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Issue 305



Pre-spawn
Finesse Fishing

Time For Jerkbaits

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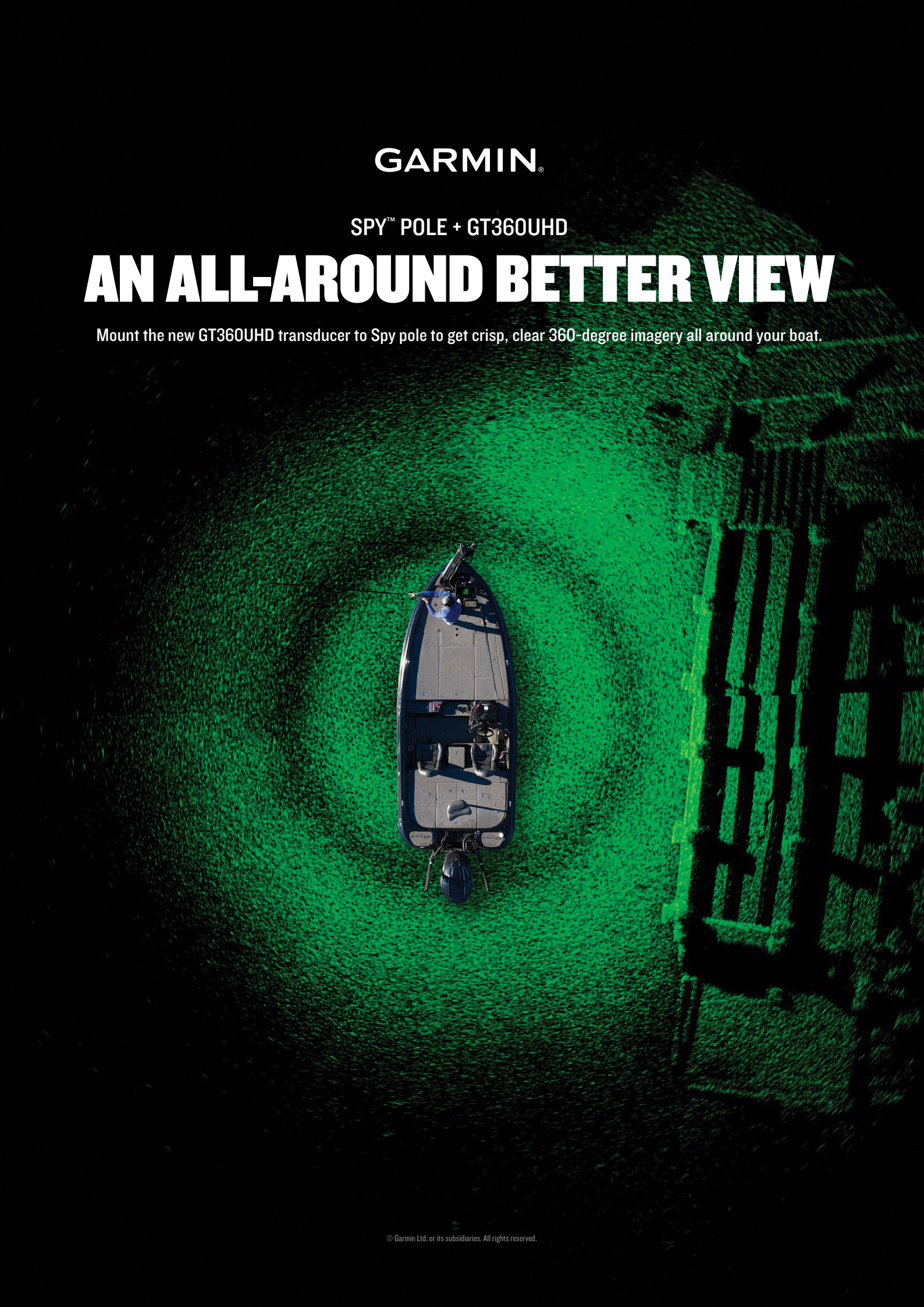

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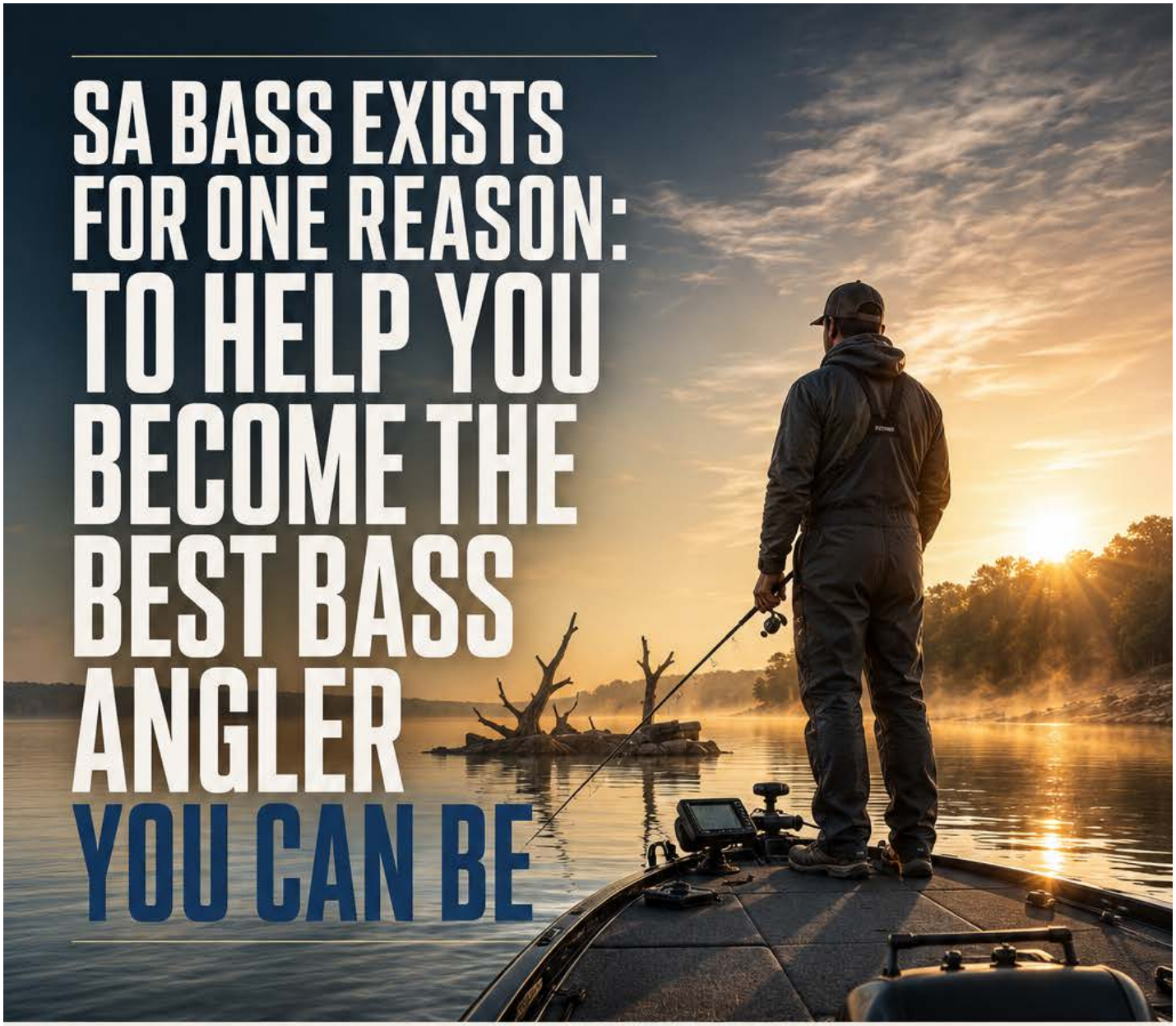

SA BASS EXISTS FOR ONE REASON: TO HELP YOU BECOME THE BEST BASS ANGLER YOU CAN BE

Great anglers aren't defined by the boats they own or the tackle they buy. They're defined by the decisions they make before every cast.

They are defined by the decisions they make.

Every article in this magazine has one purpose – to help you understand bass better, think more clearly on the water, and ultimately catch more and bigger bass.

Because catching more bass doesn't begin with a lure.
It begins with the way you think.

SA BASS baars MAGAZINE

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About SA BASS magazine:

SA BASS, which is editorially and financially independent, is a monthly magazine catering exclusively for the bass angling community in Southern Africa. SA BASS is distributed country-wide to outlets, not only in South Africa, but also in Namibia, Swaziland and Botswana.

SA BASS is designed as a specialist bass fishing publication and has catered for a well-defined niche market since April 2001. It enjoys the support and endorsement of non-government organisations, but is not affiliated in any way to these bodies or to any other publishing, environmental or political interest group.

Our mission is to promote bass angling as a socially acceptable and popular outdoor recreational activity, and in addition, to encourage acceptable angling ethics. As such, SA BASS provides pertinent information on a wide range of subjects. These include providing a platform for informed debate on issues affecting the sport of bass angling, providing information on bass angling strategies and techniques, bass angling waters and opportunities, and also creating awareness of new products.

Within this editorial mix, due consideration is given to developing the sport among all the country's people (including the youth), and to the practical conservation of the country's natural resources.

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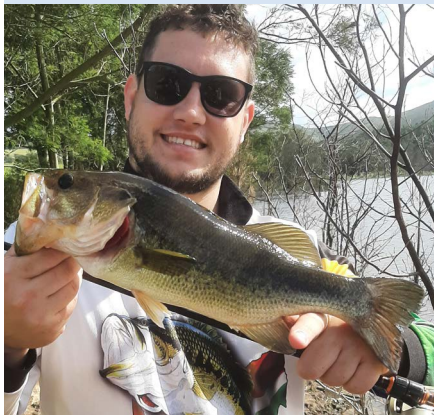

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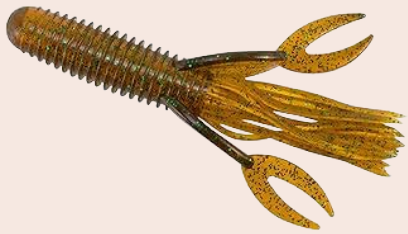

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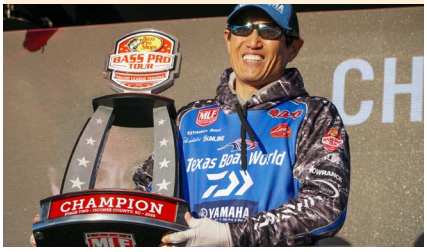

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"3.2kg, Josh Ward, Rhenosterkop Dam, MP"
Image: Maurice Kemp

>>



My Cast

Time to Think Like a Bass

There is something special about bass fishing that keeps us coming back for more. Just when we think we have the fish figured out, they change the rules! A lure that produced fish yesterday might be ignored today, and a spot that looked perfect can leave us wondering whether there is even a bass in the area. But that is exactly what makes bass fishing so rewarding. Every trip gives us another opportunity to learn, adapt and become better anglers.

In this issue of **SA BASS**, we explore several ways to approach those challenging days on the water. Our main feature, *Time for Jerkbaits*, looks at why this versatile lure deserves a place in your tackle box. It is not simply about triggering an aggressive strike; it is also about discovering whether bass are willing to chase a moving target. And when winter begins giving way to spring, our *Pre-spawn Finesse Fishing* feature reminds us that downsizing our presentation and choosing natural-coloured soft plastics can make all the difference.

Then there is *Junk Fishing*. Despite the name, there is nothing random about it. Successful junk fishing requires observation, sound decisions and the willingness to change tactics when the evidence tells us to do so. That ties in nicely with *The Lure and Line Connection*, which challenges us to pay closer attention to what happens between our hands, our line and the lure at the other end. Sometimes, the smallest details reveal the biggest clues.

Our final instalment of *See-Egels* brings this intriguing little bait into the spotlight once more, while *Buisplastiek-aas* encourages us to experiment with a presentation that may deserve far more attention than it receives. And before accepting everything we hear around the dam as gospel, take a moment to read *Die Baars Weet Beter*! Bass fishing is full of myths, and while some may contain a grain of truth, treating them as unbreakable rules can lead us astray. Understanding the difference can save us many frustrating hours on the water.

We also turn our attention to the bass themselves with *Bass Nesting*, explore the remarkable journey of champion Takahiro Omori, and continue our look at the differences between Allison Advantage and Dranckrazy. Our destination feature takes us to Renanda, where history and bass fishing come together.

As always, our regular columns and departments offer more to explore, from the practical advice in *Basics for Beginners* and *Gear Up* to *Water Levels in South Africa*.

So, whether you are a weekend angler, a tournament competitor or someone still learning to read the water, I hope this issue gives you something useful to take along on your next trip.

Remember, catching more and bigger bass is not always about buying another lure. Sometimes, it is about understanding the lure you already have, recognising what the fish are telling you, and being willing to try something different.

Until next time, may your lines sing with joy!

May your lines sing with joy!

Hannes Lindeque, *Publisher*



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Strike King KVD Clown Coloured Jerkbait

Time for Jerkbaits

Sometimes, the difference between a frustrating day and a memorable one is understanding what makes a bass react.

I was already sold on the design of a new jerkbait when I was introduced to the latest slash bait in an impressive range of lures. The various colours were displayed with obvious enthusiasm, but it was the conversation that followed that really caught my attention. A clown-coloured lure was held up, a few words were exchanged about some exceptional fishing, and the response was a knowing grin accompanied by a reminder to keep a sharp hook!

I wasn't entirely sure what was being discussed, but I had a feeling these experienced anglers knew something about this new lure that I was about to discover for myself.

Whenever I encourage novice anglers to keep a small selection of jerkbaits in their tackle boxes, I can almost predict the reaction. They look at the treble hooks and feathered tail, then back at me with an expression that seems to ask, "You're seriously telling me I should spend my money on this thing, throw it out there, jerk it around and hope a bass suddenly loses its mind?"

I understand the scepticism. A jerkbait doesn't look or behave like the soft plastics and other familiar lures many anglers rely on. Yet I've rarely experienced such rapid success with bass as I have when fishing a jerkbait under the right conditions, particularly during spring.



Don't dismiss that feathered tail jerkbait

The secret isn't simply to retrieve the lure as quickly as possible or to jerk the rod with all the enthusiasm you can muster. Its appeal lies in the way it darts, flashes, changes direction and pauses. To a bass watching nearby, that sudden, unpredictable movement can present an opportunity to attack what appears to be vulnerable prey.

And that pause? It can be just as important as the movement itself. The lure may have attracted the fish's attention with its erratic action, but the moment it hesitates can provide the opportunity for the bass to commit. Understanding this changes the way you fish the lure. Instead of trying to make it look increasingly frantic, you begin to think about how each movement might trigger a response.

Three memorable fishing experiences convinced me that this unusual-looking lure deserves a permanent place in my tackle box.

My first real eye-opener came after a major bass tournament, when I had an opportunity to join the winner on the water to photograph and document his success. We had very little time available, and my host seemed confident that we could catch a few fish quickly before I had to leave.

I wasn't so sure.

We travelled barely a kilometre from the launching area before stopping alongside another slipway. The bank was lined with a retaining wall, and to me it looked like just another stretch of water. With so little time available, I wondered whether we were about to waste precious minutes in an unremarkable spot.



Spring is a great time to tie on a jerkbait

My host selected a jerkbait rod, handed it to me and said, "Go for it!"

I cast towards the wall, jerked the lure back twice and was immediately rewarded with a violent strike. The rod loaded up, and I had my first bass on a jerkbait.

Five casts later, I had landed five fish, all weighing in the region of 1.5kg.

I was astonished. My host, on the other hand, seemed completely unfazed. What felt extraordinary to me was apparently nothing unusual to someone who understood what that stretch of water could offer.

I took a few photographs and left within the hour, still wondering how fishing could suddenly become so productive.

Looking back, the lesson was bigger than the number of fish caught. My host had confidence in the location and in the lure he had selected. He didn't need to spend an hour covering water or experimenting with a dozen different presentations. He believed the fish were there and gave them an opportunity to respond.

That is an important distinction. A productive lure doesn't make every stretch of water productive. Success comes from putting the right presentation in front of fish that are likely to respond to it.



A shallow running crankbait

Another memorable experience took place during a September tournament at a dam where submerged timber made fishing particularly challenging. My fishing partner and I were working our way around the structure when we noticed another boat moving through the shallows, probing the pockets between the timber with what appeared to be jerkbaits.

We took note but continued with our own approach.

Shortly afterwards, I hooked what felt like a substantial bass around a tight bend in the river, only to lose it. As we were trying to make sense of the missed opportunity, another angler approached and called across to us, asking that if we caught a bass with a particular jerkbait in its mouth, we should please return it to him!

It was an unusual request and certainly gave us something to think about, but we still didn't change our strategy.

At the end of the day, our suspicions were confirmed when the angler weighed in five impressive bass, including one weighing around 4kg. During the prize-giving, he explained that his strategy had been straightforward: fish jerkbaits around the shallow areas. His biggest fish, he believed, had been even larger, perhaps around 5kg, but had come off right in front of them.

What struck me most was that we had seen another angler doing something different, had received a clue about his lure choice and still carried on as before.

It's easy to watch another angler catch fish and dismiss the result as luck, or assume that a particular lure simply



A deep diving crankbait

happens to be working that day. But when the evidence begins to accumulate, it is worth asking whether there is something important we are overlooking.

Perhaps the fish are using shallower water than we thought. Perhaps they are responding to a faster, more erratic presentation. Or perhaps the lure is allowing the angler to cover likely areas efficiently while giving the bass a compelling opportunity to strike.

The point is not to copy another angler blindly. It is to recognise useful information and test whether it explains what is happening around you.

My third experience came during an October school holiday trip with friends. After an evening of fishing stories around the campfire, we were eager to get onto the water the following morning. We packed lunch, launched the boat and headed towards a bank with scattered grass and submerged brush piles.

Another angler was already fishing in approximately two metres of water, so we settled closer to the bank in about a metre of water. The conditions were magnificent, and the combination of shallow water, grass and submerged cover looked promising.

I selected a 5cm jerkbait with silver and gold sides and sent my first cast towards the bank.

After only three jerks, a bass surged out of the water and attacked the lure. The sudden strike travelled straight through the rod into my hands, delivering that unmistakable jolt that makes bass fishing so addictive.

The next hour was spent catching fish one after another. Our earlier caution disappeared as the action continued, and it became one of those spring mornings that stays with you long after the tackle has been packed away.

That experience reinforced something I had begun to learn from the earlier outings: the jerkbait's greatest strength is not simply its ability to provoke an aggressive strike. It allows you to search likely water while presenting a moving target that can trigger a reaction from nearby bass.

Of course, there is no guarantee that a jerkbait will produce the same results on every outing. Bass behaviour changes with water temperature, light, clarity, depth, available forage and fishing pressure. Even during spring, conditions can differ considerably from one dam to the next.

A shallow, sunlit bank with scattered grass may hold actively feeding fish, while a nearby stretch of water with similar-looking cover may produce very little. The difference could lie in depth, water temperature, forage or the position of the fish within the available cover.

This is where an experienced angler begins to think differently. Rather than asking only which lure to use, the angler asks why bass should be in that particular area in the first place. If the conditions suggest that fish are feeding in shallow water, a jerkbait may be an excellent way to test that theory. If the fish are holding deeper or refusing to chase, a different presentation may be more appropriate.

The same reasoning applies to lure selection. The 5cm silver-and-gold jerkbait that worked so well during my spring outing is a reminder that a relatively small lure can produce impressive fish. But it isn't a universal formula. A natural-looking finish may be appropriate in clear water, while a more visible colour may help fish locate the lure in stained conditions.



Jerkbaits can trigger a reaction from nearby bass

What matters is not simply choosing a colour that looks attractive in the tackle box. It is considering how the lure will appear in the water and whether its size, action and visibility suit the conditions.

The retrieve deserves the same attention. If a bass follows without striking, it may be worth adjusting the speed or allowing a slightly longer pause. If fish are reacting aggressively, there may be no reason to slow things down unnecessarily. A missed strike can also provide useful information: the fish has already shown interest, so before abandoning the lure, consider whether a change in presentation might make the next opportunity count.

One of the easiest mistakes is to assume that more action must produce more strikes. In reality, the objective is not to make the lure move as wildly as possible. It is to create a movement that gives the bass a reason to attack.

Pay attention to where the fish strikes, too. Does it happen beside a grass edge, close to submerged timber or over a slightly deeper pocket? Does the strike come immediately after the lure starts moving, or when it pauses? If several fish respond under similar circumstances, you may have discovered a pattern worth following elsewhere.

That is when a jerkbait becomes more than a lure. It becomes a way of learning about the fish.

The most successful anglers don't simply celebrate a catch and move on. They use it to ask better questions. If one fish responds to a particular presentation in a certain type of cover, where else might similar fish be holding? If the next few casts produce nothing, is the pattern breaking down, or have they moved into water where a different approach is needed?

Those questions help turn an exciting catch into a repeatable strategy.

I still remember the astonishing run of fish from those outings and the sheer excitement of watching bass attack a jerkbait. But the lasting lesson is not that this lure can make bass fishing seem ridiculously easy. It is that understanding why a lure works allows you to recognise when to use it, where to try it and what to change when the fish don't respond.

So, the next time the bass seem reluctant to cooperate, don't dismiss that strange-looking lure with the treble hooks and feathered tail. Try it around suitable cover, pay attention to the fish's response and allow what happens to guide your next decision.

You might be surprised by what happens after just a few casts.

The big lesson

A jerkbait is more than a lure that provokes an aggressive strike. It is a way to test whether bass in a particular area will respond to a moving, vulnerable-looking target. When you understand why the fish are likely to be there and pay attention to how they react, you can turn an isolated catch into a pattern that helps you find more fish.

Think like a pro

Before your next cast, ask yourself:

- What makes this particular stretch of water attractive to bass under the current conditions?
- What is the fish telling me through its response to the lure's movement, speed and pauses?
- If I catch a fish here, where else might I find similar conditions and the same pattern?

Take it to the water

On your next outing, take a small selection of jerkbaits and spend some time testing them around likely shallow-water areas. Start with a controlled retrieve, then vary the speed and pauses rather than changing everything at once.

When you catch a fish, remember where it struck and what the lure was doing at that moment. Look for similar cover and conditions nearby. If nothing happens, resist the temptation to blame the lure immediately. Consider whether the fish may be holding deeper, whether the conditions favour a different presentation or whether you need to search another area.

Your challenge is to discover a pattern rather than simply catch a fish.

And when that rod suddenly loads up and a bass explodes on the other end, you'll understand why a jerkbait can be such an exciting addition to your tackle box. Sometimes, a little confidence, a few well-chosen casts and a better understanding of bass behaviour are all it takes to turn an ordinary morning into a jolly time on the water.

Have fun bass fishing!



Do not simply choose a colour that looks attractive

Pre-spawn Finesse Fishing

Finding the fish between winter and spring



The right presentation can make a productive location come alive

Pre-spawn means different things to different bass anglers. For some, it signals the countdown to spawning season.

For others, it is the time to dust off the tackle, get back on the water and start hunting for that long-awaited personal best. After all, we have often heard that pre-spawn is big-fish season. But while the prospect of catching a trophy is certainly exciting, the real advantage lies in understanding where bass are moving, why they are there and how their behaviour changes as winter gives way to spring.

The first signs of the approaching season are not always dramatic. A subtle change in the weather, a little more warmth from the afternoon sun or the first blossoms appearing on a peach tree may tell us that conditions are beginning to change. Beneath the surface, bass are responding to those changes too, although not necessarily in the way many anglers expect.

One common misconception is that all bass move into deeper water during the colder months, seeking out areas where temperatures may be slightly more stable and where they are less exposed to wind and sudden changes in conditions. There is certainly good reason to explore deeper water in winter, and doing so can produce fish. However, bass do not all abandon their familiar surroundings simply because the temperature drops. Some move deeper, while others remain in the same general area, adjusting their position as conditions change.

This is where a little patience and a willingness to rethink your approach can make all the difference. Bass are predators, and they still need to feed. They may become less willing to chase a fast-moving lure, but that doesn't mean they have disappeared or stopped eating altogether. Often, the challenge is not finding an entirely new area but presenting a lure in a way that suits the fish's current mood.

As the days begin to warm and the first signs of spring become more consistent, bass start preparing for the spawn. During this pre-spawn period, many fish move towards staging areas where they can feed before moving into shallower water to spawn. These areas often provide a convenient combination of deeper water, protective cover and access to feeding opportunities.

Old river channels, contour edges, rocky humps and fallen timber can all offer suitable staging locations. Such features allow bass to move between deeper holding areas and shallower feeding grounds without travelling far. They also provide ambush points from which bass can intercept baitfish and other available prey.

As the water warms, smaller baitfish may become more active around these areas, creating additional feeding opportunities. Bass can patrol the edges individually or occasionally in groups, taking advantage of whatever food becomes available. After the slower periods of winter, these fish need to replenish their energy reserves before the demands of spawning increase.

The important thing to understand is that staging is not a single location or a brief moment in the calendar. It is a movement between areas, influenced by changing conditions and the fish's individual behaviour. A bass may hold close to deeper water one day and move shallower when conditions become favourable. A sudden cold snap can alter that movement again.



Small soft plastics are all worth considering

This is why experienced anglers pay attention to the relationship between depth, cover and nearby structure rather than simply fishing shallow because spring is approaching. If a bank has suitable cover but drops quickly into deeper water, it may offer a more useful combination of feeding opportunities and security than a shallow area with little access to deeper water.

You may also notice that some male bass have already begun clearing potential nesting sites. During the pre-spawn period, clearer water can make these areas easier to spot. A freshly cleared patch of bottom may provide a clue that a fish has been preparing to spawn, and the fish responsible may still be somewhere nearby. However, it is worth remembering that seeing a cleared nest does not guarantee that the fish will be feeding or that it will remain in precisely the same spot.

During the actual spawn, bass may become preoccupied with nesting and can sometimes be difficult to tempt into feeding. Some strikes are driven more by protective behaviour than by hunger. Before that stage, however, staging fish can offer excellent opportunities for anglers who understand how to approach them.

This is where finesse fishing becomes particularly useful.

Pre-spawn water can be clearer than it is during the warmer summer months, making bass more aware of approaching boats, shadows and unnatural presentations. A fish that is beginning to feed actively may still be reluctant to chase a lure that appears too intrusive. Rather than assuming that more movement, a larger bait or a faster retrieve will produce a better response, it can pay to offer something smaller and more subtle.

Small soft plastics such as flukes, minnow imitations, lizards and compact creature baits are all worth considering. My preference is often for baits between 5 and 10cm, lightly rigged on a Mojo-style presentation. This allows the lure to move naturally through the water without always being pinned firmly to the bottom. When bass are holding just above a contour edge or suspending near cover, that can be an important advantage.

The idea is not to make the lure as small as possible simply because the water is clear. It is to give the fish an opportunity to approach and eat something that doesn't look threatening. Natural colours can be a sensible starting point in clear water, while greater visibility may be useful when the water is stained or the lure is being fished deeper. The choice should reflect the conditions rather than personal preference alone.



Natural colours remain a reliable starting point

Line selection also deserves attention. Thinner monofilament or fluorocarbon can help create a less intrusive presentation, particularly when fish are wary and the water is clear. The line must still be suitable for the cover being fished, though. There is little value in presenting a lure delicately if the line cannot handle a bass pulling through submerged roots or timber.

And don't expect every bite to feel the same. Sometimes the take is little more than a soft, spongy sensation, as though the lure has picked up a piece of vegetation. At other times, the line suddenly tightens and the rod loads up with a strike that leaves no doubt about what has happened. Learning to recognise the subtle takes is particularly important when fishing slowly, because the fish may have picked up the bait without delivering an obvious thump.

One outing brought this lesson home in a particularly memorable way.

Two friends and I were fishing from inflatable boats along the outer edge of a patch of lily pads bordering deeper water. It looked promising, and we spent close to an hour working the area without a single bite. We could easily have continued casting, convinced that the fish would eventually respond. Instead, we decided to move.

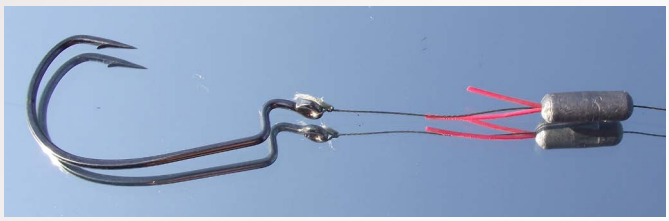
Our next stop was around 1.2 metres deep, where old roots from dead reeds were scattered across the bottom. A deeper contour ran along the outer edge, creating the kind of transition that can make a staging area attractive to bass.

I rigged a Night Fury soft plastic and cast along the edge, allowing the bait to fall among the roots. As it descended, I felt a slight bump. A moment later, the line tightened, and I was into a healthy bass weighing just under a kilogram.

That first fish told us something important. We had found an area where bass were willing to feed, and the combination of cover, depth and presentation was working.

Over the next couple of hours, we landed 61 healthy fish, without a single small one among them.

What made that outing so memorable was not simply the number of fish. It was the contrast between the hour spent fishing apparently promising water without a bite and the action that followed once we found the right combination of location and presentation.



The Mojo-rig

The lily pads had looked attractive, but they had not produced. The reed roots beside the deeper contour offered a different set of conditions, and the lightly presented soft plastic gave the bass an opportunity to respond. We had not necessarily needed a completely different lure or a more complicated technique. We had needed to find fish that were positioned where our presentation could reach them effectively.

That is one of the most valuable lessons in finesse fishing: a subtle presentation cannot compensate for fishing in the wrong place, but the right presentation can make a productive location come alive.

It is also worth remembering that staging areas can continue to produce as fish move between deeper water and shallower feeding grounds. If an area has produced several fish, it is worth revisiting rather than assuming that it has been exhausted. Other fish may move through, and changing conditions may bring them back into the same feeding zone.

A cold snap just before spring can slow things down again. When temperatures fall suddenly, fish may retreat towards more stable water or become less willing to chase. The same staging area may still hold bass, but a slower drop-shot presentation with a smaller bait may be a better option than the approach that worked during warmer conditions.

Soft plastics are not the only choice. A slowly retrieved square-billed crankbait can work around suitable shallow cover, while a suspending twitchbait allows you to vary the movement and pauses. A spinnerbait retrieved slowly enough to remain in the target zone is another option when conditions favour a moving lure.

For finesse fishing, smaller soft plastics in natural colours remain a reliable starting point for me. The Dragon, Night Fury and Seboko have all produced consistently. But no lure should be treated as an automatic answer. The best choice is the one that allows you to present a suitable target at the depth and speed the fish are prepared to respond to.

Pre-spawn is an exciting time because the bass are changing their habits, moving between areas and preparing for the next stage of their annual cycle. For the angler, it is an opportunity to observe those changes and learn to recognise the clues.

The next time you find yourself fishing a promising bank without a bite, resist the temptation to keep casting simply because the area looks good. Ask yourself where the deeper water lies, whether there is suitable cover nearby and whether your lure is travelling through the part of the water column where the fish are likely to be holding.

Sometimes, the biggest improvement you can make is not changing the lure. It is changing your understanding of where the fish should be.

The big lesson

Bass don't follow the calendar as predictably as anglers might like. They respond to changing conditions, available food, cover and access to suitable water. When you learn to recognise the places that allow bass to feed while remaining close to deeper water and protection, you stop fishing a season and start fishing the fish.

Think like a pro

Before your next cast, ask yourself:

- Does this area offer bass a combination of feeding opportunities, cover and access to deeper water?
- If the fish are present but reluctant to chase, could a slower, more subtle presentation give them a better opportunity to strike?
- If this spot produces fish, what nearby areas share the same depth changes, cover and access to deeper water?

Take it to the water

On your next pre-spawn outing, choose a bank where shallow cover meets a deeper contour. Rather than covering the entire area quickly, work the transition carefully with a small soft plastic on a lightly weighted presentation.

Pay attention to where the bites occur, how deep the fish are holding and whether they respond while the lure is falling or after it settles. If you catch a fish, look for similar cover and depth changes nearby. If the area produces nothing after a fair attempt, move on and test another location rather than repeatedly fishing water simply because it looks promising.

Then, if the weather turns colder, return to a productive staging area and try a slower presentation before abandoning it altogether.

You may discover that the fish were never far away. You simply needed to understand where they were holding and offer them something they were willing to eat.

So dust off those rods, give the reels a little attention and get ready for the changing season. Your next personal best may be closer than you think.



A square-billed crankbait

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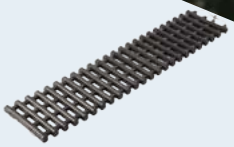

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Topwater lures draw reaction from active fish near the surface

Junk Fishing

The art of staying one step ahead of the bass

When a reliable pattern refuses to reveal itself, versatility, observation and the willingness to change tactics can make all the difference.

In competitive bass fishing, you will often hear professional anglers use the term junk fishing when explaining how they caught their fish during a successful tournament. At first, the phrase might sound like a casual way of describing an untidy selection of lures or a random approach to catching bass. In reality, junk fishing is far more deliberate than that. It is an art built around versatility, observation and the ability to adapt when the fish refuse to follow a predictable pattern.

Most anglers enjoy finding a pattern. There is something satisfying about discovering that bass are holding at a particular depth, relating to a certain type of structure or responding consistently to one lure. Once that connection is made, the plan becomes clearer: identify similar areas, repeat the successful presentation and build on what the fish have already revealed.

But what happens when that pattern never develops? Perhaps you have limited practice time before a tournament. Maybe the weather changes, the fish are scattered, or every promising area seems to produce a different result. You catch one fish on a topwater lure, another on a spinnerbait and a third on a soft plastic. Nothing seems consistent enough to build an entire day around.

This is where junk fishing can become a valuable tool.

Rather than relying on one lure or one technique, the junk fisherman combines a range of presentations to find fish wherever they may be holding. The objective is not to throw everything in the tackle box at random. It is to cover water efficiently, investigate different depths and structures, and use each presentation to discover what the bass are willing to respond to.

Versatility begins with preparation

To become a proficient junk fisherman, you need to develop confidence in a variety of hard and soft baits. This does not mean carrying every lure ever manufactured or changing baits simply because the previous cast produced nothing. It means understanding what your chosen lures can do, where they are most effective and how to work them properly.

Your confidence baits are an excellent starting point. These are the lures you know well, enjoy fishing with and can present effectively under pressure. However, they should not be the only tools available to you. A well-rounded angler needs to be comfortable moving between surface lures, moving baits and slower presentations close to the bottom.

The more techniques you understand, the more options you have when conditions become difficult. A topwater lure might draw a reaction from an active fish near the surface, while a crankbait or spinnerbait allows you to search the water column more quickly. A jerkbait offers another way to cover water, while a soft plastic can investigate a specific piece of structure more thoroughly.

The real value lies in knowing when to move from one presentation to the next.

Break the area down, layer by layer

When approaching a new area, resist the temptation to start casting without a plan. Take a moment to assess the water and the opportunities it offers. Consider the time of day, the available structure, the depth and the weather conditions. Then begin working the area systematically.

Think of the process as searching from the top down.

If the conditions suggest that a surface presentation is worth trying, begin with a suitable topwater lure. A Zara-

style surface bait, a Pop-R-type popper or a prop bait can each offer a different action. Work the area properly before deciding whether to move on. Give the presentation a fair opportunity, rather than making a few hurried casts and immediately reaching for something else.

If the surface approach produces no useful response, move to a lure that covers water below the surface. Depending on the conditions and the type of cover, a spinnerbait, crankbait or jerkbait may be appropriate. Each provides another way to search the area and present a different action to the fish.

Hard baits are often a practical starting point because many of them allow you to cover water relatively quickly. They help you investigate an area before committing too much time to a slower presentation. Once you have worked through the more active search options, soft plastics can help you explore likely holding places more thoroughly.

A Texas-rigged plastic is useful when you want to work around cover. A Mojo rig gives you another way to present a soft bait, while a Carolina rig and a weightless presentation offer additional options for different situations.

The important point is that each change should have a purpose. You are not simply changing lures because you are bored. You are testing another way of reaching the fish.

Let every cast teach you something

One of the biggest mistakes an angler can make is treating every fishless cast as wasted time. Even when a lure does not produce a bite, the process can still help you understand the area. You may establish that the fish are not responding to a fast-moving bait, that a surface presentation is not producing, or that a particular section of water deserves a different approach.

A bite, however, is a valuable clue.

Pay attention to where the fish came from, how deep it was holding, what type of structure was nearby and which lure produced the response. These details matter because junk fishing can gradually lead you towards a more consistent pattern.

For example, if one fish takes a spinnerbait near a particular type of cover, make a mental note of the location and presentation. If another fish responds to a similar lure in comparable conditions, the first result becomes more significant. A third fish from the same type of area may suggest that you have found something worth pursuing.

The pattern may begin with a particular depth, structure or bait. Your job is to recognise the connection and test it.

This is where a flexible approach becomes especially powerful. You can continue covering water while keeping your eyes open for clues that allow you to narrow your choices. If the evidence points towards one presentation, spend more time developing it. If the results remain inconsistent, keep exploring rather than forcing a pattern that the fish are not confirming.

Keep moving, but fish with purpose

Junk fishing is particularly useful when you cannot establish a dependable pattern or when you have not had enough time on the water before tournament day. Instead of spending too long trying to make one technique work, you can investigate several possibilities and give yourself more opportunities to find active fish.

That does not mean racing around the dam and making a handful of casts at every available spot. Covering water efficiently still requires discipline. Work an area thoroughly enough to learn something from it, then move when the results suggest that another option is worth exploring.

There is a balance between staying too long and leaving too soon. A single unsuccessful cast tells you very little, while repeatedly presenting the same lure in the same way without any encouraging signs may waste valuable fishing time. Experience helps you judge when to persist and when to change direction.

Time on the water is essential to developing that judgement. Practice different presentations until you can fish them confidently, rather than merely knowing how to tie them on. Learn to control the lure, vary its retrieve and recognise the situations in which it is most useful.



A crankbait allows you to search the water column more quickly

As your experience grows, you may find that your selection of effective lures becomes smaller and more focused. You will also learn which rods and combinations you genuinely need for the situations you encounter most often. The goal is not to carry less equipment simply for the sake of it, but to understand your equipment well enough to make quick, informed decisions.

Turn scattered bites into a winning combination

The best junk fishermen are not anglers without a plan. They are anglers who can adjust their plan as new information becomes available.

Sometimes the day begins with no obvious direction, and the bites come from different depths, structures and lures. On other days, one of those scattered clues develops into a dependable pattern. Either way, the ability to use different techniques gives you more ways to respond to changing conditions and locate fish.

Remember, too, that the purpose of junk fishing is not simply to catch one fish on every lure. It is to put together the best possible limit when a reliable pattern is difficult to find. Each fish can contribute to that goal, while each bite can help you decide what to try next.

The next time you are on the water and your favourite lure refuses to produce, do not immediately assume the fish are not feeding. Reassess the area, consider another depth, change the presentation and keep looking for clues. Start with the techniques you know, expand your options and make every change count.

There is no substitute for time on the water. The more you practise, the more confident you become in your lures, your decisions and your ability to adapt. Eventually, what once felt like a random collection of techniques becomes a systematic way of finding bass.

And who knows? The next time you hear an angler credit junk fishing for a successful day, you may understand that the real skill was never in throwing everything at the fish. It was in knowing what to try, where to try it and when the evidence suggested it was time to change.

The big lesson

When a dependable pattern refuses to develop, work the area systematically from the surface towards the bottom. Use hard baits to search efficiently, follow up with soft plastics where appropriate, and pay attention to every bite. A single fish may be the first clue to a repeatable pattern.

Think like a pro

Before your next cast, ask yourself:

- **What part of the water am I trying to cover?** Am I searching the surface, working through the water column or investigating the bottom?
- **What will this lure tell me?** Am I testing a different depth, action or presentation, or am I simply changing baits without a reason?
- **What did the last bite teach me?** Consider the location, depth, structure and lure before deciding whether to repeat the approach or change tactics.

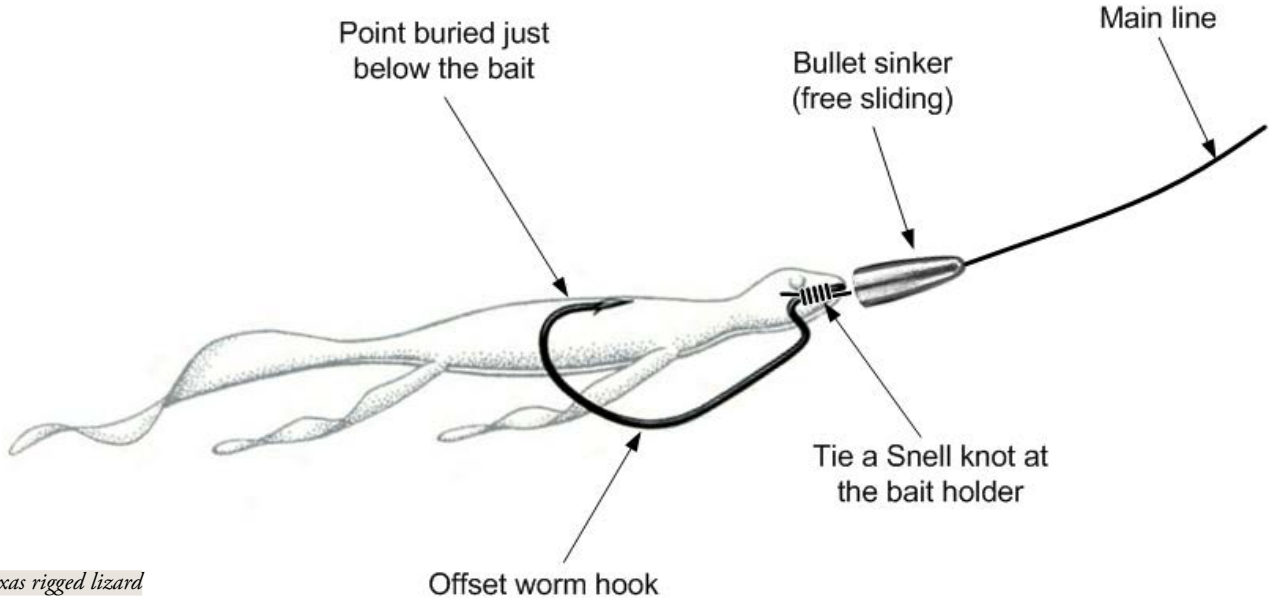
Take it to the water



A double willow leaf spinnerbait

Choose one area of your local dam and deliberately fish it using a sequence of presentations. Start with a suitable topwater lure, then try a moving hard bait such as a spinnerbait, crankbait or jerkbait. Follow up with a soft plastic on a rig suited to the cover and conditions.

Keep a simple record of the lure, depth, structure and location whenever you get a bite. At the end of the session, look for connections between your catches. You may discover that your seemingly scattered results were pointing towards a pattern all along.



A Texas rigged lizard

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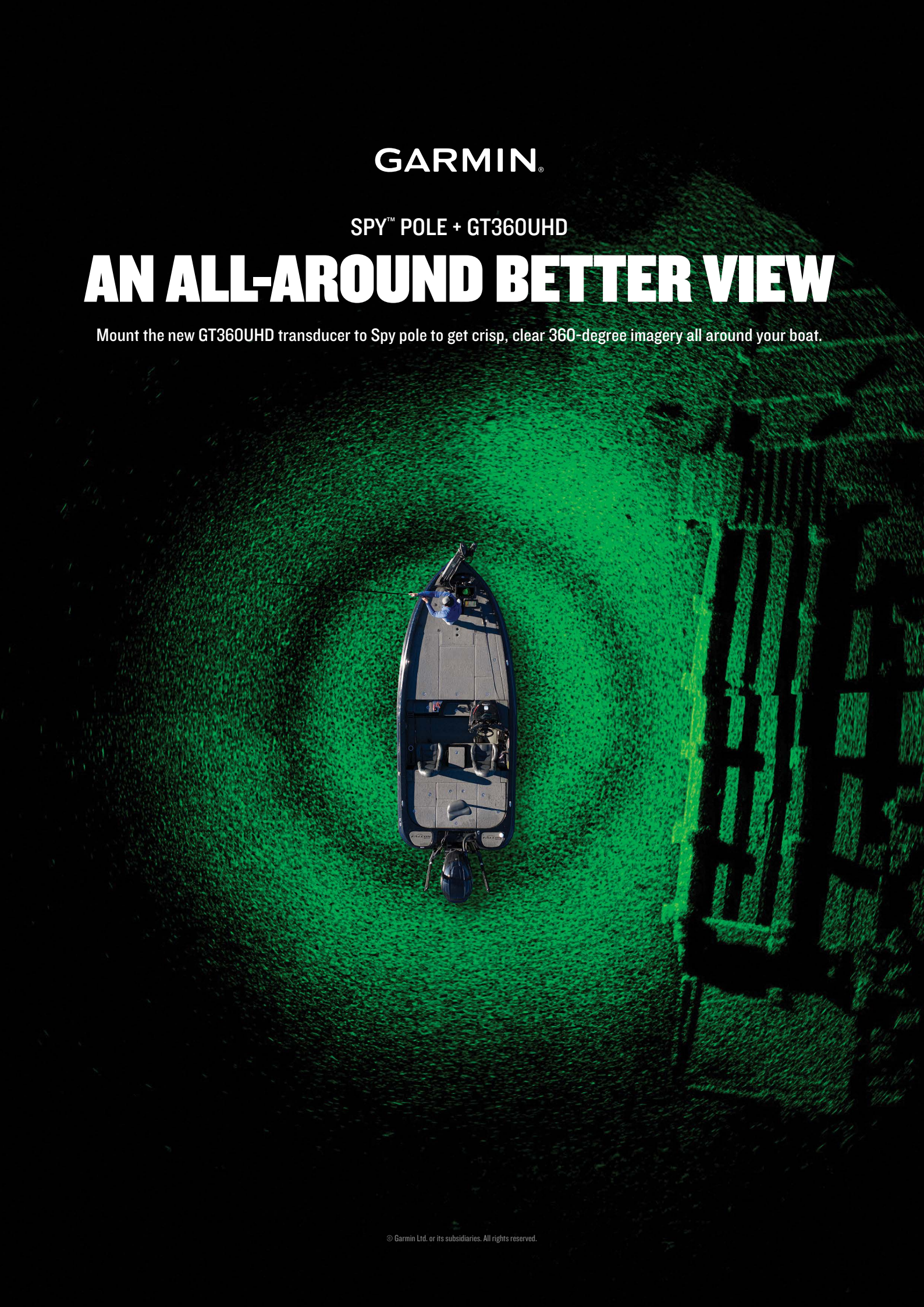

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'n Groot vis is moeilik om te flous

See-Egels

Nie net nog 'n modegier nie

Deel 3/3

>> Philip Kemp*

In die vorige uitgawe het ons gekyk na die situasies waar die See-Egel werklik sy staal wys - van kristalhelder water en swaar hengeldruk tot die broeiseisoen, gesuspendeerde baars en die stroppe wat hierdie kunsaas so ongelooflik veelsydig maak.

Maar, teen hierdie punt behoort een ding duidelik te wees: die See-Egel is nie 'n plaasvervanger vir elke kunsaas in jou boks nie. Hy gaan nie 'n crankbait vervang wanneer jy vinnig water wil dek nie, en hy gaan ook nie altyd 'n spinnerbait in modderwater ná 'n donderstorm vervang nie. Tog is daar iets aan hierdie vreemde bolletjie silikoon wat hom 'n permanente plek in al hoe meer hengelaars se arsenaal besorg.

Dit herinner my nogal aan toe finesse-wurms jare gelede hul verskyning gemaak het. Aanvanklik is daar geglimlag en gesê: "Daardie klein dingetjie gaan nooit 'n groot baars vang nie." Vandag is daar waarskynlik nie 'n enkele ernstige baarshengelaar wat sonder 'n paar finesse-wurms op die water gaan nie.

Ek vermoed dieselfde gaan met die See-Egel gebeur.

Nie omdat dit die nuutste gier is nie, maar omdat dit 'n probleem oplos wat elke hengelaar van tyd tot tyd ervaar: wat doen jy wanneer die vis eenvoudig ophou reageer op alles wat normaalweg werk?

Vertroue vang meer vis as die perfekte kunsaas

As daar een eienskap is wat al die beste hengelaars in gemeen het, is dit nie noodwendig beter toerusting of duurder bote nie. Dis vertroue.

Hulle glo in wat aan die punt van hul lyn is.

Daardie vertroue laat hulle stadiger hengel, langer op goeie areas fokus en minder impulsiewe veranderinge maak. Ironies genoeg is dit presies wat 'n See-Egel vereis.

Ek het al hengelaars gesien wat ná drie of vier gooie besluit die aas werk nie. Vyf minute later vang hul bootmaat twee goeie vis op presies dieselfde kunsaas.

Die verskil?

Nie die kleur nie.

Nie die handelsmerk nie.

Net geduld.

Die bootmaat het eenvoudig die kunsaas langer in die byt-sone gehou.

Dis 'n goeie herinnering dat ons dikwels te veel verander voordat die vis ooit kans gekry het om te reageer.

Eenvoudige toerusting werk die beste

Nog 'n wanopvatting is dat 'n mens spesiale toerusting nodig het om hierdie kunsaas suksesvol te gebruik.

Die waarheid is dat die meeste hengelaars reeds alles besit wat nodig is.

'n Medium-ligte spinstok tussen sewe en sewe voet vier duim gee genoeg ruggraat om 'n groot vis te beheer, maar steeds genoeg sensitiwiteit om die ligste byt raak te voel. Koppel dit aan 'n 2500-grootte spinkatrol met 'n gladde rem en jy het 'n kombinasie waarmee jy gemaklik die hele dag finesse kan hengel.

Waar ek wel glo jy nie moet kompromieë aangaan nie, is jou lyn.

Fluorocarbon bly die beste keuse wanneer helder water en skugter vis deel van die prentjie is. 'n Lyn van agt tot tien pond bied gewoonlik die ideale balans tussen sterkte, natuurlike aanbieding en sensitiwiteit. Baie hengelaars verkies deesdae 'n dun vleglyn as hooflyn met 'n fluorocarbon -voorslag. Dit kombineer die direkte gevoel van braid met die lae sigbaarheid en skuurweerstand van fluorocarbon.

Dis 'n stelsel wat uitstekend by Suid-Afrikaanse toestande aanpas, veral op damme met klipperige punte, staande bome of digte waterplante.

Kleur is belangrik... maar nie soos jy dink nie

Geen hengelgesprek is volledig sonder die vraag: "Watter kleur werk die beste?" nie.

Die eerlike antwoord is dat kleur waarskynlik minder belangrik is as wat baie van ons wil glo.

In helder water verkies ek natuurlike skakerings; groenpampoen, waatlemoen, rookkleur of bruin. Hierdie kleure meng mooi met die omgewing en laat die tentakels die aandag trek eerder as die kleur self.

Wanneer die water effens verkleur, kan swart, Junebug of donkerpers weer beter sigbaarheid gee.

Maar hier is iets wat ek oor die jare geleer het: as jy voortdurend van kleur verander omdat die vis nie byt nie, is die probleem dikwels nie die kleur nie.

Dis gewoonlik jou aanbieding;

- Die tempo,

- Die val,
- Of eenvoudig dat die aas nie lank genoeg in die regte area gebly het nie.

Tophengelaars sê dikwels hulle verander eerder waar hulle gooi of hoe hulle die aas aanbied voordat hulle aan kleur dink. Dis raad wat ek met graagte herhaal.

Die klein foute wat groot vis kos

Elke nuwe tegniek bring sy eie stel foute saam.

Met die See-Egel sien ek dieselfde paar foute oor en oor.

Die eerste is te swaar gewigte. Ja, die aas kom vinniger op die bodem, maar hy verloor sy grootste voordeel: daardie stadige, verleidelike afsak wat die tentakels laat lewe kry.

Die tweede is oormatige stokbewegings. Sommige hengelaars werk die kunsaas soos 'n jerkbait, terwyl ander dit vinnig oor die bodem sleep. Albei benaderings laat die See-Egel sy natuurlike karakter verloor.

Nog 'n algemene fout is om die hoek te vlak deur die aas te steek. Die meeste See-Egels het 'n digte kern wat spesifiek ontwerp is om die hoek stewig vas te hou. As die hoek nie diep genoeg geplaas word nie, skeur die aas maklik of sit skeef, wat sy balans en aksie benadeel.

En dan is daar dalk die grootste fout van almal: mense gebruik die See-Egel op die verkeerde plek.

Hierdie is nie 'n kunsaas waarmee jy kilometer ná kilometer oewer gaan deursoek nie. Hy blink uit wanneer jy reeds weet waar die vis is, of ten minste 'n sterk vermoede het. Dink aan 'n groep gesuspendeerde vis in 'n skaduryke dok, 'n geïsoleerde boom of 'n diep rotspunt waar groot baars gereeld vertoef.

Dis 'n presisie-instrument, nie 'n soeklig nie.

Wat beteken dit vir ons hengelaars?

Ons damme verskil natuurlik van die groot Amerikaanse damme waar hierdie kunsaas sy naam gemaak het. Tog bly die gedrag van 'n grootbekbaars merkwaardig dieselfde.

'n Groot vis hou van veiligheid.

Hy verkies dikwels diep water of goeie dekking.

En hoe ouer hy word, hoe moeiliker laat hy hom flous.

Juis daarom dink ek die See-Egel gaan al hoe meer gewild word. Nie omdat dit die nuutste neiging is nie, maar omdat ons damme jaar ná jaar meer hengeldruk ervaar. Hoe slimmer die vis word, hoe belangriker raak aanbiedings wat iets nuuts en geloofwaardigs bied.

Ek glo ook ons gaan sien hoe plaaslike hengelaars hul eie aanpassings maak. Groter modelle vir ons groter damme, kleiner weergawes vir moeilike wintervis, nuwe kleure wat by Suid-Afrikaanse water pas en selfs plaaslik vervaardigde variasies.

Dis presies hoe elke suksesvolle kunsaas deur die jare ontwikkel het.

Meer as net 'n nuwe kunsaas

Wanneer mens terugkyk na die afgelope paar dekades van baarshengel, sien jy dat die groot spronge selde oor nuwe toerusting gegaan het. Hulle het gegaan oor nuwe maniere van dink;



'n Medium-ligte stok, 'n spinkatrol en fluorocarbon lyn

- Die Texas-rig het ons anders laat kyk na dekking,
- Die Drop-Shot het ons geleer dat stadiger soms beter is, en
- Live Sonar het gewys wat werklik onder die oppervlak gebeur.

En dalk leer die See-Egel ons iets wat ons lankal vergeet het.

Dat nuuskierigheid een van die swakpunte in 'n roofvis se gedrag is.

Ons probeer dikwels 'n kunsaas so realisties moontlik maak, asof dit presies soos 'n aasvis of 'n kreef móét lyk. Maar die See-Egel wys dat 'n kunsaas nie noodwendig herkenbaar hoef te wees om suksesvol te wees nie. Soms is dit juis die onbekende wat 'n groot baars laat omdraai.

En dalk is dit die grootste les van hierdie hele revolusie.

Moenie elke nuwe ontwikkeling afmaak as nog 'n modegier nie.

Probeer dit.

Leer dit verstaan.

Gee dit tyd.

Want die volgende persoon wat met 'n persoonlike beste baars huis toe ry, gaan heel moontlik iemand wees wat bereid was om iets anders aan die punt van sy lyn vas te maak.

Slotgedagte

Die See-Egel gaan nie elke dag die antwoord wees nie. Geen kunsaas is nie. Maar wanneer die gewone plastiekwurms, swem-aas en jigkoppe skielik hul aantrekkingskrag verloor, kan hierdie vreemde silikoonbolletjie die een ding wees wat 'n versigtige ou baars nie kan ignoreer nie.

Dis immers nog altyd die mooiste deel van baarshengel gewees.

Daar is altyd iets nuuts om te leer.

En soms begin daardie les met 'n kunsaas wat, met die eerste oogopslag, glad nie lyk of dit ooit 'n vis behoort te vang nie.

RgB – Spog met jou beste vangs! Stuur vir ons jou foto's van jou baarsvangste, saam met 'n kort beskrywing van die dag, en dalk verskyn jy in ons ***SA BASS Readers-go-Bassing***-afdeling!

E-pos jou foto's na editor@sabasss.com en deel jou hengelstorie met mede-hengelaars!

**Philip Kemp is 'n gesoute swartbaarhengelaar en assistent-redakteur van SA BASS.*



DIE BAARS WEET BETER!

Daar is geen absolute reël wat sê hoe baars moet reageer nie

Wat is werklik waar, en watter hengelstories moet ons eerder met 'n knippie sout neem? Soveel hengelaars glo dat dit wat sosiale media aan hulle verkoop altyd die waarheid is. Ek vertel julle meer.

>> *Philip Kemp**

In die wêreld van baarshengel is daar min dinge waaroor hengelaars meer kan verskil as oor wat 'n baars laat byt. Elke hengelaar het sy eie teorie, gunstelingaas en "geheime" tegniek. Sommige van hierdie kennis is oor jare deur ervaring bewys, terwyl ander bloot van een hengelaar na die volgende oorgedra is. Maar hoeveel van die bekende baarshengelreëls is werklik waar?

Van "baars byt net vroegoggend" tot "groot aas vang groot visse". Kom ons kyk na 'n paar van die algemeenste mites en probeer die feite van die fiksie skei.

MITE #1: Baars byt net vroegoggend en laatmiddag

Waarheid

Die vroeë oggend en laatmiddag kan uitstekende tye wees om baars te vang, maar dit beteken beslis nie dat die vis die res van die dag ophou vreet nie.

Swak lig gee baars dikwels meer selfvertroue om vlakker water binne te beweeg. Dit is veral sigbaar in die somer wanneer watertemperature vroegoggend nog aangenaam is en die vis aktief na aasvis en ander prooi soek. Wanneer die son egter hoër klim, verander die vis se gedrag. Baars kan dieper trek, onder plantegroei gaan lê, na strukture beweeg of bloot minder aktief raak. Dit beteken nie dat jy jou hengel om 10:00 moet oppak nie.

Met tegnieke soos 'n Texas-strop, Carolina-strop, diepduik-crankbaits, jigs (loodkoppe), swimbaits of selfs 'n drop-shot kan baars dwarsdeur die dag gevang word.

Die waarheid

Dit gaan minder oor die tyd van die dag en meer oor waar die vis op daardie spesifieke tyd van die dag hom bevind.

MITE #2: As die water helder is, moet jy natuurlike kleure gebruik

Waarheid

Natuurlike kleure is dikwels 'n uitstekende beginpunt in helder water, maar daar is geen reël wat bepaal dat baars slegs op natuurlike kleure sal byt nie. In helder water kan 'n baars 'n kunsaas van 'n groter afstand af ondersoek. Realistiese kleure soos green pumpkin, watermelon of 'n kleur wat by die plaaslike "baitfish" pas, kan baie effektief wees. Maar daar is dae waarop 'n helder kleur skielik die vis se aandag sal trek.

Veral wanneer jy 'n reaksiebyt probeer uitlok, kan 'n helder kleur soos chartreuse, wit of selfs 'n sterk donker silhoeët kleur verrassend goed werk.

Die waarheid

Begin met 'n natuurlike kleur, maar moenie bang wees om te verander as die vis nie reageer nie.

MITE #3: Groot aas vang net groot baars

Waarheid

'n Groot kunsaas kan groot baars lok, maar dit beteken nie dat kleiner visse dit sal ignoreer nie. Baars is opportunistiese roofvisse. As daar groter prooi in die dam of rivier is, kan 'n groot kunsaas uitstekend werk. Baars kan egter ook 'n prooi aanval wat aansienlik kleiner is. Kleiner kunsaas kan dus verrassend ook groot baars oplewer. Die grootte van die aas moet eerder gekoppel word aan wat die baars op daardie stadium vreet.

As die baars klein aasvis, insekte, kreef of ander klein prooi vreet, kan 'n kleiner aanbieding meer suksesvol wees.

Die waarheid

Kies jou aasgrootte volgens die beskikbare voedselbron se grootte en hoe aktief die vis is, nie net volgens die grootte van die vis wat jy wil vang nie.

MITE #4: Jy moet jou kunsaas so vinnig moontlik terugbring

Waarheid

Spoed is een van die belangrikste veranderlikes in baarshengel. Soms wil die baars 'n vinnigbewegende aas hê. Op ander dae moet dieselfde aas amper doodstil voor die vis se neus aangebied

word. Dit is veral belangrik wanneer die water koud is of wanneer baars onder druk verkeer. ‘n Sagte plastiekaas wat stadig op die bodem beweeg word, kan dan baie meer effektief wees as ‘n vinnig bewegende kunsaas. Die fout wat baie hengelaars maak, is om deurgaans net een spoed te hengel.

Die waarheid

Verander jou inkatrolspoed totdat die vis vir jou wys wat hy wil hê.

MITE #5: As jy nie strukture sien nie, is daar geen rede om daar te hengel nie

Waarheid

Baie van die belangrikste strukture onder water is onsigbaar. ‘n Onderwaterbank, sloot, kanaal, klipbank of ou rivierbedding kan ‘n uitstekende baarsgebied wees sonder dat jy iets bo die water sien. Dit is waar moderne elektronika ‘n groot verskil gemaak het.

Met goeie sonar en voorwaarts-gerigte-sonar (FFS) kan hengelaars onderwaterstrukture en selfs individuele visse opspoor. Maar selfs sonder moderne elektronika kan jy baie leer deur die oewer, windrigting, waterkleur en natuurlike kontoere dop te hou.

Die waarheid

Die feit dat jy niks bo die water sien nie, beteken nie dat daar niks onder die water is nie.

MITE #6: Baars hou altyd naby strukture of dekking

Waarheid

Struktuur en dekking is belangrik, maar baars is nie permanent aan ‘n stomp, rots of grasbed vasgeplak nie.

Wanneer voedsel beweeg, beweeg baars saam. In oop water kan baars byvoorbeeld aasvis volg. Hulle kan ook oor ‘n onderwaterbank beweeg of langs ‘n kanaal jag. Dit is een van die redes waarom hengelaars soms ‘n gebied wat “leeg” lyk, moet begin ondersoek.

Die waarheid

Soek nie net die struktuur of dekking nie, soek na ‘n kombinasie van struktuur, dekking, diepte, waterkwaliteit en voedsel.

MITE #7: ‘n Volmaan beteken baars gaan nie byt nie

Waarheid

Die maan kan ‘n invloed hê op visgedrag, maar dit is gevaarlik om ‘n swak hengeldag uitsluitlik aan die maan toe te skryf.

Baarsse gedrag word deur talle faktore beïnvloed: watertemperatuur, lig, wind, waterdruk, suurstof, beskikbare voedsel en seisoene. ‘n Volmaan kan die nagtelike voedingsaktiwiteit van visse beïnvloed, maar dit beteken nie noodwendig dat die volgende dag swak sal wees nie.

Die waarheid

Gebruik maanfases as een stuk van die legkaart, nie as die hele antwoord nie.

MITE #8: As die wind waai, moet jy na die beskutte kant van die dam gaan

Waarheid

Dit is een van die interessantste mites in baarshengel.

Baie hengelaars soek dadelik die stil, beskutte water wanneer die wind opkom. Maar die windgedrewe kant van ‘n dam kan juis baie produktief wees.

Wind stoot water, plankton en dikwels aasvis na ‘n bepaalde kant. Waar die aasvis is, kan die roofvis volg. Die wind kan ook die ligpenetrasie verminder en die baars meer selfvertroue gee om vlakker te beweeg. Dit beteken nie dat die beskutte kant altyd sleg is nie. Dit beteken bloot dat jy nie die windkant moet ignoreer nie.

Die waarheid

Wind kan jou vriend wees.

MITE #9: Baars byt nie as die water skielik vuil word nie

Waarheid

‘n Skielike verandering in waterkleur kan jou hengelplanne verander, maar dit beteken nie noodwendig dat die baars ophou vreet nie.

Baars kan in verkleurde water selfs aggressiewer reageer op vibrasie en beweging omdat sigbaarheid beperk is. Dit is waarom crankbaits, swaailemme, klets-ase en ander aas wat vibrasie en beweging produseer, soms uitstekend in vuiler water werk. ‘n Donker silhoeët kan ook baie sigbaar wees teen ‘n helder oppervlak wanneer die water se sigbaarheid laag is.

Die waarheid

Wanneer sig verminder, moet jy die vis help om jou aas op ander maniere op te spoor.

MITE #10: As ‘n plek een keer goeie vis opgelewer het, sal hulle altyd daar wees

Waarheid

Baars verander voortdurend van posisie.

‘n Plek wat verlede week vyf goeie visse opgelewer het, kan vandag doodstil wees. Water temperature verander. Die voedselbron beweeg. Watervlakke verander. Windrigtings verander. Plantegroei verander. Selfs hengeldruk kan ‘n rol speel. Ervare hengelaars leer daarom om nie net “plekke” te onthou nie, maar om die rede te verstaan waarom die vis daar was.

Die waarheid

Moenie ‘n GPS-koördinaat volg nie, volg die patroon.

MITE #11: As die baars jou kunsaas sien, sal hy vlug

Waarheid

Baars kan baie bewus wees van ‘n kunsaas, veral in helder water, maar “sien” beteken nie noodwendig “weier” nie.

‘n Baars kan ‘n kunsaas volg, dit ondersoek en dan eers besluit om te byt. Dit is waarom ‘n verandering in spoed, rigting of aanbieding soms die verskil maak. ‘n Baars wat ‘n kunsaas tot by die boot of oewer volg, is waardevolle inligting. Die vis het reeds belangstelling getoon. Nou moet jy uitvind wat hom verhinder om die aas te vat.

MITE #12: Jy moet altyd jou gunsteling kunsaas gebruik

Waarheid

Jou gunsteling kunsaas is waarskynlik jou gunsteling omdat dit al baie vis vir jou gevang het. Maar dit beteken nie dat dit altyd die regte keuse is nie.

Die beste hengelaars is nie noodwendig diegene met die meeste kunsaas nie. Hulle is die hengelaars wat bereid is om aan te pas. As die vis diep lê, verander jou aanbieding. As hulle vlak is, pas jou aas aan. As hulle vinnig jaag, versnel. As hulle traag is, hengel stadiger.

Die waarheid

'n Hengelaar se vermoë om aan te pas is dikwels belangriker as die kleur van die kunsaas aan die punt van die lyn.

MITE #13: As daar baie prooi-vis is, moet daar noodwendig baie baars wees

Waarheid

Prooi-vis (baitfish) is 'n belangrike leidraad, maar dit is nie 'n waarborg nie.

Baars kan baie faktore in ag neem wanneer hulle 'n gebied kies. Hulle benodig nie net voedsel nie; die regte kombinasie van diepte, temperatuur, suurstof en beskutting kan belangrik wees.

Jy kan dus 'n groot skool prooi-vis vind sonder om enige aktiewe roofvis naby te kry.

Die belangrike vraag is nie net: "Is daar prooi-vis?" maar eerder: "Waarom is die prooi-vis hier?"

Daardie vraag kan jou na die werklike patroon lei.

MITE #14: Die kleur van jou kunsaas is die belangrikste faktor

Waarheid

Kleur is belangrik, maar aanbieding is dikwels minstens net so belangrik.

'n Perfekte kleur wat verkeerd aangebied word, sal waarskynlik minder suksesvol wees as 'n gemiddelde kleur wat op die regte diepte, teen die regte spoed en naby die regte struktuur aangebied word.

Hengelaars kan maklik ure spandeer om tussen green pumpkin, watermelon, swart, junebug en ander kleure te wissel, terwyl die werklike probleem dalk is dat die aas twee meter bo-oor die vis beweeg.

Die waarheid

Dink eers aan die vis se posisie, diepte en gedrag. Dan aan kleur.

MITE #15: Die grootste baars is altyd die aggressiefste vis

Waarheid

'n Groot baars kan ongelooflik aggressief wees, maar grootte bepaal nie noodwendig aggressie nie.

Kleiner baars kan soms 'n kunsaas aanval wat hulle maklik kan inneem. Groter visse kan weer baie versigtiger wees. 'n Groot baars het ook meer energie nodig en kan soms meer selektief wees oor wat hy eet. Dit is waarom geduld, presisie en 'n natuurlike aanbieding belangrik kan wees wanneer jy spesifiek vir groter vis hengel.



Baars hou nie altyd naby strukture nie

Die Grootste Waarheid Van Almal

Daar is een beginsel wat byna elke suksesvolle baarshengelaar mettertyd leer: Die baars lees nie boeke nie. Daar is geen absolute reël wat sê 'n baars móét op 'n sekere tyd, kleur, diepte of kunsaas byt nie. Die beste hengelaars ontwikkel eerder 'n vermoë om leidrade te lees.

- Kyk na die weer.
- Kyk na die water.
- Kyk na die wind.
- Let op die watertemperatuur.
- Soek die prooivis.
- Bestudeer die struktuur.
- Gebruik jou elektronika.
- En, die belangrikste van alles, kyk na wat die vis vir jou vertel.

As jy drie visse op dieselfde tipe aanbieding vang, is dit nie toevallig nie. Jy het moontlik 'n patroon ontdek. As jy vyf verskillende kunsaas probeer en niks gebeur nie, is dit dalk nie die kunsaas wat verkeerd is nie. Jy kan eenvoudig op die verkeerde plek wees. Baarshengel is uiteindelik 'n voortdurende proses van waarneming, aanpassing en leer.

Die volgende keer wanneer iemand vir jou sê: "Baars byt nooit wanneer die wind so waai nie," of "Jy kan nie groot baars met 'n klein kunsaas vang nie", moenie sommer net saamstem nie. Gooi jou kunsaas. Want die baars het dalk net sy eie mening.

Slot

Mites maak deel uit van die tradisie en storievertelling van baarshengel. Sommige het so'n ietsie van'n waarheid, omdat hulle oor baie jare deur hengelaars getoets en beproef is. Die probleem ontstaan egter wanneer 'n algemene patroon as 'n vaste reël aanvaar word.

Die moderne baarshengelaar het toegang tot meer inligting en tegnologie as ooit tevore. Sonar, voorwaarts-gerigte-sonar, water temperature, weerdata en selfs onderwaterkaarte kan ons help om patrone beter te verstaan.

Maar geen tegnologie vervang die vermoë om aan te pas nie. Moenie net glo wat ander hengelaars sê nie. Toets dit self. Want in baarshengel is daar baie mites, maar daar is ook baie waarhede. En gewoonlik is die beste manier om die verskil te leer ken, om jou lyn nat te maak.

**Philip Kemp is 'n gesoute swartbaarhengelaar en assistent-redakteur van SA BASS.*



Dink aan: posisie, diepte, gedrag en kleur

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READERS GO BASSING

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LOSKOP

The plan for Loskop Dam had been taking shape for months. Double-checking every weather app, refreshing them daily, watching pressure systems roll through and fizzle out. It took two solid weeks of stable conditions before the green light finally came.

Coincidentally, it was also my birthday that weekend (11 July). If there's one word to describe the mornings on this trip, it's frigid. Properly bone-deep, breath-fogging cold - the kind that makes you question every decision you made the night before while rigging up in the dark. But cold mornings on a dam like Loskop usually mean one thing: the fish are willing to play along once the sun has done its work.



That trade-off (discomfort at dawn for opportunity by mid-morning) paid off, with a 10.3kg bag on the first day. Not a bad way to open a two-day mission, and, more importantly, it confirmed that the weather call had been the right one.

Our game plan on day two was exactly the same. The cast was a long one, sent out and left to sink until the lure reached the desired depth. As I reeled in the slack, the line suddenly went spongy - that unmistakable, gut-level feeling that something wasn't right down there. I set the hook, and for a split second there was nothing but dead weight. Ah, I'm stuck, was my only thought. Then the drag started ripping.

I could feel the fish was about to jump, and when she broke the surface, there they were - those big, white, bulging eyes. Right there, in that instant, there was no doubt: this was a 4kg-plus fish. She jumped a second time, and a few cranks later she was in the net.

Chaos erupted. We screamed loud enough for everyone else out on the water to hear. I remember my brother and Slade staring at the scale in disbelief. When I finally lifted her... 6.31kg. I broke down in tears. Not from exhaustion, but because of everything that had led to catching her: the months of planning, the doubt, the mornings when it would have been so easy to stay in bed instead. Overwhelmed with emotion, I was left speechless.

After a quick photo shoot and a moment of appreciation for the catch, she was released. There was no hesitation on her part either. She swam off strongly, disappearing back into the depths of the dam, exactly where she belongs.

If this is intended for a fishing magazine, social media, or a personal blog, I can also make it more cinematic and emotionally immersive while preserving your authentic voice – ***Biaan van Coller***

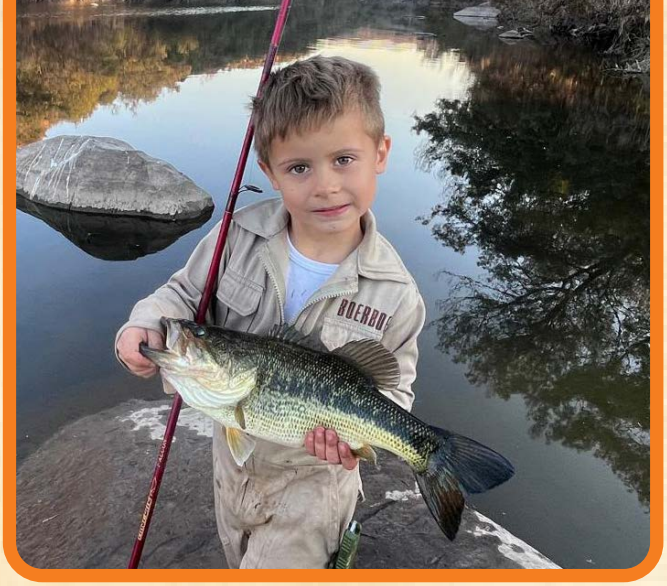
WINTER RHENOSTERKOP BASS

Winter fishing at Rhenosterkop Dam can be a real test of patience, especially when the water is cold and stained. But for Ziyaad Chand, persistence paid off with an impressive 4.54kg (10 lbs) bass.

Ziyaad tempted the big fish on a Yamamoto Tanuki, fishing it on 10 lb R18 fluorocarbon. With the water temperature sitting at around 16°C, conditions were tough and the bite was far from easy.

Despite the challenging conditions, Ziyaad kept at it and was rewarded with a quality winter bass. A great reminder that even when the fishing gets tough, the right presentation and a little persistence can produce a memorable catch – ***Ziyaad Chand***









DROOM GROOT

Ons vat 'n kans met hierdie een, maar ná die afgelope naweek het 'n baie trotse jong hengelaar sy mamma oortuig dat sy storie met SA BASS-lesers gedeel moet word.

Ontmoet Hilgardt Erasmus Steenkamp (of "VIS", soos mamma en pappa hom noem), 'n vyfjarige van Pretoria met 'n ernstige visvangprobleem!

Van die tyd toe Hilgardt skaars twee jaar oud was, was daar iets besonders aan hom wanneer hy 'n visstok in sy hand het. Waar ander kinders gespeel het, het hy langs die water gestaan, sy aas ingegooi en geduldig gewag vir die volgende byt.

En daardie geduld het onlangs baie mooi vrugte afgewerp.

Hilgardt het op die Groot Olifantsrivier op die familieplaas 'n ongelooflike 4.6kg-bass gevang – 'n nuwe persoonlike rekord!

Vir 'n vyfjarige is dit 'n besonderse vis. Maar die 4.6kg op die skaal vertel eintlik net 'n klein deeltjie van die storie.

Agter dié vangs lê ontelbare ure langs die water – vroeë oggende, warm middae, gemiste visse en natuurlik baie lesse. Belangriker nog, daar is 'n jong seun wat eenvoudig lief is vir die buitelewe en nooit moeg word om meer oor basshengel te leer nie.

Wat Hilgardt se storie besonders maak, is dat sy drome reeds verder strek as net sy volgende groot vis. Terwyl baie vyfjariges droom oor speelgoed en videospeletjies, droom Hilgardt van basskompetisies, trofeë en eendag sy eie bassboot.

Sy droom is eenvoudig: om aan basskompetisies deel te neem, sy vaardighede te ontwikkel, homself tussen die beste hengelaars in Suid-Afrika te bewys en eendag genoeg prysgeld te wen om sy eie boot te koop.

Natuurlik is daar 'n lang pad tussen 'n vyfjarige met 'n visstok en 'n suksesvolle kompetisiehengelaar. Maar Hilgardt leer reeds een van die belangrikste lesse van hengel: jy word nie 'n beter hengelaar omdat jy elke vis vang nie. Jy word beter deur tyd op die water deur te bring, uit jou foute en gemiste visse te leer, en telkens weer jou lyn in te gooi.

Is daardie 4.6kg-bass dus die begin van iets groter?

Ons hoop so!

Vir nou het VIS 'n nuwe persoonlike rekord, 'n groot liefde vir basshengel en 'n droom wat reeds baie groter is as enige vis wat hy tot dusver gevang het.

Miskien is dit juis waarom sy storie met SA BASS-lesers gedeel moet word. Elke groot hengelaar begin iewers, en soms begin die grootste drome met 'n klein seuntjie, 'n visstok en 'n groot passie vir hengel.

– Hilgardt Erasmus Steenkamp

(Baie geluk, VIS! Ons sien uit daarna om van jou volgende groot vangs te hoor – Red.)

Op my houtbordjie

GLOEI-STOKKIES

>> *Philip Kemp**

In hierdie reeks deel ons graag 'n paar truuks, of beter bekend as "hacks", met ons lesers.

Soms is dit die klein verandering aan 'n bekende kunsaas wat die verskil tussen 'n stil dag en 'n paar mooi visse maak. Een eenvoudige truuk wat veral in dieper, donker water, vroegoggend of laatmiddag en saans baie interessant kan wees, is om 'n klein gloei-stokkie binne-in jou buisplastiekaas (tube bait) te plaas.

Gloei-stokkies (in Engels bekend as glow sticks) is buisies wat lig afgee deur 'n chemiese reaksie genaamd chemoluminessensie.

Hier is hoe maklik dit is om jou kunsaas 'n ander voorkoms te gee:



Jy het twee dinge nodig naamlik:

- 'n Pakkie 4,5 x 39 mm gloei-stokkies, en
- Jou gunsteling buisplastiekaas, oftewel 'n "tube bait".

Die doel is nie om die aas heeltemal te verander nie, maar bloot om dit 'n ekstra visuele aantrekkingskrag te gee wanneer die lig swak is.





Neem een van die klein gloei-stokkies en breek dit liggies in die middel totdat jy die interne ampule hoor kraak. Skud die stokkie daarna goed totdat die vloeistowwe meng en die stokkie begin gloei.

Nou het jy 'n "liggie" gereed vir die aas.



Druk die gloeiende stokkie versigtig binne-in die buisplastiekaas.

Die gloeistokkie gee nou 'n sagte lig binne die deurskynende of gedeeltelik deurskynende plastiek van die aas.

Let Wel: Maak seker dat die gloeistokkie heel is en dat daar geen skerp of gebreekte dele is wat die aas of jou toerusting kan beskadig nie.



Nou kom die interessante deel.

Die aas kan veral in dieper, donker water 'n ekstra aantrekkingskrag hê. Probeer dit vroegoggend (voor sonop), óf laatmiddag, en skemeraand.

Die sagte liggie kan jou kunsaas duidelik sigbaar maak en 'n baars se aandag trek wanneer normale kleur en beweging moeiliker gesien word.

Dit is beslis nie 'n waarborg dat die baars die aas gaan aanval nie, maar dit is 'n eenvoudige en goedkoop manier wat die moeite werd is om in jou hengelkas te hê.

Soms is dit net daai ietsie anders wat 'n baars se aandag trek.

**Philip Kemp is 'n gesoute swartbaar-hengelaar en assistent-redakteur van SA BASS.*

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THE LURE AND LINE CONNECTION

The importance behind the right connectivity

>> *Jay Röhm-Williams*

The skill of refining ones art form displays the level of mastery in one's craft. Sounds fancy but simply put it just means the further we push ourselves to improve in the things we love doing, the higher our performance levels will be. That's what the art of bass sports fishing is all about if you want to keep putting more fish on your personal scorecard more often. It's literally knit picking at every aspect of this incredible, freshwater angling experience to decipher where one can modify, adapt and improve. If you have the passion the motivation comes easy and if we can enhance our chances of catching quality numbers every time, well sign me up sir!

They say spring has sprung but allow me to let you in on a little secret, change is the only constant and that applies to seasonal patterns too. Officially I personally declare spring only gets underway come October but perhaps things are slightly different depending where your neck of the woods is in our beloved country. Never the less it is about time to shake off the frost and sharpen those ambitions because we've got bass to catch. In order to ensure we accomplish this everything has got to line up pardon the pun, from conditions, our equipment and our attention to detail. This brings us to our discussion about the importance of lure and line connectivity.

At first you might be like, yes well that's obvious but honestly how easy it to just rig up and cast without thinking on any given day? We think the conditions call for a top water approach and tie something in that lure class on and



Advice offered is power gained - Shaun Swart



Having the right line and lure combination - Bradley van Vuuren

off she goes, we reel in and repeat. Of course, everyone does it and that goes for any lure in fact but how often do we as anglers actually stop or feel what's really going on between our line and our lures? Well if you asking yourself these questions then you definitely on the right track to unlocking a master class secret. The correct connection between line, lure and angler makes a massive difference in your overall performance levels and paying attention to it will change your fishing success.

Just as rod lengths, reel compatibility and lure sizes all relate directly to one another so does your physical connection to you through your line and lure. Everything from the thickness, weight and strength of your line affects the connectivity you feel with your lure out in the water. If you haven't rigged the right or compatible combo between lure and line then there will be subtle problems that have big consequences like:

- Reduced or ineffective lure actions
- Decreased swimming or diving depths
- More snags
- Decreased ability to determine bites
- Decreased hook ups

Who would have thought right, that without a solid connection between our lines and lures all this was happening underneath the surface? Well unfortunately that is the reality and as we can see those are some pretty big prices to pay especially when it comes to professional sports bassing or seeking those next PB's. As we know lure movement and presentation are very vital to enticing bass to attack so if we are not getting the best lure performance out of our lures there's a red flag. Heavier line tends to do this, especially to lighter lure classes such as soft plastics. The lighter the line used with light weight lures the better chance we have of feeling more connected to that lure. Heavy weight lures such as spinner baits, cranks and jig style lures need the right line weight too. Perhaps not something as light as when we using finesse tactics but a heavier line to prevent break offs. I've seen guys throwing big, heavy styled lures on thin mono-line and watched it



Keeping that connection between line an lure solid - Martin Oosterhuizen

snap off mid-air on the third cast. I have also witnessed bass anglers fishing light, soft plastic rigs on thick fluorocarbon and seen them struggle to even feel what their lure is doing underwater. Braided lines are an almost perfect in-between choice especially when it comes to taking on heavy, thick cover but a mission to control under windy conditions. It is susceptible to bows and slack line leaving you open for snags and loose connectivity.

The right line with the right lure along with correct rod handling techniques can do wonders to your game. An angler wants to feel that lure hopping, twitching or bouncing up, over or along whatever cover they are tackling. Top water and jerkbaits need the line handled and controlled skilfully in order to entice attacks and same goes for bladed lures or swim baits. There should not be a single moment during each cast where you cannot tell or feel what your lure is doing out or under the water. If you have the right connection then this will automatically improve your confidence tenfold in a matter of heart beats. Remember a confident angler is already fishing better even before he hits the water.

Handling your rod correctly ties right in there with keeping that connection between you and the lure on the money. Lifting the tip up slightly higher or angling your rod down and to the side can greatly decrease any slack, strengthening your connection. You will know automatically if your line weight and lure class are compatible from the moment you begin to retrieve. Whether you're power fishing and burning baits quickly through the mid water to shallow mark or pitching and bouncing weighted, jig style lures off the bottom in the deep, keeping a tight connection is what we looking for.

So next time you out on the water, stop and do a little field test to see if you happy with the connection between your line and the lure. Try and feel if your lure is moving correctly and that there are no slack moments between retrievals. It will truly amaze you at the difference it makes when one takes the time to master your line and lure connections. As the spawning season approaches take note as a gentle reminder of conscious fishing ethics towards our beloved bass and be rewarding with the right hook ups and connectivity.

Rods out and safe fishing everyone!

**Jay Röhm-Williams is a seasoned bass angler with a wealth of knowledge, and since 2018 he has been sharing his expertise with fellow bass enthusiasts, hoping they'll discover the same passion and enjoyment he finds in this unique sport.*

BASICS FOR BEGINNERS

>> *Hannes Lindeque*



Spring

Another early spring favourite is the jerkbait.



Change

The first adjustment should always be the simplest one: change your retrieve.



Staging bass

Going into spring bass tend to move in stages, stopping at transitional structure along the way.



Secret

Pitching makes the difference between fishing around cover and fishing inside it.

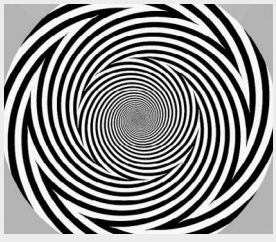


Spawn

Sheltered bays off the main channel or areas with widely spaced contour lines indicating a flat are great areas to target when trying to find spawning bass.

Mind games

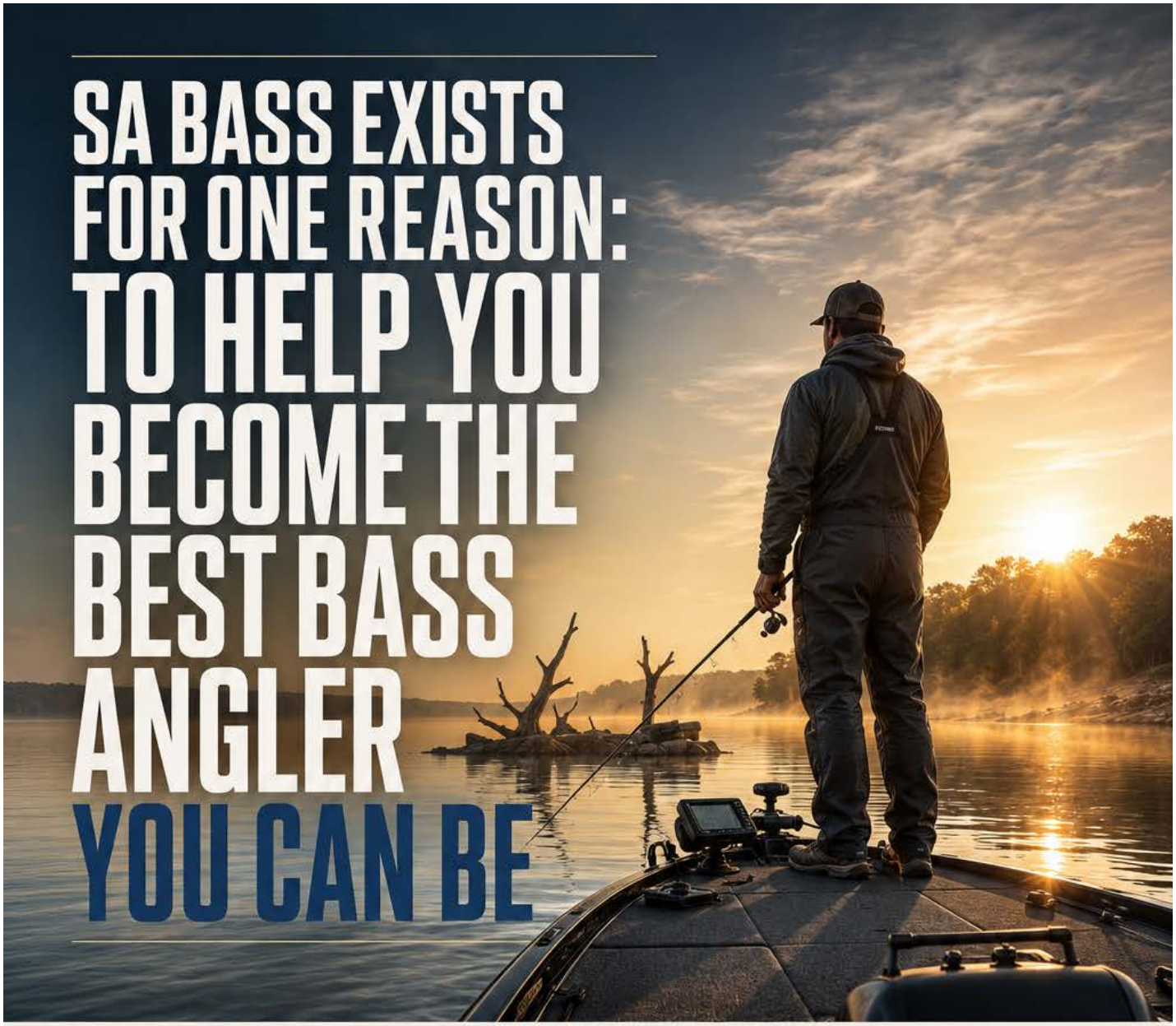
The real battle is not always out on the water but inside an angler's mind, especially when it comes down to loosing good fish.



Frogs

In murky, shallow waters, topwater frogs remain a go-to choice.





SA BASS EXISTS FOR ONE REASON: TO HELP YOU BECOME THE BEST BASS ANGLER YOU CAN BE

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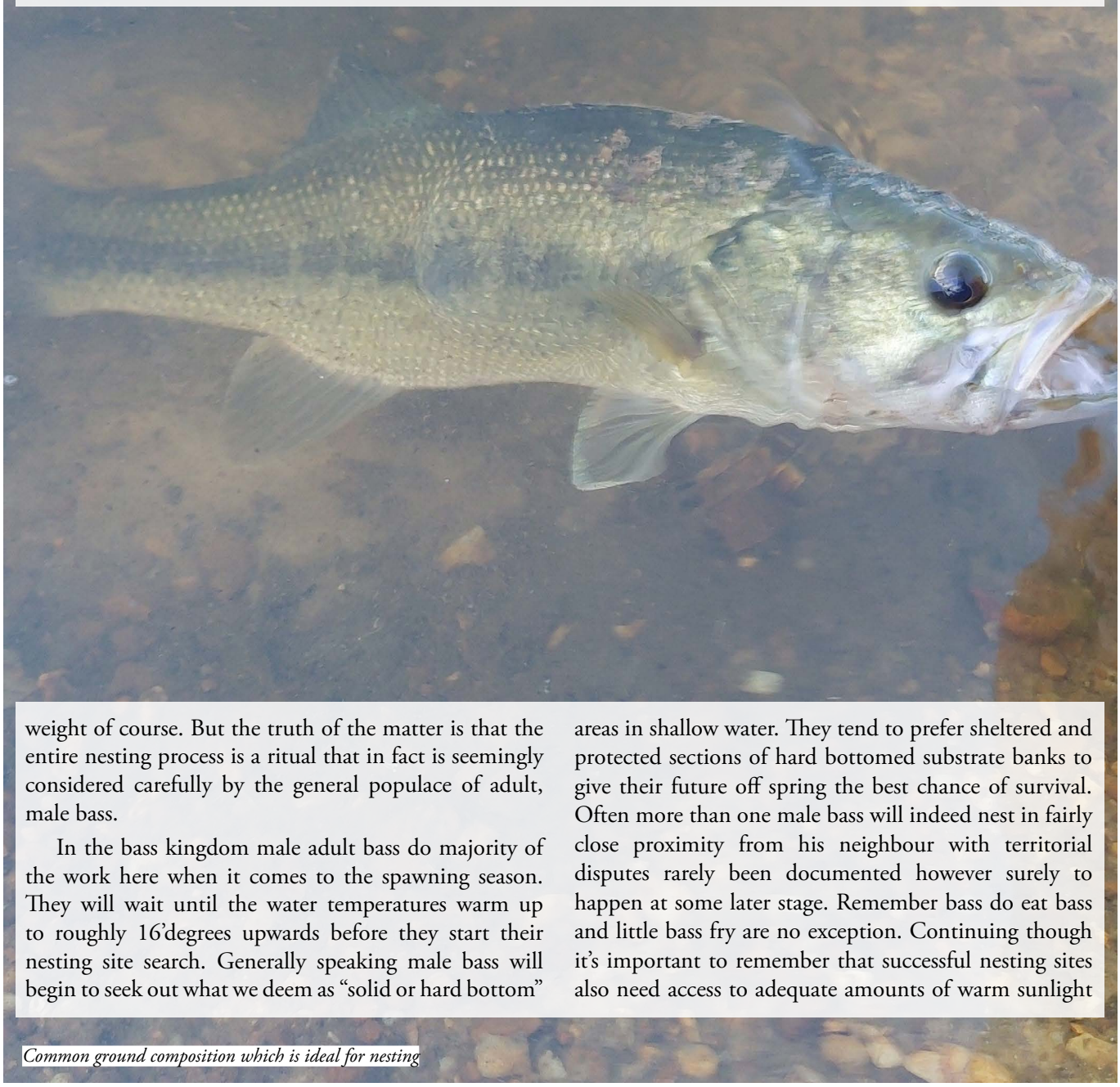
BASS NESTING

THE INS AND OUTS OF HOW BASS NEST

*>> Jay Röhm-Williams**

It's about that time of the year again when the other half of all bass anglers country wide awaken from hibernation. Yes, some bass anglers do in fact hibernate in winter only resurfacing near the water once the temperature warms up. This can only mean that spring season is almost upon us once more announcing that the cold days of hard, winter fishing are fading behind us. Cometh the spawn so cometh the bass angler and so too comes every detailed interpretation of how to fish during this exciting though fragile period. There is always advice and guidance to be shared about where to target, what lures to use and what tactics work best but today I'm sharing a detailed, researched view on how bass go about nesting.

From a bass point of view this particular time on the seasonal calendar is quite important as there's a lot riding on this time frame. Survival of the species and a need to ensure there's a next generation of bass fish to populate the waters is all that's really on their minds. That and eating a lot of prey to reclaim some of that lost winter weight of course. But the truth of the matter is that the entire nesting process is a ritual that in fact is seemingly considered carefully by the general populace of adult, male bass.



Common ground composition which is ideal for nesting

In the bass kingdom male adult bass do majority of the work here when it comes to the spawning season. They will wait until the water temperatures warm up to roughly 16'degrees upwards before they start their nesting site search. Generally speaking male bass will begin to seek out what we deem as "solid or hard bottom" areas in shallow water. They tend to prefer sheltered and protected sections of hard bottomed substrate banks to give their future off spring the best chance of survival. Often more than one male bass will indeed nest in fairly close proximity from his neighbour with territorial disputes rarely been documented however surely to happen at some later stage. Remember bass do eat bass and little bass fry are no exception. Continuing though it's important to remember that successful nesting sites also need access to adequate amounts of warm sunlight



Male bass will be more visable in the shallows during the spawn

hence forth the need for shallow water. If the water conditions are clear for long, lengthy periods then deeper nesting sites have been found in such instances. You see without enough sunshine the eggs will not hatch and that's obviously a problem. The sun's rays help incubate the eggs until they hatch. If there are prolonged, cold spells which sweep in during this crucial time the entire batch of eggs will be lost. The most preferred, best nest locations have gravel beds, loose pebble banks and gritty, rock bottoms which are perfect nesting sites. Ideally anywhere near or in bays, small coves and back water flats are seemingly attractive, safe zones.

Once the site has been deemed acceptable the male will fan a circle like, shallow ditched area as best he can with his tail. The size of these nesting areas vary according to the size of the fish themselves but rule of thumb has observed it is normally twice an individual's body length. It is incredible to witness a male bass actually using his broad tail to clean and sweep a nest site clear of debris by swimming back and forth then around in a circle. If the area has aquatic vegetation growing above the hard bottomed area the bass will simply clear this area out as well, removing or rearranging the plant life as needed. The site has to be defendable you see because bass eggs are easy meals to crustaceans, birds, fish and some reptiles. Yes you guessed the males have to defend not only the eggs once fertilized but the offspring as well till they school up and swim off on their own.

Some males will even have more than one nesting site during the entire spawn season depending on the length of time they began breeding. These nesting sites might be in complete opposite ends of any given area especially if water temperatures altered and decreased. After the site is chosen and the nest is prepared the rest is pretty much clear from there. If all goes well then after a period of two to three weeks the next generation of bass will have hatched and left home. It's hats off to dad for all his hard work and his contribution to the survival of the species.

Be mindful out there this upcoming spawning season everyone and here's to the next generation.

Rods out and safe fishing everyone!

**Jay Röhm-Williams is a seasoned bass angler with a wealth of knowledge, and since 2018 he has been sharing his expertise with fellow bass enthusiasts, hoping they'll discover the same passion and enjoyment he finds in this unique sport.*



Typical nesting site - notice the nests of different sizes just off a ledge

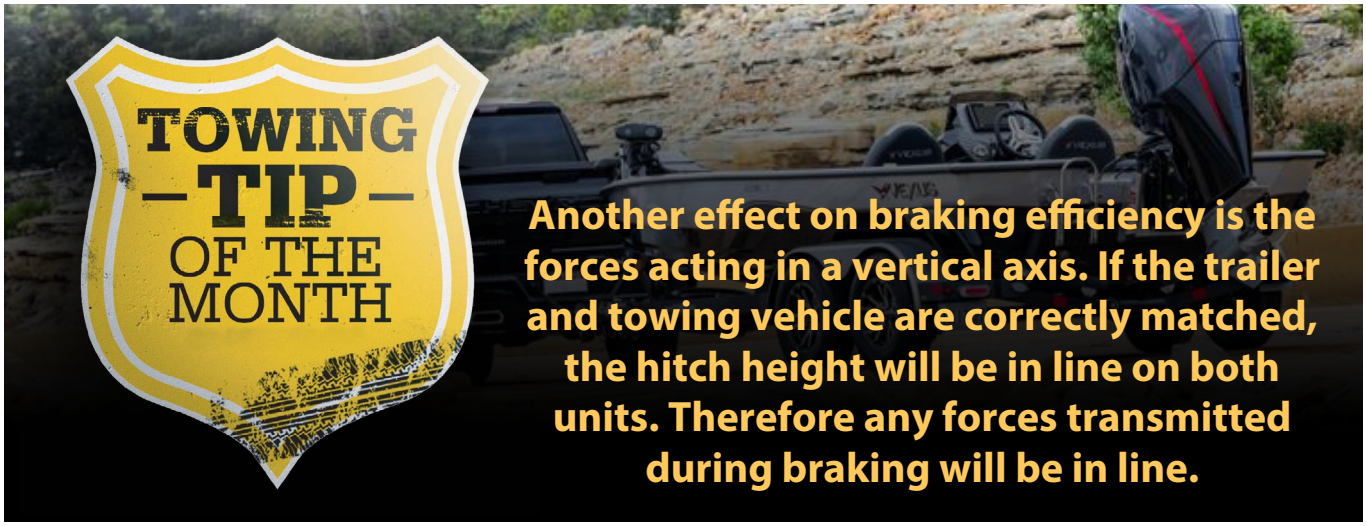
QUIZ

FIND THE WORD

THERE ARE 16 DIFFERENT NAMES HIDDEN IN THIS PUZZLE, SEE IF YOU CAN FIND AND ENCIRCLE ALL OF THEM.

Casting
Cold-front
Crayfish
Diameter
Equipment
Flats
Frogs
Humps
Jointed
Leeches
Measure
Natural
Pegging
Poppers
Ratio
Roadbeds

W	E	S	T	Y	U	I	O	P	Q	A	S	D	F	G	H
A	R	E	P	R	J	L	C	A	S	T	I	N	G	O	S
D	T	Q	J	O	I	N	T	E	D	N	O	N	Q	R	S
I	Y	U	S	A	O	M	Q	R	O	P	I	R	E	T	U
A	U	I	D	D	K	R	R	N	K	G	V	P	O	P	Q
M	I	P	F	B	N	J	P	Q	G	O	P	Q	R	S	T
E	O	M	L	E	E	C	H	E	S	O	N	N	P	Q	R
T	P	E	H	D	Q	R	P	T	P	C	E	A	U	E	M
E	A	N	J	S	G	A	M	K	L	J	K	T	R	N	O
R	A	T	I	O	N	Y	J	K	H	I	J	U	L	N	S
T	D	P	D	H	L	F	J	S	T	P	S	R	T	T	B
Z	F	J	Z	D	O	I	Q	R	O	A	Q	A	A	T	U
V	G	F	R	O	G	S	M	B	E	L	M	L	O	P	Q
W	H	L	P	D	H	H	U	M	P	S	F	C	E	T	U
O	J	C	O	L	D	F	R	O	N	T	X	Y	Z	A	B
Y	K	X	B	C	N	N	P	Q	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T



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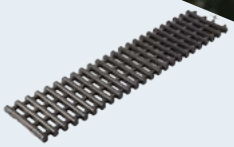

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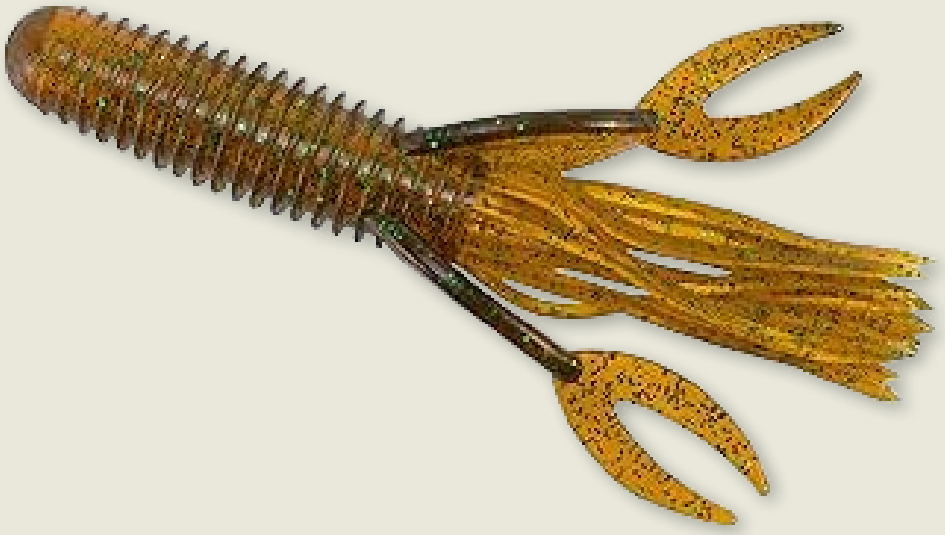
BUISPLASTIEK-AAS

LAAT ONS NOG DIE AAS TOT SY VOLLE REG KOM?

Daar is kunsaas wat op 'n spesifieke manier gehengel moet word, en dan is daar die kunsaas bait, of soos ons dit in Afrikaans kan noem, die buisplastiek-aas. Dit is een van daardie kunsaas wat eenvoudig lyk, maar ongelooflik veelsydig is. Die vraag is egter: Laat ons nog die aas tot sy volle reg kom?



Buisplastiek-ase kan in verskeie groottes en vorms voorkom

>> *Philip Kemp**

'n Buisplastiek-aas bestaan basies uit 'n hol, sagte plastiekliggaam met 'n klomp klein "tentakels" aan die agterkant. Die hol lyf laat die aas maklik saamdruk wanneer 'n baars dit vat, terwyl die dun stertjies beweging en vibrasie in die water skep.

Die groot geheim van 'n aas is egter nie net sy voorkoms nie. Dit is die manier waarop dit deur die water beweeg en hoe natuurlik dit val.

Wanneer werk die aas die beste?

Een van die grootste voordele van die aas is dat dit deur die jaar vis kan vang. Daar is egter sekere situasies waar ek dit besonder graag wil gebruik.

- **Dieper water**

Wanneer baars in dieper water lê, is hierdie aas uitstekend. Jy kan die aas laat sak tot op die verlangde diepte en dit dan baie stadig langs die bodem werk. Dit is veral nuttig wanneer die water helder is en die visse nie lus is vir 'n vinnig bewegende kunsaas nie.

- **Struktuur**

Tubes en struktuur is amper gemaak vir mekaar. Rotse, klippe, hout, plantegroei, drop-offs en ander onderwaterstrukture is plekke waar baars graag wag om prooi voor te lê. Die kunsaas kan stadig deur hierdie gebiede gewerk word, waar dit soos 'n klein kreef, garnaal of ander bodemlewende prooidiertjie kan lyk.

- **Wanneer die vis traag is**

Wanneer die baars nie aktief jag nie, is hierdie aas een van my gunsteling keuses. Die groot voordeel is dat jy dit baie stadig kan hengel sonder dat dit sy aantrekkingskrag verloor. Party dae is die antwoord eenvoudig: gooi dit in, laat dit sink en gee dit tyd.

Hoe gemaak?

Daar is verskillende maniere om die aas te hengel, maar die klassieke tegniek is om dit naby of op die bodem te werk. Gooi die kunsaas na jou teiken area en laat dit eers heeltemal afsak. Hou jou lyn dop terwyl hy val. Baie kere gebeur die byt juis tydens die val. Wanneer die kunsaas die bodem bereik, lig jy dit liggies met die stok se punt en laat die aas weer sak. Die beweging hoef nie groot te wees nie.

Lig… laat sak… wag.

Herhaal dit terwyl jy die kunsaas stadig na jou toe werk. Een van die grootste foute wat hengelaars maak, is om die



Buisplastiek-ase kan op verskeie maniere gehengel word en op verskeie tipe stroppe. (Foto geleen)

aas te vinnig te beweeg. Die aas hoef nie wild op die bodem gepluk te word om vis te lok nie. Gee dit eerder tyd om sy werk te doen.

Die geheime sterkpunt

Die manier waarop 'n buisplastiek-aas bodem toe sak, is een van sy grootste sterkpunte. Omrede die aas hol is, kan dit 'n baie interessante, stadig-fladderende of spiraal-agtige val hê, afhangend van hoe hy geryg is en watter gewiggie jy gebruik. Baars kan dit gedurende hierdie val aanval. Daarom moet jy altyd konsentreer terwyl die aas sink. Hou 'n effense spanning op die lyn en kyk vir enige abnormale beweging. Soms spring die lyn net effens vorentoe. Ander kere voel jy bloot 'n klein "tik". Wanneer jy iets anders voel as 'n normale val, moet jy kap.

Watter stroppe werk?

Die buisplastiek-aas kan op verskillende maniere geryg word. Een van die bekendste metodes is om dit Texas-styl te hengel. Die haakpunt word in die plastiek weggesteek, wat dit moontlik maak om die kunsaas deur plantegroei en ander struktuur te werk.

'n Ander opsie is om 'n interne loodkop te gebruik. Dit gee die aas 'n ander aksie en help jou om dit baie akkuraat rondom struktuur te hengel. Die keuse tussen die twee hang grootliks af van waar jy hengel. In swaar plantegroei of gebiede met baie hindernisse verkies ek die Texas-strop. In oop water kan die loodkop met 'n oop hoek weer uitstekend werk.

Kleur maak wel 'n verskil

Kleurkeuse kan baie eenvoudig gehou word. In helder water kan natuurlike kleure soos groen, bruin en ander prooi gebaseerde kleure baie goed werk.

In donkerder toestande of in troebel water kan 'n donker silhoeët of 'n kleur met groter kontras die aas makliker sigbaar maak. Moet egter nie bang wees om te eksperimenteer nie. Een dag kan 'n natuurlike kleur die wenner wees en die volgende dag kan 'n heeltemal ander kleur die vis se aandag trek.



Die skrywer met 'n mannetjie wat van 'n nes af gevang is met 'n buisplastiek-aas. Let op die stukkende stert waarmee hy die nes skoon gewaai het

Wanneer moet jy dit vinniger hengel?

Hoewel die kunsaas bekend is as 'n stadige aas, beteken dit nie dat jy dit altyd stadig moet hengel nie. Wanneer bass aktief is, kan jy dit met korter, skerper bewegings werk. Jy kan dit ook deur die waterkolom laat swem



Vind die kleur wat vir jou werk

of dit oor plantegroei laat beweeg. Die belangrikste is om te kyk hoe die vis reageer. As jy sien dat baars die aas volg maar nie byt nie, hengel stadiger. As hulle aggressief is, hengel vinniger. Die kunsaas gee jou die geleentheid om jou aanbieding maklik aan te pas.

Hengelwenk

Nog 'n interessante manier om die aas se sigbaarheid te verbeter, is om 'n klein gloeistokkie binne-in die aas te plaas. (Sien die artikel "Op my Houtbordjie" in hierdie uitgawe - Red).

Dit kan veral interessant wees wanneer jy in dieper, donker water of tydens die vroeë oggend en laatmiddag hengel. Die sagte gloed binne die plastiek gee die kunsaas 'n heeltemal ander voorkoms. Dit is nie iets wat noodwendig elke keer gaan werk nie, maar wanneer die normale aanbieding nie resultate oplewer nie, kan dit 'n interessante verandering wees.

Die belangrikste les

Die kunsaas is nie 'n kunsaas wat jy noodwendig met spoed en krag moet hengel nie. Sy krag lê in natuurlike beweging, 'n stadige val en die vermoë om lank in die baars se gebied te bly.

As jy nog nooit ernstig met 'n buisplastiek-aas gehengel het nie, koop 'n paar basiese kleure (soos watermelon, green pumkin en Junebug), die regte hoeke, gewiggies en begin eksperimenteer.

Werk dit langs klippe, laat dit deur plantegroei val, gooi dit teen 'n drop-off en laat dit op die bodem rus. En wanneer jy dink daar is niks daar nie, gee dit nog tien sekondes. Want dit is dikwels die geheim van 'n tube: Jy hoef dit nie altyd meer te laat doen nie. Jy moet dit soms net langer op die regte plek laat vertoef.

Lekker hengel.

**Philip Kemp is 'n gesoute swartbaarhengelaar en assistent-redakteur van SA BASS.*



Buisplastiek-ase kom in verskeie kleure en lengtes voor

ALLISON ADVANTAGE AND DRANCKRAZY DIFFERENCES

(Part 2)

Speed, Precision, Innovation and the Pursuit of Big Bass

>> Madras Marine & RV carries an extensive range of Dranckrazy products



>> ***Fishingboy & David Swendseid***

Switching gears from bass boats to innovations in lure and tackle development, let us turn our attention to the second part of this article as we take a closer look at 'Dipsy and the Crazy Anglers Network', better known today as Dranckrazy.

Dranckrazy traces its origins to a humble beginning under the name Yoidore, established in 1997 in Mie Prefecture, Japan. The group consisted of professionals from various industries who shared a passion for fishing and the camaraderie that comes with the sport.

Over time, the Yoidore anglers became friends with another fishing group known as Real Crazy Anglers, which had its roots in Kobe. Like Yoidore, the Real Crazy Anglers were deeply passionate about fishing, and a strong bond quickly formed between the two groups.

As their friendship grew, several anglers from both groups began exchanging ideas on bass fishing theories, lure design, and fish behaviour. Those discussions eventually led to the creation of handcrafted, artisan-style lures that quickly gained popularity within their local angling communities.

The growing success of these handmade creations inspired both groups to take the next step. They joined forces to establish a lure company, and Dranckrazy was born.

At the heart of the company is CEO Takeshi Nakayama, the visionary behind the Dranckrazy brand. A passionate and dedicated angler, Takeshi has successfully combined his diverse talents as an accomplished musician, businessman, and artist to shape the unique culture and identity of the company.

The depth of angling expertise within Dranckrazy is extensive. This wealth of experience has enabled the company's research and development team to create products not only for bass fishing but also for expedition fishing, mountain streams, inshore applications, and offshore saltwater fisheries.

Today, Dranckrazy lures have earned recognition on the international stage. From finely tuned lures designed for largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass to exceptionally durable offerings developed for powerful species such as the giant Papuan black bass, Dranckrazy maintains strict control over every stage of development, from concept and design to manufacturing and quality assurance. This level of integration makes it one of the few truly vertically integrated lure companies in the industry.



From hard baits and wire baits to soft plastics, Madras Marine & RV has anglers covered

The Dranckrazy Difference

A significant step in Dranckrazy's expansion into the U.S. market has been the recruitment of David Swendseid as Research & Development Specialist and Strategic International Manager.

David will spearhead product development and market initiatives tailored specifically for North American anglers. Several of the concepts currently under development are highly specialised and may ultimately be accompanied by patent applications.

As many bass anglers already know, David Swendseid pioneered the modern tournament application of Spybaiting. Looking ahead, he plans to further evolve the technique through innovative new lure and rod concepts designed specifically for Spybaiting and related finesse presentations.

Dranckrazy's primary focus in the U.S. market will be bass fishing, saltwater applications, and its growing line-up of specialty rods. David will personally oversee the development of several new lure projects while introducing unique design concepts aimed at differentiating the brand from competitors.

What sets Dranckrazy apart is that many of its existing lure designs offer actions and presentations unlike anything currently available on the market.

Skibble and the Art of Quiver Trappin'

Another intriguing addition to the Dranckrazy line-up is the Skibble, a floating soft-plastic bait developed specifically for Quiver Trappin', one of the company's latest innovations in tournament bass fishing.

The bait is designed to be rigged through the side of the body approximately two inches behind the nose. This creates a unique subsurface presentation that imitates an injured baitfish struggling just beneath the surface.

The resulting action is unlike traditional topwater or subsurface finesse techniques. Quiver Trappin' introduces a completely different visual trigger to bass, and it is a technique we will explore in greater detail in an upcoming instalment.



Madras Marine & RV carries a wide selection of Dranckrazy and ISM rods

Hard Baits for Every Situation

We have not even touched on Dranckrazy's extensive line-up of hard baits, where the company showcases its proprietary CoreX, or Solid Core Technology.

Manufacturers that develop their own production technologies often gain significant advantages in design flexibility, durability, and performance. CoreX Technology allows Dranckrazy engineers to create crankbaits and hard baits with actions and characteristics that would be difficult to achieve using conventional manufacturing methods.

One example is the soon-to-be-released Gutz crankbait, a lure that promises to bring a fresh approach to crankbait design. We will take a closer look at this innovative lure in a future article.

Among the Best Spinnerbaits in the Business

Spinnerbaits have always been one of my favourite cast-and-retrieve presentations.

After hearing praise from both a close friend and David Swendseid himself regarding Dranckrazy's spinnerbait designs, I was eager to get my hands on several Inazuma SH spinnerbaits from the tackle department at Madras Marine & RV.

The Inazuma has earned a reputation for its effectiveness on aggressive, hard-fighting species. According to a close friend in Malaysia, it performs exceptionally well on peacock bass, further highlighting its versatility across a wide range of fisheries.

A Rod for Every Application

One of the most exciting segments within Dranckrazy's extensive rod line-up is its travel rod series.

Among the many manufacturers entering the rapidly growing travel rod market, Dranckrazy has positioned itself as a leader by designing rods that closely replicate the action and feel of traditional one-piece rods.

Beyond performance, these rods are built for durability and are capable of handling the rigours of frequent travel and demanding fishing environments. Best of all, they are designed with airline travel in mind, making them fully TSA-compliant and ideal companions for travelling anglers.

In the next article: Tackling post-spawn smallmouth in changing conditions

With the formalities out of the way, we can now focus on the fishing itself.

In the next instalment, we will examine how we adapted to rapidly changing conditions while targeting post-spawn smallmouth bass on the Columbia River. Unlike many of my previous trips, the fish behaved very differently than expected.

To make matters even more challenging, a storm system unexpectedly moved into the areas we had planned to fish, forcing us to rethink our approach on the water.

How we adjusted our strategies, lure selections, and presentations to continue finding success will be the focus of the next chapter. Stay tuned.

Die Heldesaal
TAKHIRO OMORI (1970)

Deur die woord van 'n Japanese pionier het Amerikaanse baarshengel 'n internasionale sport geword.

>> *Philip Kemp**

Wanneer Takahiro Omori op 24 September 2026 in Springfield, Missouri, in die Bass Fishing ***Hall of Fame*** opgeneem word, sal dit veel meer wees as net 'n beloning vir 'n suksesvolle professionele hengelaar. Dit sal die bekroning wees van 'n merkwaardige verhaal oor vasberadenheid, opoffering, aanpassing en 'n droom wat oor kulturele en geografiese grense heen gestrek het.

Omori, gebore op 4 September 1970 in Tokio en grootgeword in die landelike deel van Japan, het oor meer as drie dekades een van die suksesvolste professionele hengelaars geword wat ooit vanuit 'n ander land na Amerika verhuis het. Hy word die eerste boorling van Japan wat in die Bass Fishing ***Hall of Fame*** opgeneem word.

Maar sy verhaal het allesbehalwe maklik begin.

Omori se liefde vir visvang het reeds as kind begin. Sy pa het hom aan visvang bekendgestel, en volgens Omori kan hy nie eers sy eerste hengeluitstappie onthou nie, hy het eenvoudig nog altyd gehengel. In Japan was visvang egter vir hom 'n stokperdjie, nie 'n beroep nie.

Sy pa was vasbeslote dat sy seun universiteit toe moes gaan. Omori het egter ander planne gehad. Ná hoërskool het hy eerder besluit om sy droom na te jaag. Hy het selfs op 'n eiland in Lake Kawaguchi in 'n tent gaan woon en verskillende werke – onder meer as kelner, skottelgoedwasser en hotelwerknemer, gedoen om aan die lewe te bly terwyl hy gehengel het.



MLF Bass Pro Tour 2026

Dit was die soort vasberadenheid wat later sy professionele loopbaan sou kenmerk.

In 1990 het Omori sy eerste reis na Amerika onderneem om aan 'n B.A.S.S.-geleentheid deel te neem. Hy het nie daarheen gegaan met die ervaring of infrastruktuur wat vandag vir internasionale hengelaars beskikbaar is nie. Hy het self sy pad moes vind.

Sy eerste poging was nie suksesvol nie. Hy het 256e geëindig, maar iets belangriker het gebeur: hy het Amerikaanse professionele hengelaars soos Rick Clunn en Larry Nixon ontmoet en besef hoeveel hy nog moes leer. Daarna het hy teruggegaan Japan toe met 'n groter doelwit. In 1992 het hy weer die Amerikaanse B.A.S.S.-toer aangedurf. In die begin was sukses skaars, maar in 1993 het hy sy eerste B.A.S.S.-geldprys verdien met 'n agtste plek by Lake Eufaula. Die deurbraak het in 1996 gekom toe hy sy eerste B.A.S.S.-byeenkoms by Lake of the Ozarks gewen het. 'n Jaar later het hy 'n immigrant-visum gekry en kon hy permanent in Amerika woon. Hy het hom naby Lake Fork in Texas gevestig, 'n gebied wat uiteindelik sy tuiste en sy oefenterrein sou word.

Omori se loopbaan het daarna momentum gekry. In 2001 het hy 'n FLW Tour-geleentheid gewen, en hy het homself gevestig as 'n ernstige kandidaat op die Amerikaanse professionele toneel.

Maar die grootste oomblik van sy loopbaan het in 2004 gekom.

By Lake Wylie in Suid-Carolina het Omori die Bassmaster Classic gewen, die wêreldkampioenskap van professionele baarshengel. Hy was die eerste hengelaar wat buite die Verenigde State gebore is om die gesogte titel te verower. Die oorwinning was belangrik vir veel meer as net Omori se persoonlike rekord. Dit het gewys dat 'n hengelaar van

Japan homself op die hoogste vlak van Amerikaanse baarshengel kon bewys. Sy oorwinning het internasionale belangstelling in die sport gestimuleer en die deur oopgemaak vir ander buitelandse hengelaars wat later die Amerikaanse professionele kringe sou betree.

"I knew it!"

Een van die bekendste oomblikke uit Omori se loopbaan het tydens daardie 2004 Classic gekom.

In die laaste uur van die finale dag het hy 'n vlaklopende "crankbait" gebruik en 'n paar pragtige baars gevang. Sy reaksie, "I knew it!" het uiteindelik een van sy kenmerkende frases geword en is vandag nog onder aanhangers en mede-hengelaars bekend. Dit pas eintlik perfek by Omori se hengelpersoonlikheid: selfvertroue, aggressie en 'n bereidwilligheid om op sy instinkte te vertrou.

Wat Omori se loopbaan besonders maak, is dat sy sukses nie met die 2004 Classic geëindig het nie.

Hy het op al drie groot professionele bane sukses behaal – B.A.S.S., FLW en Major League Fishing. Hy het verskeie B.A.S.S.-oorwinnings, 'n FLW Tour-oorwinning en MLF-titels agter sy naam. Hy het ook aan talle Classics, Forrest Wood Cups en REDCREST-byeenkomste deelgeneem.

Sy loopbaanverdienste het intussen meer as $3 miljoen bereik, terwyl MLF se huidige profiel hom met meer as sestig Top-10-eindpunte en meer as $3,3 miljoen se totale loopbaanverdienste lys.

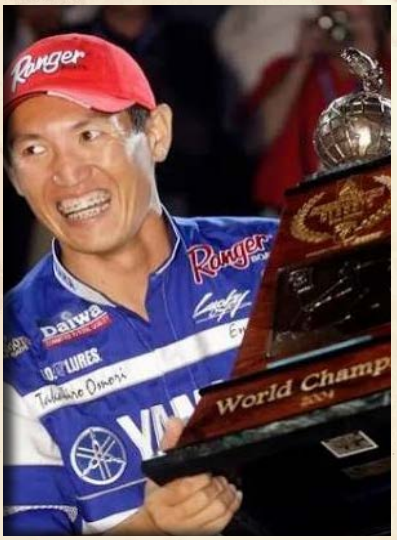
En toe kom 2026. Op 'n ouderdom waarop baie professionele hengelaars reeds aan aftrede begin dink, het Omori sy eerste Bass Pro Tour-oorwinning by Lake Hartwell behaal. Hy het daarna ook tweede geëindig by REDCREST op Table Rock Lake.

Miskien sê niks meer van Omori se karakter as sy eie houding teenoor die ***Hall of Fame*** nie.

Toe hy hoor dat hy in 2026 opgeneem sou word, was hy volgens sy eie woorde verras. Hy het selfs gedink die ***Hall of Fame*** is iets wat eers ná 'n hengelaar se aftrede kom. Maar ondanks die eer het sy benadering tot kompetisie nie verander nie. Omori sê in wese dat elke toernooi 'n nuwe toernooi is en dat die visse nie weet of jy 'n ***Hall of Famer*** is nie. Jy moet steeds gaan werk om hulle te vang.



Hy het die Bassmaster Elite Series verskeie kere gewen



In 2004 wen hy die Classic op Lake Wylie

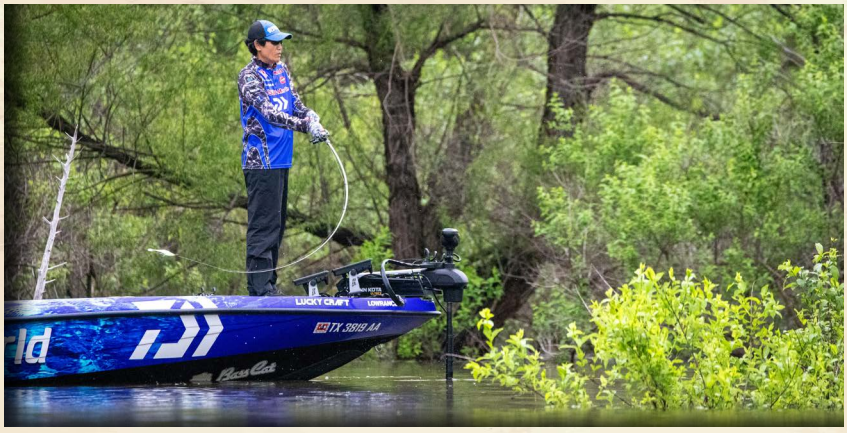
Dít is waarskynlik die beste beskrywing van Takahiro Omori se loopbaan. Hy het nie net Japan se naam op die Amerikaanse baarshengelkaart geplaas nie. Hy het bewys dat talent, harde werk en vasberadenheid 'n mens se oorsprong kan oorbrug.

Van 'n jong seun in Japan, na 'n tent by Lake Kawaguchi, na 'n onbekende Japanese hengelaar wat Amerika toe is, en uiteindelik na die wenner van die Bassmaster Classic en nou 'n lid van die Bass Fishing ***Hall of Fame***.

Omori se verhaal is nie net die verhaal van 'n kampioen nie. Dit is die verhaal van 'n man wat geweier het om sy droom te begrawe. En ná meer as 30 jaar in professionele baarshengel lyk dit asof Takahiro Omori nog lank nie klaar is nie.


Die ChatterBait® JackHammer is sy gunsteling kunsaas

**Philip Kemp is 'n gesoute swartbaar-hengelaar en assistent-redakteur van SA BASS.*



Omori in aksie

GEAR UP

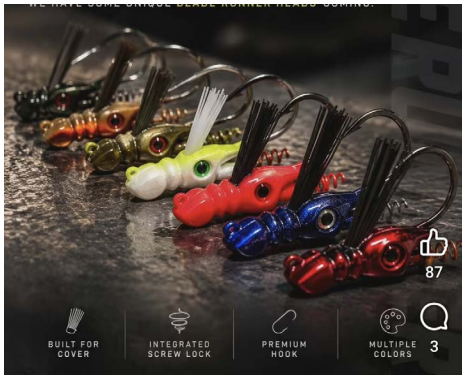
THE LATEST FISHING ADDITIONS

The latest fishing additions on the market.

1



2



3



4



The right lure can make all the difference when the bite is tough or the fish are fired up. In this edition of Gear Up, we take a look at a selection of proven soft plastics and reaction baits that deserve a place in every South African bass angler's tackle box. This line-up offers solutions for every situation on the water. Gear up, fish smart, and be ready when the bass switch on.

1. BERKLEY
DOOM STROLLER

The Berkley Doom Stroller is designed with modern forward-facing sonar fishing firmly in mind. Its fixed internal weighting gives the hard bait excellent casting control while producing a natural baitfish action across a range of retrieve speeds. A simple steady retrieve, combined with subtle rod-tip twitches, is all it takes to make the Doom Stroller imitate a fleeing or dying baitfish. Available in three sizes and a range of carefully selected colours, it should be particularly interesting for anglers targeting suspended or roaming bass.

2. BERKLEY
JOHNNY CREEK URCHIN RIGGING

Urchin-style baits have exploded onto the bass-fishing scene, and Johnny Creek's Urchin rigging is part of the new terminal-tackle thinking surrounding these unusual spiky baits. The idea is to give anglers better control over how an urchin is weighted, presented and hooked. With urchin techniques still evolving rapidly, experimenting with different hook and weight combinations could be the key to improving hook-up rates.

3. RAPALA
INFILTRATOR

The Rapala Infiltrator is aimed at anglers looking for a hard bait capable of getting into the strike zone without sacrificing a natural presentation. Rapala's reputation for finely tuned actions makes this an interesting addition to the tackle box, particularly when bass are feeding on smaller baitfish and conventional presentations aren't producing. It is the sort of lure that deserves some experimentation with retrieve speed and cadence.

4. BERKLEY
SLAPGILL 95

The Berkley SlapGill 95 takes the appearance and behaviour of a panfish and turns it into a highly specialised shallow-water topwater presentation. Internal weighting creates a side-to-side flop when worked and a natural rocking motion as the lure settles, producing the distinctive surface "slap" that gives the bait its name. The 95 mm version is particularly suited to targeting bass around shallow cover where an injured bluegill-type presentation can be deadly.

5. BERKLEY
SNAG PROOF ZOO WAG

The Snag Proof Zoo Wag combines the weedless advantages of a hollow-body frog with the action of a traditional hard-bodied topwater lure. Its compact 2.75-inch body incorporates a clear cup-style bill that produces a distinctive wagging action when retrieved—even at slow speeds. This makes it an intriguing option for South African anglers fishing shallow vegetation, reeds and other heavy cover where conventional topwaters can struggle.















6. Z-MAN
CHATTERBAIT MINIMAX

Small doesn't necessarily mean ineffective. The Z-Man ChatterBait MiniMax packs the vibration and flash of a full-size bladed jig into a more compact presentation. The downsized hexagonal ChatterBlade, heavy-duty 2/0 hook and compact profile make it particularly useful when bass are feeding on smaller forage or when a full-sized ChatterBait simply looks like too much food.

7. BOYER
CRANKBAIT STYLE WEIGHTED HOOK

The Boyer Crankbait Style Lip is an interesting piece of tackle for anglers and lure builders who enjoy modifying or customising their presentations. The lip is, after all, one of the most important components of a crankbait because its shape and angle determine diving depth, vibration and overall action. Changing a crankbait's lip can therefore dramatically alter how the lure behaves in the water.

8. KASTKING
MG-TI ELITE

The KastKing Mg-Ti Elite is a baitcaster designed around one major objective: reducing spool inertia without sacrificing strength. It features a genuine titanium spool weighing just 6.9 g, a magnesium frame and carbon-fibre side covers, with the complete reel weighing only around 142 g. Its Halo Vortex braking system automatically manages spool speed during the cast, while the reel is rated for lure weights from approximately 1.7 to 30 g. For anglers wanting one reel capable of everything from finesse presentations to conventional bass lures, this is a very interesting piece of technology.

9. Z-MAN
CHATTERBAIT ELITE EVO HD

For anglers who fish ChatterBaits hard in heavy cover, the new Elite EVO HD takes the already successful EVO concept and beefs it up considerably. Z-Man has strengthened the head-to-blade connection, added a welded line tie and fitted a heavy-duty 5/0 hook. The company says the HD version is more than 40% stronger than the original EVO. Available in 3/8- and 1/2-ounce sizes, it is aimed squarely at anglers who want to pull big bass out of serious cover without worrying about the lure giving up.

10. RAPALA
RAGE R500

The Rapala RAGE R500 brings Rapala's focus on performance and precision to the modern lure market. It is a product aimed at anglers who want dependable engineering combined with a presentation that can trigger aggressive bass. For South African anglers, the real attraction will be seeing how the R500 performs across our different water types—from clear impoundments to stained water and structure-heavy fisheries.

Editor's note: A few of these products - particularly the Johnny Creek Urchin system, Boyer lip and Rapala RAGE R500 - have limited publicly available technical information at present.

South Africa

Dam Levels



Here is a list of the latest water levels of some of South Africa's biggest water reservoirs.

Eastern Cape	86.5%	↑↓
Beervlei Dam	0.0%	0.0%
Bridle Drift Dam	97.8%	12.4%
Darlington Dam	46.8%	-1.6%
Impofu Dam	100.6%	0.5%
Wriggleswade Dam	100.9%	91.2%

Gauteng	100.6%	↑↓
Bronkhorstspruit	100.3%	0.3%
Roodeplaat Dam	100.9%	0.4%

Kwa-Zulu Natal	88.0%	↑↓
Albert Falls Dam	84.1%	-5.6%
Bivane Dam	97.3%	-2.3%
Goedertrouw Dam	91.1%	-2.7%
Inanda Dam	95.5%	-2.5%
Midmar Dam	87.1%	-2.9%
Ntshingwayo Dam	67.4%	-1.9%
Pongolapoort Dam	82.6%	-1.5%
Spioenkop Dam	88.6%	-2.1%
Spring Grove Dam	75.3%	-8.9%
Wagendrift Dam	90.5%	-2.9%
Woodstock Dam	98.0%	2.8%
Zaaihoek Dam	98.0%	12.8%

Limpopo	89.0%	↑↓
Albasini Dam	97.8%	2.9%
De Hoop Dam	100.0%	-0.1%
Ebenezer Dam	100.2%	-0.1%
Flag Boshielo / Arabie	100.6%	-0.9%
Doorndraai Dam	100.0%	-0.1%
Mokolo Dam	100.5%	-0.2%
Nandoni Dam	101.3%	-0.2%
Rust de Winter Dam	100.7%	0.0%
Tzaneen Dam	0.0%	0.0%

Mpumalanga	99.3%	↑↓
Da Gama Dam	100.3%	0.0%
Driekoppies Dam	100.2%	0.0%
Grootdraai Dam	97.5%	-1.1%
Heyshope Dam	100.5%	0.3%
Injaka Dam	100.4%	0.3%
Jericho Dam	92.1%	0.0%
Kwena Dam	100.4%	0.1%
Loskop Dam	100.5%	0.2%
Middelburg Dam	98.7%	2.6%
Morgenstond Dam	100.4%	1.2%
Nooitgedacht Dam	99.5%	1.0%
Rhenosterkop Dam	100.4%	-0.1%
Vygeboom Dam	100.4%	-0.1%
Witbank Dam	99.4%	0.2%

North West	104.6%	↑↓
Boskop Dam	102.8%	0.0%
Buffelspoort Dam	100.9%	0.4%
Hartebeespoort Dam	100.8%	1.8%
Klerkskraal Dam	111.8%	1.6%
Kosterrivier Dam	101.0%	0.2%
Molatedi Dam	109.2%	-0.2%
Roodekopjes Dam	105.5%	0.5%

O.F.S.	100.5%	↑↓
Allemanskraal Dam	97.2%	-2.0%
Bloemhof Dam	110.0%	3.2%
Gariep Dam	100.3%	1.0%
Kalkfontein Dam	100.1%	-1.5%
Knellpoort Dam	100.1%	0.1%
Koppies Dam	100.1%	-0.3%
Sterkfontein Dam	98.7%	-0.2%
Vaal Dam	100.0%	-1.9%
Vaalrivier Barrage	99.2%	1.9%
Vanderkloof Dam	99.7%	-0.5%

Western Cape	75.7%	↑↓
Berg River Dam	91.1%	2.1%
Brandvlei Dam	67.4%	6.2%
Clanwilliam Dam	95.1%	1.0%
Kwaggaskloof Dam	65.7%	6.1%
Theewaterskloof Dam	75.9%	-2.7%
Voëlvlei Dam	59.2%	-2.9%

Levels on:	*28-Aug*	*5-Aug*
Average:	*93.5%*	*91.9%*

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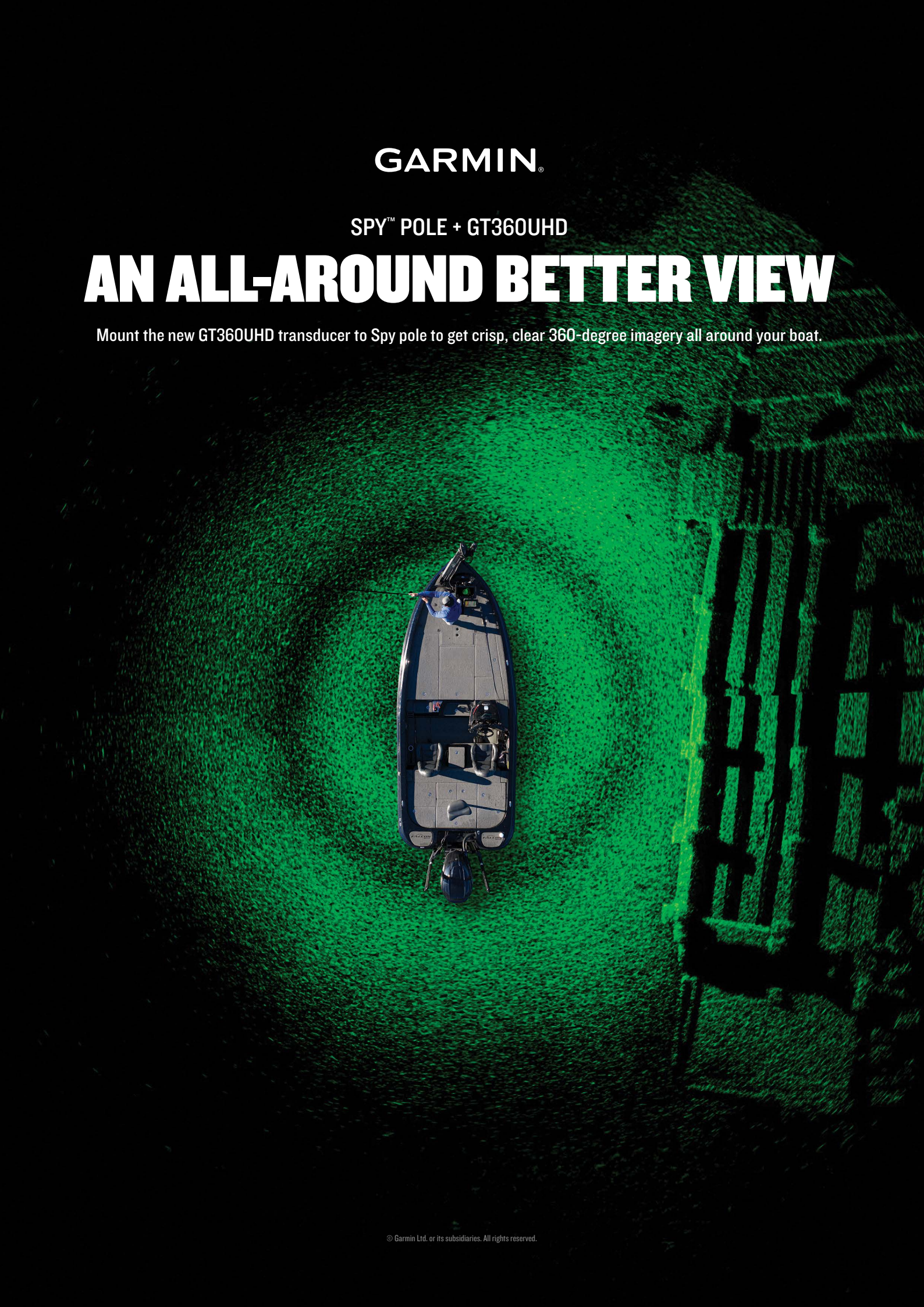

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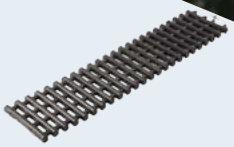

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