

Carolina SPORTSMAN[®]

JUNE 2018



DAYS OF THE DOLPHIN

JUNE MARKS
INSHORE MOVE

MOJO MAHI
FIREBALL
FAJITAS

RACK UP ON
RAT-L-TRAP
REDFISH

DOCK TACTICS FOR
LARGEMOUTH
BASS

GET IN
ON HOT
SANTEE
SLABS

TACTICS FOR
AFTER DARK

BRUSH UP ON
CRAPPIE

SACK
SUMMER
CRAPPIE

\$2.99 JUNE 2018



www.CarolinaSPORTSMAN.com

20
18

next level: elite performance



xpress boats®

The original all-welded aluminum boat company
is proud to announce **Bill Lowen,**
Bassmaster Elite Angler to its
Next Level Elite Team.

www.xpressboats.com

"Xpress Boats® truly depicts who I am as a competitive angler and outdoorsman. I fish hard, I play hard, and with Xpress there is a solution for every one of my outdoor pursuit needs".

Xpress Boats prefers to LEAD, not follow, prefers to pioneer, not copy, prefers to be the choice for the finest performing, finest built, original all-welded, high performance aluminum boats on the market today.

For additional information visit our website at
www.xpressboats.com.



Bill Lowen
Bassmaster Elite Angler





Wide, Deep, Tough & Fast

BAY PRO 230

.150 Tough Aluminum Alloy
Up to 250 Horsepower Rating
52 Gallon Fuel Tank
Leaning Post With Footrest
Twin Folding Rear Jump Seats
Twin Locking Rod Boxes
20 Gallon Rear Aerated Livewell

Exceleration Pad Hull Performance - 58 + MPH
Dry Box Storage Compartments 50 Cubic Feet
Deluxe Console w/6 Rod Holders
and 16 Gallon Aerated Livewell
Integrated Bow Trolling Motor Bracket
45 Gallon Insulated Fish Box

www.excel-marine.com



Experience the smooth operation, handling and legendary trustworthiness of Yamaha and an Excel Bay Pro

Avenger

AV-26



For more information, go to AvengerBayBoats.com
or call **843-538-6604**
or like us on Facebook at Avenger Bay Boats
for the latest available information.



222 Sportfish



For more information, go to PioneerBoats.com
or call **843-538-6604**
or like us on Facebook at Pioneer Boats
for the latest available information.

From The
Back Water
To The
Blue Water



230CC



For more information, go to BullsBayBoats.com
or call **843-538-6604**
or like us on Facebook at Bulls Bay Boats
for the latest available information.

#1 CAROLINA SKIFF®

Dealer in the USA For Over 10 Years!

Call us
BEFORE
you buy!
WE WILL
SAVE YOU
\$\$\$



Sanford, NC

919-775-7259
www.chatleeboats.com

Follow Us



NOBODY
SELLS FOR
LESS!

Powered by

 **SUZUKI**
MARINE





Carolina CONTENTS

Volume 25 | Number 6 | June 2018

15

Slabs and
night-stalkers

FEATURES:

15 Slabs and night-stalkers cover story

Join the 'midnight shift' and catch crappie after dark through the summer. Here's how to get up to speed.

>>>By Terry Madewell

23 Brush up on summer slabs

With the crappie spawn in your rearview mirror, it's time to look deeper, and brush piles are tough to beat, especially to find gangs of nice fish.

>>>By Jeff Burleson

29 Day of the dolphin cover story

Late spring and early summer are great times to kick off the offshore fishing season by targeting some colorful, tasty pelagic fish that provide plenty of excitement to any trip.

>>>By Jerry Dilsaver

36 Take a shot at summer bass

'Shoot' your bait back into the dark recesses under a dock, and you'll get more looks from hungry bass that dig the shade. Here's how.

>>>By David A. Brown

43 Time to 'Trap' a redish

Lipless crankbaits might have been designed to catch largemouth bass, but they're dynamite on reds in both Carolinas.

>>>By Dusty Wilson

52 Gator getting' time

The re-opening of the season for spotted seatrout this month means New River anglers are ready to show that their waters are North Carolina's best for huge specks.

>>>By Craig Holt

FISHING HOTSPOTS

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 86 Randleman Lake bass | 90 SC bluewater dolphin |
| 87 Central NC reds | 92 Lake Russell bass |
| 87 Border water cobia | 93 Tuckertown bass |
| 88 Santee Cooper slabs | 94 Shearon Harris bass |
| 89 SE NC Spanish macks | 95 Clarks Hill stripers |

73 Years in Business

Why Pay More and Get Less

AK has the LARGEST Selection of Jon Boats & Jon Boat Accessories in the South

Over 150 Different Models In Stock

1-800-682-2628 or AK McCallum.com

CHECK THIS OUT!

SEAARK BOATS MV1860 CC



with Leaning Post and many more options!

HULL ONLY

AK's Price **\$8,999.00**

JUST ARRIVED! XPRESS 2018 XP 180SC



AK's Price **\$20,299.00**

Powered by an F70 4 stroke Yamaha, spray in liner, Minn Kota foot control, Hummingbird Helix 5 GPS, custom alum trlr, includes batteries, frt & rigging. Similar boat with CC \$20,299

XP 200SC
VF 115LA, Alum trailer, 70lb Edge troll mtr, Helix 5 GPS, mag wheels

AK's Price **\$24,499.00**

YAMAHA

OUTBOARDS

2.5 to 115 HP

IN STOCK!




New for 2018 Alumacraft Prowler 165



16ft All welded hull with Carpet, 4 Dlx seats, live well, depth finder & foot control trolling motor. Powered by Yamaha F25LC four stroke w/ tilt & trim. Includes 2 batteries, rigging and galv. drive on trlr.

AK's Price **\$13,699.00**


New 1652VV Marsh CC & LW



CC & LW, Powered by F40 Yamaha, Load Rite galv. trlr, 2 tempess camo ped. seats, battery box, fuel/water separator, rigging & frt. included

AK's Price **\$14,245.91**

ALWELD 1448LA



.100 gauge Commercial grade Jon with large deck & open interior. Powered by F25 LWHC Yamaha w/electric start. Includes Load Rite galv trlr, battery box, rigging & frt.

AK's Price **\$7,455.96**

ALUMACRAFT MV1648 NCS



2018 Model Rated 35 HP

AK's Price **\$2,349.00**

Just Arrived - New 26 Ft Sea Ark with Tread Plate Alum Floor



.125 gauge

AK's Price **\$9,649.00**

2018 Models In Stock

SPORTSMAN SPECIAL

ALUMACRAFT 2018 MV1648




25hp Yamaha 4 stroke w/ tilt & trim, Aluminum floor, Windshield, Lights, padded seat, gas tank w/fuel water separator filter, Load Rite deluxe trailer w/guides

AK's Price **\$9,575.90**

LOWE BIG JON DOUBLEWIDE

AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR JONS



2018 Models Just Arrived

14ft Flat..\$2149 16ft Flat..\$2399
14ft MV..\$2249 16ft MV..\$2499

Just Arrived SEAARK MV 1860



60" bottom
.100 gauge
82" beam
thread plate floor

AK's Price **\$5,599.00**

NEW LOWE

Model 1040
Length 10'
bottom width 40"
Beam 57"
Weight 87 lb
Hp rating 5hp

AK's Price **\$749.00**

ALWELD VV1648 Marsh



100 Gauge

AK's Price **\$3,799.00**

LOADRITE GALVANIZED BOAT TRAILERS



600LB. CAP. 8 - 12 ft. starting at **\$659.00**

700LB. CAP 12'-14' **\$699.00**
1000LB. CAP 14'-15' **\$749.00**
1000LB CAP 15'-16' **\$849.00**

ALUMACRAFT Model 1436LT



AK's Price **\$849.00**

14ft. Rated 15hp
2018 Models 12ft Model 799.00

ROAD KING Galvanized Pontoon Boat Trailers



For 18ft to 20ft pontoon, 2700lb capacity.

AK's Price **\$1,899.00**

20'-24' tandem galv. trailer **\$2,599.00**

LOWE JUST ARRIVED! AURA boat



Length 16'
Beam 70"
HP rating 35 hp.

AK's Price **\$2,699.00**

ALWELD Model 1442VVLA



.80 gauge, rated 30hp
AK's Price **\$2,199.00**

ALWELD Model 1756 SC/LW



.100 gauge, rated 70hp
Wired for trolling motor
AK's Price **\$6,349.00**

ALWELD Model 1448DS



.100 gauge, rated 25hp
AK's Price **\$2,199.00**

CHECK OUT THESE SEAT SPECIALS



Factory Original Lund Seat
Fold Down Seat
Tan & Light Brown
18" wide
24" high
A premium seat that would sell for around \$139.99
AK's Price **\$89.99**



Factory original Carolina Skiff Seat
White with silver inset
16.5" wide x 21" high
Easily a \$99.99 seat
AK's Price **\$69.99**



Factory Original Crestline Ergonomic Fold down seat
Camo pattern.
18" wide x 22" high
Easily a \$179.99 seat
AK's Price **\$129.99**



Special Purchase Camo Cordura Fold down, bench seat, 48" long, Reg. \$299.00
AK's Price **\$189.00**

ALUMACRAFT MV 1546 DD



15ft all welded hull w/20hp rope start Yamaha 4 stroke. 1200lb cap. Load Rite DLX trailer. Boat features floor and ped plates.

AK's Price **\$7,210.00**

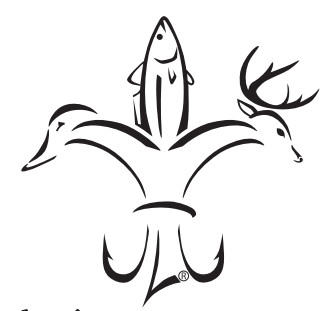
A.K. McCALLUM CO.

715 Ramsey St., Fayetteville, NC
1-800-682-2628
www.akmccallum.com
Mon. - Fri. 8am - 5pm • Sat. 8am - 1pm

Since 1945

VISIT OUR FISHING TACKLE DEPARTMENT





Carolina SPORTSMAN
www.CarolinaSPORTSMAN.com

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Ron Dorsey
252.299.2138/rond@carolinasportsman.com

MANAGING EDITOR: Dan Kibler
336.416.9631/dank@carolinasportsman.com

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR: Jeff Caldwell

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER:
Desiree P. Lewis

ART DIRECTOR: Rodney Anouilh

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS:
Jeff Cashio, Kevin Orgeron, Alissa Zeringue

CONTROLLER: Juanita Guidry

SALES DIRECTOR: Tony Taylor
504.416.7621/tonyt@lasmag.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
Ron Dorsey, Bret Holten, Asa Faulkner, Jay Forrest, Brent Comardelle, Mark Boyd, Greg Webb, Peter Church, Mark Hilzrim (National Sales)

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR:
Ricky Naquin 985.859.7744/rickyn@lasmag.com

CIRCULATION FIELD MANAGER:
Mitch Eby 919.602.3862/mitchebync@gmail.com

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:
Contact Tony Taylor
email: tonyt@lasmag.com/504.416.7621

OUTDOORS UPDATE:

11 NC sets migratory bird seasons for 2018-19

12 Lake Jocassee double play: two huge trout

PLUS

13 A perfect seven — NC gobbler's beards

ON THE COVER:



Summer doesn't mean crappie fishing is finished in the Carolinas, it just means some adjustments to your tactics. Summer definitely means dolphin in the bluewater of both states. Photos by Brian Cope (crappie), Brian Carroll (dolphin).

COLUMNS:

58 Sound & Sea By Brian Cope

60 Lunker Lines By David Fritts

62 Greener Pastures
By Jeff Burselon

66 Small Craft Advisory
By Phillip Gentry

70 Cooking on the Wild Side
By Capt. Jerry Dilsaver

72 Sticks and Strings
By Sammy Romano

74 Santee Stringer By Terry Madewell

76 Head for the Mountains
By Robert Satterwhite

DEPARTMENTS:

78 New Products

80 NC Tide Guide

82 SC Tide Guide

84 NC Fishing Regulations

84 SC Fishing Regulations

85 Astro Tables

96 Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook

98 Classifieds

100 Advertiser Index

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS OR SUBSCRIPTION ISSUES, CALL 1.855.224.1667
Monday thru Friday, 7 am to Midnight
Saturday & Sunday, 9 am - 6 pm EST

CAROLINA SPORTSMAN (USPS #012969) is published monthly by Carolina Publishing Inc., Allen J. Lottinger, President. 14236 Highway 90, P.O. Box 1199, Boutte, LA 70039. Mailed at periodicals postage rates and paid at Boutte, La., and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Carolina Sportsman, PO Box 433294, Palm Coast, FL 32143. All rights reserved. Reproduction of contents is strictly prohibited without permission of Carolina Sportsman. **EDITORIAL** information number is 336.376.5101. Editorial guidelines can be obtained by writing Carolina Sportsman, 433 Holinswood Ave., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103. Carolina Sportsman is not responsible for the loss of queries, manuscripts or other materials.

P.O. Box 1199, Boutte, LA 70039-1199
800.538.4355

Volume 25 | No 6

BLUE WAVE.

2800

PURE HYBRID

**THE PERFECT BLEND OF BOAT
BAY, OFFSHORE &
CRUISING IN COMFORT**



**THE BLUE WAVE PURE HYBRID IS AN EXCEPTIONAL MULTI USE BOAT
FOR BAY, OFFSHORE & CRUISING WITH YOUR FAVORITE CREW.**

NO SPECIES IS SAFE!



**KEVLAR
REINFORCED**

SEE WHY OURS EXCEEDS INDUSTRY STANDARDS

BLUEWAVEBOATS.COM



**SUZUKI
MARINE**

Outdoor UPDATE

with
Dan Kibler

Sam Carver, 8, of Roxboro, N.C., (right) caught this 100-pound blue catfish from Kerr Lake along the North Carolina-Virginia border on April 3, fishing with guide Austin Sartin (left). Weighed on a spring scale, the fish was 53 inches long and 39 inches in girth. First reported April 6 on CarolinaSportsman.com.



Dan Kibler of Winston-Salem, N.C. is managing editor of Carolina Sportsman magazine. He has been covering the outdoors full-time since 1985.

Dan Kibler

GET TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER TURKEY SEASON WAS SHORT, SOMETIMES SWEET, AND MEMORABLE

My turkey season this spring started with a bang and ended with a whimper — but at least there will be another one.

I suppose it was a good season. I hunted three mornings, getting out of the woods by 11 a.m. at the latest. I saw six toms, worked five of them, had the safety on my shotgun off for at least two hours, and I called in a bird for one of my son's friends, A.J. — his best duck-hunting buddy — on his first-ever turkey hunt.

On opening day, I had two days of scouting under my belt and knew where three gobblers were roosted in the little corner of my home county where we hunt. They started gobbling on cue, and two of them were on the way in before a couple of hens dragged them away down a hollow. Another big gobbler came in from behind and got to within 15 yards, but he heard the other hens, went down the same hollow. A couple of minutes later, the first two gobblers came running out, their tails obviously beaten by the big bird.

A.J. killed one of them about 15 minutes later. I couldn't quite get a shot at the second one, but it was a fantastic hunt.

The next Saturday, my third day afield, I followed my son into the woods. About 600 yards from the truck, we have to climb a steep, steep ridge, maybe 150 feet of elevation at about a 14-percent grade. I got to the top, winded, after stopping twice to catch my breath. I rested a few minutes, then wound my way another 250 yards up the ridge on a winding logging road.

I got a little worried after sitting down

and getting blinded in that my heart was beating just as hard as it was during the first climb. And it didn't slow down



Finn Pippen, 5, of Cope, S.C., killed these two jakes with one shot from a 20-gauge shotgun on April 14 in Orangeburg County. Reported on CarolinaSportsman.com April 18.

all morning — especially when I called in two jakes around 9:30. Sounded like a non-stop drum roll.

I could barely get back to the truck when the hunt ended, and two hours later, I was in the emergency room, with a heart rate of 280 beats per minute for a solid two hours. An electric shock — you don't want to know, believe me — got me back in rhythm, and two days later, I had a defibrillator put in my chest in case it ever happens again. My season was over.

I didn't put my tag on a bird, but at least nobody put a toe tag on me. I can't wait for next season — the Lord must love turkey hunters enough to spare me — but that will be another steep hill to climb. ■



Rusty Moore of Gibsonville, N.C., took this hen turkey with a 9¼-inch beard, with a bow on April 16 in Rockingham County. On CarolinaSportsman.com.

NC SETS MIGRATORY BIRD SEASONS FOR 2018-19

DOVE, DUCK HUNTERS GET USUAL THREE-PART SPLIT; DOVE SEASON IS EXTENDED

North Carolina officials set migratory bird seasons for 2018-19 in late April, with a few changes in store for waterfowl hunters.

Dove and duck hunters will have roughly the same seasons they've had in the past, with three parts to each season and dove season extending an extra 15 days.

Dove seasons will be Sept. 1-Oct. 6, Nov. 17-Dec. 1, and Dec. 10-Jan. 31, 2019. Bag limit will be 15 birds per day.

Duck hunters also get a three-way split: Oct. 3-6, Nov. 10-Dec. 1 and Dec. 15-Jan. 26, 2019. The bag limit remains six birds per day, with one big change; the limit on pintails had risen from one bird to two. Black ducks and mottled ducks can't be taken until Nov. 17, and other species limits include: five mergansers (two hooded mergansers), four scoters, four eiders, four long-tailed ducks, four mallards (no more than two hens), three wood ducks, two scaup, two redheads, two canvasbacks, two black ducks, one mottled duck and one fulvous whistling duck.

Hunters along the coast will get an early teal season that runs Sept. 12-29. Hunting

is allowed east of US 17 only, with a six-bird daily bag limit.

The special sea duck season is Nov. 19-Jan. 26, 2019, with a five-duck daily bag limit.

Canada geese can be hunted statewide from Sept. 1-29, with a 15-bird daily bag limit. After September, seasons in the Resident Population Zone are Oct. 3-13, Nov. 10-Dec. 1 and Dec. 15-Feb. 9, 2019, with a five-bird daily bag limit. In the Northeast Population Zone, the season is Jan. 1-29, 2019, by permit only, with a one-bird daily limit. The St. James Bay Population Zone no longer exists.

Brant season will be Dec. 15-Jan. 26, 2019, with a daily bag limit of one bird. For light geese (Ross, snow and blue), seasons are Oct. 9-Feb. 9, 2019, with a bag limit of 25. During the special Conservation Order season (Feb. 11 – March 30, 2019), by permit only, hunters will have no bag limit and be able to hunt with unplugged guns, use electronic calls and hunt 30 minutes past sunset.

The permit-only season on tundra swan is Nov. 10, 2018 – Jan. 31, 2019, with a

RED SNAPPER SEASON COULD BEGIN IN JULY

Fishermen interested in commenting on this summer's red snapper season have until June 15 to send their ideas to NOAA Fisheries.

Federal fisheries managers have determined that a limited catch — 42,510 fish for all anglers — would not result in overfishing and would help the continued rebuilding of the red snapper population in the South Atlantic region.

The recreational catch limit would be 29,656 fish, with a creel limit of one per person per day. The commercial catch limit would be 124,815 pounds, with a trip limit of 75 pounds gutted weight. Size minimums will not be in place.

Recreational fishing would be weekends only — Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, beginning no earlier than the second Friday in July.

To comment by electronic submission, visit www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMF-2017-0148, click the "Comment Now" icon, complete the required fields and enter your comments.

Submit written comments to Frank Helies, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

one-bird season limit.

The season on woodcock will be Dec. 8-Jan. 29, 2019, with a three-bird daily bag limit.

The season on common snipe will be Oct. 27-Feb. 28, 2019, with an eight-bird daily bag limit.

The season on king, clapper, sora and Virginia rails, gallinules and moorhens is Sept. 1-Oct. 13 and Oct. 22-Nov. 28. Daily bag limits on kings and clappers is 15, soras and Virginias 25 and 15. ■

[more updates...](#) >

GOT PICS? Send 'em in!

Email images to: dank@carolinasportsman.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 Carolina Sportsman and cannot be returned.

BIG DOUBLE FROM JOCASSEE



Roger Kendrick of Townville, S.C., and Billy Lewis of Liberty, S.C., doubled up on citation brown trout on Lake Jocassee on an April 21 fishing trip.

Billy Lewis of Liberty, S.C., figured he had a chance to catch some nice brown trout when he trailered his boat to Lake Jocassee in South Carolina's Upstate the morning of April 21.

But when he hooked the first nice fish of the day, it felt so heavy, he figured it must have been a catfish, so he handed fishing partner Roger Kendrick of Townville, S.C., the rod, and he began clearing the other rods to avoid any tangles.

But the fish Kendrick had on wasn't a catfish. Instead, it was a 9.36-pound brown trout that measured 28½ inches long.

For his troubles, however, Lewis got a nice booby prize. Before he got all his lines out of the water, one of them got another strike, and Lewis reeled in a big brown of his

own, a 22½-inch fish weighing 4.8 pounds.

"We started off that morning at the dam with no luck," Lewis told field editor Phillip Gentry, whose story appeared April 27 on www.CarolinaSportsman.com. "The fish are moving back out of the rivers into the big water, but I guess the cooler weather this spring is slowing that transition down some."

Lewis and Kendrick were trolling Sutton spoons between 37 and 45 feet deep in front of Jumping Off Rock when the first fish bit at 10:30 a.m. Lewis fought the fish for a few minutes and then, believing it was a large catfish, handed the rod to Kendrick

while he began reeling in the other lines to keep them from tangling in the fish.

"As I was trying to get the other rods in, another rod hooked up so we both had one on opposite sides of the boat," said Lewis. "Before long I had a 22½-inch brown trout to the boat and in the net. That's when we realized Roger wasn't fighting a catfish."

Lewis was afraid Kendrick's fish was going to pull the hook, so when it came by the boat on its fourth run, he reached out with the net and got the fish in — just as the hook came out. ■

LIVE BAIT HEADQUARTERS

- EELS
- MUD MINNOWS
- FIDDLER CRABS
- SEA URCHINS

FRESH CAUGHT MENHADEN



Atlantic Beach, NC

TENT SALE
SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD
7:00 AM - UNTIL
UP TO **60% OFF**

INSHORE • OFFSHORE • PIERS • SURF

Your One Stop for All Your Saltwater Bait & Tackle Needs



Free Giveaways!

FREE BARBECUE & WINGS
11AM - 1PM

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY JULY 14TH

15% OFF ENTIRE STORE
(Excludes Bait & Top Shelf)

FREE FISHING SEMINARS - 11AM - 3PM

Capt. Jeff Cronk (Jigging for Flounder) · Capt. Chris Kimery (Near Shore Ocean)
Capt. Stewart Merritt (Red Drum Fishing) · Timmy the Trout Man (Inshore 101)

WE WANT TO GIVE BACK!

GET YOUR WEEKLY FISHING REPORT AT www.chasintailsoutdoors.com

Rod & Reel Repair

252-240-3474

709 Atlantic Beach Causeway, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512



WE HAVE THE FRESHEST BAIT AVAILABLE

WHAT GIVES? ONE GOBBLER WITH SEVEN BEARDS?

Rockingham County has been a great destination for North Carolina turkey hunters for a dozen years, but it's not likely that the northern Piedmont County ever produced a bird like the one Stanley Farmer of Stoneville, N.C., killed on April 17, the third day of North Carolina's spring season — a gobbler with seven beards.

Farmer was checking several connected food plots around 130 p.m. that day when he got a gobbler to respond to his first call. He put out a decoy, set up and began calling, and not one, but three gobblers wound up responded and came to the decoy. "Just after I saw (the first two), they spotted the decoy and went nuts gobbling and rushing in," Farmer told field editor Jerry Dilsaver, who reported the kill on www.CarolinaSportsman.com on April 22. "The

other turkey was coming up a creek bed to my right and hearing the two turkeys after they spotted the decoy got it fired up, too. It speeded up and came charging in also.

"At this point, I had three nice gobblers all blowed up, strutting and gobbling right in front of me. They were so close I could hear them spit!"

According to Farmer, the three birds all looked to be about the same size, with similar beards, so he lined up the best shot and floored one bird. When he got to it and flipped it on its back, he counted six beards. Two representatives of the National Wild Turkey Federation eventually found a seventh.

The beards measured 5 $\frac{1}{8}$, 6 $\frac{5}{8}$, 6, 7 $\frac{1}{4}$, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$, 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ and 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The tom weighed 16.6 pounds and had 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch spurs. ■



Stanley Farmer's unique Rockingham County turkey, taken April 17, sported seven beards, the longest measuring 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches and the shortest 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

HUNTING LAND FOR SALE

CHIP CAMP
Agent, Land Specialist
Western North Carolina
(704) 473-3833

JIMMY UNDERWOOD
Agent, Land Specialist
Southeast South Carolina
(843) 421-9995

SCOTT HICKS
Agent, Land Specialist
Eastern North Carolina
(919) 610-4796

JOSEPH MORRIS
Agent, Land Specialist
Western South Carolina
(706) 910-8557

SEAN MALOY
Agent, Land Specialist
Central North Carolina
(844) 412-1200

RICK ELLIOTT
Broker, Land Specialist
South Carolina
(843) 450-5668

**CONTACT AN AGENT TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT BUYING AND
SELLING HUNTING, RANCH,
FARMLAND AND TIMBERLAND**

**\$2.3
BILLION
& 615,000
ACRES**
sold company
wide in the last
5 years



WHITETAIL PROPERTIES REAL ESTATE
HUNTING | RANCH | FARM | TIMBER

WHITETAILPROPERTIES.COM

Whitetail Properties Real Estate, LLC | dba Whitetail Properties | Nebraska & North Dakota DBA Whitetail Trophy Properties Real Estate LLC | Lic. in IL, MO, IA, KS, KY, NE & OK - Dan Perez, Broker | Lic. in AR, CO, GA, MN, ND, TN & WI - Jeff Evans, Broker | Lic. in OH & PA - Kirk Gilbert, Broker | Lic. in TX - Joey Bellington, Broker | Lic. in IN - John Boyken, Broker | Lic. in LA, MS & AL - Sybil Stewart, Broker | Lic. in TN - Chris Wakefield, Broker | Lic. in TN - Bobby Powers, Broker | Lic. in AR - Johnny Ball, Broker | Lic. in SC - Rick Elliott, Broker | Lic. in NC - Rich Baugh, Broker | Lic. in MI - Brandon Cropsey, Broker



LEITH NISSAN EPIC OFFERS

2017 Nissan
TITAN®
& **TITAN® XD**

Take Up To
\$12,000
OFF MSRP*

LEITH NISSAN

2100 Autopark Blvd. Cary, NC 27511
CALL US TODAY! **919.842.5686**

Visit us at
LeithNissan.com



*1N6BA1R91HN523715. Model 51317. Discount taken from MSRP. Tax, tag and \$598 administrative / documentary fee additional. Can not be combined with any other offer. See dealer for details. Offer expires 06/15/2018. Nissan, the Nissan Brand Symbol, innovation that excites, and Nissan model names are Nissan trademarks. © 2018 Nissan North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Leith Truck CENTER

WE HAVE THE BEST SELECTION OF PRE-OWNED TRUCKS!

FIND THE RIGHT TRUCK YOU LOVE
AT THE PRICE YOU CAN TRUST.



PEACE OF MIND NO-HAGGLE PRICING

Never worry about paying more than the next person, and never worry about paying too much. Every single truck is priced to the market based on options, equipment and condition. These prices are monitored and adjusted to move with the market to assure that you not only get the best truck, but the best price too.



2000 Autopark Blvd, Cary, NC 27511

CALL US TODAY! **919.842.3502**

On any given late spring or summer evening, on lakes across the Carolinas, the “midnight shift” of crappie fishermen head for the water. They arrive as the sun starts sinking, and by dusk, they’re rigged and ready with powerful, submersible lights, plenty of bait and multiple crappie rigs to attract and catch crappies.

This faction of hard-core, nocturnal crappie fishermen generally refer to themselves as “night-stalkers.” Among the best, and certainly one of the most experienced, is Robert “Rango” Plemmons from Rock Hill, S.C.

Plemmons has honed his crappie fishing for a half-century, over the past 48 years focused primarily on nighttime fishing for crappie using lights. Much of his fishing is on his home lake, Lake Wylie, on the border between North Carolina and South Carolina, but he’s fished many lakes in the Carolinas, and his method has proven productive everywhere he’s fished.

“I’ve fished all over the Carolinas and beyond,” Plemmons said. “Night-stalking is the name we’ve taken, because we simply enjoy fishing at night. We’ve even held tournaments between North Carolina and South Carolina anglers, as well as competing with night-stalking teams from Georgia.”

Plemmons, 70, said his passion for night-stalking came from his

love for catching crappie and the serenity of the nighttime hours. He also enjoys the opportunity to fish with others who share the same fishing passion.

In 2004, Plemmons began fishing with O.T. Phonephet of Gastonia, N.C.; they’ve developed a crappie-catching partnership bordering on legendary. Rodger Taylor, a catfish guide on Lake Wylie, said when local anglers discovered where Plemmons and Phonephet were launching their boat on any given evening, word would spread, and many would gather and wait at the landing until they returned — just to see the fish caught.

Plemmons and Phonephet are passionate about nighttime fishing and have boats rigged exclusively for it. Plemmons said successful fishing for crappie after dark is an art form and is never based on random, haphazard fishing techniques.

“Plenty of preparation is required before fish-catching time,” Plemmons said. “Going out and randomly dropping an anchor and setting out lights is not a recipe for success. Boat position, depth and bait presentation are just as crucial at night as by day.”

Plemmons said when he began crappie-fishing in 1968, he fished daytime hours for a couple of years and learned to target channel ledges, points, humps and other unique underwater features.

Join the ‘midnight shift’ and catch crappie after dark through the summer. Here’s how to get up to speed.

By Terry Madewell

SLABS AND NIGHT-STALKERS



“When I got hooked on night-fishing, I discovered those same unique areas are crucial to night-fishing success,” he said. “Fishing where crappie already congregate is essential, whether you fish by day or night.”

Plemmons and Phonephet prefer to fish over deep water, targeting the base of a channel ledge, point or mid-lake intersection of a secondary channel with the main channel. They check their depth finder for indications of forage as well as crappie, and their boat is anchored where they can fish the bottom of the drop, as well as part of the slope.

“I want the boat to be anchored where we can fish water at least 20 feet deep, and often as deep as 30 feet, on Lake Wylie,” Phonephet said. “Best depths may change some from one lake to another, but crappie are usually caught well off the bottom in the water column. Many fishermen fish too deep; we catch lots of crappie as shallow as 10 feet or often much shallower. That’s why anchoring over deep water works; the fish simply adjust to the depth in the water column they prefer. By fishing different depths, we can sort that out, but it’s crucial to have deep water under the boat.”

Phonephet and Plemmons prefer very bright, underwater LED lights because the light will attract crappie to his setup from a long distance. Plus, LEDs have a much-lower battery drain than other lights they have used in the past.

“We’ve got to be in an area where crappies are already located, but even if they’re scattered, we can draw them in,” he said.

Plemmons said one factor crucial to success is getting a really good anchor set.

LET LEDs LIGHT UP YOUR NIGHT

Not all lights for after-dark fishing are created equal, and variables such as style, color and brightness require choices. Rango Plemmons has been fishing for crappie at night since 1970 and has seen a thing or two about lights.

“At first, I used Coleman lanterns hung over the side of the boat,” he said. “As time passed, I switched to 12-volt, sealed-beam bulbs shining into the water. Later, submersible lights that put out a lot of light were used. Each incremental step was a positive change, but they had drawbacks.

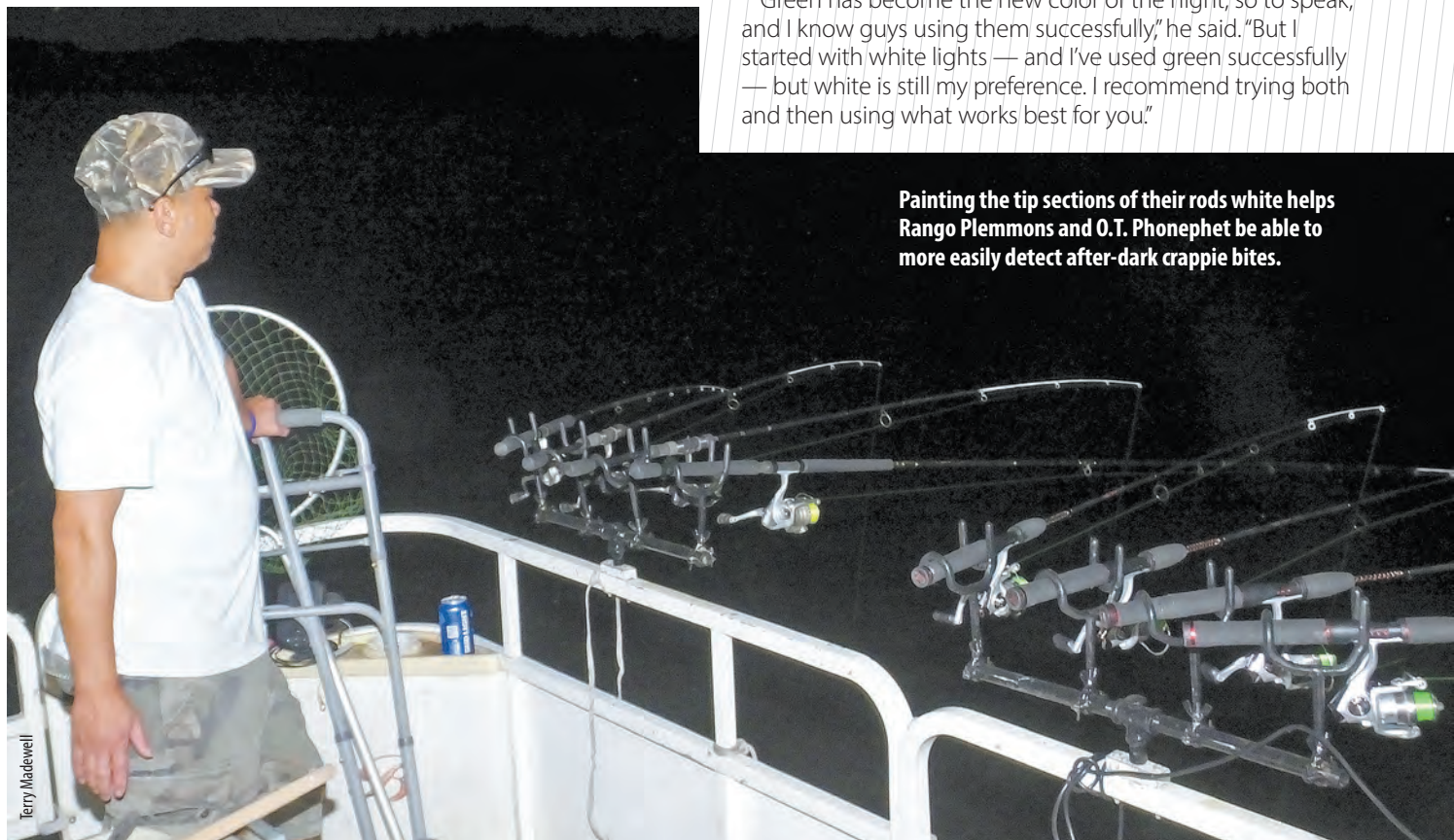
“With Coleman lanterns, we had to replenish gas, and the early 12-volt lights were a huge drain on the batteries, so we had to overkill with plenty of batteries.”

Plemmons knows some anglers who use small, portable generators to power the lights, but he prefers the peace and quiet associated with nocturnal fishing.

“Now, the LED lights bring terrific, bright lights that can be submerged, and they draw very little battery power,” he said. “I rig them with regular household-type receptacles and wire a plug-in station to the battery so all I have to do is plug in the light to an outlet. I’ve seen many brands on the market that work well.”

Plemmons said crappie fishermen are divided over whether white or green lights are best for crappie fishing.

“Green has become the new color of the night, so to speak, and I know guys using them successfully,” he said. “But I started with white lights — and I’ve used green successfully — but white is still my preference. I recommend trying both and then using what works best for you.”



Painting the tip sections of their rods white helps Rango Plemmons and O.T. Phonephet be able to more easily detect after-dark crappie bites.



Bright lights, suspended just under the surface, will attract baitfish, and the baitfish will draw gamefish into the immediate area.

Terry Madewell

Rayford Ervin Jr., another Carolina night-stalker, mixes light colors, using white and green.

"I'll fish one color on each side of the boat and usually both produce, but if I see a pattern, I'll change to the productive color for that night," Ervin said. "On most nights, it's hard to tell a difference in productivity, or maybe I'm just too busy catching fish to notice or care." ■

"I want to be anchored well before dark, and we'll take our time to get the anchors locked in to ensure the boat is exactly where we want it and our anchor set will hold," he said. "We prefer anchors that dig into the bottom for maximum holding power, so boats passing with a large wake or a wind shift won't mess up boat position.

"On a perfect evening, I'll actually be fishing 45 minutes before dark, and we'll usually catch a few fish before dark."

Another nocturnal crappie fisherman from the Lake Wylie area is Roddy Beard, who said light placement around the boat is also crucial.

"Don't drop the lights deep into the water; we've found they attract fish better when lowered about a foot or less below the surface," he said. "We'll have a light at each fishing station and have four or more rod holders for each fisherman. If fishing action is hot, that's plenty to watch. But we adjust the number of rigs based on the number of people fishing. Experienced night-stalkers can effectively handle more rigs."

Mac McCarpley, another night-stalker from York, S.C., said the action is not restricted to just the targeted species: crappie.



GREAT SELECTION IN STOCK NOW!

Precision Marine Inc.

FIND US OFF HWY 70 BYPASS AT EXIT #369
FROM RALEIGH/EXIT #370 FROM KINSTON!
919-751-1199

WHERE GREAT SERVICE GOES ALONG WITH THE SALE!

**961
BLACKHAWKS
ALSO IN STOCK!**

AS LOW AS
\$265/mo*

2170 Blackhawk w/115 4stroke & alum. tandem axle trailer

**GREAT
SELECTION OF SIDE
AND CC MODELS
IN STOCK!**

STARTING AT
\$275/mo*

Bay Extreme Tunnel BXT220 w/DF175, Hyd Steering & tandem alum trlr.

**STARTING AT
\$215/mo***

Lowe Roughneck 2070 Archer, 90hp & galvanized trailer.

* with approved credit

New Store Hours: 8-5:00 Monday - Friday
After hours by appointment

WE SELL & INSTALL

CALL US FOR RE-POWERS!
GIMME 6 GOING ON NOW!

Powered by

MARINE

WWW.PRECISIONMARINEINC.COM



“On any given night, we’ll catch mostly crappie, but also lots of white perch, catfish and large-mouth bass,” he said. “I target crappie, but with the other species also biting, the action is usually steady to fast-paced. Small white perch can be bothersome, but the larger perch are excellent-eating fish and keep me focused on watching rod tips, which means I’ll see more crappie bites.”

Plemmons has experimented with many types of rigs and terminal tackle, and the best rigs are relative simple ones.

“I’ll use light line, usually 8-pound test, but less is OK,” he said. “I rig a No. 2, gold Eagle Claw wire hook and use a No. 2 split shot about 10 inches above the hook. I vary the length of the rods, because that enables me to fish different areas of the lighted water. Sometimes crappie will get directly under the light, while other nights, they hold close to the edge of the light field, usually several feet out.”

Spinning outfits Plemmons uses are from 4½ foot to 9 feet, all ultralight to detect subtle bites, enabling him to effectively fish near the light as well as near the edge of the light beam. He alternates the long and short rods and he keeps a few spares of each in case a definitive pattern develops. Any length rod can produce crappie, but often one length is more productive on a given night. But it can change the next trip.

continues on page 21 ➤

O.T. Phonephet and Rango Plemmons regularly catch big stringers of crappie after dark on Lake Wylie.



Closeout on **KenCraft** Boats



ALSO CHECK OUT OUR PONTOON AND DECK BOATS

ONLY ONE OF EACH AVAILABLE AT THESE PRICES!

2017 2260FS BAY RIDER - F150 Yamaha, Tandem Alum Trlr, T-Top w/ hard top, Curtains, Washdown, Blue Hull Color, & more
..... **\$44,900**

2017 238 CHALLENGER BAY - F175 Yam, tandem alum trlr w/brakes, washdown, front & rear cushions, colored hull, DLX leaning post, & more **\$39,900**

2017 206 CHALLENGER - F200 Yam, Tandem alum trlr w/brakes, DLX T-Top with hard top, curtains, washdown, hull color, & more . **\$43,900**

2016 190 CHALLENGER CC - F115 Yam, alum trlr, T-Top w/hard top, washdown, leaning post & more **\$31,900**

WATER WORLD

135 South Miami Blvd.
Durham, NC 27703

919-596-8185
waterworldinc.com

Big catch.
BIG SAVINGS.

You could get a discount when you combine your auto and boat policies.

GEICO  **BoatU.S.**[®]
Making Boating Better, Together[®]

geico.com | 1-800-865-4846 | Local Office

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. Boat and PWC coverages are underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. Multi-Policy Discount available to auto insureds that have purchased a boat policy through the GEICO Marine Insurance Company. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2018 GEICO

MINNOW MANAGEMENT IS A KEY

A big, aerated and filtered bait tank is necessary to keep 20 dozen or so minnows alive for after-dark crappie-fishing trips.

Bait for nocturnal crappie fishing seems to be one area where fishermen actually agree — a rarity in the sport. The vast majority use and trust live minnows for the best results.

Veteran angler O.T. Phonephet said jigs will certainly produce, but he believes the key at night is a live, wiggling bait.

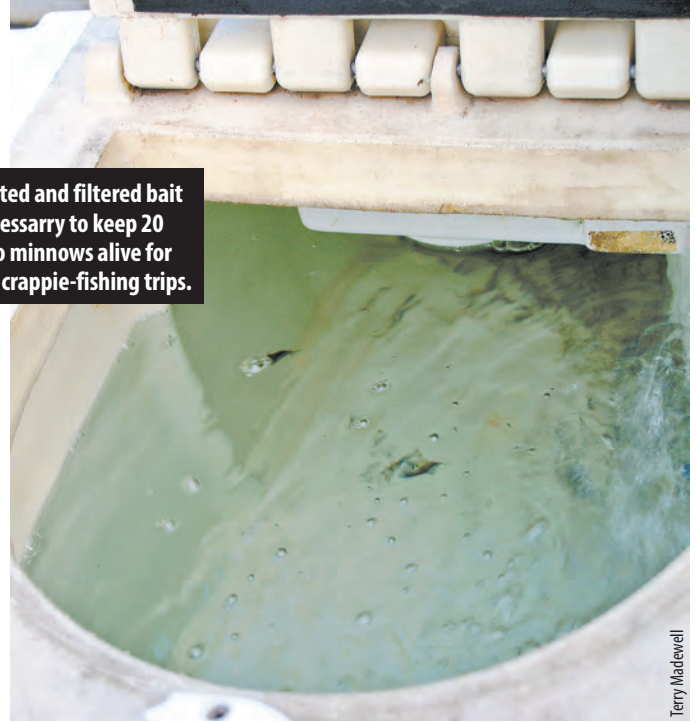
"Minnows are ideal because they mimic what the crappie sees when attracted to the lights," he said. "Forage is attracted to the light to feed, and crappie feed on minnows. I prefer shiner minnows, but that's just a personal preference. For night-fishing during summer, I want a medium-sized minnow; even large minnows work well.

"It's like a buffet of crappie food when we put out all our lines. We present the bait in such a way that the fish have depth choices and find it easy to take the bait."

"But minnow management is a key, too, and it's crucial during the summer when the water and weather is warm. Keeping minnows fresh and frisky directly impacts success, so I use a large aeration system to keep the bait fresh."

Phonephet said a 30-gallon live-bait tank with a filtration and aeration system is ideal for keeping bait alive and healthy, but a smaller system can work fine.

"We fish a lot of rigs, and if we have three or four people on the pontoon, we may be fishing as many as 25 rods at a time," he



Terry Madewell

said. "It can take over two-dozen minnows for one bait setup, so I prepare for success and get at least a pound of minnows. This equates to 20 dozen or more, depending on size. I need a good bait system to keep this investment alive and well."

Phonephet said that he use minnow buckets and places one at each fishing station, enabling anglers to keep fresh bait handy. As the supply gets low, he refills buckets from the bait tank. Also, if anglers limit out or are ready to leave, the big tank makes it easy to keep them minnows alive until the next evening. ■

ATTENTION INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

Customized training plans, hearing conservation and safety programs

- HAZMAT Training
- Hearing Conservation Services
- Respiratory Protection
- FIT Testing

FIRST AID

CPR

OSHA

U.S. Department of Labor
MSHA
Mine Safety & Health Administration

PALMETTO STATE TRAINING
843-569-6872
When You Need it...Where You Need it.
www.PalmettoStateTraining.com

Call Now to Schedule Your Trailer Maintenance... Don't Wait!

Capps TRAILERS.com
Parts • Sales • Service

Boat • Dump • Enclosed
Equipment • Utility

Hwy. 70E, Dover (5 miles east of Kinston), NC • 252-523-1038

NOW OFFERING

24 Hour Emergency Roadside Service
Specializing in Boat, Camper,
Dump, Enclosed, Equipment, Gooseneck,
and Utility Trailers

Services available:
Bearings and Hub Repair, DOT Compliance (lighting, brake-away kit)
Brake Repair, Flat Tires, Fuel Delivery, Towing of trailer

Your Eastern NC Trailer Headquarters!



“We vary the depths fished until we find a pattern,” he said. “We’ll have rigs fishing from 3 feet deep to near the bottom to begin. As a pattern develops, we target that depth, but I keep a few at other depths because patterns change. Fishing deeper usually results in more perch and catfish hook-ups. Depth fished at night is as crucial as daytime, and it’s often a moving target.”

Plemmons said another crucial factor is to paint the tips of his rods with a flat, white paint for better visibility.

“Of all the tinkering I’ve done over the years, painting the tips flat white is one of the best things I’ve done,” he said.

“Ultralight tip rods with the tips painted white enable me to see the subtle bite much better. I also now use a LED light positioned high and in the back of the boat to light up the entire fishing area much better than in the past. But that white tip on the rod adds fish to the cooler.”

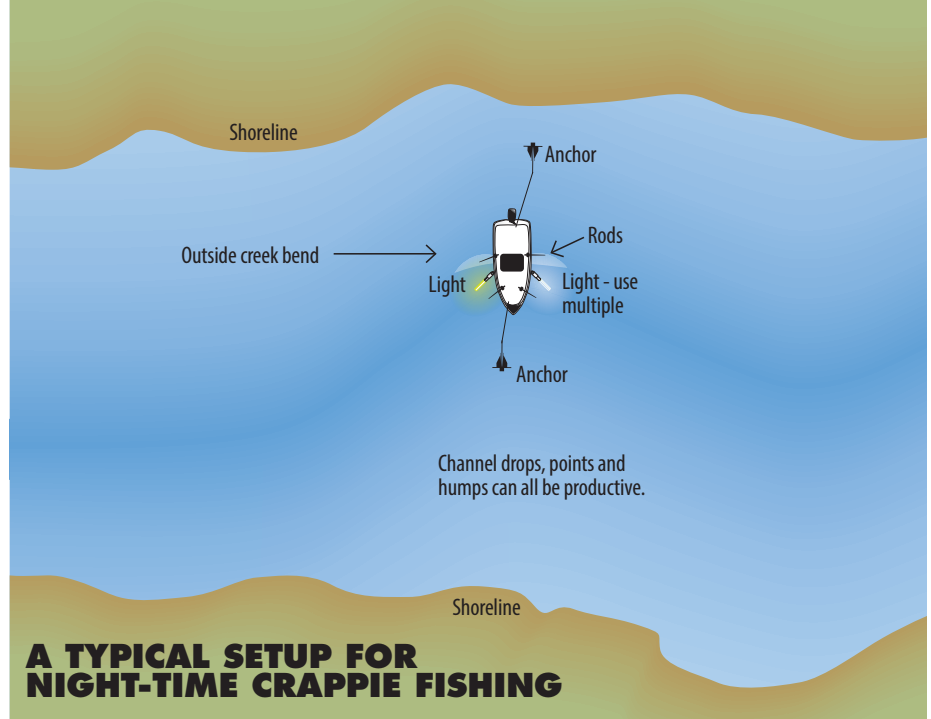
Phonephet and Plemmons typically fish until about 1 a.m.

“Sometimes the bite will be good all night, and we used to do that a lot, but we’ve found that after one o’clock in the morning the bite often slows until just before dawn,” he said. “But for those who stay all night, the hour before dawn and for a while just after dawn, the fishing can be really good. But on a productive night, we’ll be done between midnight and 1.”

Plemmons said anglers may need a bit of patience when it comes to learning how to fish at night.

“When fishing a lake for the first time, I’ll adhere to strategies learned during the years, and we’ll typically catch fish; often, we’ll do really well,” he said. “But sometimes it takes multiple trips to begin to fine-tune the quirks of a particular lake. Once I find a really productive spot, the underwater features that make it productive usually make it consistently reliable.”

Plemmons said the love of nocturnal fishing is not just



A TYPICAL SETUP FOR NIGHT-TIME CRAPPIE FISHING

catching fish.

“Of course, catching lots of fish is the goal, but being on the lake after dark when recreational traffic is less and the air is cooler makes fishing enjoyable,” he said. “Sharing this fishing with friends and family — where we can talk, joke and have good time while catching lots of fish — is a big attraction to this type of fishing.” ■



Terry Madewell of Ridgeway, S.C., has been an outdoors writer for more than 30 years. He has a degree in wildlife and fisheries management and has a long career as a professional wildlife biologist/natural resources manager.



When You Want to Ride in Style!!



A Textron Company

- Over 4000 sq. ft. of indoor showroom
- Full Service Department
- Financing Available



2530 US Hwy 70 W. • Goldsboro, NC 27530

8:30-5:30 Mon-Fri. • 8:30-3:00 Sat.

919-734-1045

www.sassergolfcarsinc.com



**KNOW
YOUR
LIMITS.**

FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

This XUV works as hard as it plays. Count on the John Deere GATOR™ to take you anywhere with a powerful twin-cylinder engine and independent four-wheel suspension. And with more than 75 attachments, there are over 1,000 ways to customize it and make it your own.



JAMESRIVEREQUIPMENT.COM | EASTCOASTEQUIP.COM | QUALITYEQUIP.COM

Some restrictions apply, see dealer for details.

With the crappie spawn in your rearview mirror, it's time to look deeper, and brush piles are tough to beat, especially to find gangs of nice fish.

By Jeff Burleson

Spring brings fishermen into shallow-water jungles to target crappie as the peak of their spawn approaches and arrives. When the show is over, it's back to targeting other species such as, bass, catfish or copperhead bream.

Even though crappie are famed as shallow-water performers, their shoreline appearances only account for a short part of their annual travels, and deep-water brush piles are hot spots for catching summer specks.

No doubt, crappie venture into shallow, wooden cover during the spring to spawn. Anglers can easily spoon-feed jigs and minnows to these speckled beasts in willow tops, laydowns and around lily pad roots, but, the spawn doesn't last long, and crappie will return to deep water along creek channels and deep brush.



Brush up ON SUMMER SLABS

T.C. Lloyd, a tournament crappie fisherman from Hartsville, S.C., catches plenty of slabs around deep brush piles; it's one of his primary ways to target fish throughout the year.

"We catch crappie on brush year-round, even during the spawning season," said Lloyd (843-307-6678). "Crappie definitely move into the shallows to spawn during the spring. They will almost completely evacuate these shallow areas by mid-May and return to the deep water."

Lloyd fishes for crappie competitively all over the southeast. In six years, he has won several tournaments and has had dozens of top-10 finishes. When he arrives at a new lake or a place he hasn't fished recently, he knows he must quickly learn and dissect the waters to catch fish.

It doesn't take long for post-spawn crappie to move back into deeper water and set up around structure and cover.

"The spawn can be one of the toughest times to consistently find fish, because they are constantly on the move, but deep brush will always hold fish even during the spring. They get stacked on brush," he said.

Regardless of the time of year, Lloyd can launch his boat at a new lake and start catching fish on deep brush. When the spawn is over, deep brush holds large groups of fish that can make the post-spawn bite off the charts.

Lloyd said some brush is better than other when it comes to holding fish. He looks for brush that's close to changes in the bottom near deep water.

"I like brush in 15 to 25 feet of water on an underwater hump or right on the shallow side of a ledge," he said, where the brush can provide a refuge for bait and a haven for schooling slabs.

Lloyd uses his two Lowrance HDS units to scan the bottom and find submerged brush around humps and ledges. In addition to showing the structure, the high-definition units will identify schools of fish around the structure.

"I can ride by with my down-imaging and tell exactly where the fish are on the brush," he said. "They are usually suspended above the brush or in close vicinity of the brush."

Lloyd drops a buoy on the brush to mark it and will circle over the top of the structure, using his bow-mounted depth finder.

"When they are feeding, they will eat as soon as you drop down the lines," he said. "But you need to be quick, because they will spook off after you catch a few or from the shadow cast off the boat."

continues on page 26 ➤



Bait dynamics

Crappie eat a variety of things, including insects, zooplankton and any fish small enough to slide down the hatch. Small golden shiners are deadly and are definitely the bait of choice for many crappie fishermen across the country.

But the way anglers utilize shiners is not exactly the same, and some methods can put more fish in the boat than others.

For their size, crappie have large mouths and are capable of shoving a fairly chunk of food into their traps. Sometimes, they do eat larger fish, but that not generally the case. Crappie at both ends of the spectrum — 10 ounces and 3½ pounds — are more likely to eat smaller-sized bait than a big, jumbo minnow.

Crappie pro T.C. Lloyd of Hartsville, S.C., likes to used small crappie minnows on bare hooks, especially during the summer.

“Fish don’t seem to prefer a large bait during the summer,” Lloyd said. “We have much better success on smaller baits.”

But it isn’t always just a plain, minnow either. Lloyd will often tip a pink or chartreuse jighead with a minnow during the spawn season and any time when seem to react to a bright-colored approach. Once in a while, Lloyd takes that to a different level.

“We will sometimes soak our minnows in chartreuse Pautzke Fire Dye. We will use the dye-colored minnows if they are working better than the silver ones. On some days, the dyed minnows are deadly over the natural colors,” he said. ■

Live minnows are extremely productive baits when crappie are in deeper water, and dyeing them brighter colors often draws even more strikes.



Jeff Burlison

Bob's Guide Service Encore
Fishing the Santee Cooper Lakes,
specializing in Catfish and
Striped Bass

Cell 843-709-0626 • Office 843-753-3343
www.bobsguideserviceencore.com

Like us on

THE REEL OUTDOORS
EMERALD ISLE, NC / 252 354-6692

• BAIT & TACKLE • MARINE SUPPLIES • ROD & REEL REPAIRS

Greg Dennis
www.thereeloutdoors.com

DAILY GIVEAWAY

www.facebook.com/spro.fishing.7

SPRO
SPORTS PROFESSIONALS



Even in deep water, crappie traveling in large schools can be spooked by fishing pressure and boats riding over them. Fortunately, they may not move too far.

“You have to back off the buoy in a 15- to 20-foot radius until you mark them, and you can steadily pick up fish as long as they continue to feed,” he said.

Lloyd will often wait out crappie if he believes there are some jumbos on that piece of brush, or he will move to another patch of brush to find another group of fish. Crappie can be uneasy in large groups, so he will locate multiple brush piles and make a slow approach to each particular spot.

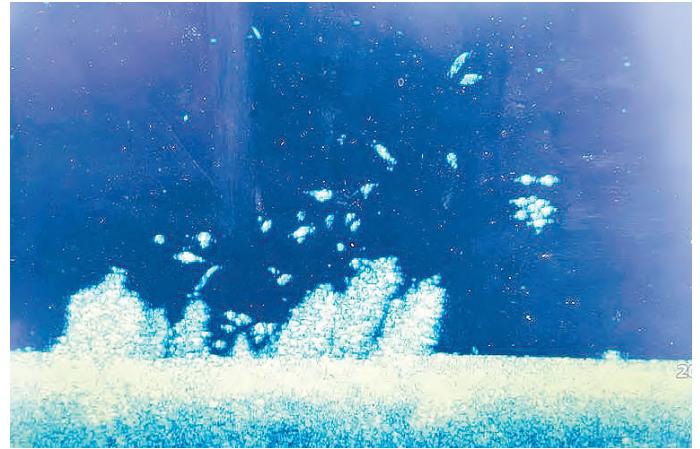
In addition to making a stealthy approach, Lloyd utilizes an array of four to six 14-foot crappie poles from the bow of his boat.

“Crappie are spooky, and you don’t want to make shadows over the fish. The long poles allow me to get the baits way out in front of the boat,” he said.

Lloyd’s summer crappie rigs are simple. He drops down live minnows attached to a basic Carolina rig with a ¼-ounce egg sinker and an Eagle Claw 214 light-wire hook. He likes the light wire hook around brush because they are easy to recover when snagged.

“The light-wire hooks will straighten just enough to get out of the brush pile without breaking, and you can bend the hooks right back to shape,” he said.

Lloyd will routinely use small jigs tipped with minnows, but live minnows on a bare hook are his go-to baits for hooking up with a trophy slab. That happens enough that anglers



A quality depth finder should allow anglers to locate not only brush piles, but determine whether crappie are using them.

should understand that, while the spawn is far in the past as June arrives, there are plenty of big fish hanging around in deeper areas to fill plenty of coolers. ■



Jeff Burleson is a native of Lumberton, N.C., who lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He graduated from N.C. State University with a degree in fisheries and wildlife sciences and is a certified biologist and professional forester for Southern Palmetto Environmental Consulting.

CHATLEE BOAT & MARINE

LARGEST BULL'S BAY selection in the Carolina's!

Nobody Sells For Less!!

Sanford, NC

919-775-7259 Follow Us www.chatleeboats.com

Powered by **SUZUKI MARINE**

G3 EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

quality you can trust performance you can see satisfaction you can feel



MinnKota® 55 Edge™ 12-volt, 45" shaft trolling motor

Recessed trolling motor foot control

G3 features larger lockable storage than most competitors

Storage for cooler - Will also accommodate tackle trays

Step to front deck has underneath storage and a grab strap for a forth seated passenger

New suspended console with custom tilt wheel. Extra legroom for the "big & tall" sportsman. Now featuring Lowrance® electronics

Small item storage under both driver and passenger seats. Fold down center seat provides easy step up to the stern deck

Divided, aerated 33 gallon livewell has 800 GPH recirculation with insulated livewell lid

Your choice of interiors; plush carpet or easy care marine grade vinyl

Two bank battery charger standard

YAMAHA
MOTOR OPTIONS F40 | F50 | F60 | F70 | F75 | F90

SPORTSMAN 17
w/Yamaha F70

\$19,495*

plus freight & dealer prep
your choice of vinyl or carpet

Limited Time Offer

*Contact your dealer
for details*

*At participating authorized 33 dealers only. Limited time offer. Special price offer applies to new (unused and not previously warranty registered) G3 Sportsman 17, Yamaha motor and trailer package. (US Dollars) This special price offer is void where prohibited by law. Special price offer ends June 30, 2018. No model substitutions or rain checks. Not redeemable for cash. G3 reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time. Offer good in US and Canada. Some optional equipment may be shown in some photographs. © 2018 Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA.

Length 17'10" Beam 92" Hull Gauge .100 Max HP 90 Fuel Cap. 21g Livewell Dim & Cap 15" x 45" 33g Colors Red/Silver | Blue/Silver | Camo (shown)

Visit us at g3boats.com to find the dealer nearest you. 901 COWAN DRIVE, LEBANON, MO 65536





CAROLINA SKIFF

GO ANYWHERE. DO ANYTHING.™



Celebrating 35 Years



Two Locations to serve you!

6921 Market Street, 3881 Savannah Hwy,
Wilmington, NC Johns Island, SC
(910) 799-1277 (843) 974-5353
marinewarehousecenter.com

POWERED BY
 **SUZUKI**
OUTBOARDS

By Jerry Dilsaver

The line of Sargasso weed beside the rip looked really inviting, but there hadn't been any action for the first 20 minutes. That changed quickly when two neon yellow and green streaks burst out from a small break in the grass and into the middle of the spread of trolled baits.

A few seconds later, two outrigger clips popped almost in unison, and one reel began howling, the clackety-clack of a big offshore reel giving up line against the drag. Before the mate could move to drop back the bait on the line that wasn't moving, another outrigger clip popped, and this time, the hook found a grip and line peeled off the second reel, confirming a double hookup.

On the bridge, Mike Webb, who runs the charterboat *Pelagic* out of Atlantic Beach, N.C. maintained the boat's speed a little longer, hoping

he might get another strike. When that didn't come after 30 seconds or so, he eased back a little on the throttles to make landing the two fish easier.

About 200 yards behind the boat, two dolphin leapt into the air and tumbled wildly, trying to dislodge the hooks. When the dolphin leapt, their brilliant yellow and green colors flashed in the morning sun, signaling a great beginning to what would become a very productive day.

Dolphin are a favorite catch of fishermen off the Carolinas for several reasons. They don't just look pretty, they fight hard and are excellent table fare. That's good, too, as they make a strong run along the inshore edge of the Gulf Stream off the Carolinas from late spring into summer.

Webb (252-904-3361) and Buddy "Love" Smith (843-356-0585), who runs the *Underdog* out of Murrells Inlet, S.C., look forward to plying the deep, blue ocean waters along the edge of the Gulf Stream. They make the offshore run daily in season, weather permitting, and they know dolphin are plentiful offshore out of their respective ports in May and June.

Late spring and early summer are great times to kick off the offshore fishing season by targeting some colorful, tasty pelagic fish that provide plenty of excitement to any trip.

DAY OF THE DOLPHIN

Brian Carroll

Once the water begins warming well in May and June, fishermen have a tendency to overrun dolphin,” Webb said. “Dolphin are one of the first fish to break away from the Gulf Stream as the water warms. They move in with the warming water and are often found at the first temperature break as you near the stream. Sometimes this is as close as 17 fathoms.

“Most times, there is a color change with the temperature break, but sometimes it can be subtle and shows better from a distance, then gets hard to see when you’re right on it. This is when a good temperature gauge is invaluable. You can watch it and see where the temperature changes, even if you can’t see the color change.”

Webb said he’ll start fishing on just such a spot, and he puts out a full spread of nine lines; smaller boats should be able to troll six lines comfortably and easily. Webb primarily uses medium ballyhoo rigged into sea witches, with a few Ilander and Ilander, Jr.-style lures. He uses a variety of colors, and at least one will be blue/white or blue/crystal, and one yellow-green.

“Mono or fluorocarbon leaders are fine if you’re just after dolphin,” Webb said. “They don’t have lots of teeth, and bite-offs

Dolphin are among the most striking, colorful gamefish that swim in the ocean, anywhere from yellow to green to blue.

DOLPHIN: NOTHING IN THE OCEAN GROWS FASTER

Many people think of the mammal when they hear the word “dolphin”, and about 20 to 30 years ago, restaurants began calling them by their Hawaiian name, Mahi-mahi, so diners wouldn’t be confused.

Two species of dolphin roam the oceans: the common dolphin, *Coryphaena hippurus*, and a smaller species, pompano dolphin, *Coryphaena equisetis*, which often mix together.

Both species are voracious feeders and grow very rapidly. Pompano dolphin are smaller and may reach their full size in a year. Common dolphin grow much larger, and most reach double-digit weights in a year or less. Their lifespan is typically only two to four years, so they must grow quickly to reach the 50-pound sizes which are caught with surprising frequency.

In one study at the Monterey (Calif.) Aquarium, a male in their large tank reached 37 pounds in its first year.

A 1½-pound dolphin was caught and placed in a SeaWorld exhibit of schooling fish. This dolphin had an unlimited food supply, and it grew so fast it was visibly noticeable. It lived only 18 months, but reached 68 pounds. This weight increase equaled 3.69 pounds a month.



Brian Carroll



Dolphin are among the fastest-growing fish in the ocean, rarely living past five years but often reaching 40 or 50 pounds.

Jerry Diltsaver

The most-impressive story comes from the University of Miami's aquaculture program. On Dec. 19, 2014, they introduced a small bull dolphin, not weighed but estimated at 5-6 pounds, into a tank at their Virginia Key Experimental Hatchery. This fish was in optimum conditions with no predators and an unlimited food supply. On Sept. 24, 2015, after 9 months in the tank, it weighed 56.4 pounds, a growth rate of 5.5 pounds a month

Growth rates will not be as dramatic in the wild, as food is not as readily available, and it would require more energy to feed. Still, these experiments show the potential growth rates for dolphin and makes it easier to understand how some reach 60 pounds plus in only for years in the wild. ■

are rare. However, there are still wahoo still around, especially in late May and early June, so we run the long-rigger lines and a planer line — prime spots in the spread to catch wahoo — with wire leaders to hold up to a wahoo's sharp teeth. Dolphin aren't leader shy, so it doesn't bother them, and they'll still hit these lines, too."

In general, Webb said, wahoo like darker colors, and dolphin like brighter colors, but that isn't always the case. Sometimes, a school of dolphin will hit every lure in the spread, regardless of color. When they are feeding and get excited, the first few hit, and then others in the school charge into the spread after them.

Webb keeps an eye on the water temperature, running it as a graph in one of the panes on his fish finder so he can check at any time. He believes small temperature changes can make a big difference, and temperature changes of several degrees aren't necessary to locate dolphin.

Once in water in the mid-70s, finding pockets of water with less than a degree of change can sometimes make the difference between a fair and a great catch. Usually, when you find these changes, the dolphin will be in the warmer water, especially earlier in the season. Later, when all the water is pretty warm, they may prefer the cooler side.

Smith said dolphin fishing out of Murrells Inlet is a little different than many areas, that dolphin will make up the lion's share of the catch in late May and June, with some blackfin tuna and wahoo and possibly a billfish. Even better, all these species are often in the same area.



Black River Marine
Orangeburg, SC

362 Calhoun Drive
800.354.0161
803.536.2277

SAVE BIG \$\$\$ ON ALL IN-STOCK

YAMAHA 4-STROKES!!!

Re-Power Special Includes 150s, 115s, 60s, 40s and the NEW 25!!!



1448



1548 DK

HEADING OFFSHORE???

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!!!

- RODS
- REELS
- TACKLE

AND ALL THE BAIT —

- BALLYHOO
- SHRIMP
- SQUID!!!




YAMAHA



Trailer Repairs • Sales • Service Boat & Motor Accessories

VOYAGER Deep Sea Fishing & Sport Fishing Charters


The Largest & Finest Fleet in The Carolinas!



- 100' Super Voyager III
- 100' Continental Shelf
- Area's top producer for Gulf Stream Fishing
- 12-13 Hour Gulf Stream Special - \$95
- 22 Hour Trips - \$195
- Private Sport Fishing Charters up to 20 Passengers
- Large Group Charters up to 125 Passengers
- Fast, Clean Boats
- Excellent Crew #1 In Customer Service

1525 13th Ave N. North Myrtle Beach, SC
843-626-9500 • 910-575-5978
SuperVoyagerDeepSeaFishing.com



DAY OF THE
DOLPHIN



“Heading out of Murrells Inlet, we generally head offshore towards 100 fathoms, but we are looking for an edge along the way,” Smith said. “We’re also running over familiar structure, known to hold bait, and looking for it. Whichever we find first is where we stop and put out the spread.”

“The edge can be a lot of things. Some days, it’s a weed line, and others it could be a color change, rip or temperature break. These edges tend to gather bait at some point, and once you

“Dolphin are one of the first fish to break away from the Gulf Stream as the water warms.”

find the edge, you make a decision to work up or down it to find the bait. When you find a concentration of bait, you usually find fish.”

Smith begins with a spread of nine baits unless his party get wrapped up in fish before they get them all out — and it has happened. When they locate dolphin and the bite fires off, he’ll keep only five or six rods out, as that’s all his mate and anglers can handle in a hot bite.



Dolphin are typically caught along some kind of edge, be in a color or temperature change or a grass line.



Jerry Dilts/aver

DUDLEY'S

MARINA

FISHING TACKLE - MARINE SUPPLIES

www.dudleysmarinanc.com

NEW FISHING TACKLE & MERCHANDISE HAS ARRIVED

Great Deals on Rod & Reel Combos. \$AVE

We Also Offer:

- Complete Boat Service
- Wide Assortment of Tackle
- Charter Boats In-Out Dry Storage
- Marine Railways
- Dockside Fueling

We Have Ethanol-Free Gas

- We'll Even Give You a Few Words of Fishing Advice and Just a Little Gossip!
- Complete Boat Paint Protection, your Interlux Paint Dealer

Hwy. 24 East • Swansboro, NC
(252) 393-2204

KING MAC IS WHAT WE DO!

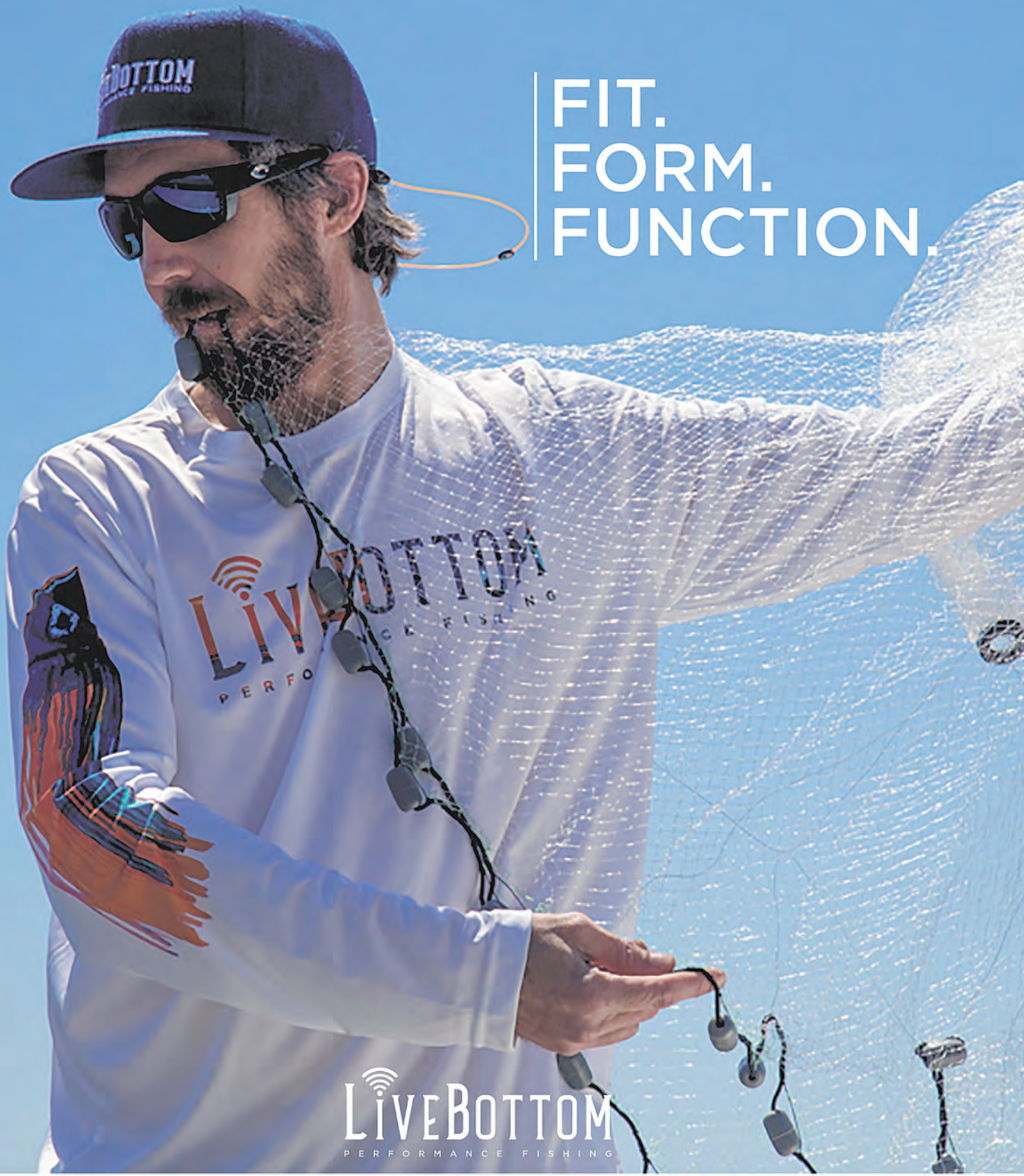
Best Source For King Mackerel Tackle

Largest Selection of Custom Bait Rigs & Same Day Shipping on Most Items!

Over 40 years of saltwater experience: We outfit everyone from novice to pro!

Buy online or Download Our Catalog at:
www.KingMacTak.com • 919-900-8998

FIT.
FORM.
FUNCTION.



LIVEBOTTOM
PERFORMANCE FISHING



Available At These Fine Retailers

Dealer Inquiries: info@fishlivebottom.com

Smith uses small and medium ballyhoo, with a couple rigged naked, several on different color sea witches, a couple on Ilanders, Ilander Jrs. or Jags, and often a Green Machine way back. If they're at 20 fathoms or deeper, one line of the full spread is a planer rig to get it down for wahoo. Once they get offshore near 100 fathoms, he adds one big bait in case a blue marlin is around and feeding on the dolphin or tuna; it happened a lot in 2017, and Smith hopes it continues this year. "At least one of my lures will be blue and crystal," Smith said. "I also like black and blue, especially for wahoo, but dolphin will whack it, too. Dolphin like a variety of colors, and I also always have something pink in the spread."

Smith said many fishermen head out for dolphin unprepared. There may be days when the action is spread fairly evenly across the whole day, but many days, most of the action comes in one or two bursts. He remembered one trip when his party caught 55 gaffers in two hours on five rods. If he hadn't been plenty of baits rigged in advance, a catch that size wouldn't have been possible. However, with the baits already rigged, the mate could snap the leader off and put on a new one with a fresh bait to have that line fishing again within seconds of boating a fish. Smith recommended beginning the day with a minimum of three-dozen baits rigged and ready to go. ■



Jerry Dilsaver

Offshore mates normally have more than a dozen trolling rigs ready for dolphin, because the action can be so fast and furious.



Jerry Dilsaver of Oak Island, N.C., is a full-time freelance writer and columnist for *Carolina Sportsman*. He is a former SKA National Champion and USAA Angler of the Year.

See Our Inventory Showroom at
SOUTHSIDEOUTDOORS.com



DON'T OVERLOOK ANYTHING WHEN TARGETING DOLPHIN

Bait breaking the surface near a current rip will usually hold plenty of dolphin.



Jerry Dilsaver

Dolphin are found in temperate waters throughout the world. They first show up along the edge of the Gulf Stream off the Carolinas in the late spring. By May, many of them are bigger fish called gaffers — large enough to have to use a gaff — and during June, the numbers usually increase, but there are more smaller fish in the catch. Regardless of size, dolphin are attracted to edges and floating objects.

Many fishermen equate edges as grass lines, weed lines or mats. Dolphin certainly gather around these, even when the grass is broken up by winds and waves. Grass lines usually form when wind or current pushes loose grass against a current edge and it thickens. This is both an edge and a floating object.

Grass has another benefit that some floating objects don't, providing cover for the small baitfish and crabs that make up a good part of the dolphin's diet.

Other floating objects are similar. A loose net or fish-trap buoy with a piece of trailing rope creates habitat for baitfish and crabs and often holds a few dolphin. Stories abound of catching several dolphin from around a loose buoy or floating trash or pieces of wood.

Edges are where something changes in the ocean. A common edge is often an odd rip in an otherwise calm ocean, typically where two opposing currents meet. This tends to pin any bait moving in one current to the seam along the other current. A grass line or a temperature change may be present, but the key to the rip holding fish is the presence of bait. A rip may be miles long and the bait concentrated in one or several spots, so good advice is to work along it until fish are located.

Some edges may be indicated by color changes. It may be two currents colliding, like with a rip, or it could be water of different temperatures. This is usually a good thing to find and should be fished much like a rip. Capt. Mike Webb of Atlantic Beach, N.C., said to pay attention to your

temperature gauge on both sides of a color change, as the temperature change may not be right on it the color change.

One of the most unusual edges is an upwelling, an obvious current running to the surface. You may see a boil, and a rip may be running away from it, but many upwellings also carry Sargasso weed and bait to the surface. Sometimes, temperature breaks at upwellings, too. Many times, fish gather around upwellings to feed, so they should not be overlooked. ■





24 Bay



**NauticStar
BOATS
227 XTS**

GREAT
SELECTION
NOW IN
STOCK!

Sneads Ferry, NC
910-327-3953
www.powermarineoutfitters.com

LOOKOUT MITZI SKIFFS
 **YAMAHA**
Call Us Today For The
Lowest Re-Power Prices In NC!

TAKE A SHOT AT SUMMER BASS

By David A. Brown

'Shoot' your bait back into the dark recesses under a dock, and you'll get more looks from hungry bass that dig the shade. Here's how.

Shade, shelter and feeding opportunities; it's no wonder bass don't want to leave their docks. You pluck a few from the perimeters with moving baits and maybe flip a couple off those outside posts, but consistency hinges on your ability to take it to 'em.

In a word, that means "skipping."

Bass pro Andy Montgomery, of Blacksburg, S.C., tempts his dock bass with a Strike King Tour Grade Skipping Jig fitted with a 4-inch Rage Bug. The jig's 60-count silicone skirt provides lots of flare, and the flat-sided head skips like a wet stone. But ever the picky perfectionist, Montgomery gives each one a cosmetic makeover.

- Check the skirt. Pieces move in the package, so he make sure it's straight and even.
- No clumping. Gently rubbing the skirt fibers in a downward motion eliminates the sticking that can mar a presentation.

"I want the skirt even, because I don't want it to fall to one side or the other," Montgomery said.

- At little trim. Full skirts can impede skipping through excessive water drag, so Montgomery gather the skirt between his fingers and cut off about 1/8-inch. He'll do so in three to four equal cuts to make sure his jig skirt bears an even edge on a compact package that allows plenty of action from his Rage Bug.
- Plastic tactic. For optimal efficiency, Montgomery bites four segments off his trailer's tail end. A shorter trailer means a more compact profile with a better skipping motion. Also, this adjustment ensures that his hook comes out just above the trailer's eyes — ideal for putting the point closer to the fish and thereby increasing hook-up success.





Bass pro Andy Montgomery carefully trims back the skirts on his jigs so they'll more easily skip back under a dock or other piece of shady cover, reducing the drag as the bait makes contact with the water.



David A. Brown

Favoring a V&M Pacemaker Skipping Jig with a chunk-style trailer, bass pro Hank Cherry of Lincolnton, N.C. fishes his jig on 20-pound Berkley 100-Percent Fluorocarbon. He prefers hanging his trailer for maximum profile, but if your skipping angle pushes a hung chunk up the hook shank, make a stopper by threading a piece of worm onto the hook.

PRESENTATION PROWESS

Cherry said an individual's height and the distance they like to be from a dock when skipping should determine rod length. For example, he stands 6-foot-3 and keeps his distance from docks, so a 7-foot-3 to 7-foot-6 rod suits him well. However, a shorter person who casts from close range will want to drop down to a 6-foot-6 or 7-foot rod.

Montgomery, who uses a 7-foot-1 heavy-action Daiwa Tatula rod, agrees and notes that he prefers an underhanded roll cast. That, he said, is why rod length is so important.

"If you use too long of a rod, you'll hit the water, and that longer rod will force you to use a (different) motion," Montgomery said. "If you fit the rod length to your height, it will prevent you from hitting the water. You can skip with a sidearm motion, but you're way more accurate with an underhand cast."

Reel retrieve speed also plays a key role in Montgomery's dock game. He likes the Daiwa Tatula CT 8:1 for its T-Wing System, which reduces the friction that baitcasting reels on rods with narrow line guides face. The T-Wing releases line through a wider top section on the cast and then funnels retrieved line into a narrow, lower channel for better control and even spool distribution.

The higher gear ratio might raise a few eyebrows, until Montgomery explains the logic. Dock skipping, he said, inherently creates a lot of slack, but the peppy reel speed allows him to quickly gather the excess and get to work.

Cherry adds this technique tip. "Wherever your eyes are going, that's where the bait will go. Some people underhand skip better than sidearm skip; you just have to do whatever is within your mechanics.

"Some of the best dock skippers don't do it like I do; I stay 20 to 25 yards off and skip sidearm. A lot of guys like to get tight and pitch-skip. You have to figure out what you're most comfortable with.

"I never get close to a dock because when I skip, my jig goes under the dock, to the bottom, one hop, and I swim it out. I never leave my bait on the bottom under a dock, unless it's on a rocky point where I'll crawl it. I feel like if the fish doesn't get the bait on the initial entry, with one hop, when I swim it out, that looks like it's fleeing, and the fish that's living there is going to get it."

GET HIM OUT

An important point to keep in mind: heavily structured docks. Particularly when skipping under docks with cables, your plan needs to include an exit strategy. Bass pro Jeff Sprague of Point, Texas, said it's all about sizing up the area before making your first skip.

continues on page 40 >

SHOOT THAT THANG!

If skipping simply frustrates you — or perhaps you're teaching kids or other beginners — don't fret; take a page from the crappie angler's handbook and "shoot" your baits under the cover.

With a motion more closely resembling archery, shooting provides a handy option for zipping a bait back into the dock's shadowy reaches, without all the performance anxiety.

Aiming a spinning outfit at your target zone, pull the lure backward to load the rod from beneath, and then release it to shoot the bait into the target zone. You'll find that high-visibility braided line will show the light bites, as the line sudden stops. Adding a 10-pound fluorocarbon leader to the braid complements stealth with abrasion resistance

Taking this specialty presentation a step farther, lure maker Gene Larew recently created a bait with a slower fall to stay in front of suspended fish. The Bass Shooter also maximizes the shooting momentum with a lengthy skipping motion. This sleek, 3¼-inch bait is made with a flat back with a hook alignment guide, a spade-shaped tail, and a keeled underside that makes the bait wobble and glide through the water column.

Specifically for the Bass Shooter, Gene Larew also created a Pinhead Hook with a wire weed guard and a weighted shank for even weight distribution. Completing the package, Gene Larew Pull Tabs prevent accidental sticking by keeping your fingers well behind the hook. ■



Skipping a jig with an underhand motion allows anglers to get baits between portions of docks.

Gene Larew's Bass Shooter was designed to be 'shot' back up under docks where bass hide.



YAMAHA OUTBOARDS

WAKE UP

TO SAVINGS
SALES EVENT

OFFER VALID FROM MAY 1, 2018 – JUNE 15, 2018



For a limited time, purchase a new, select eligible Yamaha 2.5 hp to 150 hp four-stroke outboard and receive:

UP TO **\$750** IN DEALER CREDIT
Toward the purchase of additional goods or services from your authorized, participating Yamaha outboard dealer.*

ELIGIBLE FOUR-STROKE OUTBOARDS

DEALERSHIP CREDIT TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF GOODS/SERVICES

150 HP	\$750 based on MSRP
90-115 HP	\$600 based on MSRP
60-75 HP	\$500 based on MSRP
30-50 HP	\$400 based on MSRP
20-25 HP	\$300 based on MSRP
8-15 HP	\$250 based on MSRP
2.5-6 HP	\$200 based on MSRP

See your authorized participating Yamaha outboard dealer today for details! Other restrictions and conditions may apply.

***PROGRAM TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Consumer benefit for purchasing a new (unused not previously warranty registered) eligible Yamaha 2.5 to 150 HP four-stroke outboard is a credit based on MSRP toward the purchase of goods and/or services at the authorized, participating dealer that sold the outboard, at no extra cost to consumer. NO BENEFIT SUBSTITUTIONS. To be eligible, outboards must also have been manufactured since January 2011. Promotion is only applicable from authorized participating Yamaha Outboard dealers in the U.S.A. sold to purchasing consumers residing in the U.S.A. Promotion is limited to available stock in dealer inventory that is sold, PDI completed, delivered and warranty registered on YMBS by the dealer in accordance with Yamaha's promotion and warranty registration requirements during applicable dates. No model substitutions, benefit substitutions, extensions or rain checks will be allowed. Outboards sold or provided for commercial, camp, resort, rental promotional/demo, scratch-and-dent, government agency, competition, tournament or sponsorship use are not eligible. This promotion cannot be used in conjunction with any other Yamaha offer. Some exceptions may apply. See authorized, participating Yamaha dealer for complete details. Yamaha reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at any time. Other restrictions and conditions apply.

REMEMBER to always observe all applicable boating laws. Never drink and drive. Dress properly with a USCG-approved personal flotation device and protective gear. © 2018 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved.



He suggests these questions.

- How will you get the fish out?
- What options does the structure offer?
- Will you reach right or left of a piling? Over or under a dock cable?
- Will you have to reach into the water or boat flip the fish?

“Whatever the case may be, a guy has to already know in his mind what he’s going to do,” he said. “Otherwise, you’re wasting your time, because that fish will own you before you even have the opportunity to make that decision.”

No doubt, dock-skipping can be an intimidating and nerve-racking venture; but this is a truly a no risk-no reward deal. Some may follow the plan of “hook ‘em first and then worry about it,” but a well-conceived plan serves you better in the long run. ■



A full-time freelance writer specializing in sportfishing, David A. Brown splits his time between journalism and marketing communications (www.tightwords.com).



Bass pro Andy Montgomery relies on jigs skipped under docks for summer bass.



ABSOLUTE. PREMIUM. PROTECTION.™

AUTHORIZED DEALERS

NORTH CAROLINA

- Academi**
Moyock, NC
- Bass Pro Shops – Outdoor World**
Concord, NC
Cary, NC

Cabela’s
Garner, NC

Captain Dave’s
Durham, NC

Chief Supply
Charlotte, NC

Cross Creek Outdoor Supply
Henderson, NC

Dick’s Field & Stream
Asheville, NC

Fuquay Gun & Gold, Inc.
Fuquay-Varina, NC

Gander Mountain
Greensboro, NC
 Mooresville, NC
Raleigh, NC
Winston-Salem, NC

General Jackson’s
Fayetteville, NC

Point Blank Range
 Mooresville, NC

The Outdoor Sportsman
Wake Forest, NC

The Safe House
Holly Ridge, NC

SOUTH CAROLINA

Academy Sports & Outdoors
Greenville, SC
Spartanburg, SC

Bass Pro Shops- Outdoor World
Myrtle Beach, SC

Cabela’s
Fort Mill, SC
Greenville, SC

Hunters Headquarters
Greenwood, SC

US Patriot HQ
Columbia, SC

For more stores, go to our dealer locator at wileyx.com or call 800-776-7842.



ABSOLUTE.
PREMIUM.
PROTECTION.™



JACOB WHEELER



EDWIN EVERS

SHADES OF THE PROS™

Wiley X high performance fit and features help pros like Edwin Evers and Jacob Wheeler stay at the top of their game. Filter 8™ polarized lenses and removable Facial Cavity™ Seals help them see the water better while ANSI rated impact protection let's them know their eyes are always well protected.



WX KOBE

POLARIZED VENICE GOLD MIRROR (AMBER) LENS/
GLOSS HICKORY FRAME



WX NASH

POLARIZED PLATINUM FLASH (GREEN) LENS/
KRYPTEK ALTITUDE™ FRAME



WX TITAN

POLARIZED SMOKE GREY LENS/
GLOSS BLACK FRAME



WILEYX.COM
1.800.776.7842

Triton BOATS



18CTX

Fiberglass or Aluminum

Great selection in stock
at 2 locations



18TX



19TRX



179TRX



189TRX



1862SC



704-764-3910 (Monroe)
910-249-6868 (Bolivia)



4308 Pageland Hwy
Monroe, NC 28112
1032 Old Ocean Hwy E
Bolivia, NC 28422
www.whitleypower.com





Lipless crankbaits might have been designed to catch largemouth bass, but they're dynamite on reds in both Carolinas.

Time to Trap A REDFISH

By Dusty Wilson

Mitchell Blake

Like baseball and apple pie, lipless crankbaits, aka Rat-L-Traps, are part of a tradition spanning decades.

Originally pigeon-holed as bass lures, the rattle and vibration that makes them irresistible to large-mouths also draws attention from saltwater predators like redfish.

Now the hallmark bait of Bill Lewis' career as a lure designer, the Rat-L-Trap was one in a box full of prototypes that Lewis was experimenting with in the late 1960s. While other lipless crankbaits were on the market, Lewis' model was the first to incorporate a concept that took the fishing world to a new level: a chamber filled with rattling BBs.

Other than a color pallet that includes most every hue and pattern an angler could ask for, the Rat-L-Trap has remained relatively unchanged and still enjoys the same success as its humble beginnings. The reasoning is simple; fish can only see, smell and sense vibration within a relatively short distance, but sound travels faster and farther underwater; a redfish wearing nose plugs can find a Rat-L-Trap in chocolate milk.

"I grew up bass fishing," said guide Mitchell Blake of Chocowinity, N.C. "The Rat-L-Trap was a bait I used primarily for freshwater fishing, and it worked.

“I took that to the saltwater world and started out using it for big drum. I saw how well it worked and the areas it worked in.”

So I took that to the saltwater world and started out using it for big drum. I saw how well it worked and the areas it worked in. The following year, I matched a smaller size Rat-L-Trap to the smaller-class drum, and it was phenomenal.

"There are different ways you can fish it, and it works different ways," said Blake (252-495-1803). "If fish are aggressive, I simply throw it in the mouth of a ditch and reel it in. If I'm working a straight, drop-off shoreline, I'll try to make that bait land within 5 inches of the marsh grass; that's critical. I'll let it free-fall and reel it in. If the fish are being lazy, I may yo-yo it, rip it off the bottom and let it fall. That creates a reaction from the fish; it's almost like teasing them. I'll do that if the water's stained, also. You're not covering



Stephen Fields

Guide Stephen Fields goes with a lipless crankbait for reds, in this case, a LIVETARGET version, a Rattlebait.

as much ground, but you're giving the fish more time to key in on it."

Blake, who runs Fish IBX Charters, has three prime areas where he puts a Rat-L-Trap to work, the first of which he calls "mosquito ditches." On the western side of the Pamlico Sound where Blake operates — and in many areas across the

Tips for targeting reds with *lipless baits*

Carolinas — the marsh is crisscrossed by drainage ditches cut to alleviate flooded soil and provide mosquito management. When these canals fill with water due to wind-driven or lunar tides, the forage fish on which the reds are keying scamper inside, seeking refuge. When the canals start to drain due to a falling tide or shift in wind direction, their contents are poured into the mouths of waiting redfish, who have assembled there for the occasion.

The second pattern is a favorite of one of Blake's other Fish IBX guides, Jeff Koen of Winterville, N.C.

"I like high water, so I can fish the edges of the marsh," Koen said. "These areas are straight drop-offs from the shore into 2 to 3 feet of water, rather than a long, gradual drop. The reds like to sit here because the baitfish will be coming down these edges, and they don't have to work so hard to get food; it serves as a backdrop. I like to position my boat so I can throw parallel across the edge, so the bait stays in the strike zone longer. If the water isn't high enough, the fish will still be in the area, but they'll be on the next shelf from the bank in the deeper water near the creek channel."

In this instance, Koen allows the bait to drop from the shelf to reach reds in the 4- to 5-foot level.



Mitchell Blake

Braided line is typically used when fishing lipless crankbaits, but often, it's tied to a 15- to 20-pound fluorocarbon leader.

While tying on a lipless crankbait and giving it a toss may sound simple enough, a few gear and lure tweaks will help you the most out of your experience.

A common complaint among fishermen is that lipless crankbaits fall too fast in the water column, making it difficult to maintain the desired depth. Bass and many redfish anglers remedy the problem by going to a high-speed baitcasting reel: a 6.1:1 gear ratio or greater. Not only will it speed up the retrieve, it will get it moving more quickly once it hits the water. Floating or suspending models of baits can be used if fishing in extremely shallow water or at a particular, desired depth.

Many fishermen also prefer stout rods for ripping their baits free from weeds and cover, but guide Mitchell Blake of Fish IBX Charters in Chocowinity, N.C., said going heavy kills some of the bait's action and renders it less effective.

"You want to have a soft tip," Blake said. "If you go with too stiff of a rod, you take too much away from the bait. You want it to have some give, so when the lure banks off stuff, it looks natural. You can overpower it if you're not careful. I fish them on a 7-foot, medium-action rod with 20-pound braided line and a 15- to 20-pound fluorocarbon leader."

Once in a while, the extra-loud rattle of a lipless bait can be detrimental to attracting fish — such as spooky fish in super-clear water or fish that have been pressured and heard too many rattles. In these instances, Rat-L-Trap offers two solutions. The first is a Stealth Trap, which offers a higher-frequency rattle barely audible to human ears. The second is the Knock-N-Trap, which puts out a lower-frequency rattle by using fewer, but larger BBs. ■

continues on page 48 >

Trap some Inner Banks reds

With the western portion of the Pamlico Sound at his fingertips, Mitchell Blake of Fish

IBX Charters has as much flexibility in choosing a place to fish as

any one in North Carolina. But in June, he narrows his target area to the mouths of the Pamlico, Bay and Neuse rivers, where early arriving slot redfish will be staging up and chewing hard.



"That sounds like a wide area," Blake said. "But, if you look at the map, all those areas are doable in that loop. That area has nice-sized red drum, and it also has the flounder coming across the sound. It also has the trout.

"We utilize the Bay River, which is kind of a mid-point. If the wind's blowing and got us pinched, we can hit any of the mouths of the rivers. It's just a matter of do we turn right or turn left."

"In June, the redfish are not that far into the system," said Jeff Koen, another Fish IBX guide. "They're just coming in. Any of the tributaries off the Neuse, near Oriental, closer to the mouth of the

The areas around the mouths of the Pamlico, Bay and Neuse rivers fill up with redfish in June.



Stephen Fields

sound, are all really good areas."

In the Pamlico Sound and its tributaries, where tide and water flow are wind driven, it is important to watch the wind direction for several days before a fishing trip. That will tell anglers which banks should be stacked up with water to allow for the best fishing of grass edges, as well as points that should have water moving around them. A switch in wind direction will mark the areas preparing to drain of high water that has harbored bait in canals and small creeks, setting up a feeding frenzy nearby. ■

Mention This Ad For Special Offers!

EAST COAST SPORTS
Your Island Outfitter since 1952
for all of your fishing needs **910-328-1887**

25% OFF SELECTED CLOTHING

15% OFF SELECTED TACKLE

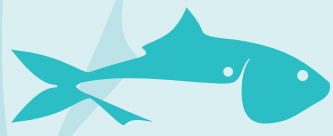
Visit www.eastcoastsports.com for LIVE webcam
Topsail fishing reports, special online deals & NEW forum section

409 Roland Ave., Surf City, NC
Just over the drawbridge in Surf City in the fishing village mall across from the Mainsail Restaurant.

Expires 6/15/18

Mention This Ad For Special Offers!

Pogie's focuses on the outdoor lifestyle for the coastal angler. Whether you're looking for clothing for a night out on the town or a day spent stalking the flats for redfish, we have you covered. Have a favorite bait, jig or lure or needing some flies and leaders? Questions on casting, rigging or even just trying to figure out the area? We are here for you!



POGIE'S
SWANSBORO NC
910-325-7876
www.pogiesfishing.com
WE HAVE LIVE MUD MINNOWS!

- Free Fly
- IMCO
- Wally
- ASTRAL
- Black Strap
- Belle of Bogus
- SHIMANO
- PENN
- Abu Garcia
- Wah & McGill
- Jenrick
- PEEL THE ACTION
- DAVA
- UMPQUA
- RIO
- REDINGTON
- HATCH
- CLUTCH

Rattle up Lowcountry reds

Stephen Fields likes to fish a lipless crankbait on the high end of the tide for redfish.



Guide Stephen Fields of Charleston (S.C.) Fishing Company said June means blind-casting for aggressive redfish searching for swarms of bait that have moved into the Lowcountry, and lipless crankbaits that can grab a fish's attention shine.

"I like to fish in and off the (ICW) from Isle of Palms up to Cape Romain that time of year," said Fields (843-412-6811). "There are a lot of spots on the ICW to hit early in the morning before the boat traffic gets up. Then, you can move up towards the Cape Romain part of the waterway and hit the deeper creeks and backwater flats later in the day."

Fields' favorite search bait is a lipless crankbait, a LIVETARGET Rattlebait. He will fish baits with either a black back and white or gray bottom or an all-white or gold bait.

"I'll fish it on a higher-water tide, a mid-incoming or a high-outgoing," she said. "You need to have enough water to effectively fish it. I'm looking for a lot of heavy cover like oysters and flooded grass. I'm not throwing it up in the grass, but in the sparse grass at the edge that has oysters in 2 to 4 feet of water. I'm making good, parallel casts across a lot of cover, every once in a while making contact and ripping it through it. That really attracts a lot of bites."

"This is a good time to cover a lot of water. The fish are not going to be in schools like fall and winter. They're going to be more spread out. A lot of the smaller slot reds will be around. They're less educated and very aggressive. They'll eat those Rattlebaits up." ■



Precision Marine Inc.

Hwy. 70E, Goldsboro • 919-751-1199

WHERE GREAT SERVICE
GOES ALONG WITH THE SALE!

SUNDANCE



DX20HP - w/115hp 4-stroke and alum trlr.

FINANCING & GREAT RATES AVAILABLE!



DX22HP - w/115hp & alum trailer

CUSTOM ELECTRONICS & TROLLING MOTOR INSTALLATION!



B20CCR - w/115hp & alum trailer

*with approved credit

We Sell & Install



Powered By



FIND US OFF HWY. 70 BYPASS AT EXIT # 369
FROM RALEIGH/EXIT #370 FROM KINSTON!

New Store Hours: 8:00-5:00 Monday through Friday
After hours by appointment



www.precisionmarineinc.com

> continued from page 45

Blake and Koen also rely on Rat-L-Traps when fishing points. Whether it's a major point or secondary point inside a creek, they look for pooling water being sucked around the jut of land or grass and fire away. Here, bait either gathers to rest in the eddy or is swept around the point in the current and disorientated. The Rat-L-Trap's tight wiggle resembles a panicked baitfish that knows it's in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Koen enjoys throwing his Traps around various forms of cover. Boat docks and long laydowns are prime areas for reds to check out as they cruise a shoreline, and they will set up in these areas to ambush prey, much like a largemouth bass. Stump fields are also havens for redfish. In any case, care must be taken to get close to the cover without hanging up, but the idea is for reds to be drawn from the cover by the sound of the passing bait.

“I always have a gold tied on, and the blue back with the silver sides — I’ve always got those in my box.”

As for color options, the sky's the limit. While there's nothing wrong with trying something new, it's hard to beat the classics, according to Blake.

“I always have a gold tied on,” said Blake, “and the blue back with the silver sides — I’ve always got those in my box. The brand makes saltwater colors with stronger hooks, but I don't distinguish between the two. I'll take a ½-ounce lure right out of the box and fish it. It doesn't straighten the hooks with slot fish, and it's got a split ring so you don't have to worry about tying a loop knot to get the best action.

“My customers have been blown away. You tie on a Rat-L-Trap and tell them that we're going to smack these red drum and they're like, 'No, we need a soft plastic or a Gulp.' Then, they're snowballed. It's faster-paced fishing. You can really cover some ground.” ■



Dusty Wilson of Raleigh, N.C. is a lifelong outdoorsman. He is the manager of Tarheel Nursery in Angier, N.C., and can be followed on his blog at InsideNCFishing.com.



TEX'S TACKLE

"YOUR SALTWATER FISHING CONNECTION"

SHIMANO SUSTAIN FI

- BEARINGS: 8+1
- RETRIEVE PER CRANK RANGE (IN): 35-41
- MAXIMUM DRAG (LB): 20-24





Gift Certificates Available

910-791-1763
 215 OLD EASTWOOD RD. • WILMINGTON 28403
www.texstackle.com

HELP WANTED

We are looking for drivers to deliver the Carolina SPORTSMAN Magazine in both North and South Carolina.

If You Love to Fish, Hunt and Meet People You Qualify!

Circulation experience helpful but not necessary. Dependable vehicle with insurance & a valid NC and / or SC drivers license a must. If you have 2-3 days a month to help spread the word I would like to hear from you!

Please Contact: Mitch Eby,
 Circulation Manager @ 919-602-3862 -or- mitchebync@gmail.com



STAY COOL STAY PROTECTED

STAY OUT
THERE



Solar Shade™ ZERO Long Sleeve Shirt



Who needs shade when you have OMNI-SHADE™ SUN DEFLECTOR?

Little sun-deflecting dots are applied to the outside of an Omni-Shade™ garment to deflect sunlight away from the body, so you feel cooler and stay protected.



SEE YOUR LOCAL DEALER FOR SPECIALS OFFERED BY



ANGLER'S MARINE
842 OCEAN HWY WEST
SUPPLY, NC 28462
910-775-7900
anglersmarinenc.com

BAY RACER MARINE
213 US HIGHWAY 70 WEST
HAVELOCK, NC 28532
252-447-2277
bayracermarine.com

BERKELEY OUTDOORS
2955 S. LIVE OAK DR
MONCK'S CORNER, SC 29461
843-761-2628
803-333-9992
803-505-8727
berkeleyoutdoors.com

BRAZDA MARINE
2645 Highway 24
Newport, NC 28570
252-240-1600
brazdamarine.net

BROAD CREEK MARINA
18 SIMMONS ROAD
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC. 29926
843-681-3625
broadcreekmarinahh.com

BROWN'S MARINE INC
1825 ANTHONY RD
BURLINGTON, NC 27215
336-229-5784
brownsmarine.net

**CAROLINA BOATWORKS
OF COLUMBIA, LLC**
181 PONTIAC BUSINESS CENTER DR
ELGIN, SC 29045
803-736-0035
cbwofcolumbia.com

CAROLINA COACH & MARINE
I-40, EXIT 135
CLAREMONT, NC 28610
800-305-9045
www.carolinacoach.com

CHATLEE BOAT & MARINE
2615 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY.
SANFORD, NC 27330
919-775-7259
chatleeboats.com

COASTLINE RV & MARINE
2340 S. HIGHWAY 17
MURRELLS INLET, SC 29576
843-458-3999
coastlinervrentals.com

COVE 2 COAST MARINE
1821 LAKE MURRAY BLVD.
COLUMBIA, SC 29212
803-814-1514
cove2coastmarine.com

COVE 2 COAST MARINE
2476 SAVANNAH HWY.
CHARLESTON, SC 29407
843-212-3915
cove2coastmarine.com

DOSS MARINE
1720 CHAPIN ROAD
CHAPIN, SC 29036
803-345-1001
dossmarine.com

DOWN EAST MARINE
455 HIGHWAY 70 OTWAY
BEAUFORT, NC 28516
252-728-5817
downeastmarine.com

FORT MACON MARINA INC
417 E FT MACON RD POB 370
ATLANTIC BEACH, NC 28512
252-726-2055
fortmaconmarina.com

FOUR SONS MARINE
855 CAUSEY RD
FAIR BLUFF, NC 28439
910-649-5755
foursonsmarine.com

GRAHAM MARINE
318 W HARDEN ST
GRAHAM, NC 27253
336-227-8711
grahammarinesales.net

GREG'S OUTBOARD CTR INC
1105 E OCEAN RD
HOLLY RIDGE, NC 28445
910-329-0040
gregsoutboard.com

HUNTLEY MARINE
307 N POLK ST
PINEVILLE, NC 28134
704-889-2111
huntleymarine.com

J & J MARINE
2530 BADIN ROAD
ALBEMARLE NC 28001
704-983-867
jandjmarinesales.com

JERRY'S MARINE SERVICES
3801-B MEETING STREET ROAD
CHARLESTON, SC 29405
843-554-3732 • Fax 843-554-9435
jerrysmarine.com

**JET JOE'S MARINE
SALES AND SERVICE**
565 SATTERWHITE POINT RD.
HENDERSON, NC 27537
Phone: 252-430-6209
jetjoesmarine.com

JIMMY'S MARINE
6685 BEACH DRIVE SW
OCEAN ISLE BEACH, NC 28469
910-575-3600
jimmysmarine.com

JOHNSON'S MARINE
814 HOUSER ST
ORANGEBURG, SC 29115-6325
803-531-1655 • Fax 803-531-1626
johnsonsmarinesc.com

LONG'S FISHING & MARINE
5401 HWY 24
ANDERSON, SC 29625-6020
864-287-9064 • FAX 864-287-2965

LONG ISLAND MARINA
8400 LONG ISLAND ROAD
CATAWBA, NC 28609
828-241-4877
longislandmarina.com

MARINE 360
1925 JOHNSON MARINA RD
CHAPIN, SC 29036
803-749-2360
marine360sc.com

MARINE WAREHOUSE
6921 MARKET ST
WILMINGTON, NC 28411
910-799-1277
marinewarehousecenter.com

MARINE WAREHOUSE CENTER
3881 SAVANNAH HIGHWAY
JOHNS ISLAND, SC 29455
843-974-5353
marinewarehousecenter.com

MARTIN'S PERFORMANCE BOATING
9345 MACEDONIA CHURCH RD
PROSPERITY, SC 29127
803-364-2162
martinsmarine.com

MERRITT MARINE
1804 NC-86
HILLSBOROUGH, NC 27278
919-732-7377
merrittmarine.com

MIRAMAR BOATS LLC
209 ARENDELL ST
MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28557
252-726-7678
www.portsidemarina.com

MUDDY BAY MARINE
13803 C. R. KOON HWY.
NEWBERRY, SC 29108
803-321-1900
muddybay.com

NORTH POINT WATERSPORTS
112 DOOLIE RD.
MOORESVILLE, NC
704-799-1994
northpointwatersports.com
info@npwatersports.com

PERFORMANCE EAST
604 CORPORATE DRIVE
GOLDSBORO, NC 27530
888-503-8900
ncpowersports.com

PRECISION MARINE INC
5201 US HWY 70 E
GOLDSBORO, NC 27534
919-751-1199
precisionmarineinc.com

RADCLIFFE MARINE INC.
865 US 264 BYPASS
BELHAVEN, NC 27810
252-943-3923
www.radcliffemarine.com

**ROGUE MOTION BOAT
SALES & STORAGE**
65 SYCAMORE AVE UNIT 1
CHARLESTON, SC 29407
TOLL-FREE 888-341-9460
roguemotion.com

SALTWATER MARINE
6130 CAROLINA BEACH ROAD
WILMINGTON NC 28412
910-392-7488
saltwatermarine.net

SOUNDSIDE MARINE
114 MARINE DRIVE
EDENTON, NC 27932
252-482-4363
soundsidemarine.com

SOUTHPORT MARINE MART
4711 LONG BEACH RD
SOUTHPORT, NC
910-457-6350
marinemartnc.com

SOUTHPORT WATERSPORTS
4888 Coastal Drive
Southport, NC 28461
910-477-6681
southportwatersports.com

STRICKLAND MARINE CENTER
4520 HWY 24
ANDERSON, SC 29626
864-225-0145
stricklandmarine.com

STROUD AND SON MARINE SALES
1897 OCEAN HWY
EDENTON, NC 27932
252-482-8938
www.stroudandson.com

SUTTON MARINE
914 PARK AVENUE SOUTHEAST
AIKEN, SC 29801
803-648-6141
suttonmarine.com

THE GREAT OUTDOORS
112 A NORTH CHERRY ST.
CHERRYVILLE, NC 28021
704-445-8848
teamgreatoutdoors.com

TRI-COUNTY MARINE
1203 PREMIER ROAD
GRANITE FALLS, NC 28630
828-728-4845
tricityboats.com

TWIN LAKES MARINE, INC
265 SATTERWHITE POINT RD
HENDERSON, N.C. 27537
252-431-0416
twinlakesmarinenc.com

WACCA WACHE MARINA
1950 WACHESAW ROAD
MURRELLS INLET, SC 29576
(843) 651-2994
www.waccawachemarina.com

WEBSTERS MARINE INC
5974 N OKATIE HWY
RIDGELAND, SC 29936-8248
843-987-6663 • Fax 843-379-2628
webstersmarine.com

YOPP BROTHERS INC
883 HWY 210 W POB 849
SNEADS FERRY, NC 28460
910-327-2831
yoppbrothersmarine.com

UNIVERSAL MARINE
144-A Wayne Drive
Morehead City, NC 28557
252-723-1577
www.universalmarinenc.com



Not all North Carolina and South Carolina American Suzuki Motor of America Inc. marine dealers are represented in this advertisement.

SUZUKI

Spring  Savings

THE ULTIMATE 4-STROKE OUTBOARD



For a limited time, get Suzuki Extended Protection, Instant Savings and attractive financing on select Suzuki outboards from 25 to 350 horsepower. See your participating Suzuki Marine dealer for details or visit www.suzukimarine.com.



THE ULTIMATE™
4-STROKE OUTBOARD



Six Years of Protection
at no extra charge on all new
outboards 25 to 350 HP.



Instant Savings of up to \$800
on select models.
See your dealer for details.



Rates as low as 5.99%
on new Suzuki outboard
on approved credit.*

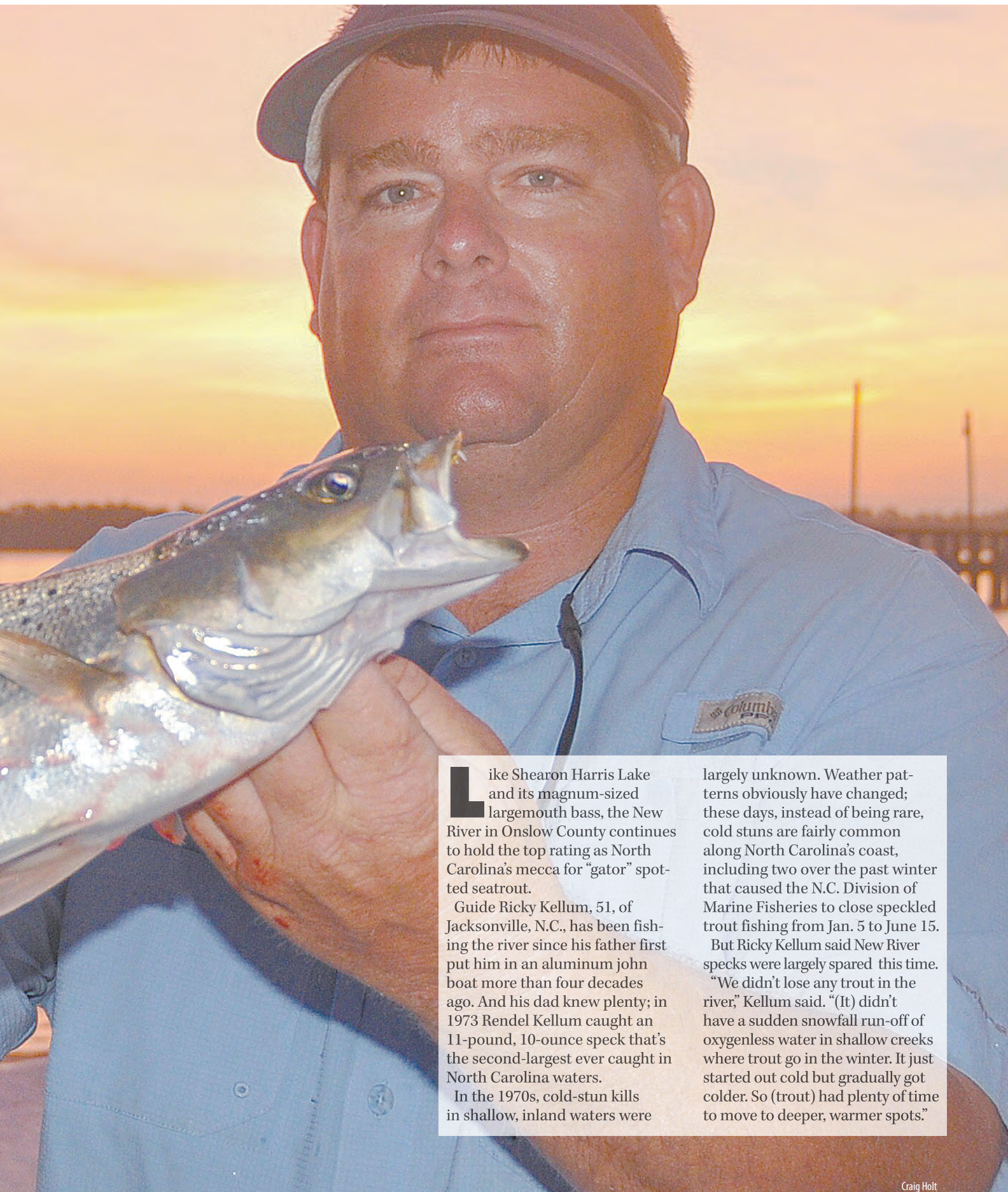
Gimme Six Extended Protection promo is applicable to new Suzuki Outboard Motors from 25 to 350 HP in inventory which are sold and delivered to buyer between 04/01/18 and 06/30/18 in accordance with the promotion by a Participating Authorized Suzuki Marine dealer in the continental US and Alaska to a purchasing customer who resides in the continental US or Alaska. Customer should expect to receive an acknowledgement letter and full copy of contract including terms, conditions and wallet card from Suzuki Extended Protection within 90 days of purchase. If an acknowledgement letter is not received in time period stated, contact Suzuki Motor of America, Inc. – Marine Marketing via email: marinepromo@suz.com. The Gimme Six Promotion is available for pleasure use only, and is not redeemable for cash. Instant Savings apply to qualifying purchases of select Suzuki Outboard Motors made between 04/01/18 and 06/30/18. For list of designated models, see participating Dealer or visit www.suzukimarine.com. Customer and participating Dealer must fill out the appropriate form at time of sale. Instant Savings will be applied against the original dealer invoice (Suzuki will credit Dealer parts account). There are no model substitutions, benefit substitutions, rain checks, or extensions. Suzuki reserves the right to change or cancel these promotions at any time without notice or obligation. * Financing offers available through Synchrony Retail Finance. As low as 5.99% APR financing for 60 months on new and unregistered Suzuki Outboard Motors. Subject to credit approval. Not all buyers will qualify. Approval, and any rates and terms provided, are based on credit worthiness. \$19.99/month per \$1,000 financed for 60 months is based on 5.99% APR. Hypothetical figures used in calculation; your actual monthly payment may differ based on financing terms, credit tier qualification, accessories or other factors such as down payment and fees. Offer effective on new, unregistered Suzuki Outboard Motors purchased from a participating authorized Suzuki dealer between 04/01/18 and 06/30/18. "Gimme Six", the Suzuki "S" and model names are Suzuki trademarks or ©. Don't drink and drive. Always wear a USCG-approved life jacket and read your owner's manual. © 2018 Suzuki Motor of America, Inc.

GATOR GETTING' TIME

By Craig Holt

The re-opening of the season for spotted seatrout this month means New River anglers are ready to show that their waters are North Carolina's best for huge specks.





Like Shearon Harris Lake and its magnum-sized largemouth bass, the New River in Onslow County continues to hold the top rating as North Carolina's mecca for "gator" spotted seatrout.

Guide Ricky Kellum, 51, of Jacksonville, N.C., has been fishing the river since his father first put him in an aluminum john boat more than four decades ago. And his dad knew plenty; in 1973 Rendel Kellum caught an 11-pound, 10-ounce speck that's the second-largest ever caught in North Carolina waters.

In the 1970s, cold-stun kills in shallow, inland waters were

largely unknown. Weather patterns obviously have changed; these days, instead of being rare, cold stuns are fairly common along North Carolina's coast, including two over the past winter that caused the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries to close speckled trout fishing from Jan. 5 to June 15.

But Ricky Kellum said New River specks were largely spared this time.

"We didn't lose any trout in the river," Kellum said. "(It) didn't have a sudden snowfall run-off of oxygenless water in shallow creeks where trout go in the winter. It just started out cold but gradually got colder. So (trout) had plenty of time to move to deeper, warmer spots."

Craig Holt

Another reason for the New River's apparent force-field shield against extremely cold-weather events is that its shallow shorelines warm quickly and its deep, escape routes to the main-river channel.

"We got tons of baitfish and shrimp in the river, even in winter," Kellum said. "I think the baits draw specks. There's a lot of stuff for them to eat all year-long. It's what fattens up our trout.

"I tell people — they don't believe it — but I can't remember a bad (trout) season since I started fishing the New River, and I'm 51 years old. We've had some outstanding years. As far as bad years after cold stuns? Nah."

When the trout ban is lifted, anglers expect a return to regulations that allowed them four fish per day, at least 14 inches long.

Depending on whether his guide parties include novice or experienced fishermen, Kellum will go with different sets of tactics. When he takes novice anglers, he uses live shrimp, but when he has experienced anglers

— or is fishing alone — he prefers artificial lures because he can cover more ground.

"You can go into a creek, and the bite may not be on, but if you wait, it'll turn on at some point," Kellum said. "I've pulled up on a guy who had two or three fish, and it turned to prime time. It'll be like wildfire for 45 minutes."

If he's in a major tributary or the main section of the New River, Kellum looks for specific signs of "trouty" water.

"I look for 'breaks' — places where the channel drops off into deeper water," he said. "The easiest way to spot them is to fish crab-pot lines. The pots are set at the edges of deep and shallow water.

"In June, I fish right on the crab-pot lines by throwing (lures) into shallow water and bringing them out and letting them drop over the edge."

His favorite lure is the Betts Perfect Sinker Shrimp, clear with metal flake, on a ¼-ounce jighead.

"It spirals when it falls," Kellum said. "It also has little legs that wiggle, and trout can't stand it. Trout don't care if it's a real shrimp or not. If you throw a realistic, fake shrimp, they'll eat it."

continues on page 57

DESTINATION INFORMATION

HOW TO GET THERE

— Jacksonville is easily accessed from sites along the coast via US 17, and from inland via I-40, NC 24 and US 258.

WHEN TO GO — Speckled trout season opens June 15 at 3 p.m. after being closed since Jan. 5.

BEST TECHNIQUES — Drift live shrimp or soft-plastic artificial shrimp under a popping cork around drop-offs from shallow flats to channels. Northeast, Southwest and Frenchs creeks are very productive. Topwater fishing can be excellent for the first hour after dawn.

FISHING INFO/GUIDES

— Ricky Kellum Speckled Specialist Charters, 910-330-2745. See also Guides & Charters in Classifieds.

ACCOMMODATIONS

— Jacksonville Tourism Development Authority, 910-938-5200, www.visit-jacksonvillenc.com.

MAPS — Capt. Segull's Nautical Charts, 888-473-4855, www.captain-segullcharts.com; GMCO's Chartbook of North Carolina, 888-420-6277, www.gmcomaps.com.



Soft-plastic, artificial shrimp are killer lures to take summer speckled trout in the New River.



Craig Holt

Guide Ricky Kellum was catching speckled trout in the New River not long after cold weather killed many specks in other North Carolina waters.



THE BIG CHILL DIDN'T KILL THE TROUT THRILL

This past January, fisheries biologists and anglers knew bad news was on the horizon for spotted seatrout.

Sub-freezing weather, combined with snow, sleet and freezing rain, has often caused shallow, inshore areas where trout live to ice over. The oxygen-depleted waters that result from snow and ice melt often smother trout that are trapped in deep holes.

So when temperatures plunged into single digits in late December 2017 and stayed there for several days in January, anglers and biologists knew specks were at risk.

A report by the Weather Channel indicated that from Dec. 23 to Jan. 5, daily lows ranged from 5 to 9 degrees from Raleigh east. Dead specks floated in marshes, creeks and bays from Brunswick County to the Virginia line.

Steven Murphey, director of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, issued a proclamation on Jan. 3 that closed all harvest of spotted seatrout from Jan. 5 until 3 p.m., June 15, 2018, after reports of trout kills were received from all three of the DMF's trout-management regions.

Ricky Kellum, a guide from Jacksonville, said trout in the New River largely survived the cold-weather blast.

"We didn't have any (trout kills)," he said. "It wasn't like it was a sudden event. Our fish had time to get to deeper water."

"We didn't have any floating trout. When I went up to New Bern, dead trout were everywhere. We had to break the ice (at a boat ramp) and saw hundreds of dead trout."

Kellum said the good

news is anglers soon were catching trout around Pamlico Sound "at places that had dead fish."

He said "trout fishing should be fine" this summer, especially in the New River.

"I caught trout, including some monster sizes, after that real cold spell, and I know there are plenty left," he said. ■

LARGEST TACKLE SELECTION IN SNEADS FERRY!

YOPP BROTHERS TACKLE & MARINE
 HWY 210W AT FOUR CORNERS • SNEADS FERRY, NC
 910-327-2831 • TOLL FREE: 866-529-2622
 www.yoppbrothersmarine.com

Oyster beds attract plenty of baitfish and crustaceans, plus gamefish like speckled trout, and they also help filter and clean the waters where they're located.

A CLEANER NEW RIVER MEANS BETTER FISHING

The New River, which courses through Onslow County along North Carolina's central coast, is considered the state's best venue to catch a magnum-size spotted seatrout.

"People catch lots of 5- and 6-pounders every year," said guide Ricky Kellum of Jacksonville, who believes fishing in the river is about to get better.

First, in 1998, the city of Jacksonville opened the Sturgeon City water-treatment facility, to keep untreated wastewater out of the river.

Then, in 2011, the city of Jacksonville placed an artificial reef (AR 398) in the river halfway between Sneads Ferry and the city.

"It's just off Hospital Point," Kellum said. "The reef's the best thing they ever did in the New River. From May until October, you can catch trout, black drum, redfish, blues and even ladyfish there."

Then, a couple of years ago, Pat Brandenburg, a marine scientist who works for the city, started a project to create an "Oyster Highway" in the river from AR 398 upstream to the Camp Lejeune area to help clean the water even more.

That effort caught the eye of Eddie Bridges, executive director of the N.C. Wildlife Habitat Foundation, who was looking for a saltwater project to help fund.



Jeff Bureson

"One oyster filters 50 gallons of water a day," Bridges said. "Think of the impact hundreds of thousands of oysters could have on the New River."

Originally, the highway was to include six "stepping-stone reefs" a quarter-acre in size, each planted with 45 oyster "castles," each containing 250 planted "oyster patties" containing 'spats' or baby-oyster larvae. But with NCWHF funding in hand, the project has expanded to half-acre sites with 90 castles each.

"The new model will allow us to place tons of oyster rocks and thousands of oyster larvae for a cleaner river," Brandenburg said. "When you build a highway of oyster reefs, there's a 212-percent increase in (oyster) growth and an 850-percent increase in other marine life."

Brandenburg said maps will be available for anglers who wanted to fish the oyster highway. Oyster highway reefs will rise within 2 feet of the surface.

"It's going to be fantastic for fishing, too," Kellum said. "Just fantastic." ■

The Sportsman's Choice

For Lodging in Wilmington!



BY CHOICE HOTELS

MainStay Suites:
5229 Market St,
Wilmington, NC 28405
910-392-1741
www.mainstaywilmingtonnc.com



BY CHOICE HOTELS

Sleep Inn:
5225 Market St,
Wilmington, NC 28405
910-313-6665
www.sleepinnwilmingtonnc.com

Our 2 award winning properties are located in the heart of Wilmington just off the I-40 overpass and minutes from Wrightsville beach, Carolina beach and Kure beach.

Call For Rates

Island Tackle & Hardware *True Value*

"Your Fishing Tackle & Bait Headquarters"

Open 7 Days

801 N. Lake Park Blvd.
Carolina Beach, NC 28428

- Fishing Charters
- Official Weigh Station
- Live Bait
- Propane
- Custom Made Tackle
- Clothing and Accessories
- General Hardware

SHIMANO, COSTA DEL MAR, PENN, SPERRY, Columbia, FATHOM OFFSHORE, Ocean Tackle INTERNATIONAL, Daiwa

(910) 458-3049 • www.islandtacklehardware.com

continued from page 54 >

Kellum's other top lure is the Betts Halo Shrimp. If a creek, large feeder stream or the main river still has what locals call "turd grass" on the bottom, he said, "You always can use a Perfect Sinker, Halo Shrimp or Halo Shad under a popping cork. With young kids, I'll put a live shrimp on a popping cork and tell 'em just to watch until it gets jerked down."

Menhaden comprise a large portion of the New River's baitfish community, so if a creek has fish showing interest in menhaden, Kellum throws a Betts Halo Shad.

"I like to fish Southwest and Frenchs creeks in the spring," he said. "Northeast (Creek) is good, but I don't think it has as many fish as the other two."

June is topwater time, and Kellum, like most anglers, likes nothing better than fishing when trout go crazy for surface lures.

"Southwest Creek has good topwater fishing early in the morning," he said. "It's not a long bite, maybe an hour, but it'll be longer on cloudy days."

"There's nothing like catching one on a topwater bait. He might smack it two or three times before he hooks up. That's

Long considered North Carolina's top destination for trophy speckled trout fishing, the New River regularly produces nice fish like this one for guide Ricky Kellum.

exciting, and I love it."

Prime times to fish for specks include the hours before or after high or low tides when water forces baits into or sucks them out of backwaters.

When trout are feeding at the surface, Kellum likes to throw Zara Spook Juniors, Rapalas and MirrOlure MR 17s in mullet colors. He replaces the trebles that come on the lures with No. 4 4X king mackerel hooks.

"Most lures have cheap, chrome hooks a 4-pound trout can break," he said. "I like Gamakatsu hooks."

Kellum fishes for trout with a 7-foot, medium-light Cashion spinning rod and Shimano Stradic 2500 reel spooled with 10-pound Power Pro braid and a 2-foot leader of 20-pound fluorocarbon. ■



Craig Holt of Snow Camp, N.C., has been an outdoor writer for almost 40 years, working for several newspapers and magazines before becoming a full-time free-lancer in 2009.

THE NATURE OF COMPETITION

Mullet are the fish food of the seas; the commonest saltwater prey worldwide. Available in three patterns, LIVETARGET's award-winning **Hollow Body Mullet** perfectly replicates a live mullet's profile and looks. The lure's versatile swimming action makes it simple to fish, too. Walk-the-dog or simply twitch it across the surface to create an irresistible bubble trail. The **Hollow Body Mullet's** snag-proof design lets it slide through mangroves, skip safely under docks, and ease through floating grass.

LIVETARGETLURES.COM

When fighting a fish (left), let your rod and your reel's drag do the work; when netting a fish (right), raise the net straight up.

DON'T GET TAGGED OUT AT THE PLATE

WHEN FIGHTING A NICE FISH, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR TACKLE, DON'T FAIL WITH THE LANDING NET

It happens to almost every angler. You hook a trophy fish that has your drag screaming and your rod doubled over. The battle lasts several minutes, and you finally get a few looks at the fish, which you estimate to be one of your biggest ever.

And then, right as you or your fishing buddy tries to net the fish, your hook pops free, your line goes slack and your trophy catch becomes the one that got away.

Even worse, you've got the fish netted, but while trying to lift it, either the net breaks or you lose control of it as the fish makes one last ditch effort to remain free.

So how do you avoid this outcome? These tips will help:

- **Have the drag on your reel set properly**, which means not too loose and not too tight. Too tight, and the line will snap. Too loose, and the fish will run into dock pilings or other debris.
- **Headfirst**. The most-important rule for the net man is that the fish's head

goes into the net first. Trying to swoop the fish into the net by the tail is a big mistake. Anything that touches the fish will result in a reaction as the fish tries to get away. Touching it in the hind end is going to give it an extra incentive to flee even harder, and unless you get extremely lucky, you're going to push it away from behind with the net.

Netting the fish headfirst gives the fish little room to maneuver. It's not going to like the sight of it, but it's only option is to swim straight into it, dive up or down, or turn to the left or right, which is far less effective than swimming directly away.

- **Don't swing the net**. The best net men realize their role is much-less active than the angler's. Ideally, the net man will dip the net into the water, hold it steady, then wait for the angler to guide the fish into it headfirst. Sweeping the net at the fish is bad, can push the fish away and often results in

knocking the hook free.

- **Don't bring the fish in green.**

Most big fish have plenty of fight in them the first time they are close enough to net. Trying to net a fish that isn't ready to give up almost never works out. Dip the net when the fish is in range, but don't force the issue if the fish makes a run. Let the drag and the rod do the work to wear it down. It may take a few runs, but the fish will tire eventually. Just be patient and ready.

- **Once the fish is netted**, lift straight up, not out. When you've

Make sure a reel's drag is set between $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the line's breaking strength.

finally got your trophy in the net, all that's left is getting it in the boat. Failing here is like getting tagged out at home on an inside-the-park homerun.

Many anglers attempt to lift the net with the handle parallel to the ground and swing their fish into the boat. That's a bad move.

This is a time you want to lift straight up, with the handle pointing to the sky. The fish goes deep into the net, which extends below the opening when lifting straight up. To get out now, the fish would have to jump up and to the side, a difficult task especially once it's out of the water.

Now, you just keep lifting with the handle pointing straight up, grab the hoop of the net, and once it is above the side of the boat, bring the net and fish aboard.

A REAL DRAG

Some anglers use a fish scale to set their drag at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ the breaking strength of their line. To do this, put your rod in a rod holder, tie the line to the scale, then pull the line with the scale until the drag allows line to slip from the reel. Adjust the drag until that happens at the proper percentage of your line's rating.

If you're using 15-pound test line, set the drag to slip at around 3 to 4 pounds. And when fighting a fish, don't reel when the fish is pulling drag. Reel only when the fish stops running, or when it's running directly toward you. ■



Brian Cope of Edisto, S.C., is a retired Air Force combat communications technician. He graduated 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.



IN STOCK AND READY TO RIDE!

230CC
F200 Yamaha,
Tandem alum
trlr & T-Top.

As low as
\$330/mo*



*10% down w/approved credit.



GREG'S OUTBOARD CENTER, INC
1105 EAST OCEAN ROAD HOLLY RIDGE, NC 28445
910-329-0040 GREGSOUTBOARD.COM

"For all Your Fishing Needs"

EZ TACKLE

GOLDSBORO, NC
919-736-2488
E-Z BAIT AND TACKLE
ezbaitandtackle.com

We
know
how to
FLAT
out
catch
fish!





Like us on
FACEBOOK
for updates on
NEW TACKLE
and **UPCOMING**
SEMINARS
at the shop




LUNKER LINES

David Fritts

Big crankbaits start to play a bigger role in bass fishermen's plans in June, because they're perfectly suited for finding and catching hungry bass.



JUNE HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER ANGLERS

CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON; BASS WILL BE BITING

David Brown

People who know me well understand that June is probably my favorite month to be on the water, trying to put big bass in my boat. I think it's just about everybody's favorite time, because it's a month when you can catch fish many different ways. They're really chewing, and you can catch a lot of fish.

What's happened is, bass are off the beds, they aren't sick anymore, and you can catch them on just about anything — from topwaters to crankbaits to plastics to jigs — anything you want to catch 'em on.

Here's the situation you've got across the Carolinas. You'll have fish that spawned earlier in the spring, and they'll be doing one thing. In some lakes, you'll have fish that have just finished spawning and the post-spawn by the first of June doing another. You have two patterns you can work on.

A lot of fish around the first of June will

be from about halfway back in the creeks to the mouths. They come out of spawning areas and go to the first drop. They'll get on very vertical drops — the sharper the better. Those are the kinds of places I catch them in early June. If they aren't on the drops you might find them up on the flats, on stumps and wood. When they're up there, they're hard to find, but when you find them, it's pretty amazing. They group up in June, and where you catch one, you'll probably catch multiple fish.

As June progresses, they'll move deeper and more toward the main lake. By the end of June, these fish will be as deep as they're going to get: at a lake like High Rock, that's 14 feet, but at other lakes, they can get out to 22 to 25 feet.

Now, on those lakes in North Carolina where they fish spawn later, those fish will still be back up on the creeks, in 6 to 10 feet of water. And some of those late spawners will be fish on the main lake that spawned in main-lake pockets.

They'll be at the mouths of those pockets at the beginning of June, then they'll be out on main-river points and breaks by the end of the month.

You have to understand that things really happen pretty fast in June. Fish are really start moving a lot.

WATER STAIN? NAH!

Because I like to fish crankbaits, I'm really not looking for dirty water this month. Water clarity doesn't mean that much, unless you want to fish shallow, then, you go up the river and find dirty water and shallow fish. I don't mind fishing water that's pretty clear.

I'm going to start out fishing a Berkley Dredger 10.5 or 14.5, and by the end of the month, I'm going to be fishing a 20.5 or 25.5. I love several colors in June: honey shad and a blueback color, old blue. Either of those colors will work pretty much anywhere you fish. Toward the end of the month, your green-backed

baits get better. Chartreuse comes into play by the end of June; it gets much better during the summer. One thing I'll do is, when I get a limit and need kicker fish to cull, I'll go to the Lone Ranger color — faded chartreuse with a silver back. It's one of the two best big-fish colors ever made.

I'll fish my crankbaits on anything from a 7-foot-6 to 9-foot Lew's David Fritts Perfect Crankbait rod. It depends on how deep you need to get a bait. If you can handle a 9-foot rod, you can get a bait 3 or 4 feet deeper. I'll fish them with a Lew's BB-1 multi-stop reel spooled with 10-pound Berkley Sensation.

When I'm crankbait a spot, catching fish, and they stop biting, I won't leave before setting my crankbait rod down and picking up something rigged with a plastic worm. Bigger worms usually work better in June, worms from 7 to 10 inches long. You need to decide whether to Texas-rig or Carolina-rig the worm; a lot times, the Texas rig will work better in June. There are some lakes that are so pressured, where the water is so clear, that you have to go to a shaky head worm, but be glad that most lakes in the Carolinas aren't like that.

So make plans to get on the water this month — several times. The fish are hungry, they're biting, and they aren't hard to catch. And that really makes fishing fun. ■



David Fritts is a 61-year-old pro bass fisherman from Lexington, N.C. He won the 1993 Bassmasters Classic champion and the 1997 FLW Tour Championship, and he was the 1994 BASS Angler of the Year. He is sponsored by Ranger boats, Evinrude outboards, Lew's, Minnkota, and Berkley.



David Brown

HOW DEEP? HOW LONG? HOW THIN?

To get the most depth out of a deep-diving crankbait, you need to be able to cast long distances, because there's a direct correlation between the length of the retrieve and how deep a bait will get. Generally, the longer the rod, the longer the cast. The other factor is line size. The smaller the line's diameter, the more easily it slides through the water, and the bait will go deeper.

**Nobody
Sells for Less!**



Sanford, NC

919-775-7259 www.chatleeboats.com

**#1 Triton
BOATS
ALUMINUM DEALER
IN THE USA!**



A big food plot is a great wildlife attractor, but make sure it's in an area that won't force deer to feed at night.



TIME TO FIGURE OUT FOOD-PLOT PLANS

SUMMER SHOULD BE BEGINNING OF FALL DEER SUCCESS

Jeff Burleson

The summer heat often fails to deliver warm, fuzzy feelings about this fall's deer season. Yet few people get ready for a dream fishing trip to the Seychelles or start buying Christmas presents on Dec. 25, either.

Preparation is the key for any major event on the calendar, a spot deer hunting holds for a lot of hunters in the Carolinas. Sure, the time for planting fall food plots is several months down the road, but June is a perfect time to start making preparations.

While food plots aren't always in every hunter's playbook, if they have the capabilities and control of the land, they should invest time and money in them. The benefits extend beyond just a possible place to shoot a deer. They offer wildlife a solid food source for an extended period of time. A constant food supply can be crucial in the fall.

Deer are habitual creatures for most of the year, easily patterned on a day-to-day basis. However, the breeding season changes everything, and deer that followed a steady pattern will soon change

their travel plans. Hunters can help offset the irregularities with a solid food source that produces from August through the last week of the season. Food plots can help regulate and acclimate deer to a certain area, but the placement of fall plots and the actual geographic location can be just as critical to what is planted.

Typically, most food plots are planted in places already under cultivation. While old food plots can be good places to break dirt again, other alternatives should be explored to make sure the time and money is spent at the right address.

The soil type, drainage class and soil chemistry will make or break a food plot. Areas destined for food plots should be chosen wisely. Areas that flood frequently, have high acid soils and are super dry should be avoided. However, if these sites are located in premium locations, land managers can modify these sites partially to correct some of these issues, such as installing drainage features on wet sites and rigorous lime applications on highly acidic sites. The time to begin should be right now, long

before its time to put seeds in the dirt.

TIMING IS THE DEAL

Not only do fall food plots provide beneficial nutrition to resident wildlife, they should be capable of attracting wildlife at the right moment during deer season. The plot's location across the land can be critical to it being productive for hunting.

Quite often, food plots are planted along roads or in other highly traveled places because of the location of available open spaces. These plots can provide wildlife with adequate nutrition — but at the wrong time of day. These areas can provide enough disturbances



during the day to allow crops to mature; they don't always double as a good hunting plot, however, because deer will often use these areas more at night than during the day. Deer learn to visit these at night and find other places to forage during the day. Having deer visit a hunter's masterpiece only at night is not exactly what they expected from the \$2,000 of fertilizer, lime and premium seed.

Hunters can use trail cameras as plot watchers to find out when deer and other wildlife are munching on their hard work. By using them, hunters can find out when deer are visiting to food plots and when they get the most use.

Every hunter needs a shooting plot, and they are better suited for places with wooded protection on all sides. They should also be avoided as much as possible to allow deer to freely come in and feed throughout the day until the season arrives without any unnatural disturbances, which can include erecting stands and trimming out shooting lanes. Stand preparations along shooting plots should be finished during the summer, long before food plots are ever established — and that time is now. ■



PUT UP STANDS ON BEAN, PEANUT FIELDS:

Hunters should thank their local farmers when peanuts and soybeans are on the horizon, because deer absolutely love these forage foods. And by August, these fields are littered with deer every morning and afternoon. The last thing a hunter should do is take off into these fields during August or September to erect a new stand and to trim out shooting lanes. It may not run off subordinate bucks and does early in the year, but it sure will get the attention of a mature buck when hunters show up making a lot of racket!

When hunters observe peanuts and soybean crops within their hunting leases, they should go ahead and make those preparations to set up stands in June long before the deer really start using these fields in the late summer and early fall.

continues on page 64

Palmetto Brush Control



- Real Estate Developments
- Residential Lot Clearing
- Shooting and Fire Lanes
- Trail Building
- Wildlife Habitat Restoration
- Forestry Site Prep
- Utility Right-of-Way Clearing
- Pond Construction

FOR ALL YOUR BRUSH SHREDDING NEEDS
CALL US TODAY!

Bulldozer • Mulching • Trackhoe Work

843-230-8222

Brannon Turbeville - Owner

NOW OFFERING
RESIDENTIAL
TREE SERVICE

HOW BIG IS BIG ENOUGH?

How big should a food plot be in order to be effective? How many acres of food plots are needed to be effective? It depends on the situation and one's budget. Hunter's cannot plant too much food for wildlife, but they can certainly plant too little.

Deer consume between 2 and 5 pounds of food per day, depending on their body mass and the time of year. Fortunately, deer in most of the areas of the Carolinas rarely encounter prolonged starvation, mostly due to the widespread agriculture practices and quality native habitat littered with mast and

adequate vegetative-forage communities. The ratio of wildlife abundance to food availability fluctuates regionally and locally; that will often lead to seasonal migrations when certain foods sources sprout.

Local migrations can be fabulous for property owners littered with food caches. But for landowners lacking significant food sources, it's a bad day when the deer pick up and move to an adjacent club. Deer will cross property lines to find more substantial groceries, and it happens very frequently.

The amount of food-plot acreage needed will be a function of the quality of natural habitat and the deer population. Even when deer have plenty of food, an adjacent property with a better-tasting food source may also pull deer away. This happens

frequently along the agriculture belt, where peanuts and soybeans crops blanket the landscape.

So, how many acres of food plots are considered sufficient? It depends on how much natural food and agricultural foods are available, as well as deer density. Obviously, more food will be required to sustain a larger population of animals. According to most experts, 5 to 10 percent of the property should be cultivated in food plots to keep deer fat, happy and within the property boundaries. When abundant natural food or nutritious cultivated crops are available, fewer food plots are needed to keep deer grounded.

Food plots are intended to provide supplemental nutrition for wildlife and shouldn't be the only type of food source available. But, more is always going to be better when it comes to planting food plots. ■

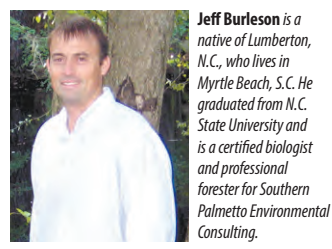
NICHOLS STORE

HUNTING • FISHING • ARCHERY • DEER PROCESSING
1980 Mt. Holly Rd. Rock Hill, SC 29730 • 803-328-9792

TEXTRON OFF ROAD, NOMAD, HAZARD, ROCK HILL, YETI COOLERS, EZGO, HOYT, BOWTECH, RAVIN, SOG, ZEISS, Benelli, CASAR GUERINI, REMINGTON, SIG SAUER, LIBERTY SAFE, HUK, and many others.

Your One Stop Shop For the Entire Family!

and so much more...



Jeff Burleson is a native of Lumberton, N.C., who lives in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He graduated from N.C. State University and is a certified biologist and professional forester for Southern Palmetto Environmental Consulting.

Sportsman's **WHOLESALE**

"Shop Where The Locals Shop"

SAVE
20% *TO* 80%
EVERYDAY

FISHING • HUNTING
HOME DECOR • CLOTHING

**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK
FOR EVEN MORE SPECIALS!** 

184 US Hwy 24, Morehead City, NC • (252) 222-5282

SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY

Phillip Gentry

June can be a great month for kayak-bound anglers of the saltwater or freshwater nature.



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS ONCE JUNE ARRIVES

WITH SCHOOL OUT, VACATIONS OFFER ANGLERS SPECIAL CHANCES

Phillip Gentry

The beauty of late May and June is that no matter what flavor of water into which you dump your Tupperware boat, there's plenty of action to be found.

June also brings about the beginning of the season when the kids are out of school and beach and lake houses fill with vacationers. What better way to preserve some quality fishing time between visits to the miniature golf course, the fried-food warehouse and the sunny shore than to throw the kayak on top of the family station wagon and slide into the water a few mornings before the circus starts?

June is also the time when the nod for best shallow-water fishing in the Carolinas tips from freshwater over to saltwater. Baitfish will be back in the creeks and bayous of coastal areas and plenty of flounder, redfish and trout can be found, along with some black drum, sheepshead, whiting and small sharks.

It's hard to beat a topwater bite from the times the sun's rays first start to peak over the horizon until the sun is fully

visible in the east — give or take, about two hours. Many vacation hot spots in coastal areas may have lights that shine on the backwater at night, but not on the beach, in deference to nesting sea turtles. Those lights attract shrimp, crabs and minnows all night, setting the table for a good topwater bite for the paddler who can flank the area you desire to fish in and sling a Spook, MirrOlure or any number of 3- to 4-inch topwater baits around docks or wharfs where the nightlife fades with the rising sun.

Fortunately, after the sun gets up, many of those same fish retreat under docks, wharves or other man-made structure rather than completely vacating the area. When the topwater bite is over, you can spend the remainder of your time on the water casting weighted plastics or hard jerkbaits up under the overhead cover — before the kids start hollering to go to the Waffle Shack or the Burger Barn.

Another option for the paddler who comes equipped with a stake-out pole or folding anchor is to line up with the incoming tide and soak some fresh

shrimp or small chunks of crab on a Carolina rig in a deep hole, channel or ditch, especially if that ditch is the gateway between a creek and a large patch of marshland.

On the freshwater side, the same basic pattern, minus the tidal influence, will produce fish. Rather than targeting redfish or trout, that Spook, Pop-R or floating X-Rap will call in largemouth bass to start the day. Once the sun pushes fish under the docks, floating worms, shaky heads, or jerkbaits will again produce.

If you prefer to soak some bait, you can pull the stern of your kayak up on a shallow point and fan-cast lines outfitted with cut shad, whole night crawlers or stinkbait for channel catfish. Give each location about 30 to 45 minutes before paddling on to the next one. ■



Phillip Gentry of Greenville, S.C., is host of "Upstate Outdoors," a weekly radio show that can be heard on Saturdays at noon on WORD 106.3 FM.

JUNE'S BEST BETS

NORTH CAROLINA

WHAT — Red and black drum, speckled trout

WHERE — Wrightsville Beach area, Banks Channel, Lee's Channel, Bradley Creek

HOW — Fish can be caught by casting or drifting with Gulp shrimp and jerkshads, but live mullet or mud minnows are always a good option, especially when anchoring in a specific spot

LAUNCH — The CAMA public access and the Wrightsville Beach boating access are on each end of Causeway Drive (NC 76) at Wrightsville Beach.

INSIDER TIP — Speckled trout cannot be creelied by recreational fishermen through June 15.

SOUTH CAROLINA

WHAT — Redfish, sheepshead, flounder

WHERE — Edisto Beach area

HOW — Topwater baits can be fished around the mouths of drains in marsh areas around the island. Fish live or cut baits under boat docks on an incoming tide.

LAUNCH — Live Oak boat ramp at Edisto Beach State Park is public accessible. Launching from Edisto Watersports and Tackle is available for a small fee.

INSIDER TIP — Many of the older docks will support large clusters of oyster growth. Both sheepshead and redfish will congregate around this structure.

continues on page 68

COOLING TOWEL

MULTI-SPORTS / MULTI-PURPOSE

Feel Up To 20%-30% Cooler



COOL ME DOWN
Cool when it's Hot

Size: 26"x17"

\$12.00 each
2 for \$20.00

\$5.00 flat rate shipping

www.coolmedownwarmmeup.com • 803-727-5392

PADDLECART.COM

The Ultimate Kayak & Canoe Cart!

Manufactured in SC!

Makes A Great Gift For All Paddlers!

Tagalong Bike Trailer



Durable Stainless Steel Axle

Dually Model for Soft Sand



— Simple In Design, Yet Elegant In Functionality —



- EASY TO LOAD
- EASY TO STOW

Clover Enterprises, Inc

290 Thorpe Rd, Summerville, SC **843.851.0045**

INTRODUCING FOR 2018...

Hobie

FISHING

MIRAGE COMPASS



Ready for Summer...
And Under \$2,000!!



Time Out
SPORTS

675-A
Johnnie Dodds Blvd.
Mount Pleasant, SC

(843) 388-6266
timeoutsports.net



SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY

continued

YAKIMA HANDROLL KAYAK RACK

Designed to help you easily get any type of kayak up on your vehicle's roof, the HandRoll's rubber rollers provide load assist with grip, stability and protection. The bases pivot to automatically fit the shape of your boat, then lock tight to cradle it while traveling. The universal mount fits most roof racks — no tools needed — and heavy duty straps and tie-downs are included to keep things secure.



FEATURES

- Sold in pairs — combine with HandRoll or an additional DeckHand to complete the set
- Large rubber rollers provide a built-in load assist to help guide your boat into place
- Durable rubber pivoting rollers adjust to boat shape for secure loading
- Roller pivot design automatically adjusts to boat's shape for a secure hold
- Universal mounting hardware fits most roof racks
- Easy tool-free installation lets you quickly mount, load and go
- Locks to roof rack with SKS Lock Cores (sold separately)
- Includes heavy duty straps and bow/stern tie-downs
- Weight: 4.00 pounds. Dimensions: 10 x 4.25 x 7.25 inches
- MSRP: \$119

More info at Yakima.com

Z-MAN POP SHADZ

Constructed of high-floating, 10X Tough ElaZtech™ material, this first-of-its-kind soft-plastic surface popper sports a cupped face that pops, spits and chugs along the surface for maximum fish-calling attraction. What's more, the Pop ShadZ can be rigged weedless on a wide-gap hook, making it ideal for fishing through pads, grass, stumps, and laydowns. Buoyant enough to float even a heavy gauge hook, its baitfish profile accurately mimics a number of freshwater and saltwater forage species.



FEATURES

- Unique soft-plastic popper design thanks to super buoyant ElaZtech material
- Cupped face and side-to-side walking movement creates strike-provoking surface action
- Rig weedless with a heavy wire 4/0 or 5/0 offset EWG-style hook
- For open water, run line through nose and rig with a single treble hook
- 10X Tough plastic withstands violent surface strikes and being ripped through surface cover
- Now available in 4- and 5-inch sizes
- 3 baits per pack
- MSRP: \$5.99 per 3 pack.

More info at zmanfishing.com

A HEART BITE

The first specks of sunrise were starting to lighten the night sky as Justin Carter, a member of Hobie Kayaks' pro staff, and I slipped our plastic boats into the ICW. It was an early June morning, the kind of day when sand gnats had to hurry to get their bites in before the summer winds and heat kicked in.

Our ultimate destination was somewhere in the vast expanse of Bulls Bay, but the immediate plan was to fish boat docks around Garris Landing, so I had come prepared, with a Super Spook Jr. in speckled trout colors already tied on to one of my rods.

Carter headed for the front end of the docks, spouting some fishing pattern he had discovered where the first two poles were holding slot redfish... blah, blah, blah. That's Carter. His mind never stops

thinking about what the fish might be or could be doing, which is why he is one of the best kayak anglers in the Southeast.

My heart wanted a good topwater bite, and my eyes caught the grass line along the bank where the walkways bridged the dock to hard ground. Trying to fish the grass is a pain around boat docks, especially if you like to store your rods vertically on the yak, because you often have to squeeze between pilings and under catwalks, but the heart wanted what the heart wanted.

Carter saw what I was doing and laughed, calling to me, "Are you bass fishing this morning?"

I didn't care. The heart wanted what the heart wanted.

After squeezing through several docks and chunking and winding the Spook in blip, blip, blip, dog-walk fashion. I came to an open area where the straight grass

line was broken by the smallest of drainages, where a lone piling, severed a foot or so above the water, stood guard.

I sailed my Spook past the piling and started the walk, pausing a foot or so to the right of the post. Outdoor writers wax poetic about topwater bites. This one was reminiscent of a beaver's response when he's startled by duck hunters walking in to the blind before daylight.

The whip-crack splash was immediately followed by the rod bowing over and the reel screaming drag. As the fish had hooked itself, all I could do was hold on and not lose my grip.

In short order, the world righted itself, and an over-slot redfish, not the largest ever but certainly spirited, presented its closing arguments and eventually came to the boat to be unhooked and released.

The heart was happy. ■



Sanford, NC

Why Buy From Chatlee?

1 Selection of **Over 300 Boats!**
70,000 sq ft Indoor Showrooms
**LARGE SELECTION
LARGE SAVINGS!**



2 **Service**
8 Full Time Techs



3 **Sales**
9 Full Time Sales & Finance Experts



4 **All the Best Brands**



5 **On Site Owners**



6 **Onsite Test Lake**
Buy Today - Ride Today
Immediate Delivery On Many Boats



7 **Just down the road to save you \$\$\$\$**

35 minutes from Raleigh/Cary
40 minutes from Chapel Hill/Durham
40 minutes from Fayetteville
50 minutes from Greensboro

8 **Longevity**
Over 50 Years In Business

9 **Leadership**
3 Times "Top 100 Dealer" In U.S.

#1 Dealer in the USA for



Powered by



Sanford, NC
919-775-7259

Follow Us On 

chatleeboats.com

COOKING ON THE WILD SIDE

Jerry Dilsaver

HOW'S YOUR MOJO?

MOJO FIREBALL DOLPHIN FAJITAS WILL MAKE YOUR DAY



A FireDisc Cooker is perfect for keeping cooked veggies warm and close by while finishing off the meat. **INSET:** Dolphin, aka Mahi-mahi, is a great-tasting, mild fish that goes well in fajitas and other dishes.

Welcome to Summer 2018. It isn't officially summer until June 21, but after a winter that wouldn't go away and a spring that couldn't quite get here, summer will be welcome. The days have already gotten longer, and it makes it a perfect time to get out of the house and enjoy a meal on your patio or deck.

Most hunting seasons are over, but some of the best fishing is ramping up, good from mountain valleys to the depths of the Gulf Stream. One of the favorite fish of summer is dolphin; they are caught in good numbers from off Hilton Head to Nags Head. Mahi-mahi is the Hawaiian name and the listing on most restaurant menus, but on the boat or back deck, you can call them what we always have. Regardless of the name, they are willing biters, excellent fighters and palate pleasers prepared in a variety of ways.

The first dolphin of the year are caught along a color change or temperature break at the edge of the Gulf Stream. Most of the ocean waters off the Carolinas have warmed to at least the mid-70s by June, and dolphin are one of the first bluewater

pelagic fish to break off and follow baitfish closer to shore, so they are in numerous areas closer to shore. This brings them within range of a wide variety of fishermen, and they are a favorite guest of honor for dinner.

The mild flavor of dolphin is excellent prepared in many ways, but the thought with this one was to have a light, fun meal that's almost as much fun

to prepare as it is to eat. Fajitas can be prepared as appetizers, snacks or the main course. Many people enjoy fajitas, usually chicken or beef, at their favorite restaurants and this is a suggestion to switch to the lighter meat of dolphin and prepare them at home with a unique twist.

Dolphin is a mild meat suited well for baking, grilling, blackening or other easy preparations. This recipe combines the lemon and orange citrus juices and light garlic flavor of Mojo marinade with a shot of alcohol and cinnamon from the Fireball Whisky to prep the dolphin for a quick sear on the FireDisc Cooker. It doesn't taste quite like anything one would imagine, and all who have tried it said they would gladly eat it again. That's the best recommendation one could hope for and the recipe follows. ■

MOJO FIREBALL DOLPHIN FAJITAS

Dolphin is one of my favorite summer fish; I enjoy it prepared a variety of ways. Last year, I was introduced to the FireDisc Cooker (www.firedisccookers.com) and have adapted some older recipes to this unique style of cooking and developed others specifically for it. This new recipe is ideally suited for the FireDisc.

A good, short description of the FireDisc Cooker is a “cowboy wok.” That describes fairly well this round-bottom cooker from Texas, made to be easily portable. As delivered, FireDisc Cookers are powered by a 1-pound propane cylinder but can be adapted to a larger propane tank.

The Mojo marinade penetrates the strips of dolphin to tenderize and flavorize them with a light, citrus-garlic flavor. Adding the Fireball whiskey seems to help this and gives a slight hint of cinnamon. I smell the cinnamon more in the steam than I taste it in the cooked food. A second shot of Fireball makes its cinnamon flavor a little more noticeable, and you can't miss it with three shots. The alcohol steams out while

PREPARATION:

Slice Mahi-mahi into thin strips and put strips into a quart Zip Lock bag. Barely cover Mahi with marinade. Add one shot of Fireball to the Mojo marinade. Close the bag, work all the air out, then work the bag to evenly spread the marinade, and put it in the refrigerator and allow to marinate for 1 to 4 hours.

Slice the onion and peppers lengthwise into approximately ½-inch strips. Put the onion and pepper strips into a large bowl and season with fajita seasoning, black pepper and ground chipotle pepper to taste. Turn the strips to get them evenly coated. Cover the bowl and allow the onion and pepper strips to sit for an hour.

Spray the entire surface of the FireDisc pan with non-stick cooking spray. Heat the FireDisc cooker to medium. Pour approximately ½ to ⅔ of the liquid marinade into the edge of the pan and quickly dump all the onions and peppers into it. This will create lots of steam, so stand back a little. Sauté the onions and peppers in the marinade. There is a lot of heat with the FireDisc, and if it steams dry, add the remainder of the marinade. It will steam again. Just before the peppers and onions are finished, move them to the outer edge of the FireDisc pan.

Pour the Mahi strips into the pan. There is still a little marinade in them, and it will steam again. Sauté the Mahi strips for 1 to 2 minutes, stirring frequently. Be careful not to overcook them. Remove the onion and pepper strips and Mahi to bowls for serving.

cooking, so the flavor is what's left. As with salt and pepper, this should be done to personal tastes. The recipe as written is mild.

Colored bell peppers are milder than green ones. They and the onions aren't added to the marinade to keep them crisp, but cooked in it to add a little of the flavor. When sprinkling the peppers and onions with the fajita seasoning, black pepper and ground chipotle pepper, keep in mind that lighter will be milder and heavier will be spicier — especially with the ground chipotle. However, even those with the mildest palates should try a little of this, as its smoky flavor adds to the taste. Once the peppers and onions are cooked, they can be moved to the outer edge of the FireDisc to stay warm while the dolphin is quickly seared.

Be careful not to overcook the dolphin. The lemon and orange juices in the Mojo marinade get it going, sort of like ceviche, and it cooks quickly. If you see it noticeably browning, you've cooked it too long. ■

Lightly spray one side of four tortillas with the non-stick cooking spray and drop them into the FireDisc pan. Warm the tortillas for about 30 seconds and turn over for about 30 seconds, then remove. Spray and warm the remaining 4 tortillas. Have more fajita seasoning, ground chipotle, black pepper and hot sauce available so diners can assemble their fajitas to their personal preferences. This is pretty much a meal by itself. A salad or lettuce wedge before the meal is a good start and a light dessert, like pudding, satisfies a sweet tooth at the end. ■

TIP!

Don't cook this inside unless you have restaurant quality exhaust fans and venting. There is a lot of steam.

INGREDIENTS:

1 pound skinless Mahi-mahi fillet

1 medium sweet onion

1 large yellow bell pepper

1 large red bell pepper

1 large orange bell pepper

1½ cup Goya Mojo Criollo marinade

1 shot Fireball Cinnamon whiskey

Fajita seasoning

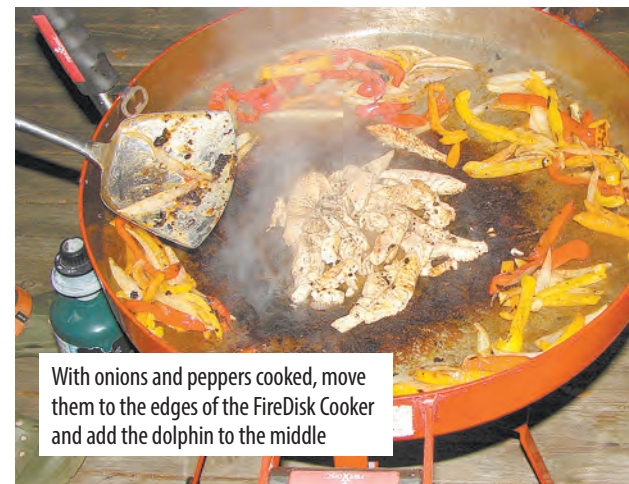
Coarse-ground black pepper

Ground chipotle pepper

8 Fajita-size flour tortillas (regular or whole wheat)

Butter flavored non-stick cooking spray

Your favorite hot sauce



With onions and peppers cooked, move them to the edges of the FireDisk Cooker and add the dolphin to the middle



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@captainjerry.com.

STICKS AND STRINGS

Sammy Romano

The TenPoint Stealth NXT offers big performance in a compact, light package.

TENPOINT ADDS A NEW CROSSBOW

STEALTH NXT PUTS THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY INTO SPACE-AGE ARCHERY EQUIPMENT



As the majority of our hunting population ages, crossbows have steadily moved to the forefront of today's archery market.

TenPoint Crossbow Technologies has long been a leader in that market. TenPoint continued that tradition for 2018, with new engineering and several new models. The Stealth NXT is the culmination of this technology. With a smaller footprint, new cocking options, and new, premium arrows, it offers a significant upgrade in maneuverability and performance from past models.

The first thing you will notice about the Stealth NXT is its narrow width. At only 11.3 inches axle-to-axle, uncocked, and less than 6.5 inches cocked, this crossbow offers excellent maneuverability and limb clearance. It will be a dream to shoot in confined spaces, whether from a brushy tree, a ground blind, or an enclosed box stand. This offers a huge advantage by increasing hunting opportunities.

The Stealth NXT is only 33.6 inches long, and at only 7.3 pounds, is relatively light for a crossbow. Its 13.5-inch power stroke propels arrows at speeds up to 410 feet per second. All of this with less than one-third of the noise of most other crossbows. The fact that it is so quiet will be key when shooting at jumpy animals like whitetails and will help to offer additional shot opportunities if needed.

The Stealth NXT uses TenPoint's proven trigger design with a roller sear to reduce both creep and trigger poundage. The automatic MIM safety engages when the bow is cocked, and slides off silently to avoid spooking game. The Dry Fire Inhibitor prevents accidental dry fires.

I found the 3.5-pound trigger pull to be very easy, with very little creep. The semi-open trigger-guard design allows easy access with gloves on, while still providing protection to prevent accidental discharges. The arrow-retaining brush will not break like earlier spring-metal designs were prone to do. The machined aluminum rail and engineered optimum downward string pressure help to extend string life well beyond most other crossbows. The dual flex limbs nearly form a circle at full draw, which helps contribute to this bow's high arrow speed.

When it comes to cocking methods, TenPoint offers several options for the Stealth NXT. The ACUdraw 50 sled uses ropes with pull handles to reduce draw

weight by 50 percent. It uses a winch to crank the string back, reducing the draw weight to 5 pounds. The ACUdraw PRO also uses a crank, but it is 40-percent faster, totally silent, and includes the new ACUtorq handle to eliminate the possibility of over-cranking the bow. TenPoint



HEADING DOWNRANGE:

TenPoint's new EVO-X CENTER-PUNCH carbon arrows offer enhanced strength, accuracy and downrange penetration over other designs on the market. These arrows are fletched slightly offset and are fitted with an 84-grain insert for improved F.O.C. They are constructed of modulus fiber at 33 million PSI and wrapped in an exclusive LAZER-TECH carbon weave, making them the one of the strongest crossbow arrows ever made. These arrows are inspected for a .001-inch tolerance, also guaranteeing near perfect accuracy. Fitted with an omni-nock and receiver for easy lighted nock installation, they are a perfect match for any TenPoint crossbow.

pioneered the bow-mounted crank cocking device, and they have perfected it over many years.

The Stealth NXT is worth a look for yourself. Its new technology and cool features will appeal to any hunter looking to up their game this year. You will be blown away by how smooth, quiet, and fast this crossbow shoots, and by its accuracy.

CHOOSE A PACKAGE

The Stealth NXT is offered in two configurations: the Standard and Elite packages. The Standard package includes the TenPoint RangeMaster Pro Scope, ACUdraw or ACUdraw 50 Sled, 3-arrow quiver, and 3 EVO-X arrows. The Elite package also includes the EVO-X MARKSMAN scope and TenPoint STAG hard crossbow case.

With prices starting at \$1,449 for a complete package, this bow is affordable for many bowhunters. Both scopes offer variable speed and arrow drop compensation. The RangeMaster Pro has crosshairs and/or dots in 10-yard increments for exact yardages out to 60 yards. The EVO-X MARKSMAN scope has aiming points in 10-yard increments out to 100 yards, for those who want to target-shoot at longer ranges or hunt out West. ■



Sammy Romano is a lifelong hunter who has worked in the archery industry for more than 24 years. His expertise includes compounds and crossbows. He can be reached at samboka31@aol.com.

CHEROKEE RUN
Hunting Lodge

Hunt deer, wild boar and turkey in the wilds of South Carolina

Trophy Managed Whitetail on the Great Pee Dee River

Trophy Wild Boar in the SC Swamps

NIGHT Hog: March 1 - July 1
SC Rifle Deer: Sept 1 - Jan 1
SC Wild Boar: Year' round Season
SC Turkey: April 1 - May 1
Dear/Boar or Turkey/Boar Combos

Located on the border in beautiful Chesterfield County SC, one hour from Charlotte, NC. Comfortable lodging including satellite TV, pool table, bass ponds, rifle & 3-D archery range.

(704) 301-7950
eatsleephunt.com

53+/- Acres, Wilkes County

Frontage on US Hwy 421, borders Lewis Fork Creek, elevations to 1,600', great hunting opportunities,

\$199,900

Call Michael Oak Island Realty, Inc. 910-616-5211

HOMEOWNER • MOBILE HOMES • AUTO • BOATS • MOTORCYCLES

Sarah Judy's INSURANCE AGENCY

Personal Service Guaranteed

3090 Jefferies Hwy • Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone (843) 538-5856 • Fax (843) 538-5282
www.sarahjudysinsurance.com

HUNTER'S SPECIAL!!!

0% FINANCING -OR- **A FREE LOADER ATTACHMENT AND STANDARD 6 YEAR WARRANTY**

Branson TRACTORS
3520 MODEL

BRANSON OFFERS A FULL LINE OF TRACTORS FROM 19 TO 78HP

SEE YOUR LOCAL DEALER FOR DETAILS

RAY'S TRACTORS, LLC
3478 Alex Harvin Hwy., Manning, SC
803-249-1077 • raystractors.com

WWW.BRANSONTRACTOR.COM

PINEY ISLAND CLUB

- Membership Available -

Currituck County, NC

Duck Hunting at #pineyislandduckclub
www.pineyislandclub.com

SANTEE STRINGER

Terry Madewell

Jimmy Ledbetter, a veteran tournament fisherman, said Santee Cooper anglers can catch big blues this month drifting or anchoring in either lake or the Division Canal.



SANTEE IN JUNE: CATFISH CENTRAL

ALL THREE SPECIES ARE IN PLAY ON LAKES, IN CANAL

Catfish are typically on a strong bite year-round at Santee Cooper, but June offers opportunities to be highly productive in a number of different ways. With the warming water, it's an excellent time to pursue all of the "big three" catfish species: blue, flathead and channel.

The key for June fishing is versatility in how, when and where you choose to catfish. Jimmy Ledbetter, a veteran fisherman, said the variety of fishing patterns enhances the opportunity to load up on catfish.

"I love the warm-weather months from June right on through the summer for catfish," Ledbetter said. "Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie are loaded with catfish, and the warm water presents opportunities to fish effectively day or night. Plus, depending on where and how you fish, the bite can be great in shallow or deep water. Finding catfish in June is the same as any time of the year: locate forage, and you'll find catfish."

Ledbetter said that gizzard and threadfin shad, white perch and bream are among the favored forage opportunities. But other forage considerations are important, including mussel beds for big blues and other aquatic species targeted by catfish.

"During June, we have a distinct opportunity to catch both big blues and flatheads," he said. "One of my favorite methods is to anchor fish at night in the shallows around the Diversion Canal or in the Diversion Canal over bottom contour changes. I'll begin with a variety of baits, and (I) tend to use live baits a lot at night. Large white perch hooked through the back will live a long time and are great for big flatheads and blues. Flatheads love live bait, and blues will readily take it, too. But I always use cut bait as well."

Ledbetter said if fishermen want fast action, they can downsize baits and rigs and catch plenty of chunky channel catfish in the Canal. Most anglers opt to

anchor at night when fishing the Canal and adjacent flats, but they will drift-fish by day using down rigs just ticking the bottom, letting the current move the boat along.

"Current flow in the Canal is a must, but that's usually not an issue at this time of year," he said. "But the Canal is just one place that's productive; both lakes are loaded with catfish."

DAY-NIGHT TACTICS

Ledbetter and his wife, Layla, partner in a lot of catfish tournaments, and they often drift-fish by day. Layla Ledbetter said they watch the depth finder for signs of forage as well as big fish marks indicating possible super-sized catfish before setting up to drift.

"We'll usually drift-fish deeper water by day, but we'll graph areas until we see what we want in terms of forage and big fish," she said. "Drift-fishing enables us to cover more water, which is good for finding fish (that) seem to be more scattered

by day than at night. When we find a productive spot, we'll work it repeatedly until the action slows. Then we're looking for something similar elsewhere."

Jimmy Ledbetter said the decision to fish at night usually means fishing shallower water from an anchored position.

"At night, we'll fish shallow coves, humps, ledges and other bottom topographical features where fish can move quickly from deep to skinny water," he said. "I anchor most of the time at night, because a lot of forage migrates to the shallows and the catfish follow. I think catfish can ambush the forage better in shallow water at night, so I'll anchor near deep water and set out multiple rigs. I'll use an assortment of live and cut baits, and sometimes, we'll catch both blues and flatheads, while other times one or the other will dominate the catch. Experiment with different baits until you find the right one for the area being fished."

Ledbetter said the nocturnal bite is often more aggressive than daytime, because fish are often actively feeding and are often congregated in a small, but prime, feeding areas. This seems to create competition that triggers an aggressive bite.

"Stealth is often a key to success at night if you're searching for big catfish," he said.

Drift-fishing at night is another June option, one preferred by former guide Marlin Ormseth of Bonneau.

"I prefer to drift-fish at night and have found it's highly effective during the warm-weather months," Ormseth said. "I'll target shallow and deep water, working underwater hills, humps and ledges, drifting the shallows down into deep water and then back up to shallower water. Typically, a pattern develops within a couple hours after dark in terms of fish being caught on specific targets, then I'll focus on those places. I'll occasionally run a planer board in very shallow water at night — but well away from the boat. Some big catfish are often caught in very shallow water at this time of year."

The options for excellent June catfishing are extensive. Day or night, deep or shallow, live or cut bait, all are reasonable options. Pick one that best suits your style of fishing and go catfishing now. ■



BAIT FOR BOTH:

It's well known that flathead catfish hit live bait almost exclusively, and that cut bait is the ticket for most blue catfish. But a nice, lively white perch is likely to draw strikes from either of the big catfish that drive the Santee Cooper fishery.



Terry Madewell, of Ridgeway, S.C., has been an outdoors writer for more than 30 years. He has a degree in wildlife and fisheries management and has a long career as a professional wildlife biologist/natural resources manager.

OVER 75 Pontoon & Deck Boats IN STOCK!

Hurricane
 NauticStar BOATS
 South BAY PONTOONS
 STINGRAY POWERBOATS
 Sweetwater

**CHATLEE
BOAT & MARINE**

Sanford, NC

**Call us BEFORE
you buy!
WE WILL
SAVE YOU \$\$\$**

Powered by
SUZUKI
MARINE

Follow Us

919-775-7259

www.chatleeboats.com

HEAD FOR THE MOUNTAINS

Robert Satterwhite

A young angler works a section of the Tuckasegee River in Jackson County, one of North Carolina's most-popular delayed-harvest trout streams.

DELAYED HARVEST: TROUT FOR EVERYONE

HUNGRY, STOCKED FISH IN SELECT, POPULAR STREAMS
MAKES FOR A GREAT TIME FOR ANGLERS OF ALL LEVELS

Wesley Satterwhite

Beginning May 15 in South Carolina and June 2 in North Carolina, anglers will be able to keep their catches in delayed-harvest trout waters, up to five trout per day in South Carolina and seven in North Carolina, with no bait or lure restrictions.

The catch-and-keep rules will be in effect until Oct. 31 for delayed-harvest streams in South Carolina and Sept. 30 in North Carolina.

Opening day of the catch-and-keep season attracts a different group of trout fishers. They likely won't be decked out in the latest Orvis fashions, fishing with top-of-the-line fly rods, or custom flies. They'll be fishing with red worms, night crawlers, wax worms, even corn niblets and marshmallows, because just about any type of bait is legal.

Implemented on a trial basis for select North Carolina streams began in 1992 and in South Carolina in 2002, North

Carolina has 37 streams in the program; South Carolina has seven.

Delayed-harvest streams are heavily stocked with rainbow and brook trout and a lower number of brown trout for the catch-and-release seasons. The majority of those trout average 10 inches and weigh about a half-pound, with a few lunker fish thrown in for good measure. Most stream stockings end in June.

The stockings are generous. For example, the 5-mile upper section of the Tuckasegee River in North Carolina's Jackson County received about 49,000 trout in five stockings. The lower section, in Swain County, received another 18,000.

Even with strict catch-and-release regulations, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, estimates that a third of stocked trout are lost during the catch-and-release season. Some die due to improper handling and release, some migrate to other sections of the stream and some are poached.

Fishery biologists say approximately 50 percent of stocked trout are caught in the first two weeks of the catch-and-keep season. With the population drastically reduced, the remaining trout have a better chance of surviving during the summer months when stream levels drop, the water warms and food resources are more limited.

After the initial onslaught, fishing traffic on delayed-harvest streams usually tapers off because trout aren't as accessible or as easy to catch. Even stocked fish develop a few stream smarts after they've been in the wild for a while.

DON'T BE GREEDY

Creel limits usually are easily reached on opening day. Fishers who get out early often catch their limit in the first hour. Unfortunately, some take their limits home and return for a second or even a third limit. Wildlife officers monitor the streams on opening day, but violators

are difficult to catch unless they're caught with too many fish in their creels or ice chests. Violators caught with too many trout face replacement costs of the fish, fines, court costs, confiscation of fishing gear and loss of fishing privileges.

The best rule to follow is to catch and keep only what you will consume that day, not to see how many fish you can stock in the freezer and end up throwing out. Trout are best when they're prepared and eaten fresh from the stream. Even one night in a refrigerator can affect the quality of the fish.

Delayed-harvest streams are especially popular with older fishers, youngsters and beginners. They provide an excellent conditions for beginners, for experimenting with different fly patterns and lures, or just for a pleasant day catching trout for dinner.

A big bonus for youngsters is that delayed-harvest waters in North Carolina will be open only to youths under 18 from 6 a.m. to noon on opening day. Youths under 16 are not required to have a fishing license or a trout-fishing privilege license.

I'll be on the Tuckasegee early on June 2, fishing with my 11- and 14-year-old granddaughters. In past trips, they have caught enough trout for a fine dinner. Opening day is one of those rare times when they are almost guaranteed to catch a trout.

One of the most-popular programs implemented by the two wildlife agencies, delayed-harvest has avid supporters — and a very few dissenters — from all segments of the trout-fishing community, from the purist catch-and-release fly fisher to the die-hard bait fisher. It's one of those program that offers something for just about everyone.

Stocking schedules, stream locations and maps, and a host of other pertinent information about trout fishing in North and South Carolina can accessed via the web at www.ncwildlife.org and www.dnr.sc.gov. ■



Bob Satterwhite has been writing about the outdoors, particularly trout fishing, for more than 25 years. A native of Morganton, N.C., he lives in Cullowhee, N.C., close to the Tuckasegee River, Caney Fork, Moses Creek, and several other prime trout streams.



Wesley Satterwhite

LOTS OF TROUT:

North Carolina's delayed-harvest trout waters are stocked at almost two times the rate of other hatchery supported streams, with 40-percent brook trout, 40-percent rainbow trout and 20-percent brown trout.

Call Us Before You Buy... We Will Save You \$\$\$!

Over 50 to
choose from



Sanford, NC

919-775-7259

www.chatleeboats.com





ALPZ DOGGIE DUCK BLIND

You're pretty good at hiding yourself beside your favorite duck hole — camouflage clothing, some brush and maybe a little camouflage cloth — but that big, black, yellow or brown dog next to you, that's another story. He wants to see those mallards come into the decoys as much as you do, and he needs to see them splash down when you make a good shot.

So ALPS Outdoorz, which makes all kinds of great outdoor gear, has stepped in to help. The official manufacturer and licensee of Delta Waterfowl gear, it's added the Alpha Dog Blind to its 2018 product line.

The Alpha Dog Blind is very portable and collapsible; it sets up and breaks down in seconds, and it's no problem carrying on your back to and from the blind. Shaped like a pup tent, it proved to be plenty big enough for the 80-pound black lab that shows up on all of my waterfowl hunts, and the padded floor provided him with a nice place to wait for his workout. You can stake it down, and it has dual-swing front and rear doors for easy exit and entry. It comes in Realtree Max-5 camo and has an MSRP of \$99.

More Info: www.alpsoutdoorz.com



SHIMANO EXAGE BAITCASTING RODS

Fishermen ready to get a jump on bass this summer have a line of Shimano baitcasting rods to choose from that carry the usual Shimano quality with a reasonable price tag.

The Exage line of casting rods includes nine models between 6-foot-10 and 7-foot-6, three of them specifically for fishing crankbaits, a popular summer weapon for anglers around the southeast. Those rods are 7-foot, 7-foot-4 and 7-foot-6. The 7-foot model is perfect for casting small- and medium-sized crankbaits; go longer for the big, deep-diving baits that are required as bass move into their deeper, summer patterns.

Exage rods are made from 30-ton carbon for light weight, sensitivity and durability, with split grips of EVA and cork. The rods are outfitted with Fuji Alconite guides.

MSRP for Shimano's Exage rods is \$99.99.

They are available at www.academy.com/shop/pdp/shimano-exage-baitcast-rod#repChildCatSku=113767081

KAHARA DIVING FROG

The Kahara Diving Frog is a great summer bass lure, especially on waters that get choked with surface weeds. Unlike traditional hollow-body frog lures which stay on the surface full time, this one dives underwater — even under lily pads — every time the angler moves the lure. It then floats back to the surface when anglers pause their retrieve.

This lure is especially effective along the edges of weedlines and in lily pad fields that have open sections of water dispersed throughout the area. It also brings in the bites when cast near woody structure like downed timber and stickups. The diving action, along with the pop and splash created by the lure diving, is sometimes all that's needed to entice a wary bass, which may pass on a topwater-only retrieve, into biting.

While the legs of many topwater frogs are short and have little movement during the lure's retrieve, the Kahara's legs are long and springy, and stretch their full length each time the angler moves the lure. The dual hooks are similar to other topwater frogs, ensuring solid hooksets.

The Kahara Diving Frog is available in eight colors and two different sizes.

More Info: www.optimumbaits.com



New product submissions can be emailed to **Mark Hilz** at markh@lasmag.com.

IT ALL ADDS UP TO MORE FISH IN THE BOAT.



COURTESY OF FLW / PHOTO BY CHARLES WALDORF

Bryan Thrift
2018 FLW Tour Lake Cumberland Champion.



P-LINE TACTICAL FLUOROCARBON

Show up prepared for the battle: smoother, more sensitive, improved knot strength, stronger, and unmatched abrasion resistance.

P-LINE X-BRAID

Delivers superior abrasion resistance, longer casts, vibration reduction and a near zero stretch factor for unparalleled power.



www.P-Line.com



How to use the **SPORTSMAN** Tide Guide

Fish feed most actively when the tide is moving. The Sportsman has made it simple to spot the most active feeding periods each day in the TIDE GUIDE. To find the best time to fish your favorite honey hole, locate the spot under Tide Corrections that is closest to the area and add or subtract the time from the corresponding daily prediction.

Tide Corrections

Atlantic Beach, Ocean HIGH LOW

Cape Lookout Outer Coast	-0:02	0:10
Shell Point Harkers Island	2:07	2:45
Harkers Island Br. Outer Coast	2:23	2:42
Channel Mkr.Lt. #59 Outer Coast	1:40	1:38
Lenoxville Point Outer Coast	1:29	1:23
North River Bridge Outer Coast	1:24	3:19
Beaufort In. Ch. R. Outer Coast	0:22	0:22
Beaufort Duke Marine Lab	0:57	0:50
Gallant Channel Outer Coast	1:04	0:55
Newport River Outer Coast	1:25	1:40
Core Creek Bridge Outer Coast	1:41	1:57
Fort Macon USCG Station	0:32	0:29
Morehead City Outer Coast	0:41	0:38
Atlantic Beach Outer Coast	0:00	0:00
Triple ESS Marina Bogue Sd	0:50	0:39
Atlantic Beach Outer Coast	1:03	1:13
NC State Fisheries Outer Coast	1:20	1:43
Coral Bay Atl. Beach Outer Coast	2:02	2:25
Spooner Creek Outer Coast	2:35	2:55
Bogue Inlet Outer Coast	0:28	0:26
New River Inlet Outer Coast	0:31	0:28
New Topsail Inlet Outer Coast	0:35	1:11

Oregon Inset, USCG Station HIGH LOW

Currituck Beach Lt. Outer Coast	-0:06	0:14
Nags Head Area All Ocean Front	-0:22	0:34
Kitty Hawk (ocean) Outer Coast	-0:10	0:18
Jennetts Pr. (ocean) Outer Coast	-0:14	0:19
Roanoke Sound Chan. Outer Coast	2:07	2:08
Oregon Inlet Marina Outer Coast	1:02	1:57
Oregon Inlet Outer Coast	0:27	0:24
Oregon Inlet Bridge Outer Coast	0:13	0:04
Oregon Inl. Channel Outer Coast	0:21	0:17
Old House Channel Outer Coast	1:04	1:19
Oregon Inlet (USCG Station)	0:00	0:00
Davis Slough Outer Coast	0:39	0:50
Cape Hatteras Outer Coast	-0:14	0:34
Hatteras (ocean) Outer Coast	-0:22	0:34
Hatteras Inlet Outer Coast	0:01	0:08
Ocracoke Inlet Outer Coast	0:02	0:10
Ocracoke Ocracoke Inlet	0:17	0:31
Cape Lookout Outer Coast	-0:24	0:42

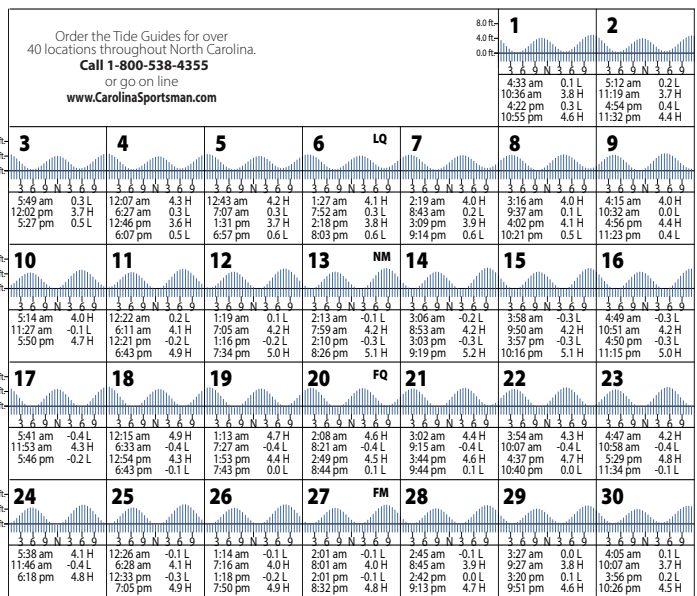
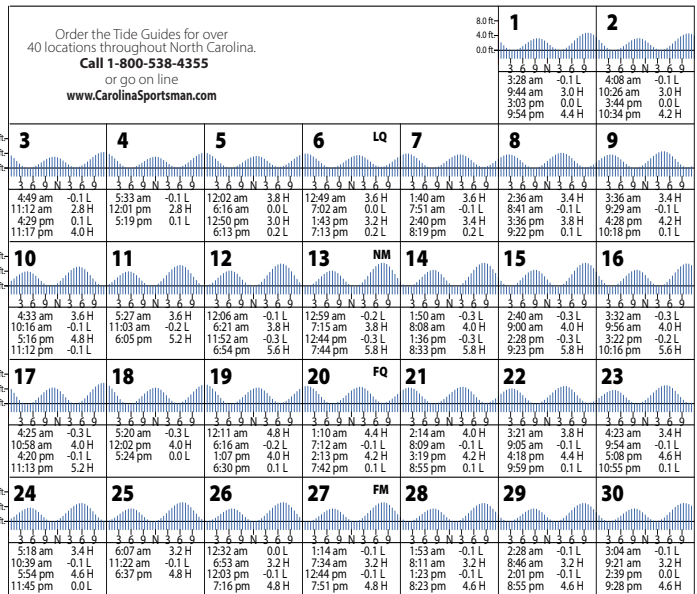
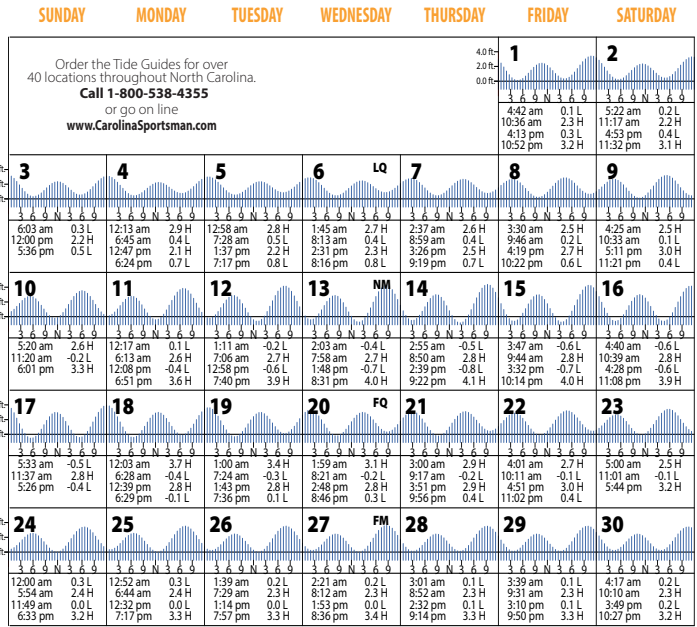
Southport, Cape Fear River HIGH LOW

Masonboro Inlet Outer Coast	-0:14	0:06
Wilmington Beach Outer Coast	-0:48	0:49
Cape Fear Outer Coast	-0:33	0:39
Bald Head Cape Fear	-0:17	0:22
Fort Caswell Cape Fear River	-0:12	0:16
Southport Cape Fear River	0:00	0:00
Reaves Point Cape Fear River	0:15	0:34
Yaupon Beach Outer Coast	-0:39	1:00
Lockwoods Folly Int Outer Coast	-0:29	0:23
Shalotte Inlet (Bowen Point)	0:10	0:17
Tubbs Inlet Outer Coast	-0:19	0:23

Atlantic Beach Ocean

Oregon Inlet USCG Station

Southport Cape Fear River



NEW MODELS FOR 2018 FROM SEA HUNT!

Sea Hunt Ultra 255



Sanford, NC

#1



DEALER IN THE USA!

Sea Hunt BX 25 FS



919-775-7259
www.chatleeboats.com



YAMAHA

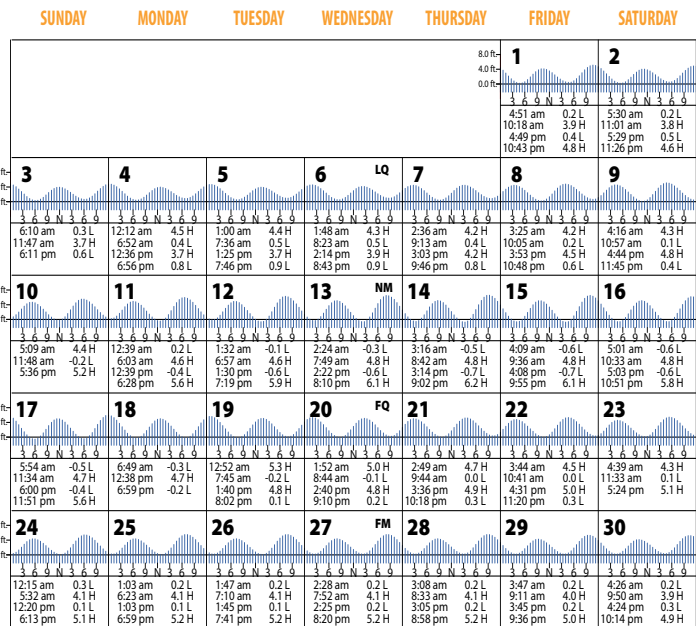
How to use the SPORTSMAN Tide Guide

Fish feed most actively when the tide is moving. The Sportsman has made it simple to spot the most active feeding periods each day in the TIDE GUIDE. To find the best time to fish your favorite honey hole, locate the spot under Tide Corrections that is closest to the area and add or subtract the time from the corresponding daily prediction.

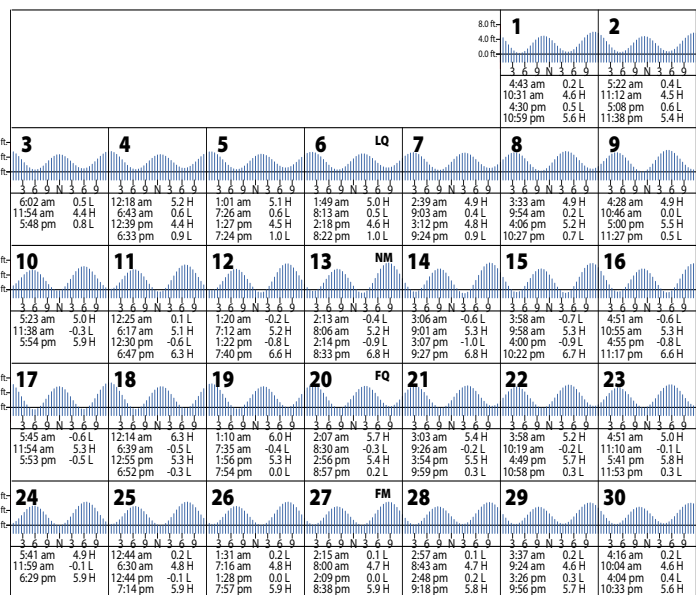
Tide Corrections

	HIGH	LOW
Cherry Grove(inside)	0:24	0:04
Springmaid Pier Outer Coast	-0:07	-0:30
Murrells Inlet Outer Coast	0:12	0:12
Pawley's Island Outer Coast	-0:10	-0:33
North Inlet Outer Coast	0:03	-0:08
Ent. (south jetty) Winyah Bay	-0:07	-0:36
S. Is. Ferry Winyah Bay	1:08	1:13
Georgetown Pee Dee River Br.	1:55	2:27
Black River (south of dunbar)	3:33	3:57
Sandy Island Thoroughfare Crk.	2:51	3:12
N. Santee Brg. Outer Coast	1:23	1:42
Brown Island S. Santee River	0:41	1:19
McClellanville Jeremy Creek.	0:36	0:40
Deweese Inlet Outer Coast	0:07	0:03
Breach Inlet Outer Coast	0:05	0:01
Fort Sumter Charleston Harbor	0:07	0:06
Gen. Dynamics Pier Cooper River	1:50	1:42
Horlbeck Creek Cooper River	0:52	0:43
Big Paradise Island Wando River	1:35	1:08
Wappoo Crk. Br. Ashley River	0:38	0:41
Folly Island Outer Coast	0:01	0:01
Folly River (below bridge)	0:29	0:10
Elliott Cut Stono River	1:04	1:08
Limehouse Bridge Outer Coast	1:52	1:49
Rockville Bohicket Creek.	0:28	0:22
Dawho Bridge North Edisto River	1:05	1:01
Edisto Marina Big Bay Creek	0:06	0:25
Willtown Bluff S. Edisto River	1:45	2:38
Eddings Point Crk. St. Helena Sound.	0:29	0:22
Fields Point Combahee River	0:42	0:59
Highway Bridge Combahee River	1:56	2:34
Summerhouse Point Bull River	0:59	0:43
Fripp Inlet Bridge St. Helena Sound	-0:09	-0:20
Broad Creek Port Royal Sound	0:36	0:25
Station Creek Port Royal Sound	0:24	-0:13
Trenchards Inlet Port Royal Sound	0:15	-0:14
Parris Island Beaufort River	0:37	0:33
Beaufort Beaufort River	1:07	0:59
Victoria Bluff Colleton River	1:01	0:47
Hilton Head Island Braddock Point	0:05	0:05
Bluffton May River	0:52	0:31
Daufuskie Landing New River	0:21	0:34

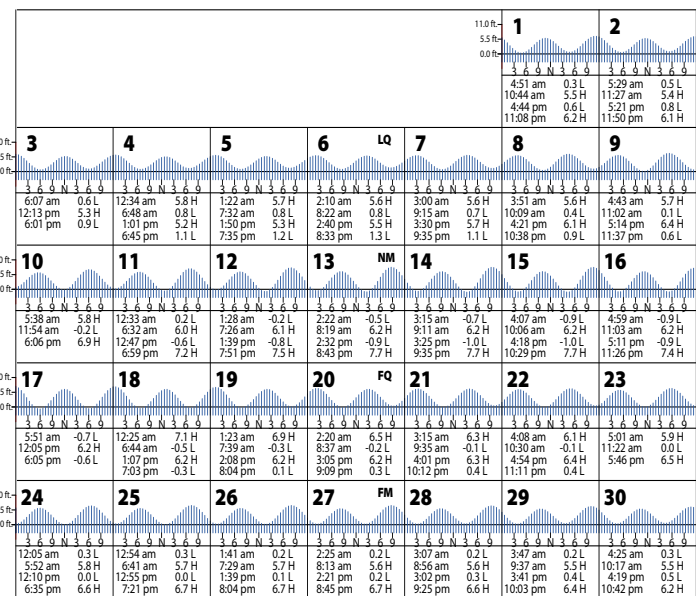
Dunn Sound Little River Inlet



Charleston Customhouse Wharf



Harbor River Bridge



For All Your **TOYS!**



PERFORMANCE EAST INC.

604 CORPORATE DR.
GOLDSBORO, NC
888-503-8900

CHECK OUT ALL OUR INVENTORY AT
www.PerformanceEast.com

BLUE+WAVE

can-am

Excel BOATS

MERCURY

POLARIS

SCARAB

SEA-DOO

SEA PRO

SLINGSHOT

SUZUKI MARINE

Wellcraft

YAMAHA

SALTWATER

STATE COASTAL WATERS REGULATIONS (0 - 3 miles)

FISH SPECIES	Minimum Lengths	Creel Limit (per person)
Greater amberjack	28" FL	1/day
Blue marlin	99" LJFL	1/day
White marlin	66" LJFL	1/day
Sailfish	63" LJFL	1/day
Sharks	%	%
Cobia	36" FL	1/day&
Bluefish	None	15/day
Black drum	14" minimum 27" maximum TL	5/day
Redfish (red drum, channel bass)	15" minimum 23" maximum TL	3/day
Flounder (state waters)	14" TL	10/day
Groupers (black and gag)	24" TL	1/day
Red, scamp, yellowfin, yellowmouth	20" TL	3/day
Speckled hind/Warsaw grouper	closed	closed
Red porgy (aka silver snapper, pinky)	14" TL	3/day#
King mackerel	24" FL	3/day
Spanish mackerel	12" FL	15/day
Sheepshead	14"	10/day (30 per boat)
Spadefish	None	20/day (agg. grouper)
Black sea bass	13"	7/day
Dolphin	20" FL	10/day (60 per boat)
Yellowfin tuna	27" CFL	3/day
Bluefin/Bigeye tuna	Contact NMFS (http://www.nmfspermits.com)	
Tarpon	77" FL	1/day
Spotted sea trout (speckled)	14"	10/day
Weakfish (gray trout)	12"	1/day
Wahoo	None	2/day
Gray, yellowtail, queen, cubera, dog, mahogany, schoolmaster snapper	12" TL	10/day#
Red snapper	closed	closed
Mutton snapper	16" TL (federal waters)	10/day
Vermillion snapper	12" TL	5/day

% For shark seasons, bag and size limits, contact NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division, 888-872-8862 or hmspermits.noaa.gov. # For grouper/snapper, check with the SAFMC at www.safmc.net or 843-571-4366. & Cobia, 1 per person per day up to 6 per boat. Closed May 1-31 south of Jeremy Inlet, 1 per person, up to 3 per boat, after June 1 south of Jeremy Inlet.

FRESHWATER

FISH Species (Inland waters)	Minimum Size Limit	Creel Limit (per day)
Crappie/Panfish +	None	30 bream (15 red breast), 20 crappie
Largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, redeye, bass%	none largemouth 12" smallmouth	5 lg/sm/r, 15 spots
Channel catfish	No restrictions	None
Blue catfish	No restrictions=	None=
Flathead catfish	No restrictions	None
Striped bass or hybrid bass	Varies by location&%	Varies by location&%
Mountain Trout	+	5
White bass	None	10 (except Sav. River)
Walleye and sauger+	None	8

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).

+ See specific lake and river exceptions in SCDNR's Regulations Digest

= In the Santee Cooper system, only two over 32 inches with daily possession limit of 25 fish. In Congaree/Waterree rivers, no possession limit.

% For lake-specific regulations, see the SCDNR's Regulations Digest or visit www.dnr.sc.gov. Keeper season in the Santee Cooper system ends June 15.

& In Lake Russell and its tributaries, the daily creel limit is two fish, only one of which may be more than 34 inches long.

SALTWATER

STATE COASTAL WATERS REGULATIONS (0 - 3 miles)

FISH SPECIES	Minimum Lengths	Creel Limit (per person)
Greater amberjack	28" FL	1/day
Blue marlin	99" LJFL	1/vessel/trip
White marlin	66" LJFL	1/vessel/trip
Sailfish	63" LJFL	1/day
Sharks	%	%
Cobia (opens May 1)	36"	1/day&
Bluefish	5 longer than 24" TL	15/day
Red drum (channel bass, puppy drum)	18" min., 27" max.	1/day
Black drum	14" min., 25" max.	10/day
Flounder	15" TL	4/day
Dolphin (mahi-mahi)	none	10/day
Groupers (black and gag)	24" TL	1/day
Red, scamp, yellowfin, yellowmouth	20" TL	3/day
Speckled hind/Warsaw Grouper	closed	closed
Wahoo	none	2/day
Red porgy (aka silver snapper, pinky)	14" TL	3/day
King mackerel	24" FL	3/day
Spanish mackerel	12" FL	15/day
Sea bass (north of Hatteras)	Closed	Closed
Sea bass (south of Hatteras)	13" TL	7/day
Yellowfin/Bigeye tuna	27" CFL	3/day
Bluefin tuna	Contact NMFS (http://www.nmfspermits.com)	
Spotted sea trout (speckled)	Closed until June 15%	Closed until June 15%
Weakfish (gray trout)	12" TL	1/day
Snappers: Gray (mangrove), yellowtail, queen, cubera, dog, mahogany, schoolmaster	12" TL	10/day in federal waters
Sheepshead	10"	10/day
Red snapper	closed	closed
Mutton snapper	16" TL (federal waters)	10/day
Vermillion snapper	12" TL	5/day
Striped bass ^	28" TL or more (ocean waters)	1/day
Hickory shad	None	10/day
American shad	closed	closed

^ see NCWRC/NCDMF regs for inshore Management Area limits. % Contact NMFS Highly Migratory Species, 888-872-8862, visit hmspermits.noaa.gov. Cobia limit is 1 per person, 2 per day private boats, 1 per person, 4 per day charter boats until June 1, then 2 per day per charter boat. % 4 per day, 14-inch minimum after June 15.

FRESHWATER

FISH Species (Inland waters)	Minimum Size Limit	Creel Limit (per day)
Crappie +	None +	None +
Largemouth, smallmouth, spotted bass +	14" (2-fish exception)	5
Channel catfish	No restrictions	None
Blue/Flathead catfish	No restrictions	None
Striped bass, hybrid (Bodie) %	20"	4 %
Sauger	15"	8
White bass	None	25
Walleye#	None	8
Muskellunge	42"	1
Kokanee salmon	None	7
Red drum	18" min., 27" max.	1
American and hickory shad	None	10 (1 American shad)
Spotted sea trout	Closed	Closed until June 15
Flounder	15"	4/day@

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)

+ See specific lake exceptions in NCWRC regulations digest or www.ncwildlife.org

% Striped bass creel limits and size minimums vary by lake. See NCWRC regulations digest or www.ncwildlife.org.

Lake James, minimum size is 15 inches. Lake Gaston, minimum size is 18 inches, creel limit 5.

@ Hook-and-line and flounder giggers restricted to 4 fish per day per trip, 15-inch size minimum.

ASTRO TABLES

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 2018 PrimeTimes Wall Calendar. \$12.95 (plus \$4 s&h). Know the best days, best times, and their relative strengths for all of 2018 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 2018, the year's best periods, a look ahead at 2019, and more. Comes with FREE 2018 Astro Tables pocket calendar, which sells separately for \$7.95, 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.

2018 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).

SPECIAL PACKAGE OFFERS:

- #1: **Wall Calendar, Astro Tables and "How to Know..." book....** \$19.95 (plus \$5 s&h).
- #2: **Same as #1, plus Software....** \$46.95 (plus \$6 s&h).
- #3: **Same as #2, minus book....** \$37.95 (plus \$5 s&h).

Send to: PrimeTimes 2018 - Dept. LS - 2487 NW 75th Ave., Ste. 100 - Ankeny, IA 50023

For credit/debit card orders, call toll-free **866-809-5063**.

2018 JUN	BEST DAYS				VALUE
	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	EXCL	
Fri 1	█	█	█	█	33
Sat 2	█	█	█	█	30
Sun 3	█	█	█	█	32
Mon 4	█	█	█	█	34
Tue 5	█	█	█	█	42
Wed 6	█	█	█	█	55
Thu 7	█	█	█	█	48
Fri 8	█	█	█	█	46
Sat 9	█	█	█	█	49
Sun 10	█	█	█	█	64
Mon 11	█	█	█	█	77
Tue 12	█	█	█	█	90
Wed 13	█	█	█	█	98
Thu 14	█	█	█	█	89
Fri 15	█	█	█	█	78
Sat 16	█	█	█	█	66
Sun 17	█	█	█	█	59
Mon 18	█	█	█	█	56
Tue 19	█	█	█	█	58
Wed 20	█	█	█	█	64
Thu 21	█	█	█	█	51
Fri 22	█	█	█	█	42
Sat 23	█	█	█	█	39
Sun 24	█	█	█	█	47
Mon 25	█	█	█	█	53
Tue 26	█	█	█	█	62
Wed 27	█	█	█	█	65
Thu 28	█	█	█	█	55
Fri 29	█	█	█	█	45
Sat 30	█	█	█	█	36
25 50 75 AVERAGE					

For more, visit primetimes2.com

LUNAR PERIODS					TIMES OCCURRING AT NIGHT ARE SHADED	
MOON RISE	PRIMARY MOON OVERHEAD	MOON SET	PRIMARY MOON UNDERFOOT	LOW	APOGEE	
11:01 pm	2:51 am - 3:53 am	8:30 am	3:16 pm - 4:18 pm	○	○	
11:44 pm	3:37 am - 4:43 am	9:21 am	4:02 pm - 5:08 pm	○	○	
12:24 am	4:23 am - 5:31 am	10:13 am	4:48 pm - 5:56 pm	○	○	
1:00 am	5:05 am - 6:23 am ☀	11:08 am	5:30 pm - 6:48 pm	○	○	
1:34 am	5:45 am - 7:13 am ☀	12:03 pm	6:10 pm - 7:38 pm	○	○	
2:06 am	6:23 am - 8:05 am	12:59 pm	6:48 pm - 8:30 pm ☾	○	○	
2:38 am	7:00 am - 8:56 am ☀	1:57 pm	7:25 pm - 9:21 pm ☾	○	○	
3:11 am	7:40 am - 9:48 am	2:56 pm	8:05 pm - 10:13 pm	○	○	
3:46 am	8:17 am - 10:43 am	3:57 pm	8:42 pm - 11:08 pm	○	○	
4:24 am	8:59 am - 11:41 am	5:01 pm	9:24 pm - 12:06 am	○	○	
5:07 am	9:42 am - 12:42 pm ☀	6:08 pm	10:07 pm - 1:07 am	○	○	
5:57 am	10:34 am - 1:44 pm ☀	7:17 pm	10:59 pm - 2:09 am	○	○	
6:53 am	11:29 am - 2:49 pm ☀	8:25 pm	11:54 pm - Midnight	○	○	
7:56 am	12:31 pm - 3:53 pm ☀	9:31 pm	Midnight - 3:14 am	○	○	
9:04 am	1:34 pm - 4:56 pm	10:30 pm	12:56 am - 4:18 am	○	○	
10:12 am	2:38 pm - 5:54 pm	11:23 pm	1:59 am - 5:21 am	○	○	
11:20 am	3:43 pm - 6:45 pm		3:03 am - 6:19 am	○	○	
12:26 pm	4:43 pm - 7:33 pm	12:09 am	4:08 am - 7:10 am ☀	○	○	
1:29 pm	5:41 pm - 8:17 pm	12:49 am	5:08 am - 7:58 am ☀	○	○	
2:30 pm	6:39 pm - 8:57 pm ☾	1:26 am	6:06 am - 8:42 am ☀	○	○	
3:30 pm	7:34 pm - 9:36 pm ☾	2:00 am	7:04 am - 9:22 am	○	○	
4:28 pm	8:28 pm - 10:14 pm	2:32 am	7:59 am - 10:01 am	○	○	
5:26 pm	9:21 pm - 10:53 pm	3:06 am	8:53 am - 10:39 am	○	○	
6:22 pm	10:12 pm - 11:34 pm	3:40 am	9:46 am - 11:18 am	○	○	
7:17 pm	11:05 pm - 12:17 am	4:16 am	10:37 am - 11:59 am	○	○	
8:09 pm	11:56 pm - Midnight	4:56 am	11:30 am - 12:42 pm ☀	○	○	
8:58 pm	Midnight - 1:02 am	5:39 am	12:21 pm - 1:27 pm ☀	○	○	
9:42 pm	12:46 am - 1:48 am	6:25 am	1:11 pm - 2:13 pm ☀	○	○	
10:23 pm	1:35 am - 2:37 am	7:15 am	2:00 pm - 3:02 pm	○	○	
	2:20 am - 3:28 am	8:07 am	2:45 pm - 3:53 pm	○	○	

ANY LUNAR PERIOD IS ENHANCED WHEN IT OVERLAPS A KEY SOLAR PERIOD. THE BEST OF THESE OVERLAPS ARE DESIGNATED BY THE SUN SYMBOLS: ☀ = DAWN ☀ = HIGH NOON ☀ = DUSK

WHILE THE LESSER MOONRISE AND -SET OVERLAPS (ABOUT 30 MIN. BEFORE AND AFTER THE LISTED TIME) ARE DESIGNATED BY BOLD BLACK TYPE.

For more information and samples of PrimeTimes products, visit our web site: www.primetimes2.com

BLACKJACK... INSPIRED PERFORMANCE!
The new **BlackJack 256!**

BlackJack boats

For more information or to find a dealer near you, visit www.blackjackboats.com

YAMAHA

Sportsman FISHING HOTSPOTS

Bass pro Brad Staley said bass head to Randleman Lake's offshore structure in June.

RANDLEMAN BASS HEAD TO STRUCTURE

Most spots are 'community holes' but the bass community is huge

Bass pro Brad Staley of Pleasant Garden, N.C., said June is one of his favorite months to fish for bass at Randleman Lake, the 3,007-acre reservoir governed by the Piedmont Triad Regional Water Authority, one of his home waters.

Staley said that by the end of May, bass move off the banks to congregate around offshore structure in 8 to 14 feet of water.

"Randleman doesn't have a lot of water flow, so there isn't enough oxygen to sustain fish at deeper depths," according to Staley, who said fish congregate at points, hardbottoms, high spots and rocks along creek channels. Fishermen skilled with depth finders can locate some old, submerged foundations, bridges and roads — left intact when the lake filled — that attract good numbers of bass.

What fishermen won't find are many stumps. "Randleman doesn't have many stumps because they were pulled up and burned during the development of the lake," said Staley.

A lake map of Randleman is available, but it's mainly to get around. It doesn't show any contours or reveal underwater structure.

Some standing timber remains near the corners of the I-73/US 220 bridge that crosses the main lake.

Staley fishes points and rock with ½- to ¾-ounce Dave's Tournament Tackle jigs in blue/olive/blue.

"It's a dark-green, pumpkin color with some blue mixed in," he said.

If jigs don't produce, he'll drag 11-inch Deep Creek Remy plastic worms in black/blue flake on a shaky head jig.

Other lure options include Rapala DT-10 crankbaits and swimbaits fished near the bottom.

Most of the productive places at Randleman have become "community fishing holes" because the lake's small size prevents fishermen from keeping places a secret for long, but the numbers of fish compensate for the lack of privacy.

"June is one of the best times of year to catch numbers of fish," said Staley. "When you find the right spot, you can throw out five or more times, and your bait won't make it to the bottom because there are so many fish on those places."

Randleman Lake is closed Monday and Tuesday. In June, the lake is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Boats must be off the lake 30 minutes before closing. The launch fee is \$15. ■

— Tony Garitta

Guide Robbie Hall and daughter Lauren ran into this nice red in the marshes around Swansboro.



HUNGRY MARSH REDS have plenty of options on central NC coast

Think about freshwater gamefish that try to eat topwaters, soft-plastic lures and live baits: largemouth and smallmouth bass, trout, bream and stripers, to name a few.

Now consider inshore saltwater fish that whack lures at the surface, in mid-depths or near the bottom. Hmmmm.

Offhand, only two species shine: red drum and speckled trout.

In June, fishing along North Carolina's central coast favor reds, as they feed whenever they find food.

Guide Rick Patterson of Cape Carteret (252-342-1513) likes a topwater bite triggered by white Zara Spooks, Spook Juniors or Zara Pups he works with a "walk-the-dog" wrist twitch.

"Spinnerbaits or popping corks with shrimp- or shad-pattern soft-plastic, Fluke-style lures can be good," he said. "But I think walking lures do better on reds. They're more aggressive in June once the schools have busted up."

Redfish vary from 18 inches to mid-slot to over-slot fish. Anglers may keep one per day between 18 and 27 inches in length.

"A finger mullet or mud minnow on a Carolina rig are good live baits for reds," he said.

Guide Jot Owens of Wrightsville Beach looks for reds around underwater structure.

"They'll be at creeks, oyster rocks and marsh grass lines in 1 to 3 feet of water early and late on cloudy days," said Owens (910-233-4139), who fishes MirrOlure TopDog Juniors or TopPups.

Guide Joe Ward (252-229-4656) spends June fishing for reds in the Neuse River east of Oriental in Turnagain and West bays.

"I like Super Flukes or white Gulp shrimp at shoreline marsh grass edges, twitch a lure and let it drop into deeper water," he said. "Zara Spooks, Skitterwalks and Chug Bugs will catch 'em on top. With a little ripple on the water, I like a Chug Bug."

Guide Robbie Hall of Swansboro (910-330-6999) said redfish scatter after they move inside, but the surface bite may sizzle.

"I like a Rapala gold mullet Skitterwalk with a black back," he said, "but I'll also use Zara Spooks, TopDogs and TopPups."

Hall's tackle includes 7-foot Fenwick rods, 3000 to 4000 series FinNor reels backed by 20-pound braid and 2 feet of 25-pound fluorocarbon leader.

"Fluorocarbon that big will handle marsh grass," he said. "It's tough." ■

— Craig Holt

BORDER COBIA make big nearshore appearance

Nothing says summer is coming like pitching a live menhaden to a 50-pound cobia 20 feet from the boat.

What happens next? All hell breaks loose. It's all hands on deck to get the rods and gear out of the way to put the angry, prehistoric-looking monster in the boat.

Sight-fishing for cobia in the nearshore ocean is one of the most-exhilarating things an angler can do, especially in the waters along the border between the two Carolinas, and especially from late May into June.

Tom Cushman of Captain Cush's Calmwater Charters always makes a run at cobia late in spring; June can be prime time.

"Our (menhaden) start showing up just off the beach this time of year," said Cushman (843-997-5850). "Cobia are migrating up the coast, and we will catch them in and around the pods of bait."

Menhaden are also moving northward, and everything from sharks, king mackerel and cobia will be trailing these bait trains, looking to pick up an easy meal. While kings and sharks will be somewhat spooky, cobia are fearless and will swim just under the surface in and around the pods of bait.

continued >>>

GOT PICS? Send 'em in!

Email images to: dank@carolinasportsman.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 Carolina Sportsman and cannot be returned.

Cobia continued >

"They will swim right up to the boat, and you have got to be ready with a pitch bait when they show up," he said.

Cushman will pitch free-lined live baits or an artificial lure to the surfacing cobia when he sees one, or he will nose-hook a live menhaden on a Carolina rig, toss it near the school of bait and wait for the rod to double over.



Cobia spend the last few weeks of spring cruising the beaches along the North Carolina-South Carolina line.

Tom Cushman

Not every school of bait will have a cobia around it, but schools of bait will be all over the beachfront. Cushman will cruise up and down the beach from pod to pod, checking for a willing contender.

When cobia are not cooperating, Cushman will slide out to nearshore reefs and deploy a set of weighted lines and free-swimming lines in these areas.

"The reefs in water from 35 to 100 feet will hold big schools of bait, and cobia will hang around the reefs for a while before they head further north. The reef bite can be real consistent when the fish are abundant in the area," he said.

Even though cobia are moving north for the summer, it's not uncommon for some of the small schools of cobia to stay around the reefs for the better part of the summer. ■

— Jeff Bureson



South Carolina angler Matt Outlaw said not all crappie go deep in the summer; if there's grass around, crappie will be shallow.

Brian Cope

SANTEE'S GRASS SLABS

Find vegetative cover, you'll find shallow crappie

Matt Outlaw of St. Matthews, S.C., doesn't agree with one thing that many crappie fishermen believe — that crappie scatter and disappear in deep water during the summer.

Outlaw, it seems, catches plenty of crappie on the Santee Cooper lakes this time of year, and he doesn't have to fish deep.

His secret lies in the surface grasses, lilies and weeds that are found all across the Santee Cooper lakes.

"If there's weeds on the surface, you can catch crappie under them, even in the summer. Santee is a good lake for fishing this way, but it will work on other lakes, too. The trick is making a hole in the weeds to drop a jig into," Outlaw said.

To create the opening in the weeds, Outlaw uses an 11-foot piece of conduit with a 90-degree bend at the tip. He uses the tip to scratch out a small hole, then gets to fishing with a 10-foot B 'n' M pole with an ultralight reel spooled with 10-pound Vicious mono.

"This is no place for using 4-pound line because of the weeds," Outlaw said. "Sometimes the fish will run you around a lot of them, but the 10-pound line allows you to horse the fish in through all of it."

Outlaw said water hyacinth is his

favorite type of weed, but duck weed, lilies and gator grass will also hold crappie. All are very common in areas like Sparkleberry Swamp, but he said you can find them in the main lake, too.

"As long as the water under the weeds is 4 feet deep or better, I expect crappie to be there. If it's 6 feet deep, I'll start fishing at 4 feet, then adjust until I find the fish. I'll have just that much line out and I'll hold the tip of my rod right at the surface," he said. "And I don't reel the fish in; I just lift the rod like a cane pole."

For lures, Outlaw prefers a 1/6-ounce Rockport Rattler or ProBuilt jighead with either a Crappie Magnet or Midsouth jig body.

"The Rockport Rattler has a built-in rattle, so having that little bit of noise can trigger bites. The ProBuilt jigheads have large, holographic eyes that the crappie really seem attracted to," he said.

Outlaw said sometimes he'll catch a handful of crappie at one spot, then move to another when the bite shuts down. Other times, he will limit out without moving.

"You want to approach those areas gently because you don't want your trolling motor or outboard shredding the grass up," he said. ■

— Brian Cope

SPANISH MACKEREL NUMBERS PEAK ALONG SOUTHERN NC COAST

Trolling for Spanish mackerel off North Carolina's southern beaches is one of the highlights of June fishing.

These smaller members of the mackerel family are favorites of many fishermen. They arrive hungry, usually in fairly large schools, close to inlets or along the beaches, and they taste good. That's a combination many fishermen look forward to each year, and the fishing hits a peak during June.

The first Spanish mackerel may arrive in late April in warm years, and their numbers grow during May. By June, their numbers are at their highest.

Prime locations for Spanish are on the tide lines just outside Masonboro, Carolina Beach, Cape Fear, Lockwood Folly, Shalotte and Little River inlets. They may also be around any of the many nearshore artificial reefs or rocks. Some adventuresome fishermen troll the edges of Frying Pan Shoals, where wind and current push baitfish against the shoals and Spanish mackerel follow to feast.

The standard method for catching Spanish is trolling small, flashy lures. The trolling speed is brisk, but Spanish are quick and can easily catch anything that grabs their interest. Clark Spoons are the long-time favorite lures for Spanish mackerel. The smaller Nos. 0 and 00 sizes usually catch more fish during spring and summer; larger lures also produce in the fall when bait and fish are larger.

Other similar spoons include the Huntington Drone in Nos. 0 and 00 and the Tony Accetta Pet 13. Mackerel tree, mackerel duster and straw rigs also catch well. Mackerel tree rigs use several short pieces of colored surgical tubing, with a Clark Spoon at the end, to make a multiple-hook rig. A straw rig is similar, but uses 1- to 2-inch pieces of drinking straws instead of tubing. A mackerel duster rig uses a skirt (duster) a foot or so ahead of the spoon.

Spoons are fished on long mono or fluorocarbon leaders behind trolling sinkers and/or small planers, and occasionally, a surface line is added. Using different trolling sinker weights and planer sizes allows fishing at different depths to locate where Spanish are feeding. If fish show a preference for a specific

Conditions are perfect in June for Spanish mackerel to gang up off the beaches along North Carolina's southern coast.



Jerry Dilsaver

depth, the spread is easily adjusted.

Fishermen who prefer casting usually have good luck with bright or flashy lures like Got-Chas, Jigfish, Hopkins and Sting-silvers. One not-so-secret tip is Got-Chas with gold hooks catch much better. Whatever you use, the retrieve speed is quick. If they want it, they'll catch it. ■

— Jerry Dilsaver

Dolphin up next >



Pig Cookers, Patio Grills, Smokers Customized BBQ Trailers



For More Info **1-252-236-4464**
www.BQGRILLS.com
6043 Hwy 301N, Elm City, NC



DOLPHIN PUSH SHALLOW OFF SC

Warming neashore waters attract hungry bluewater fish

Through the colder months, bluewater anglers painfully await the spring run of dolphin into South Carolina's waters.

When the warm, spring breezes arrive, anglers know it's time to head to deep, deep waters to intercept dolphin on their northward migration. But as spring begins to give way to summer, the waves of dolphin eventually make a westerly turn. And for clever offshore junkies, a limit of dolphin is trading water in shallower places, much closer to the dock than ever before.

According to Ned Campbell of Murrells Inlet Outpost, an offshore captain, June can be an excellent month for raking in a limit of shiny-faced dolphin close to the beach.

"Typically, the dolphin run begins in late April to early May and will continue into June out near the Break," said Campbell (843-651-6602). "But when the water gets warmer nearshore, the dolphin shift 20 miles inshore and can provide a hot bite in 120 to 130 feet of water."

During the spring, dolphin move up from the Florida coast and ride the edge of the 78-degree temperature break all the way to the Carolinas. Since waters inshore of the Gulf Stream are cool during the spring, the dolphin have a defined edge they use to migrate. But when the waters heat up along the beaches, the temperature break is less discernible, and that draws dolphin in shallower to places that support life — and specifically baitfish.

"When the dolphin stop riding the temperature break, they move inshore to feed. We start targeting dolphin in June along live bottom in 120 to 130 feet of water, or approximately 45 miles from Murrells Inlet," said Campbell, who will troll over livebottom areas with rigged ballyhoo and keep his eyes out for any type of



Amber Keener

Dolphin are primarily a bluewater fish, but when nearshore waters off the South Carolina coast warm into the high-70s, they'll move much closer to the beach.

floating debris. Dolphin will associate with floating structure anytime it is available.

"Any sort of debris in the water is absolutely worth the effort to check it out — and any type of debris, including weeds, trash, a Mylar balloon, wood pallet, Christmas tree or whatever. One of my best days ever was next to a full palm tree with the root system and all," he said.

While any type of debris can hold dolphin, Campbell prefers older debris with vegetative growth.

"I like debris with algae, barnacles and other stuff growing on it. The older stuff usually holds more bait and are more likely to hold fish," he said.

Campbell will troll the edges of the debris, and if he gets a knockdown, he will circle back and troll back through again. However,

dolphin will also show themselves around these debris piles, and anglers can use a bait-and-switch technique.

"I will cut up ballyhoo into 1-inch chunks and start throwing it in the water by the handful. Then, I will have a pitch bait ready with a single hook. When they start eating the chum, I pitch the bait in there with the hook, and the fun begins," He said.

While some offshore anglers believe dolphin fishing is over in June, nothing could be further from the truth. When the waters begin to heat up along the beach, anglers just need to re-align their trajectory to closer destination for some spectacular dolphin fishing off the coast of Murrells Inlet. ■

— Jeff Burseson

Russell Bass up next >

THE COOLEST SHIRT YOU'LL EVER OWN.

SPORTSMAN COOL BREEZE

NEW COLORS AND STYLES NOW AVAILABLE



AMERICA'S #1 RATED PERFORMANCE FISHING SHIRT

- Quick-Dry Moisture Support
- 50+ Sun Protection
- Anti-Microbial/Odor Control
- Vented for Superior Breathability



SPORTSMANGEAR.COM

New colors & options available online

Guide Jerry Kotal catches plenty of Lake Russell bass on small worms fished on drop-shot rigs.

RUSSELL BASS

will respond to June weather trends



Pat Robertson

it back and forth with a steady retrieve — more or less walking the dog. You might also catch some fish early on a Pop-R.”

Top spots are shallow points, according to Kotal (706-988-0860).

“You want to work the lure across a shallow underwater ridge with a sharp drop-off on the sides. If the fish are not shallow then move to deeper points,” he said.

If you don’t pick up a large-mouth or two doing this, you probably aren’t going to catch one that day, Kotal said. If they aren’t biting, it’s time to move deeper and hunt up some spotted bass.

“When the early bite is over, you have to move out and work a drop-shot around deep brush piles,” he said. “You should be fishing probably 20 to 25 feet deep with a finesse worm off creek channels and main points.”

Let the drop-shot hit the bottom and shake it, just enough to move the worm, Kotal said. If you mark fish at a certain depth on the graph, drop the rig at that level and see what happens.

While bass usually are not schooled up in June like they will be in the fall, he said, if you catch one spotted bass you sometimes will catch three or four on the same spot. A good day in June can produce between 10 and 20 bass. ■

— Pat Robertson

June may not be the best month for bass fishing on South Carolina’s Lake Russell — the water is heating up, and fish are in transition after the spawn — but none of that matters to an angler. When he wants to pit his skills against America’s most-popular gamefish, he goes fishing.

While Russell bass tend to be tight-mouthed in June, you can still catch fish with a little patience and perseverance, according to guide Jerry Kotal of Elberton, Ga.

“You just have to go fishing and see what happens,” said Kotal. “It all depends on the weather.”

The long, cold winter had spring water temperatures unseasonably low through April. If the trend continues into June, bass could still be in somewhat of a springtime phase and holding shallow, he said. But if the weather has already started turning summer-hot, and water temperatures are rising, it could push bass into deeper water and harder to find.

“It’s possible you could still catch some on points with a Fluke and lures like that, possibly a topwater lure,” Kotal said. “I would go early and try to catch a large-mouth or two on topwater. I’d throw a Sammy or something similar and twitch

TUCKERTOWN BASS ADAPTING TO CHANGES

New habitat has altered summer fishery on NC lake

Fishermen and fish have successfully adjusted to dramatic habitat changes at North Carolina's Tuckertown Lake.

At one time, Tuckertown was a crankbait fisherman's paradise in June, when quality bass moved from the shallows and congregated at offshore structure: high spots, points and rock ledges. A limit of 3- to 4-pounders could be caught from one spot.

Then, elodea and black-mat algae inundated the 2,600-acre lake, choking out many productive cranking places. The algae destroyed the canary reed grass that lined the banks and gradually extended out as deep as 12 feet. Cranking became limited to areas free of algae, so fishermen adjusted accordingly.

Brandon Shaver and Chad Cook, two Albemarle, N.C., anglers, made the necessary adjustments.

"With the outbreak of grass, the fish have stayed shallower than usual in June, sometimes in only several feet of water," Shaver said. "In the mornings, we catch fish by working frogs and buzzbaits through the grass."

During the day, they probe the grass with jigs and plastics. When that bite ceases, they target rocks and stumps in 10 to 12 feet of water with shaky heads jigs and crankbaits in parrot color.

Over the past few years, the lake's habitat has changed again. Much of the elodea has been eliminated. Unfortunately, the untreatable black-mat algae has spread, cloaking the shoreline cover and tree laps. Fishermen often drag out a 3-pound bass mired in about 5 pounds of algae from the mats.

Consequently, Shaver and Cook rely more on the frog; it's one of the few baits



Tuckertown Lake still produces plenty of big bass in June, but fishermen have had to change some tactics.

that can be maneuvered through the algae.

Without the grass cover, Shaver and Cook believe more bass are moving once again to deep water.

Mark and Audrey Bayse of Thomasville, N.C., successful competitors in tournament at Tuckertown, have learned to cope. They fish topwaters and frogs in the morning using 7-foot rods and high-speed reels for sound hooksets and for moving the fish quickly out of cover.

During the day, they drag Zoom Ol' Monster worms in black or black/grape along rock bottoms 8 to 12 feet deep.

"We drag the river channel where it comes close to points, because these places have less algae," said Mark.

Tuckertown's have adjusted as well. Despite the changes in habit, the lake still yields plenty of 18- to 20-pound stringers.

— Tony Garitta

Harris Bass up next >

HARRIS BASS TURN ACTIVE

Post-spawn behind them, they're feeding

Shearon Harris is a nationally known lake famous for its plentiful, potbellied bass. But when is the best time to fish here?

According to Jaime Fajardo of Fuquay-Varina, N.C., June is the best month for numbers of bass as they settle down on main-lake points and flats, feeding up ahead of summer water temperatures.

"The beginning of June is a big transition at Harris," Fajardo said. "The main forage is going to start turning into shad as the fish move out of the creeks and into deeper water, and those fish are going to be hungry. They're recovering from the spawn and trying to fatten up for the summer. They school up really well, where you can catch 5 to 20 fish out of a school. It's just a matter of finding them on your electronics."

The main-lake points Fajardo prefers are long and tapering, covering water in the 13- to 16-foot range. They will be on the shallower end of this range, and Fajardo will scan them first before hitting the points after the sun gets up. Generally lacking the stumps and rocks of most lakes, anglers must cover water until their sonar screen lights up with arches, rather than blind casting. Fajardo likes the points outside of Little White Oak Creek and Skeet's Gut to be particularly profitable but said that points outside any of the creeks are worth the effort.

With bass in a feeding frame of mind, Fajardo leans on moving baits like crankbaits or swimbaits to simulate the shad or small white perch on which they will be keying.

"I like the Tennessee shad color in a Strike King 6XD or 5XD crankbait," he said. "You'll be dredging bottom with it, but not really bouncing off anything. Yee Ha Baits out of Winston-Salem makes a heck of a swimbait. I'll use the 4½-inch in a Tennessee shad or Yadkin shad. They come pre-rigged with a ¾-ounce weight, so you can fish all depths of the water column. If the fish are suspended, I'll count it down. But most of the time, I hop it off the bottom like stroking a jig."

Although bass are most likely to pounce on a fast-moving bait this time of year, there will always be those high-pressure, bluebird sky days where fish can be found, but not caught. Here, Fajardo tosses a 10-inch Zoom Ol' Monster worm on a Carolina or Texas rig and works it slowly through the school. Once he gets the school fired up by enticing a couple of bites, he switches back to the crankbait. ■

— Dusty Wilson



Jaime Fajardo said Shearon Harris Lake bass will gang up on main-lake points this month, feeding up after the post-spawn period ends before the summer doldrums arrive.

Dusty Wilson

Guide Billy Murphy said the June striper and hybrid bite on Clarks Hill Lake doesn't last very long in the morning, but it can be awesome before the fish shut own.



STRIPERS, HYBRIDS UP EARLY IN JUNE

Clarks Hill action can be fast and furious this month

Pat Robertson

Fishing for striped bass and hybrids in June on Clarks Hill Lake is usually an early morning thing, a quick bite and over, according to guide Billy Murphy.

One morning last June, Murphy and his twin sons took two boats with guide parties out fishing the same underwater hump, and within 90 minutes, they had put 52 fish in the boats.

"We were fishing right off the bottom — two to three cranks up — in 77- to 84-degree water," Murphy said. "It's a good thing we were catching them before the sun came up and it got hot. We usually get to our (spot) by 5 or 5:15 a.m., and the latest we limited out was about 7:30."

In June, Murphy (706-339-4784) concentrates on areas near the dam, up the Savannah River and Little River and

Keg Creek. Fish seem to concentrate on humps between 20 and 40 feet deep, with 30 feet being prime.

"One particular place we fish this time of year is Trade Winds Marina in Keg Creek. There is a place where the fish hang out, 30 feet deep, almost at the mouth of where the creek comes into the Savannah River. Most of the fish will be staying close to the main channel of the Savannah River, and we catch them in the creeks and channels running off it."

Murphy said a lot of the bigger stripers — 10- to 20-pound fish — were lost in a major fish kill two years ago.

"It's really hard to find any fish in that size class now, but we are catching a lot of fish at 7, 8 and 9 pounds and one or two 10 pounds and over. Right now, the biggest fish will be about 12 pounds."

He said striper/hybrid fishing in June is a "quick bite."

"When those fish quit, it's time to move to another hole."

As the month progresses and the summer heat begins to build, the water temperature rises, and once it gets into the mid-80s, he said, fish go deeper, and fishermen have to go hunting in deeper water to find them.

Then in July, before the fish get in the summer doldrums and hover around the oxygen line running out of the Modoc area, they start schooling on top, he said.

"They will be chasing shad on top. We troll Little Fishies and lures like that through them," he said. ■

— Pat Robertson

Hunting/Fishing
SCRAPBOOK



Carson Dayvault

Carson Dayvault, 9, caught this 11½-pound sheepshead fishing with guide Doug Martin off Hatteras Inlet.



Greyson Varley

Greyson Varley caught this big red drum in the Bay River in Pamlico County, N.C., in September 2016.



Alston Watkins

Alston Watkins caught this striper in North Carolina's Tar River on Jan. 16, 2017, with guide Richard Andrews.



Jack Burton

Jack Burton, 12, from Rock Hill, S.C., killed his first buck, this 8-pointer, in Chester County on Dec. 29, 2017.



Dylan Wolfe

Dylan Wolfe, 6, from Raleigh, N.C., killed his first gobbler on April 13, 2017, in Orange County with a .410 at 9 yards.

**GOT PHOTOS?
WE WANT 'EM**

Send us your photos, and you may appear on the pages of Carolina Sportsman magazine. Send clean, sharp shots of you with your fish, deer, ducks, rabbits, squirrels, doves, etc. to

**Hunting/Fishing Scrapbook,
433 Hollinswood Ave.,
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27103
or to dank@carolinasportsman.com**

Digital images must be at least 200KB and in jpeg format. Print photos cannot be returned.



Hutch Johnson

Hutch Johnson took this nice 8-point buck last fall near Mayesville, S.C.



Judy Russo

Judy Russo caught her first bull redfish on a trip with Capt. Tommy Scarborough out of Georgetown, S.C., last fall.



Brian Wardlow

Brian Wardlaw of Greenville, S.C., killed this 8-point, 180-pound buck in the mountains of Greenville County last Nov. 29.



Matthew Smith

Matthew Smith of Fayetteville, N.C., caught this 40-inch bull red late October off Holden Beach.



Casey Miles

Casey Miles caught this 4½-pound bass in a pond near Lugoff, S.C., last fall.



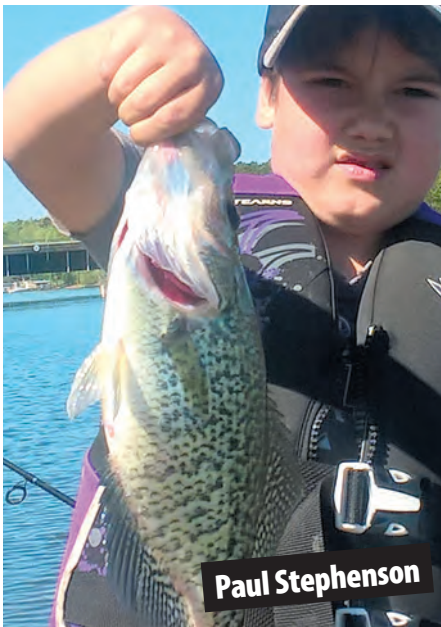
Matt Gentry

Matt Gentry caught this 26-inch speckled trout that weighed almost 6 pounds, near Wrightsville Beach, N.C.



Kenny Browndorf

Kenny Browndorf of Raleigh, N.C., caught this 26-inch red in the surf at Portsmouth Island in March 2017.



Paul Stephenson

Paul Stephenson caught his first crappie in March 2017 at North Carolina's High Rock Lake.



Garrett Reeves

Garrett Reeves, 9, from Denver, N.C., killed his first deer last fall at 50 yards with a crossbow.



Cody Dean Leonard

Cody Dean Leonard, 12, from Davidson County, N.C., killed this Montgomery County 8-pointer with a .243.

Guides & Charters

Display Ads

1/16 Page BW\$70/mn*

1/8 Page BW\$120/mn*

*Based on Pre-Paid 12 Month Contract

To place an ad in Guides & Charters

Ron (NC) - 252.299.2138
or ronc@carolinasportsman.com

Bret (SC) - 843.442.7250
or breth@carolinasportsman.com

INSHORE

Noah's Ark CHARTERS
Cape Lookout, NC
252-342-6911 • 252-504-3139



Custom Inshore Fishing and Tour Charters Designed just for you!
www.noahsarkfishingcharters.com

DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE
1907 Paulette Rd
Morehead City, NC 28557
info@downeastguideservice.com
www.downeastguideservice.com



PAMLICO SOUND / ORIENTAL

- TARPON
- GIANT RED DRUM
- TROUT, DRUM, FLOUNDER

CAPE LOOKOUT/ ATLANTIC BEACH

- COBIA
- ALBIES

ROANOKE AND NEUSE RIVER STRIPERS

ALSO: COSTA RICA SAILFISH, TARPON AND ROOSTERFISH. ARGENTINA DUCK AND DOVE HUNTS.

252-671-3474
Call Capt. George Beckwith, Jr

Highlander Charters, Inc
Capt. Ron McPherson • Atlantic Beach, NC



25' Parker CC w/225hp 4-Stroke Yamaha

Let's Go Fishing

1/4 Day (2.5 hrs) • Tours • Ponies, Birds, Dolphins, etc.
1/2 day (5 hrs) • Sound, Near Shore
3/4 day (7 hrs) • Sound, Near Shore, Up to 8 miles out
Full Day (9 hrs) • Sound, Near Shore, Up to 8 miles out
This includes tackle, bait, ice, and fishing license. Party size is 1 - 6. Ladies & children are welcome. Call for prices.

mcp221ab@earthlink.net
www.highlanderchartersinc.com
252-723-8616

POGIE'S
SWANSBORO, NC
910-325-7876
www.pogiesfishing.com


LET US PLAN YOUR DAY ON THE WATER!



At Pogie's you can find a variety of guided and unguided trips to book. Whether by boat or kayak, YOU can go on nature tours, fishing trips, island exploration, or self guided paddle trips.

Turkey Hill Whitetails
PENNSYLVANIA

Specializing in Trophy Whitetails



To Experience your hunt of a Lifetime give us a call 814-592-4351
turkeyhillwhitetailhunts.com

HUNTING

DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE
1907 Paulette Rd.
Morehead City, NC 28557
info@downeastguideservice.com
www.downeastguideservice.com
252-671-3474
*With 4 adult full fare hunts

OFFSHORE

DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE
1907 Paulette Rd.
Morehead City, NC 28557
info@downeastguideservice.com
www.downeastguideservice.com



Your Costa Rica Connection

Dragon Fly

42' Maverick, the Dragon Fly
Not just fishing trips, also honeymoons, family and surf trips available. Packages include a variety of hotels and condo options, all ground transportation, guides, tours and fishing.

Also Costa Rica Tarpon
Argentina Duck and Dove Hunting
North Carolina Inshore/Offshore

Special discounts May-September
252-671-3474

HUNTING

Hunt Argentina



Kids Dove Hunt FREE

All inclusive packages for dove and duck hunting in Argentina. Limit of 50 ducks/person/day

No Limit Doves

DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE
1907 Paulette Rd.
Morehead City, NC 28557
info@downeastguideservice.com
www.downeastguideservice.com
252-671-3474
*With 4 adult full fare hunts

HUNTING

BLACK RIVER PLANTATION
803-883-8747
www.blackriverplantationsc.com
1390 Epps Rd • New Zion, SC



Call Us to Book A Combo Hunt!!!



2 Day/3 Night at \$600 per Man

CHEROKEE RUN
Hunting Lodge

Hunt deer, wild boar and turkey in the wilds of South Carolina



Trophy Managed Whitetail on the Great Pee Dee River



Trophy Wild Boar in the SC Swamps

NIGHT Hog: March 1 - July 1
SC Rifle Deer: Sept 1 - Jan 1
SC Wild Boar: Year round Season
SC Turkey: April 1 - May 1
Dear/Boar or Turkey/Boar Combos

Located on the border in beautiful Chesterfield County SC, one hour from Charlotte, NC. Comfortable lodging including satellite TV, pool table, bass ponds, rifle & 3-D archery range.

(704) 301-7950
eatsleephunt.com

Summertime is Fishing Time

Subscribe today
for the best:

- **FISHING REPORTS**
- **TIDE TABLES**
- **HOTSPOTS**
- **HOW-TOS**
- **NEW GEAR**

\$19.99
12 issues



Toll-free

1-855-224-1667

or for faster service visit

CarolinaSportsman.com/subscribe

*Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of first issue



Carolina
SPORTSMAN

ADVERTISERS INDEX

A.K. MCCALLUM CO.....	7	GEICO - SPECIAL MARKETING.....	19	SLEEP INN/MAIN STAY INN.....	56
BLACK RIVER MARINE.....	31	GREG'S OUTBOARDS.....	59	SOUTHSIDE OUTDOORS, LLC.....	34
BLACK RIVER PLANTATION.....	98	HIGHLANDER CHARTERS.....	98	SPORTSMANS WHOLESALE.....	91, 102
BLUE WAVE BOATS.....	9	ISLAND TACKLE AND HARDWARE.....	56	SPRO CORPORATION (THE POWELL GROUP).....	25
BOB'S GUIDE SERVICE ENCHORE.....	25	JD AG & TURF SE (JSE).....	22	SUZUKI MOTOR OF AMERICA, INC.....	50, 51
BQ GRILLS.....	89	K2 MARINE.....	85	TEX'S TACKLE.....	48
BUTLER MARINE.....	103	KING MACKEREL TACKLE.....	32	THE REEL OUTDOORS.....	25
CAPPS TRAILERS.....	20	LEITH NISSAN C/O LEITH MARKETING SERVICES.....	14	TIME OUT SPORTS.....	67
CAROLINA COMPOSITES, LLC.....	4	LIVETARGET.....	57	TURKEY HILL WHITETAILS.....	98
CCA - SOUTH CAROLINA.....	101	MARINE WAREHOUSE.....	28	VOYAGER FISHING FLEET.....	31
CHASIN' TAILS.....	12	NICHOLS STORE, INC.....	64	WATER WORLD.....	18
CHATLEE BOAT AND MARINE.....	5, 26, 61, 69, 75, 77, 100	NOAH'S ARK FISHING CHARTERS.....	98	WHITETAIL PROPERTIES.....	13
CHEROKEE RUN HUNTING LODGE.....	73, 98	OAK ISLAND REALTY INC.....	73	WHITLEY POWER EQUIPMENT, INC.....	42
CLOVER ENTERPRISES.....	67	PALMETTO BRUSH CONTROL.....	63	WILEY X.....	40, 41
COLLINS INC.....	104	PALMETTO STATE TRAINING.....	20	XPRESS BY ALUMA-WELD, INC.....	2
COLUMBIA SPORTSWEAR CO.....	49	PERFORMANCE EAST INC.....	83	YAMAHA MOTOR COMPANY.....	39
DOWN EAST GUIDE SERVICE.....	98	PINEY ISLAND GUN CLUB.....	73	YOPP BROTHERS.....	55
DUDLEY'S MARINA.....	32	P-LINE /G. PUCCI & SONS.....	79		
E.Z. BAIT AND TACKLE.....	59	POGIE'S.....	46, 98		
EAST COAST SPORTS.....	46	POWER MARINE OUTFITTERS.....	35		
EVERGREEN PAPER PRODUCTS.....	67	PRECISION MARINE, INC.....	17, 47		
EXCEL BOATS.....	3	RAY'S TRACTORS.....	73		
G3 BOATS.....	27	SARAH JUDY'S INSURANCE AGENCY.....	73		
		SASSER GOLF CARS.....	21		

Get decked out in the latest from the **SPORTSMAN** Store91, 102

Subscribe Today and SAVE 101

NEED CASH FAST?

Prefer 15' - 24'
and 2005 Year Model or Newer
**SKIFF • PONTOON • BAY BOAT
DECK BOAT • RUNABOUT
FISH & SKI • CENTER CONSOLE
ALUMINUM BASS BOAT**

**We Will Buy
Your Boat!**

CALL ROBBIE!
919-775-7259
www.chatleeboats.com

Powered by

GO FISH!



**2nd Annual
STAR Tournament**

**May 26 thru
September 3, 2018**

2 Grand Prizes

2018 Sea Hunt BX 22 BR Bay Boats

Packages include F-150 Yamaha &
Wesco Dual-Axle Trailer*

Sponsored by



*Does not include t-top.

**GO TO CCASOUTHCAROLINA.COM FOR ENTRY
OR CALL (803) 865-4164**



**COASTAL
CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION**

SOUTH CAROLINA

MAKE YOUR DAD THE COOLEST.

SPORTSMAN COOL BREEZE
NEW COLORS AND STYLES NOW AVAILABLE

**FREE
NECK WRAP**
with purchase of any
Cool Breeze shirt.

Use Code
SportsmanDad to
redeem.

AMERICA'S #1 RATED PERFORMANCE FISHING SHIRT

- Quick-Dry Moisture Support
- 50+ Sun Protection
- Anti-Microbial/Odor Control
- Vented for Superior Breathability



SPORTSMANGEAR.COM

New colors & options available online

BUTLER Marine

Come check out the all
NEW  **WORLDCAT 280CC-X**

A better boating experience
begins with a better boat



Chris



Jim



2018  **WORLDCAT 280CC-X**



191 DC

STINGRAY
POWERBOATS



The 182SC starting at
\$25,995

STINGRAY
POWERBOATS

Come check the  **STINGRAY** models powered by **Yamaha** Outboards

TWO LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

70 Sea Island Pkwy
Beaufort, SC
843.522.9461

3590 Savannah Hwy
Charleston, SC
(at the corner of Savannah Hwy & Main Rd)
843.576.2233



YAMAHA

REATA[®] PONTBOONS

by Ranger[®]

IN STOCK & READY FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY



Introducing
SHERP
The Ultimate ATV!!
www.sherpnc.com



Hwy 70 Exit 337 • Smithfield, NC • 919-934-3143

www.collinsboating.com



- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 