deep for killer cats or dreaming of late-summer alligator hunting.

Other sportsmen, like die-hard deer hunters, have other things on their mind.

It's the best time of year to buy that perfect, new deer rifle you've always dreamed of — you know, the one that never misses, puts them down in their tracks and doesn't leave a bruise on your shoulder.

Does it exist? You bet it does. This time-proven quarter-bore, the .25-06, has been around for a century and could be the right rifle for you.

HISTORY

The .25-06, aka quarter-bore, came into being a little more

than 100 years ago, in 1912, when Charles Newton necked-down the .30-06 Springfield cartridge to accept a .25-35 Winchester bullet. It was a wildcat cartridge for half a century, meaning that rifles were custom builds and ammo couldn't be bought off the shelf; it had to be hand-loaded.

Things changed in 1969 when Remington started producing its Model 700 rifle in .25-06, along with ammo. It was marketed and quickly became known as “the western cartridge” due to its effectiveness on deer and antelope in open country.

WHY BUY?

The .25-06 is a hunter's cartridge and was developed to kill deer-sized game with authority out to 400 yards. Many professional hunters worldwide consider it the perfect killing cartridge, possibly due to the combination of high velocity, good bullet weight and low recoil.



CONSIDER THE .25-06, A CENTURY OLD CARTRIDGE, IF YOU'RE GETTING READY TO LOOK FOR YOUR NEXT DEER RIFLE. IT MIGHT JUST BE THE BEST PURCHASE YOU EVER MAKE.

"I bought my .25-06 in 1989; it was a used gun, and I got it from a friend," said Matt Shell of Brookhaven. "I like it because of the flat trajectory and low recoil. It's also extremely accurate."

There is a lot of hype and attention given today to newer and long-range calibers such as the 6.5 Creedmoor, causing the old quarter-bore to fly under the radar. The .25-06 isn't a magnum cartridge, and isn't a 1,000-yard shooter for plinking steel. It is, however, a killing machine and, make no mistake, it delivers bullets at blistering speeds.

PERFORMANCE ➤

Lincoln County's Matt Shell took out this gray fox using his .25-06. ABOVE: Remington offers the traditional Model 700 in .25-06, and it offers upgrades like the Model 700 Long Range with a Bell & Carlson stock, aluminum bedding block and 26-inch heavy contour barrel.



PERFORMANCE

The 6.5 Creedmoor will outperform the .25-06 past the 500-yard mark due to its better-developed ballistic coefficients. Arguably, however, any shot longer than 500 yards for the average hunter could be considered unethical.

The .25-06 will make all other calibers of rifles, including the 6.5 Creedmoor, blush with the numbers it produces out to 400 yards. It's a speed demon and will deliver a 115-grain Nosler Partition bullet in a Federal factory load at 3,030 feet per second out of the muzzle. The same load sighted-in at 200 yards is 1.5 inches high at 100 yards, 6.8 inches low at 300 and 20 inches low at 400. If you go with a slightly lighter bullet, the numbers get even more impressive.

"I upgraded to a Hogue stock and put a Steiner 3x15x56 scope on my .25-06," Shell said, "It's my 'go-to' gun. It shoots a Federal Premium 117-grain BTSP extremely well. I guess that over the years, I have killed two or three hundred deer and hogs, combined, with it — plus a few coyotes."

The biggest downfall to the .25-06's performance would be that it doesn't hold its accuracy in rifles with shorter barrels. For optimal accuracy, choose a rifle with a barrel at least 26 inches long. Anyone who loads their own cartridges needs to know that it also needs a slower-burning powder for optimum accuracy. Factory loads already have this in consideration.

NUMEROUS USES

The .25-06 has been used to harvest every known big-game animal in North America, including grizzly bear. It's a little too much gun for squirrel and ground hog-

The .25-06 cartridge is not a magnum load, but it delivers bullets at blistering speeds. Shown here are the 7mm Mag (right), the .25-06 (center) and .22-250 (left)



Matt Shell of Brookhaven will choose a .25-06 every time. He whacked this 308-pound hog with his Remington 700 in .25-06.





The .25-06 is a flat-shooting, low-recoil and deadly accurate deer load.

sized critters and really not the best choice for elk or bear. It's absolutely lethal on deer, hogs and coyotes in the hands of a southern hunter.

AVAILABLE LOADS

The most-popular companies producing loads for the .25-06 are Barnes, Nosler, Federal, Remington, Winchester and Hornady. Reloading supplies are plentiful, too. The best-killing bullets for the .25-06 are the Nosler Partition, Swift A-frame, and Barnes TTSX. A Nosler Partition bullet in .25-06 traveling around 3,000 fps is devastating to a whitetail.

LAST WORD

The old quarter-bore is largely overlooked and forgotten by many hunters today. If you are considering a new deer rifle, find someone who owns one and talk to them about it.

"I have access to plenty of other guns: 7 Mags, .30-06s, .270s and more," Shell said. "But I will grab the .25-06 every time; I know what it will do, and I have that much confidence in it."

This traditional deer rifle is quick and flat-shooting with low recoil. It's very attractive when you take a hard look at it. When it comes to deer rifles, it really is the total package. ■

SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: RED SNAPPER ➤



Andy Douglas is an outdoor writer and photographer from Brookhaven. A native of Lincoln County, he's chased deer, turkeys, bass and most anything else the past 35 years. He lives the outdoor lifestyle and is passionate about sharing that with others through stories and photos.

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SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

Brian Cope

The majority of red snapper harvested from the Gulf of Mexico are between 2 and 7 years old.



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: RED SNAPPER

THIS SPECIES IS COVETED BY RECREATIONAL ANGLERS

Red snapper, *Lutjanus campechanus*, are large snappers that are important to recreational and commercial fisheries. These fish are found from North Carolina down the east coast, throughout the Gulf of Mexico, and to the Yucatan Peninsula.

These fish are most often found near reef habitats, livebottom habitats, platforms, shipwrecks and artificial reefs. They live in three distinct habitats in their lifetimes. As juveniles, they live in mud/sand bottom areas relatively close to shore. Around 3 years old, they move to structure. At about the age of 10, they move off of structure and into very isolated, deep waters.

While many offshore species migrate long distances as seasons change, red snapper travel very little, other than for changing habitats as they age. Red snappers that are tagged as part of research studies are often caught within a mile or two of where they were tagged.

Fisheries biologists note that red snapper are unlike most other fish in an interesting way. They can estimate the age of most species by the size of the fish. This is completely unreliable when it comes to red snapper. A 5-year-old red snapper can be as little as 13 inches long or up to 32 inches in length.

Female red snappers reach sexual maturity between 2 and 6 years old. Males usually mature at younger ages. Their spawning season runs from May through September. During most

years, May through July sees the majority of spawning, but that deviates in years with severe weather during those months.

CONTROVERSIAL MANAGEMENT

During the spawn, females release a batch of eggs every five or six days. These releases may be as few as 1,000 or as many as 2.5 million eggs, depending on the fish's size. Throughout one spawning season, mature larger females can drop up to 75 million eggs.

Snappers up to 58 years old have been recorded, but most don't reach the age of 20. In both commercial and recreational sectors, the vast majority of harvested red snapper are between 2 and 7 years old.

Red snappers are opportunistic feeders. Their diet consists of just about anything they encounter that will fit in their mouths. Other fish, tunicates, squid, crabs, shrimp and zooplankton make up much of their diet.

Red snappers have been a constant source of contention between anglers and fisheries managers. Lots of controversy surrounding surveys



Brian Cope of Edisto Island, S.C., is a retired Air Force combat communications technician. He has a B.A. in English Literature from the University of South Carolina and has been writing about the outdoors since 2006. He's spent half his life hunting and fishing. The rest, he said, has been wasted.

Evan Clark caught this great red snapper off one of the Timbalier rigs out of Port Fourchon, La., last July.



have plagued the efforts to protect these fish, which are seen as overfished in some areas, but widely abundant in others.

Short harvesting seasons mean anglers targeting other fish often catch — and must release — many quality red snapper throughout the year. Due to the depths these fish are usually caught, this often results in the death of released fish, adding further concern to the stability of the species.

LOUISIANA RECORD IS ALSO WORLD RECORD

Red snapper have a sloped profile, and their bodies are bright red on the backs, a lighter red or pinkish color along the sides, and pinkish-white on their bellies. They have red irises, medium to large scales and a spiny dorsal fin with 10 spines and 14 soft dorsal rays. They are sometimes confused with vermilion snapper and cubera snapper. Smaller red snapper often have a large dark spot on their upper sides, but these almost always fade completely away as the fish grows.

The Louisiana state-record red snapper weighed 50.25 pounds and was caught by Capt. Doc Kennedy in June 1996. Kennedy caught the fish in South Timbalier Block 185. This fish is also listed as the IGFA world record.

John J. Bullock caught Mississippi's state record red snapper in August 1995. The fish weighed 37 pounds, 11.2 ounces. ■

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COOKING ON THE WILD SIDE

Jerry Dilsaver

GOOD MAHI CEVICHE

TRY THIS COOL TREAT AFTER A GOOD DAY AT SEA



Cut a Mahi fillet in ½-inch cubes before mixing with vegetables and fruit juices for ceviche. **INSET:** Sectioning the lime will make it easier to squeeze and produce more juice.

Jerry Dilsaver

No one can deny this has been an unusual year. Our personal, professional and piscatorial lives have been jammed up and reshaped as we come to grips with the COVID-19 virus and adapt to living with it.

Personally and professionally, many things are still in a mess. Thankfully, fishing has only been interrupted in a couple of ways and has generally been considered a good activity.

Most nutritionists agree that eating a diet containing a lot of fresh fish is good for us. Mahi mahi is a fish most folks welcome to their table, and this is a way to prepare it as fresh as possible. This is good anytime, but is at its absolute best when prepared the evening after the Mahi is caught. Ceviche isn't cooked over a fire but relies on the acids in lime juice to prepare it for eating. It isn't sashimi but is only "cooked" a little more.

Mahi usually arrive along the Gulf Coast in spring, with numbers growing through May and into June. Many of these are larger fish, with some smaller ones following.

Mahi mahi are the fastest-growing offshore pelagic species. In the wild, they don't have an unlimited food supply, but they

are almost always feeding and that makes them a favorite of fishermen. Mahi often get wrapped up in feeding on schools of baitfish and occasionally even follow them to within sight of shore. A couple have even wandered close enough to be caught by pier fishermen and that gives them another check in the column of why fishermen like them.

The third positive check for mahi is they have big fillets of mild flavored meat that appeal to all but the most picky eater. Mahi fillets are delicious grilled, baked, broiled, fried and this recipe kicks that good flavor up a notch or two without adding heat.

Before the mahi leave, put on your sun screen, wear a buff, put a mask under that if you feel the need, but find some time to get out and catch a cooler full.. Their highly acrobatic antics when hooked will keep even the most attention deficit fisherman busy and laughing. They'll provide many delicious meals over the coming weeks. Try this ceviché recipe early on, because you'll want to use it again — probably several times. ■

MAHI GOOD CEVICHE

According to Wikipedia, ceviché, aka cebiché, seviché, or sebi-ché, is a Latin American seafood dish thought to have originated in Peru. It is made from fresh, raw fish cured in fresh citrus juices, commonly lemon or lime, and spiced with ají, chili peppers or other seasonings, including chopped onions, salt, and coriander. Because ceviché is eaten only with the curing of the citric acids and not cooked with heat, it must be prepared and served fresh.

There isn't an exact date, but the international dish of ceviché is believed to have reached the United States in the 1980s and quickly become popular. There are many varieties of ceviché that range from mild to wild depending on the country of origin. This is a middle-of-the-road version that has a little spice but is mild enough to be enjoyed by all but those with the mildest palate. As with many recipes featured here, it can easily be warmed up a notch or three by adding more chilies.

Mahi mahi, aka dolphin, is the fish featured in this recipe, but it works well with almost any fish. I chose mahi, as it is a favorite with many fishermen and diners. Mahi is also readily available at the fish market should you not have the boat, time or equipment to catch your own.

Any fish destined to become ceviché or sashimi should be buried in ice immediately when caught so it cools quickly and has no opportunity to deteriorate. Absolutely, the quicker a fish is cooled makes it better. The difference is remarkable.

Filletts should be skinned, and most diners will appreciate trimming out any remaining red meat. Don't let the fillet warm while making the ceviché marinade. Either make the marinade first or cover the fillet in ice. Finished ceviché should be kept cold until ready to serve. I prefer surrounding the bowl in ice and serving it with the bowl placed in a larger, ice-filled bowl to keep it coolest.

The most-tedious part of preparing ceviche is squeezing the limes for fresh juice, but it's the only way to do it. Prepared lime

PREPARATION:

Squeeze approximately 15 limes to get the 1½ cups of fresh lime juice. Chop the onion into approximately ½-inch pieces. Slice the mahi fillet into approximately ½-inch pieces. Mix the mahi, onions and lime juice in a stainless steel or glass bowl. You must use enough juice to completely cover the fish.

Cover the bowl and refrigerate it for approximately 4 hours. The mahi should no longer look raw, but allowing it to "cook" too long will make it taste tart. After "cooking," drain the mahi and onions in a colander, shaking lightly. The fish can be prepared ahead of time and refrigerated up to a day.

Preparing the veggies.

Chop the tomatoes into ½-inch pieces. Remove the seeds and finely chop the jalapenos: one for mild palates and two for more robust palates. Chop the cilantro and save a few full leaves for garnish. Squeeze oranges for juice. Use a large bowl and mix the tomatoes, peppers, cilantro, olives and olive oil. Salt and pepper the mahi (to taste) and combine the fish into the bowl. Stir in the orange juice. Peel, pit and dice the avocados into approximate ½-inch pieces. Do not chop the avocado until ready to mix it in shortly before serving. Stir in the avocado last, taking care to not crush it. Allow to chill for 30 minutes to an hour if time allows.

juices lose something in the bottling process and don't do the job as well.

I was recently introduced to a new way to get juice from limes and lemons, and it works. Instead of cutting the lime into halves and squeezing, I cut the edges off the lime in four sections, which gives those sections and a rectangular core. The pieces are squeezed, and the core is twisted. I find this easier on my fingers, especially when squeezing the approximately 15 limes it requires to get the 1½ cup of juice. It yields more juice per lime and requires fewer limes than the conventional method.

The orange juice is used to cancel a little of the tart from the limes and sweetens the final mixture. If you find it too tart, add a little more orange juice. I have friends who add a touch of sugar, but I don't think that's necessary.

While it's a simple process, some prep time is involved. Get the fish "cooking" first and take your time getting the other ingredients ready. Most folks enjoy it and hopefully, you will too. ■

INGREDIENTS:

1 pound fresh, skinless mahi mahi fillet

1 medium sweet onion

2 medium-large tomatoes (about 1 pound)

1 large or 2 small ripe avocados

1½ cups fresh lime juice (approximately 15 limes)

3 tbsp fresh orange juice

1 or 2 fresh jalapenos (to personal taste)

½ cup chopped, pitted green olives

½ cup chopped cilantro and a few leaves for garnish

2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

Salt and pepper to taste

Chips and crackers



Jerry Dilsaver

Garnish with a few cilantro leaves before serving.

The ideal serving for ceviché is in a glass or stainless steel bowl that is resting inside another larger bowl filled with ice. This keeps it cool and fresh. ■

STICKS AND STRINGS >



Jerry Dilsaver of Oak Island, N.C., is a freelance writer, as well as a former national king mackerel champion fisherman. Readers are encouraged to send their favorite recipes and a photo of the completed dish to possibly be used in a future issue of the magazine. E-mail the recipes and photos to Jerry Dilsaver at captainjerry@captainjerry.com.

STICKS AND STRINGS

Sammy Romano

The Genesis bow can put any member of the family, including small children, into the sport of archery relatively inexpensively.

A NEW GENESIS FOR BEGINNERS

GET THE KIDS AND MOM STARTED WITH THIS GREAT BOW PACKAGE



Sammy Romano

In these trying times of the Covid-19 pandemic, the world as we know it has changed. Social distancing is the new norm, and team sports are having their seasons cancelled.

If there is any silver lining, perhaps it is that our youth have “unplugged” from their electronic devices and are spending more time outdoors. Much like golf, archery is a sport in which you can compete against yourself by seeking to improve. It also helps youths build self-esteem, because they aren’t comparing themselves to others, but rather seeking to better their own shooting.

There is something about watching the flight of an arrow that is hard to explain, and I’ve met very few people who aren’t captivated by it. With many, if not all, schools and summer camps closed, archery can be an affordable, enjoyable source of entertainment for kids as well as an entire family.

A unique and affordable way to begin archery is the Genesis bow. This bow is unique in that it will fit all members of most families without any adjustment required. As long as all members of a family have the same eye dominance (right-eyed or left-eyed), they can share one bow, because rather than having substantial let-off, the Genesis uses its cam as a force multiplier, thus providing additional thrust to the arrow.

At its maximum draw weight of 20 pounds, the Genesis shoots with the power of a 35-pound recurve. The draw cycle and shot is similar to a recurve without the issues of limb twist and warping. This is a great way for a beginning archer to get into the sport with a reasonably priced, low-maintenance setup. With prices starting at only \$170, the Genesis is well within most consumer budgets.

BOW SPECS

The Genesis bow has an axle-to-axle length of 35½ inches and weighs 3½ pounds. It offers a draw-length range of 15 to 30 inches and has an adjustable draw weight of 10 to 20 pounds. This makes it the ideal bow for an archer of nearly any size. For younger, smaller archers, the Genesis-mini is an option. With a shorter axle length of only 29½ inches and weighing only 2 pounds, its adjustable draw weight of 6 to 12 pounds and draw length range of 14 to 25 inches is ideal for small children. A third option is the Gen-X, a hunting capable

bow that offers even more room to grow in the sport with a draw length range of 21 to 30 inches and adjustable draw weight from 25 to 40 pounds. All of these bows are available as bow only or with accessory kits.

The Genesis bow is the standard bow for the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), 4H archery programs, the church-based Centershot archery program, and many more. Arrows for Genesis bows are manufactured by Easton, made of aluminum and are reasonably priced at less than \$6 each. Many target manufacturers are producing special NASP targets for Genesis bows, also affordable at less than \$50 retail.

NOT A BIG INVESTMENT

Now more than ever, the Genesis bow makes sense. For less than \$300, it will provide hours of quality, healthy entertainment for the family while still maintaining social distancing practices. It can also provide some sanity for parents who are out of options for kids’ activities. With a proper backstop, a bow can be shot in far more settings than a firearm — in many cases even the backyard.

Genesis bows are available at many retailers across the nation, as well as online at www.genesisbow.com. As always, I recommend purchasing your Genesis from an archery shop for the best results. A pro shop will help to determine eye dominance and proper bow size, as well as instruction on both correct form and safety. This will help to ensure success, thereby increasing the desire to shoot more often.

Unlike many hobbies which quickly fall by the wayside, I find kids will shoot archery tirelessly for hours on end. Not only does this great sport build self-confidence and self-esteem, it provides physical activity that is sadly much needed amongst today’s youth who are all too often addicted to “screen time.”

Check out a Genesis bow today and get them out shooting. ■



Sammy Romano is a lifelong hunter who has worked in the archery industry for more than 25 years. His expertise includes compounds and crossbows. He can be reached at samboka31@aol.com.

RADICAL PAN

The cast-iron skillet is a must-pack item for anyone who cooks a lot on camping trips, but there are a few things the old-faithful item can't do.

For one thing, clean-up can be a bear, at a time when you need it to be quicker and easier. Forget having to scrub up after fixing eggs. And if you like a heartier breakfast, flipping pancakes in a skillet may not be that easy.

Enter the Radical Pan, designed by a chef who was sitting on the beach, thinking about cooking. The pan has a chemical-free, non-stick surface and comes in three

sizes: 8½, 10 and 12 inches, so you can match it to the size of your camp stove or fire.

Better yet, it comes with a 3½-inch, high-rise lip on the front of the pan to make it easier to flip those pancakes, get those eggs just right or even splurge for some campfire stir fry after a day in the woods or on the lake.

MSRP: \$89-\$109.

For more info, visit: www.radusa.usa.



CORROSIONX FOR GUNS

Locked away in your gun safe, you figure your firearms are protected from just about anything. Maybe not — unless you treated them with CorrosionX for guns before storing them.

A cleaner, lubricant and rust preventative — the latter widely used throughout the marine industry — CorrosionX, features Fluid Thin Film Coating (FTFC), which fills in the microscopic grooves in metal, bonding with metal and alloys to seal out moisture, prevent corrosion and protect your firearm.

In addition, its lubrication values will help prevent gun fouling and sticking, and once

applied, it's not going anywhere.

Not only that, it's a must-have for gun cleaning to remove the junk that winds up in your barrel after a long day in the duck blind, keeping from future fouling and protecting against the elements while you're knocking down that limit of ducks or geese in a place where saltwater can do plenty of damage.

CorrosionX comes in several sizes: 1- and 4-ounce bottles, 6-ounce aerosol and 16-ounce trigger spray.

MSRP: \$3.99 to \$18.49.

For more info, visit: corrosionx.com

CZ 457 VARMINT PRECISION CHASSIS

With coyotes becoming more of an offseason target for hunters across the Southeast, and with plinking and target shooting as popular as ever, gun manufacturer CZ has breached the rimfire rifle market with a stunning offering.

The CZ 457 Varmint Precision Chassis, chambered for .22LR, is built on an aluminum chassis, weighs only 7 pounds and is ready to go, right out of the box.

The Luth-AR stock can be configured to fit nearly any shooter, comfortably. Likewise, the trigger is adjustable for weight, creep and over travel, so it can quickly and easily be fine-tuned for each shooter.

The CZ 457 has a bolt that rotates just 60°,

allowing plenty of room between bolt handle and scope for easier cycling of rounds from the detachable, five-round magazine. The receiver will accept bigger scopes and lower rings.

The rifle is available in two different barrel lengths, with 16½-inch and a 24-inch versions.

MSRP: \$999.

For more info, visit: www.cz-usa.com





Astro Tables is far more effective than "moon tables," because it takes into account critical solar energies as well as lunar.

The "Best Days" column is based on the ever-changing positions of the sun and the moon, rating each day on a scale of 0 to 100. The higher the number, the more solar/lunar influence that day is experiencing (see "Value" column or corresponding black bars).

The two Primary periods (Moon Overhead and Moon Underfoot) vary in length from one hour to three-and-one-half hours, depending on a number of important lunar cycles, such as how close the moon is to the earth that day and how high its orbit is. The solar symbols alert you to when a Primary period overlaps a major solar period (eg: Dawn, High-Noon, and Dusk). The secondary periods of Moonrise and Moonset last about one hour each... 30 minutes before and after the listed time. (See key at bottom of each month for more detail.)

Astro Tables is a quick-reference version of its parent publication, the **PrimeTimes Wall Calendar**, which is recommended for those wishing more complete data on the best days and times to go fishing and hunting for the entire year (see "Available Products" below).

PrimeTimes forecasts are based on solar/lunar research at a leading college of astrophysics and our own research pond/wildlife area. Annual data is supplied by the U.S. Naval Observatory. All times are adjusted to the center of your time zone and for Daylight Saving Time.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS:
The 2020 PrimeTimes Wall Calendar. \$13.95 (plus \$4 s&h). Know the best days, best times, and their relative strengths for all of 2020 with this information-packed, full-color, 11-inch by 17-inch, graphic peaks

and-valleys forecaster. Includes rise and set times for the sun and moon, space to log your catches, "Timely Tips," plus fish and game symbols showing you each month's don't-miss periods. Also includes exclusive summary charts revealing the best and worst days of 2020, the year's best periods, a look ahead at 2021, and more. Comes with FREE 2020 Astro Tables pocket calendar, which sells separately for \$8.95, plus \$3 s&h.

Book: "How to Know When to Go" by Rick Taylor. \$14.95 (plus \$4 s&h). 100 pages, 43 illustrations. A comprehensive look at the main factors influencing fish and game activity periods, plus how to devise an effective when-to-go game plan using any year's PrimeTimes calendars. Individual assessments of bass, panfish, deer, turkey, and more.

2020 Ultimate PrimeTimes software for PCs. \$29.95 (plus \$3 s&h, or no s&h if downloaded from web). The world's best forecaster allows you to fine-tune the peak times to your exact location, quarry, and even weather. Too many features to list here, including making your own App. For more details, please call us or visit our web site (see below).

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- #2: **Same as #1, plus Software...** \$47.95 (plus \$6 s&h).
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					POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCL	VALUE	TIMES OCCURRING AT NIGHT ARE SHADED				
										MOON RISE	PRIMARY MOON OVERHEAD	MOON SET	PRIMARY MOON UNDERFOOT	
Wed	1								51	5:07 pm	9:52 pm - 11:04 pm	3:03 am	9:15 am - 10:43 am	☉
Thu	2								58	6:15 pm	10:56 pm - 11:54 pm	3:44 am	10:17 am - 11:29 am	☉
Fri	3								67	7:22 pm	11:57 pm - Midnight	4:30 am	11:21 am - 12:19 pm	☀
Sat	4								70	8:23 pm	Midnight - 12:49 am	5:22 am	12:22 pm - 1:14 pm	☀ FULL
Sun	5								59	9:17 pm	12:55 am - 1:47 am	6:19 am	1:20 pm - 2:12 pm	☀ LOW
Mon	6								49	10:04 pm	1:50 am - 2:46 am	7:20 am	2:15 pm - 3:11 pm	☀
Tue	7								39	10:44 pm	2:40 am - 3:42 am	8:22 am	3:05 pm - 4:07 pm	☉
Wed	8								35	11:18 pm	3:23 am - 4:39 am	9:23 am	3:48 pm - 5:04 pm	☉
Thu	9								35	11:48 pm	4:03 am - 5:31 am	10:22 am	4:28 pm - 5:56 pm	☉
Fri	10								36	12:16 am	4:38 am - 6:24 am	11:19 am	5:03 pm - 6:49 pm	☉
Sat	11								43		5:11 am - 7:13 am	12:15 pm	5:36 pm - 7:38 pm	☉
Sun	12								55	12:43 am	5:44 am - 8:02 am	1:10 pm	6:09 pm - 8:27 pm	☀
Mon	13								49	1:09 am	6:15 am - 8:51 am	2:05 pm	6:40 pm - 9:16 pm	☀
Tue	14								47	1:37 am	6:50 am - 9:40 am	3:01 pm	7:15 pm - 10:05 pm	☀
Wed	15								51	2:06 am	7:26 am - 10:32 am	3:59 pm	7:51 pm - 10:57 pm	☀
Thu	16								53	2:40 am	8:08 am - 11:24 am	4:58 pm	8:33 pm - 11:49 pm	☀
Fri	17								65	3:18 am	8:53 am - 12:19 pm	5:58 pm	9:18 pm - 12:44 am	☀
Sat	18								77	4:04 am	9:43 am - 1:15 pm	6:57 pm	10:08 pm - 1:40 am	☀
Sun	19								88	4:56 am	10:37 am - 2:13 pm	7:54 pm	11:02 pm - Midnight	☀ HIGH
Mon	20								93	5:56 am	11:38 am - 3:08 pm	8:46 pm	Midnight - 2:38 am	☀ NEW
Tue	21								83	7:01 am	12:39 pm - 4:01 pm	9:32 pm	12:03 am - 3:33 am	☀
Wed	22								72	8:09 am	1:40 pm - 4:50 pm	10:13 pm	1:04 am - 4:26 am	☀
Thu	23								60	9:18 am	2:42 pm - 5:34 pm	10:49 pm	2:05 am - 5:15 am	☀
Fri	24								53	10:26 am	3:43 pm - 6:15 pm	11:23 pm	3:07 am - 5:59 am	☀ Perigee
Sat	25								48	11:34 am	4:44 pm - 6:56 pm	11:56 pm	4:08 am - 6:40 am	☀
Sun	26								49	12:42 pm	5:44 pm - 7:36 pm		5:09 am - 7:21 am	☀
Mon	27								55	1:50 pm	6:44 pm - 8:16 pm	12:29 am	6:09 am - 8:01 am	☀ HALF
Tue	28								42	2:57 pm	7:45 pm - 9:01 pm	1:04 am	7:09 am - 8:41 am	☀
Wed	29								34	4:05 pm	8:46 pm - 9:48 pm	1:42 am	8:10 am - 9:26 am	☀
Thu	30								32	5:11 pm	9:46 pm - 10:42 pm	2:25 am	9:11 am - 10:13 am	☀
Fri	31								40	6:13 pm	10:45 pm - 11:37 pm	3:14 am	10:11 am - 11:07 am	☀ LOW

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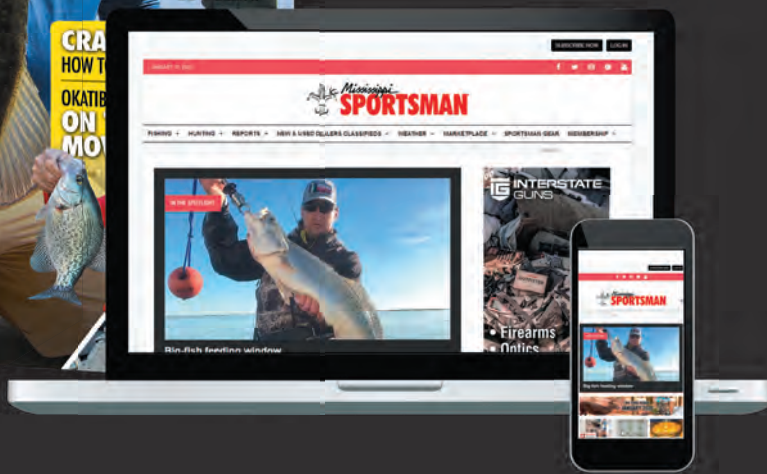
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