



WORLD'S LARGEST TOURNAMENT
FISHING ORGANIZATION
www.mlfsouthafrica.com



www.sabass.com

SA baars BAS

Issue 288

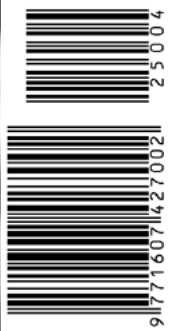


Crankbait Basics

Autumn Tips



RSA: R49.50 (incl. VAT)
Other Countries:
R43.04 (Tax excl.)



The PUNCH technique



Crankbait Basics | Boating etiquette | About Larry Nixon | The Punch Technique | About Strike Zones | Boats vs Banks
Tips for Catching Bass in Early Autumn | More Presentation Techniques | Bernally's Fishing Lodge | Tournament News
Basics 4 Beginners | New Tackle & Lures | Industry News and More...



AFRICA

7-9 AUG
2025

CHALLENGE



LOSKOP DAM

R5500 ENTRY FEE PER BOAT

ENTRIES CLOSE 30 JULY 2025

LIMITED TO ONLY 50 BOATS

CATEGORY #1 - 3 BOAT TEAM EVENT
CATEGORY #2 - INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS

INFO@MLFSOUTHAFRICA.COM

CASH-BACK

ELITE 10" & 12" **FS**



Get up to R6 300 back when you purchase an Elite 10" or 12" FS with Active Imaging 3-in-1 or Screen Only.

Contact your local Lowrance SA Dealer for more information and pricing.

Cash-Back Promotion from 1 April - 31 May 2025

Terms & Conditions Apply - www.lowrance.co.za

SA BASS Magazine:	is published monthly (12 issues per annum) by BB Publications (Pty) Ltd (2023/818376/07)
Office Hours:	Our office hours are Monday to Friday, 08:15 to 16:15
Contact Numbers:	Office: (065) 849 3264, Alternative: (083) 306 2718
Website:	www.sabass.com
Facebook:	SA BASS Magazine
Editor:	Hannes Lindeque – hannes@sabass.com
Assistant editor:	Philip Kemp – philip@sabass.com
Advertising Manager:	Wilma Lindeque – wilma@sabass.com
Subscriptions:	Hannes Lindeque – hannes@sabass.com
Digital subscriptions:	www.magzter.com
Layout and Design:	Storm Deezigns - dee@stormdeezigns.co.za

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.

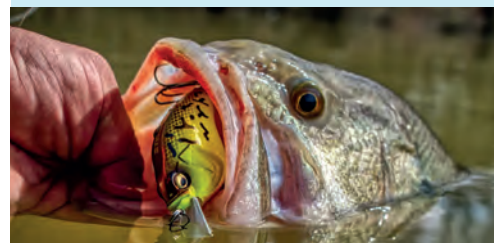
Copyright is expressly reserved and nothing may be reproduced in part or whole without the permission of the publisher. All enquiries regarding editorial correspondence, manuscripts and photographs should be directed to: editor@sabass.com

The publisher and editorial staff are not responsible for researching and investigating the accuracy or copy right of the material provided for publication in SA BASS magazine. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this magazine, the publisher does not accept responsibility for omissions or errors or their consequences. Readers are advised to use this information with the understanding that it is at their own risk. The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the publisher, the editor, editorial staff.

REGULARS & FORUMS

06 "Basics of crankbait fishing for bass"

Crankbaits will fall into the category of 'reaction' baits, which basically means that the bass will react to them out of instinct and bite or attack the lure.



12 "Boats vs banks - The pros and cons of both"

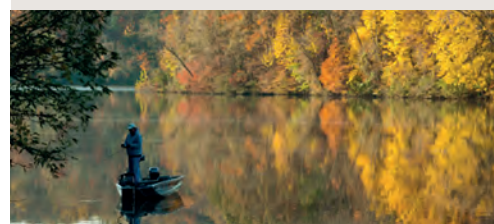
I have thought though many times while tearing the banks up catching bass that I could get perhaps a lot better fishing in if I had a boat right about now.

– Jay Röhm-Williams



18 "Autumn awakening - Tips for catching bass in early autumn"

Autumn bass fishing can be unpredictable, with changing weather conditions and fish behaviour. Here are a few tips to increase your chances of success.



How to use QR-codes

1. Open the QR-code reader/scanner app on your smartphone. Most smartphones models often have an app pre-installed. If not, visit your phone's app store and download the app.
2. Keep a steady hand while the QR-code is centred on the screen.
3. As soon as it is done scanning, whatever information should present itself for your viewing pleasure.



20 “Strike zones - What it takes to stay in the zone”

We are specifically referring to that particular area in and around a bass where the fish is most likely to decide whether to attack or not.

– Jay Röhm-Williams



25 “Fishing 101: The Punch technique”

It's tough to reach concealed bass with most lures, but here is a technique to get your rig down through even the gnarliest of grass mats.



34 “Tournament basics – Boating etiquette”

Boat etiquette is an essential aspect of bass tournaments that promotes sportsmanship and ensures safety for everyone.



36 “Die Hedgesaal - Larry Nixon”

Die “Generaal” sal altyd onthou word vir sy liefde vir die sport en dit wat hy in die professionele era vermag het – Philip Kemp



40 “South Africa Dam Levels”

A list of the latest water levels of some of South Africa's biggest water reservoirs.



COLUMNS & DEPARTMENTS

- 04 My Cast
- 08 Readers-go-Bassing
- 10 Basics for beginners
- 15 Op my houtbordjie



- 24 Crash Course in Bass Fishing
- 38 Gear Up

INDUSTRY NEWS

- 22 >> CMI Brokers Celebrating 40 Years of Excellence

TOURNAMENT NEWS

- 26 >> MLF Namibia - Ruffnek Basswarehouse Dominates Geekzsoft Brawl at Lake Oanob
- 28 >> Breeden earns victory at MLF Toyota Series at Lake of the Ozarks
- 32 >> Palaniuk Claims Sixth Bassmaster Elite Win at Lake Okeechobee

DESTINATION

- 31 >> Bernally's Fishing Lodge



ON THE COVER

“2.3kg, Jason Odendaal, Rhenosterkop Dam, MP”
Image: Maurice Kemp



My Cast



As the summer heat fades and autumn sets in, we find ourselves in a season of transition - both in nature and in our fishing strategies. Cooler mornings, changing water temperatures, and shifting bass behaviour mean it's time to adapt, experiment, and refine our approach.

In this edition, we explore top autumn techniques to keep the bites steady, feature expert advice from seasoned anglers, and cover the latest tournament news.

Whether you're aiming for a new personal best or simply enjoying the season's changing beauty, autumn presents an exciting challenge for bass anglers. As the temperatures drop, bass move into the shallows to bulk up for the colder months ahead - making this the perfect time to be on the water!

As always, we invite you to share your catches, stories, and tips with us. Let's celebrate another incredible season on the water!

Enjoy your fishing, and may your lines sing with joy!

Hannes Lindeque, *Publisher*

SA Bass BASS GET YOUR DIGITAL VERSION ONLY ON MAGZTER

ONLY R28pm

For your Apple, Android or Windows

Compatible with: Google play, Amazon Kindle, App Store

http://www.magzter.com/

VISA, Mastercard, EFT

Contact us:

E-mail: hannes@sabass.com

BB Print, P.O. Box 24938, Gezina, 0031, Fax: 086 234 5052





**SOMEDAY YOU'LL TELL
YOUR LIFE STORY.
ONE FISH AT A TIME.**



Mercury 250 and 300hp Pro XS

Your best stories begin out here. Where the only thing on the line is what you can catch. And every cast is another chance to fill your memories with the fish of a lifetime.

**MERCURY ENGINES ARE MADE FOR EXPLORING.
SO ARE YOU. GO BOLDLY.**



MERCURY
GO BOLDLY.®

Rutherford

Marine

Exclusive Distributor of Mercury and MerCruiser

EXPLORE THE LINEUP AT RUTHERFORDMARINE.CO.ZA



Basics of crankbait fishing FOR BASS



Lipless Red Eye Majora crankbait

Hands down this is my favourite style of fishing and in and around the month of April you can expect to capitalise immensely on your strike opportunities if you spend the time fishing this incredible lure ...

Crankbaits will fall into the category of ‘reaction’ baits, which basically means that the bass will react to them out of instinct and bite or attack the lure. The various styles of crankbaits available are there for good reason and in this article I’ll help you prepare your crankbait box for your next fishing adventure.

Depth

Let’s keep it simple. Firstly, divide your selection of cranks into deep diving (16 - 20ft), medium runners (6 - 15ft), shallow runners (1-5ft), and lipless crankbait options. The diving depth of the lure is either stipulated on the box that the lure comes in, or on the lip of the lure itself. If not, you can simply gauge the diving depth i.e.

- Large lip – deep diving depth,
- Medium lip – medium depth,
- Small lip – shallow diving,
- No lip – countdown diving.

So, depending on how many crankbaits you own you can section your tackle box into three, or use three separate tackle boxes.

Colour

Colour selection is crucial; if you own numerous cranks it would improve your fishing time to further divide your lures into bright colours (chartreuse, white, orange etc.), and natural colours (green, brown, speckled and darker colour options, etc.).

So now you’ve sorted out a selection of cranks and you arrive at your favourite fishing spot. How do you know which one to select? Well, if you were me it would be a slightly more complicated affair, as my selection would be from probably hundred lures or more. But, in someone else’s case let’s assume that they have eight crankbaits in total; two deep diving, two medium, two shallow, and two lipless cranks – a reasonable selection to attack a variety of fishing scenarios.

You will find it largely beneficial to match the crankbait you choose to what rod, reel and line breaking strain you have. This combination will affect how the crankbait 'behaves' beneath the water. For example, the shallow diving crankbaits do not 'swim' as effectively if the line breaking

strain is too strong – the rod and line need to compliment the bait used. Likewise, the lighter the breaking strain the more sensitive your reel should be to accept the delicate strain on its ratchet/drag system. This will give you a far larger advantage toward finally landing the fish you're targeting.

Here is a very basic example of how to match your crankbait to your rod, reel and line:

CRANKBAIT	ROD	REEL	LINE BREAKING
Deep diving (16ft+)	Medium/Heavy action Baitcasting (soft tip), or Spinning	Approx. 6.2:1 ratio Baitcaster, or Spinning	12 to 15lb
Medium diving (6 to 15ft)	Medium action Baitcasting, or Spinning	Approx. 6.2:1 ratio Baitcaster, or Spinning	8 to 12lb
Shallow diving (1 to 5ft)	Medium action Baitcasting with soft tip, or light Spinning	Approx. 6.2:1 ratio Baitcaster, or Finesse Spinning	6 to 8lb
Lipless	Medium action Baitcasting, or Spinning	Approx. 6.2:1 ratio Baitcaster, or Spinning	10 to 15lb

Over the years I've slowly upgraded my baitcaster line to fluorocarbon for crankbait fishing. Good quality fluorocarbon lines, although expensive, offer excellent abrasion qualities. This makes sense seeing as though your line breaking strain used when fishing crankbaits is generally quite low. Furthermore, fluorocarbon sinks and allows the lure to reach its desired diving depth quickly. Now you can leave the flexibility in the rod you've selected and the cleverly adjusted drag system of your reel to do the rest.

So now you're only left with two dilemma's; What diving depth crankbait to cast where, and what colours to use when? These are the answers you need ultimately to get the fish on the hook! As mentioned in the beginning of the article; when water temperatures are cooling during April (autumn) it's a great time to take advantage of crankbait fishing. The bass are cruising and searching aggressively for food.

Once more, let's simplify your lure choices:

Stained water

It is most often that bass will be cruising somewhere close to an item of structure, especially in stained water conditions. So, you can choose what diving depth crankbait to use according to the depth of the structure you're targeting.

The technique is to get your crankbait to crash into/bump/nick the structure on your retrieve. This gets the fishes attention and helps them locate to where the crankbait is. As soon as you feel the structure, stop your retrieve completely for just one or two seconds and then continue to retrieve gently in an attempt to keep the treble hooks from biting deeply into the structure. However, it is mostly at this point when the bass will choose to attack, so be prepared!

The bright coloured lures are most popular in stained water, as they tend to glow with any available light. This further assists the bass to find your bait. However, I would tone my colour choice down as the water clarity improves.

Clear water

Lipless crankbaits can be a very popular choice in this situation as the bass have the tendency to move away from structure in search of food. 'Fan' casting in wide angles in and around areas where structure is present will help you to source bass in the quickest possible time.

'Natural' colours are more popular as the water visibility improves and anglers will do well by trying to imitate/match the colours of resident fodder fish.

Lastly, you may be slightly exasperated about the cost of a single crankbait, but if you relate it to the cost of a single packet of plastic lures and the fact that the crankbait lasts as long as your best knot then they're actually the most affordable option.

Show off your best catch! Send us your bass fishing photos together with a short write up, and you could be featured in our **SA BASS Readers-go-Bassing** section! Email your pictures to editor@sabass.com and share your story with fellow anglers! 🐟



A shallow, medium and deep diving crankbait

READERS GO BASSING

To feature in "Readers go Bassing" send your story and pictures to editor@sabass.com
All photos published in "Readers-go-Bassing" are for the exclusive use of SA BASS Magazine. Any photos previously published by other magazines will not be considered.



SPESIAAL

Ek en my meisie was op Vrydag, 21 Maart 2025, op Rhenosterkopdam waar ons grasbanke geteiken het. Dit was 'n lekker warm sonskyndag met die wind wat so af en toe bietjie verligting gebring het. In total het ek vyf visse van omtrent 1.2kg en swaarder gevang. Ek het baie stadig met 'n Curly Tail wurm gehengel toe hierdie 2.3kg swartbaar my kunsas optel en begin spook. Dit was 'n wonderlike dag om met iemand spesiaal te deel.
– Jason Odendaal

NEW PB

I grew up in Johannesburg and spent many years fishing all the big bass dams in South Africa. The best I ever did was a 3.2kg out of Letsibogo Dam in Botswana. I immigrated to the UK a few years ago and I returned to SA in December for my cousin's wedding. Before the wedding my uncle suggested we take a day trip to Rust de Winter. I obviously agreed and pulled some of my bass tackle out of storage.

We hit the water at 09:00 on 12/12/2024 and moved into the grassy "salad bowl" area. I put on a black Culprit brush hog which must have been ancient, because the price tag still on the bag was R35.

At about 10:00 I felt the slightest tap and in a split second I hooked into my monster. I took my time bringing her in and I can't tell you how exhilarating the fight was. The water was not terribly clear so we only realised how big she was until the fish was on the boat. We cracked out the scale and were shocked to discover I had set a new PB record of 4.3kg. This last minute trip turned into my most memorable fishing experience and was nearly as awesome as my cousin's wedding – *Jarryd Ziemons*



VISVANG GROETE

Dit was 31 Desember, die laaste dag van 2024. Die boot was gepak en Pappa Nico, ek en klein boetie Divan was op Tzaneendam. Ons het in vlakwater begin hengel en het drie “keepers” gevang waarvan die grootste een ongeveer 800 gram geweeg het. Toe sê my pa ons moet na dieper water beweeg, want die visse het geskuif nadat ‘n front die vorige aand deur beweeg het.

Ons het na ‘n groot “drop off” beweeg, waar ek my Texasstrop gelaai met ‘n Yamamoto Stretch 40 gegooi het. Die aas het so 15 voet gesak toe die groot wyfie toeslaan...

Ek het haar mooi baklei totdat my Pa haar ge-lipland het. Sy het die skaal op 2.6kg getrek wat tans my persoonlike beste is.

Ek kan nie wag om weer op die dam te kom om te probeer vir my volgende groot vis nie – *Zanro Oosthuizen*



SURPRISE

As a wishlist gift to my better half (who might enter but isn't as social as I am), I had no intention of catching big fish.

This was only my second time bass fishing, so my expectations were low - this day was all about my better half. My biggest catch from my first experience was around 400g.

I was hoping for small fish (anything under 500g) to keep me entertained while my better half chased his personal best - his goal was anything over 2kg.

My first catch of the day was 700g, which was a personal best for me. Ironically, just five seconds before catching it, I had joked that the last person to land a fish would have to buy drinks!

By midday, we moved to a spot where smaller fish were active, so I decided to join in on the fun. As soon as I hooked one and felt the tension, my reel started to zing - I knew this was a big one (at least for me). Under Maurice's quick guidance, I held the reel, tightened the drag, and successfully landed a beautiful 1.7kg bass in just about 1m of water! I was completely stunned and over the moon. I even joked with Maurice that this wasn't part of my plan - I had wanted to catch a 1kg bass so I could beat my PB next time, but now I'd have to aim even higher!

The rest of the afternoon was quiet, so we focused on different techniques. Maurice introduced me to the fine art of slow fishing with a soft plastic worm. I gave it a try, really concentrated, and could feel a fish hunting it. Then, the game was on - teasing, playing, and finally hooking! This last fish put up a proper fight. It was by far the most exciting catch of the day because not only did I have to work to keep its attention, but I also had to fight to get it on deck (hence my big smile!). Unfortunately, we didn't weigh it, but in terms of personality, this fish had the most fight!

A little background - my dad was a South African freshwater bank angler, and after his passing, my interest in fishing faded. My better half reignited that spark, and now, with Maurice's guidance, I feel a real passion coming back.

A huge thank you to Maurice from MK Fishing! Your time, patience, effort, and knowledge truly make “newbies” excited about this sport – *Lucinda Engelbrecht*



NEW PB

After spending our Christmas holidays at the coast, we returned home early in January to the estate near Harties, in the North West, where we live. We're fortunate to have a few dams on the estate that hold some decent bass. On the Sunday before returning to work, I

decided to squeeze in a quick fishing session to cap off the holidays.

After landing a couple of smaller fish, I got a solid pull on a small green-and-black square-billed crankbait, which I was fishing slowly near the bank. What followed was a strong fight with a few nerve-wracking moments, but I eventually managed to land the fish. It measured 63 cm and was fat and healthy - probably around 4 kg. After taking a moment to appreciate it, I released the fish to swim another day.

It was definitely a personal best for me, made even sweeter by the fact that I caught it just a few hundred metres from my front door. It was the perfect way to end the holidays and kick off 2025 on a high note – *Nick Attwood-Smith*

BASICS FOR BEGINNERS

>> Hannes Lindeque



Shallow water

In shallow water or around shallow cover, use topwater lures like frogs, poppers, or buzzbaits.



Catch-and-release

Practice good catch-and-release methods to minimize harm to the fish. Use wet hands or fish-friendly tools when handling your catch.



Autumn

Autumn bassin' is an excellent time of the year to get out experiment and explore new water.

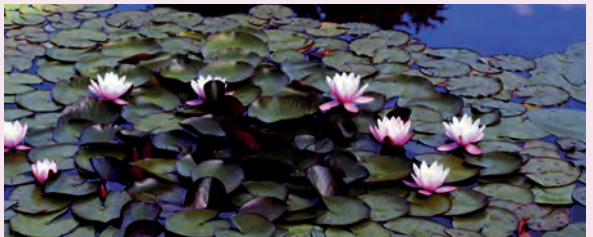


Loosing fish

Few mistakes are as painful as losing a fish due to a poorly tied knot.

Topwater

- Many anglers miss topwater bites because they strike too early.



Cover

Favourite bass covers include old logs, standing timber, rocks, boulders, depressions in the ground, and any other form of cover you could think of.



Frogs

Frogs are a common food source for bass and an excellent way to gauge their feeding mood.



Join the Raffle Draws Hub – Win Big Prizes!

Scan the QR-code to join our WhatsApp group for updates!
and ENTER for your chance to win



Fishing Tackle

065.849.3264 | info@mlfsouthafrica.com



Boats require a lot of attention and effort but are always worth it



There's plenty great bass to be caught from the bank

BOATS vs BANKS

The pros and cons of both

>> *Jay Röhm-Williams*

With the early autumn days bass anglers across the country are squeezing in as many days on the water as they possibly can. Not that autumn is a season to frown upon by any means but when the weather's still this good and the waters are warm you know there's plenty of bass out there to slam into with little difficulty. Whether it's from the comfort of a boat or from the convenience of the bank in my opinion as long as you bassing I think you in for a good time regardless. However one does always wonder which would be better especially those bass troopers always stalking the banks who might not have boat access. It's a thought that often gets mulled around in one's mind especially in the beginning of anyone's personal bass angling journey so today we set the record straight by discussing the pros and cons of both approaches.

I'm not sure if I have ever wondered what it would be like fishing from the bank when I'm out on a boat chasing down bass because well for the most part we all started off that way. I have thought though many times while tearing the banks up catching bass that I could get perhaps a lot better fishing in if I had a boat right about now. The truth is and some may tend to agree or disagree, that no matter which way you look at it both approaches do have up's and downs.

BOAT PROS

If I think of all the benefits one has from been able to fish from a boat a list starts forming in mind pretty quickly. That been the case I think sticking to the obvious and most basic advantages are for the main part worth mentioning without over complicating things.

• Access

Traveling around the waters from a boat overall has the best advantage of allowing bass anglers access to easily cover the entire body of water you're tackling. You are less limited when it comes to choice of locations and can approach target areas from a multitude of various angles with minimum difficulty.

• Speed

In the situation where the body of water you're fishing is extensive and vast having a boat allows anglers to cover wide areas of water in the matter of minutes. This is crucial when bassing at larger venues because even though there might be a high fish population in the water, generally speaking the more water available the more likely the bass are going to be spread out.

• Storage and space

A boat has another great advantage of been able to carry and store more gear and equipment on board saving you the hassle of having to choose what you can take. There are many storage compartments and naturally more space on board a boat whether it's small row boat or a fully kitted out bassing cruiser so you are not limited to what you can take including other bass anglers.

• Equipment

Once you have fished with the use of extra equipment that a boat can provide you with you understand why bass anglers love their crafts. Everything from sonar electronics, trolling motors, fitted chairs and a speedy engine provide bass enthusiasts with conveniences that make bass fishing all that much easier.

BANK PROS

Now I know what you thinking after reading all the main pros that boat bassing provides and have now come to the banking section but don't be fooled ladies and gents. Bells and whistles don't necessary make better bass anglers and trust me you can catch just as big chunky bass as the folks on the boats do.

• Patience

Again after reading all the cool advantages boat anglers start off with and then we begin here with something as trivial as patience bass readers are thinking what? But yes a great advantage that banking teaches us is patience and believe me it is a vital tool that every great bass angler holds closely onto respectfully. When you're on a boat and can go anywhere you like many bass anglers tend to shoot off to the next spot too quickly. Bank anglers don't have that luxury so to speak so they need to work each area more thoroughly often picking up good fish which the boat guys missed.



Bradley Van Vuuren making sure work from his boat

• Stealth

Approaching a prime location from the cover of the bank without disturbing the waters in anyway automatically puts bank anglers at a higher advantage level. Don't get me wrong the best bass anglers can glide their boats into an area without the slightest of sounds. However when you stalking in from the bank then there's just no arguing that your chances of a successful, undetected approach are unchallenged.

• Convenience

Probably the best part of hitting the banks for bass is that it is quick, easy and does not cost you as much time or money to do so. One can simply jump out your vehicle, grab your rod and tackle box and within a few minutes have already caught a fish or two. It also helps save on expenses and effort because there are less factors to worry about and all your energy can go directly into just catching bass.

• Shallow water factor

When it comes to shallow water I feel the bank guys and girls have more play power here than bass anglers from boats. The reason is because first and foremost bankers are in contact with the shallow water along the shoreline. If there are any fish here they have better chance at picking them off first. Another reason is for the most part land prey that enters the water generally wants to get back to the shore so presentations made from the bank and been retrieved back to land become in a sense naturally more appealing.



Brad's dad getting stuck into some biggins from the boat

BOAT CONS

• Expense

When I think of maybe the biggest disadvantages of having a boat it must be the expenses involved and general upkeep of the craft. Boats need trailers and both are not cheap not to mention the cost of the fuel required to operate a day out on the water. Then there's extra equipment needed like life jackets, trolling motors, anchors and such which at the end of the day all add up. If there are any repairs needed to the hull, deck or motor itself these can be costly as well plus everything that goes into housing or safely storing your boat between uses.

• Time and effort

Boats require a lot of attention from the moment you launch them, spend the day on the water to the time you have to load them back on the trailer before returning them home to wash or clean. All this adds up together and demands dedicated discipline to properly manage, maintain and look after correctly which is both financially and time consuming.

• Launching availability

Although having a boat gives you great access to the larger, bigger venues it also restricts you from fishing the smaller one's perhaps due to lack of facilities available to launch from. Farm dams, private reservoirs and off grid venues unfortunately don't always cater for boats leaving them useless in these instances.

• Dangers

It is a sad but true reality and although few or far between still a very big concern. Bass fishing from a boat does require more responsibility as your life and those of others is at risk when out on the water. Accidents do happen and people can get injured or worst case scenario drown if there is not a sense of diligence practiced and adhered too when aboard fishing.



Having a live-well on board is a boat bonus

BANK CONS

• Lack of access

As discussed before when it comes to boating advantages, bank anglers unfortunately are not spoiled for choice. The land and vegetation will most likely dictate to you how far you can travel and where you can fish from leaving in most cases a vast area of water out of your reach.

• Less equipment choices

Although not seen as necessarily a bad thing the lack of equipment a bank angler can carry with them is limited. It is just not practical to trek for long hours through brush and trees with a multitude of rods, tackle boxes and supplies in one's hands or strapped to their backs comfortably. Rods can break, equipment can get lost and the chances of you injuring yourself while bush whacking it greatly increases.

• Encountering injuries

When you out slugging it through the wilderness the chances of you hurting or acquiring an injury are greater than when you out on a deck in open water. Tripping, slipping and falling are all too common encounters and unless you pay proper attention to when moving around the risk of injury is higher. There are also critters and creatures to watch out for generally referring to snakes and spiders which can serious problems to one's health if unlucky.



No boat, no problem - The Author

So you see it is hard to say well one approach is simply better than the other because bass anglers all come from different walks of life. I suppose that is ultimately what makes this super, high action form of sports fishing so truly great because there is no discrimination between anglers. At the end of each day I believe it boils down to preference and opportunity meaning that no matter what point of the bass fishing spectrum you find yourself at as long as you loving catching bass is doesn't really matter.

Rods out and safe fishing everyone! 🐟

Op my houtbordjie

LYNSTOPPER

>> Philip Kemp*

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

Soms gebeur dit dat 'n hengelaar selfs uit items soos rubberlynstoppertjies raak. Hoe gemaak as jy jou stoppertjie moet vervang of een aan jou lyn moet sit en jy het nie meer nie. Hier is 'n basiese truuk waarmee jy 'n stoppertjie van een stuk lyn kan oorplaas na 'n ander lyn.

Maak 'n oor-en-onder knoop in die flouorcarbon lyn net onderkant die stoppertjie.

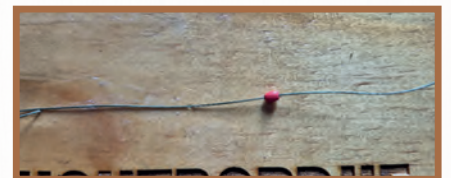
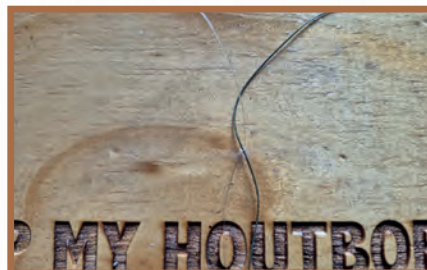
Maak die knoop nat en skuif die rubberstoppertjie tot teenaan die knoop.



Die groen vleglyn word nou deur die knoop, wat nie styf getrek is nie, geryg.

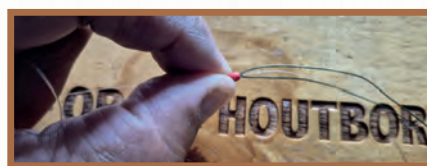
Die stoppertjie word nou versigtig oor die knoop getrek. Die lesers sal vind dat daar nou drie lyne deur die stoppertjie geryg is.

Soos op die foto sal die lesers sien dat daar 'n rooi rubberstoppertjie op die flouorcarbon lyn is. Die idee is om die stoppertjie oor te dra na die groen vleglyn (braid) toe.



Die knoop word nou styf getrek nadat die vleglyn deur geryg is.

Trek die stoppertjie nog verder totdat die rubberstoppertjie net op die groen vleglyn is. Die lyn kan nou onderkant die stoppertjie afgeknip word.



Stuur gerus jou fotos en storie vir ons na philip@sabass.com indien jy sukses met hierdie truuk gehad het. 🐾

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

We specialize in over-landing, rooftop tent life, off-road camping and accessories

BushCo **Overland** South Africa

www.bushcosa.co.za
info@bushcosa.co.za



012-682-0082
061-124-6258



POPULAR PRODUCTS

- Awnings
- Roof Top Tents
- Drawers, Slides & Storage Solutions
- Roof Racks & Load Bars
- Accessories & Add-ons
- Bracketry



**50 LITRE DIRECT
DRIVE COMPRESSOR**
R 2 395
(incl. VAT)

COMPRE515



RONGPENG HVLP
GRAVITY FEED
SPRAY GUN

R 275
(incl. VAT)

ASPRA107



BLUE PVC FLEXIBLE
AIR HOSE 10 M X 8
MM

R 215
(incl. VAT)

AHOSE028



**85 PCS CRV
TOOLBOX WITH
TOOLS**
R 1795
(incl. VAT)

TTOOLB085



**165 PCS CRV
TOOL KIT**
R 1395
(incl. VAT)

TTOOLB086



**HEAVY DUTY 12V
MINI AIR
COMPRESSOR**
R 1995
(incl. VAT)

GCOMPR004



**DIGITAL MINI AIR
COMPRESSOR**
R 2495
(incl. VAT)

GCOMPR005



**3PC DURABLE
NYLON TOOL BAG
SET**
R 1695
(incl. VAT)

TTOOLB016



**HEAVY DUTY NYLON
TOOL BACKPACK**
R 1395
(incl. VAT)

TTOOLB017



**ROLLING
CREEPER SEAT
WITH CUSHION &
TOOL TRAY**
R 395
(incl. VAT)

GCREEP002



**TOOL STOOL WITH
COOLER STORAGE**
R 285
(incl. VAT)

TTOOLB018



**LI-ION JUMP
STARTER (12 &
24V)**
R 3495
(incl. VAT)

GSTART007



**JUMP STARTER
(45 000MAH
12V-24V)**
R 6495
(incl. VAT)

GSTART005



**12V JUMP
STARTER (WITH
INFLATOR)**
R 1695
(incl. VAT)

GSTART008



12000LBS 12 V
HEAVY DUTY
WINCH
R 8495
(incl. VAT)

GWINCH912



5000 LBS ELECTRIC
WINCH + WIRED
CONTROL
R 3895
(incl. VAT)

GWINCH500



19 PCS TOOL KIT
IN BAG

R 475
(incl. VAT)

TT00LB019



6 PCS UNIVERSAL
SOCKET SET WITH
REVERSIBLE
RATCHET
R 365
(incl. VAT)

TSPANR006



RECHARGEABLE LED
LANTERN

R 375
(incl. VAT)

HLIGHL001



RECHARGEABLE
PORTABLE LED
LANTERN

R 195
(incl. VAT)

HLIGHL002



MULTIFUNCTION
PORTABLE
SEARCHLIGHT

R 795
(incl. VAT)

HLIGHS100



3-WAY PORTABLE
TRIPOD WORKING
LIGHT

R 1495
(incl. VAT)

HLIGHS300



QUALITY TOOLS

QUALITY MACHINERY

MODEL 3000 SHORT
WHEEL BASE LOW
LEVEL TROLLEY JACK

R 3695
(incl. VAT)

GJACKT300



3 TON HEAVY
DUTY STEEL
JACK STANDS
R 395
(incl. VAT)

GSTAND003



6 TON HEAVY
DUTY STEEL
JACK STANDS
R 675
(incl. VAT)

GSTAND006



COMPLETE GARAGE
CABINET / STORAGE
SYSTEM

R 29 950
(incl. VAT)

TCABIN010



20 LITRE STEEL
JERRY CAN -
GREEN

R 395
(incl. VAT)

GCANJR020

www.adendorff.co.za

All prices incl 15% vat. Prices valid as of 8 April 2025, thereafter subject to change without prior notification. Images for display purposes only. Models may differ. Published stock may not be available at all stores and is subject to stock availability. Quantities are limited. Terms and conditions apply (eo&e).

AUTUMN AWAKENING:

TIPS FOR CATCHING BASS IN EARLY AUTUMN

As the warmth of summer begins to fade, a new era of bass fishing excitement emerges. Early autumn is a prime time to reel in those elusive largemouth and smallmouth bass, as the changing water temperatures and baitfish patterns create an environment ripe for the taking.



As the days become shorter and the leaves turn golden brown you know it is time

>> **Philip Kemp***

In this article, we'll delve into the world of autumn bass fishing, exploring the behaviour, habitats, and techniques that will increase your chances of landing a trophy catch.

Understanding autumn bass behaviour

As the water temperature cools, bass become more active, feeding aggressively to prepare for the leaner winter months. This increased feeding activity makes autumn an ideal time to target bass.

During this period, bass tend to congregate in areas with abundant food sources, such as creek channels, drop-offs, and submerged structures. These areas provide the perfect ambush points for bass to attack unsuspecting baitfish.

Choosing the right lures and techniques

When it comes to autumn bass fishing, selecting the right lure can make all the difference. Here are a few effective options:

Crankbaits

These lures excel at mimicking the natural movement of baitfish, making them irresistible to hungry bass.

Spinnerbaits

The flashing blade and soft plastic trailer of a spinnerbait create an enticing presentation that bass can't resist.

Soft plastics

Curly tail grubs, plastic worms, and lizards are all effective at enticing bass to strike.

Varying your retrieval speed and depth is crucial when using these lures. Experiment with different presentations to find what works best in your specific fishing location.

Key locations for autumn bass fishing

Autumn bass tend to congregate in areas with abundant food sources and structural cover. Here are some prime locations to target:

Creek channels

These areas provide a natural highway for baitfish and bass to travel.

Drop-offs

The abrupt change in depth creates an ambush point for bass to attack prey.



As the water starts cooling down jerkbaits become popular

Submerged structures

Sunken logs, rocks, and weed beds provide the perfect hiding spots for bass.

Tips for success

Autumn bass fishing can be unpredictable, with changing weather conditions and fish behaviour. Here are a few tips to increase your chances of success:

Adapt to changing weather conditions

Bass are sensitive to changes in temperature and atmospheric pressure. Be prepared to adjust your fishing strategy accordingly.

Be patient and persistent

Autumn bass fishing can be a waiting game. Be prepared to spend time waiting for that perfect bite.



Conclusion

Early autumn is a magical time for bass fishing, with the changing water temperatures and baitfish patterns creating an environment ripe for the taking. By understanding autumn bass behaviour, choosing the right lures and techniques, and targeting key locations, you'll be well on your way to landing a trophy catch.

So grab your rod, reel, and favourite autumn lures, and get ready to experience the thrill of autumn bass fishing. 🎣



Bernally's Fishing Lodge Magaliesburg

Self catering chalet & fisherman's cabin
22 Tented & standard camp sites on water's edge. Ablutions & boma. Day visitors welcome.

Bookings essential. Email: bernallys@gmail.com

www.bernallys.yolasite.com

Tel: 071 367 6990



STRIKE ZONES - WHAT IT TAKES TO STAY IN THE ZONE

The strike zone, a place all bass anglers love to be in and want to try stay in longer. If you not in it you won't win it and when you're there you never want to leave. That's how I personally would some up the strike zone in bass fishing if someone had to ask what this special, sacred area was all about.

>> *Jay Röhm-Williams*

You see when we talk about the strike zone for those who are not familiar with the term we are specifically referring to that particular area in and around a bass where the fish is most likely to decide whether to attack or not. It can vary in area circumference drastically depending on a few factors which we will discuss today as we dissect the ins and outs of strike zones when it comes to targeting bass.

It is pivotal to remember that when we discuss strike zones we first need to understand how bass hunt their prey. As predatory, freshwater game fish bass rely heavily on their acute eye sight for feeding. They can attack from a variation of directions whether it is following something downwards, chasing prey from behind, breaching the surface from underneath or ambushing food species from the sides. They of course use their lateral lines for detecting vibrations in the water too but for the most part visual targeting is how they generally hunt. This means that at any given time on any such day there will always be influencing factors such as the following that will directly affect how big or small that strike zone will be.

- Water temperature and activity level of the fish themselves
- Water clarity
- Direction of movement and fish positioning
- Speed of prey and hunger factor

Water temperature and activity levels of the fish themselves

These two factors go hand in hand as the temperature of the water will directly affect the activity levels of the bass themselves. When the water is warm we know bass are generally more active and vice versa if the water temperature is colder the fish will be more lethargic and less aggressive. Active fish will be likely to chase or hunt prey down with a heightened sense of vigour meaning that the strike zone can be seen as generally broader. In the colder months where temperatures drop, bass been cold blooded tend to be more finicky and less likely to feel the need to chase further after prey meaning the strike zone is smaller in regards to proximity.



*Brad Van Vurren's dad keeping it in the zone
- Settlers Dam Eastern Cape*

Water clarity

As we already now know bass are keen sight predatory fish so water clarity plays a major role when it comes to how big the strike zone area around a particular bass can be. If the water is clear the bass have a larger range of sight to hunt around them, if it's stained this lessens that strike zone area and under dirty or muddy water conditions it will be even less.

Direction of movement and fish positioning

When we talk about the direction of movement we are referring to the way in which our lures or prey are moving in. Bass can see quite accurately both forwards, sideways and to an extent backwards allowing them a wide range of vision. So if the prey is moving above, below or past



My brother learning the rewards of strike zone ethics - Wesley Williams

them the distance between the prey and fish will determine how much energy the bass is willing to commit to the attack. For example; if the prey or lure moves across the bass's line of sight it will have a shorter moment in time to decide whether to engage or not. If the prey or lure moves towards the bass it will be able to see it from further away and as it draws closer decide how to respond. Prey or lures that move horizontally up or down will also have only a small amount of time to pass through the line of sight if the bass is suspended. Ultimately what this all means is depending on where the fish are positioned and in what direction they are facing will influence how long your lure stays in the strike zone when it is moving past.

Speed of prey and hunger factor

How fast prey or lures move is also a large influencing factor when it comes to strike zone success. Bass have the ability to accelerate quickly in short, bursts of speed if they deem the prey is worth chasing or attacking. Not all strikes are vicious and fast paced especially in the colder months when the bite can become more subtle and less aggressive. Bass will often size up whatever food source or lure imitation at moments of uncertainty when they are not as hungry so allowing them time to react can often be crucial. Hence why giving our lure presentations enough chance of remaining in whatever size strike zone we assume the fish are actively feeding in is crucial. If the bass are on the hunt then we have a wider range to work with but if the conditions aren't exactly favourable for high energy commitment then that zone requires a slower, more finesse like approach to stay within range. Factors like fall rate, speed of retrievals and types of movement through the water need to be thought about carefully depending on season, weather conditions and time of day.

Figuring out what size strike zone the bass are willing to feed in is sometimes difficult and becomes easier with experience. In general the closer you can get your lures to the actual bass themselves the better your chances are of initiating an instinctual, attacking response. Remember bass will hit lures even if they have just fed recently or if they are provoked and protecting territory like a nesting site for example. If you can distinguish what depth in the water column they are moving around in, then half the battle is already won. Then it just boils down to how fast or slow you should be retrieving and what lure type or colour is getting them fired up to strike. In the end though a bass anglers best chance of receiving successful strikes is by allowing their lures to remain for as long as they can within range of any fish that might be in the area you're fishing.

So don't stop studying conditions, read up different techniques and overall grab your rod and simply get out there to get feel for yourself to find that optimal strike zone area. Once you have found it, its game on all day till it changes again.

Rods out and safe fishing everyone! 🐟



/// CMI BROKERS

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



Caryne Duvenhage



Caryne is a former Springbok barefoot water-skier



Club Marine & Boating outing

This year marks an extraordinary milestone for CMI Brokers (formerly Club Marine Insurance) as they celebrate 40 years of service, growth, and leadership in the insurance industry. From humble beginnings as a social water sport club in 1985, CMI has evolved into one of South Africa’s premier providers of watercraft and comprehensive short-term insurance solutions.

Under the exceptional leadership of Caryne Duvenhage – a former Springbok barefoot water-skier, boating enthusiast, and visionary businesswoman – the company has grown from strength to strength. Over the last 25 years, Caryne’s dedication, industry expertise, and forward-thinking approach have transformed the business, expanding its offerings to include domestic, cargo, business, specialist risks, and other areas. Her commitment, coupled with the support of a skilled and professional team, has enabled CMI to deliver exclusive solutions to clients both locally and abroad.

From water sport club to industry leader

Born out of one of South Africa’s leading boating businesses, led by industry icon Derrick Levy, Club Marine & Boating evolved under the chairmanship of Vince Warriner. Initially a vibrant water sport club hosting boat rallies, water-ski lessons, and fishing competitions, it catered to families and enthusiasts alike. Through a partnership with Derek Warne & Associates - an exclusive package for club members included low-rate boat insurance and the widest boat covers available.

For over a decade, the club provided both recreational benefits and the country’s first standalone watercraft insurance. In 1999, Caryne, with 10 years of boat sales experience behind her, took over its management. In 2002, she successfully negotiated taking over the club completely, transforming it into a professional insurance brokerage. It was clearly a good move, and the company has since flourished.

Their expertise now covers a wide range of insurance needs, from watercraft and cargo to homes, buildings, businesses, and specialist risks. Their network of trusted partnerships with leading insurers, including Santam, Bryte, Old Mutual and CIB, allows CMI to continue to innovate and adapt to global trends such as cyber risks, war and strikes, renewable energy, and specialised liability covers.

The brokerage also actively supports selected charities and orphanages and numerous initiatives including golf days, KZN school rugby trials, fishing tournaments, and sailing events such as the MSC sailing regatta, and ILCA/Laser Nationals.

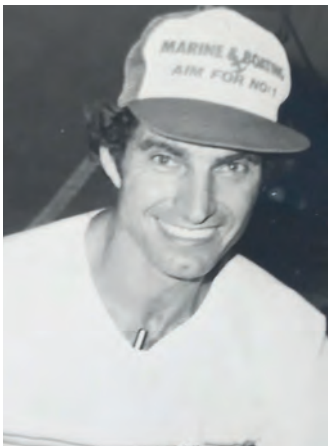
Looking to the future

Caryne is grateful for all the support she and CMI have received over the last four decades and shows no signs of taking her foot off the pedal. “As we reflect on 40 remarkable years, we are equally excited about the road ahead. We’ve built a trusted brand, and we are ready to embrace new opportunities while continuing to prioritise

Caryne’s vision, resilience, and leadership have been the driving force behind CMI’s remarkable journey. From a bold idea to an industry leader, her dedication has shaped a legacy that continues to thrive - Hannes Lindeque, SA BASS magazine

Forty years ago the idea of having an insurance company attached to a boat sales company and water sport club was, in my opinion, a shot in the dark. How wrong I was! Club Marine Insurance has mushroomed exponentially over the last 40 years and deserves its dominance in the field of boat insurance - Erwin Bursik, publisher, SKI-BOAT magazine

Who would have guessed 40 years ago that CMI would morph into the ever-growing business and success it is today! Congratulations to Caryne for having the vision, courage and determination to see it through. You and your hard-working team deserve every accolade on this milestone! - Vince Warriner, former chairman, Club Marine & Boating



Derrick Levy



CMI-sponsored anglers

our clients' needs. Thank you to our valued clients and partners who have been part of our journey – we look forward to strengthening these relationships as we grow together.

Whether you need watercraft, domestic, buildings, vehicles, business, or travel insurance, CMI remains committed to delivering innovative insurance solutions for every need.

Here's to the next 40 years of success! 🎣



Caryne's qualifications, dedication, and expertise have been instrumental in building CMI into the iconic brand it is today. - Derrick Levy, Boating World

For more information visit CMI's website <https://www.clubmarinesa.com> /or scan the QR-code (at the top of this article)



CLUB MARINE
INSURANCE SPECIALISTS

CMI is an Authorized Financial Services Provider (FSP4430)

Since 1985 we've insured Bass boats, motors, trolling motors, electronics, fishing tackle and more. And we cover all Short-Term requirements.

Ask about our "I Forgot" cover!

GET A COMPARATIVE QUOTE TODAY!

CALL 0861 819 219 WHATSAPP 082 568 9344

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@ClubMarineInsurance

@clubmarinesa

www.clubmarinesa.com

EST. 1985



PRESENTATION TECHNIQUES WHEN BASS FISHING

Effective presentation techniques are crucial for enticing bass to strike your lures or baits. Here are some common presentation techniques used by bass anglers:



>> Hannes Lindeque*

Slow retrieve

Sometimes bass prefer a slow-moving target. Retrieve your lure or bait slowly, allowing it to sink or swim naturally through the water. This technique works well with soft plastics, jigs, and crankbaits in cold water conditions.

Fast retrieve

Other times, bass may be more aggressive and prefer a faster-moving target. Retrieve your lure or bait quickly, creating a reaction strike from bass. This technique is effective with spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, and crankbaits in clear water conditions.

Pause and jerk

When fishing in clear water tactic, use a stop-and-go retrieve with lures like jerkbaits and topwater lures. Pause your retrieve intermittently, allowing the lure to suspend or sit motionless, then jerk the rod to create sudden movements that mimic injured prey.

Dragging

Dragging involves slowly dragging a bait along the bottom, imitating a crawfish or other bottom-dwelling creature. Use techniques like Carolina rigging or dragging soft plastics along the bottom to entice bass.

Hopping or jiggging

Hop or jig your bait along the bottom to mimic a wounded baitfish or prey item. Use techniques like jiggging spoons, blade baits, or bouncing jigs off the bottom to trigger strikes from bass.

Punching

Punching is a technique used to penetrate heavy vegetation and target bass hiding in thick cover. Rig a heavy

weight and a soft plastic bait like a creature bait or craw across the surface of thick mats of vegetation, punching through to reach bass hiding below.

Finesse techniques

In tough fishing conditions or when bass are less active, finesse techniques can be effective. Use light line, small lures, and subtle presentations like drop-shotting, Ned rigging, or Wacky rigging to entice finicky bass into biting.

Topwater presentations

Topwater lures create surface commotion and attract aggressive strikes from bass. Use techniques like walking-the-dog with topwater plugs, popping or chugging with poppers, or buzzing with buzzbaits to draw bass to the surface.

Match the hatch

Pay attention to the natural forage in the water and choose lures or baits that closely resemble the size, shape, and colour of the prey bass are feeding on. Matching the hatch increases your chances of success.

Vary depth and retrieve speed

Experiment with different depths and retrieve speeds until you find what works best on a given day. Bass can be unpredictable, so be willing to adapt and change your presentation based on their behaviour.

By mastering these presentation techniques and experimenting with different lures, baits, and retrieves, you'll increase your chances of catching more bass in a variety of fishing conditions. Remember to stay observant and adjust your approach based on the behaviour of the bass and the environment you're fishing in. 🐟

**Hannes Lindeque is the founder and publisher of SA BASS magazine since 2001, the tournament director of the Cast-for-Cash and TBC bass angling tournament trails, and licensee of MLF Southern Africa.*



FISHING 101

The Punch technique



Get your rig down through even the heaviest cover

When the temperature heats up and the aquatic vegetation grows tall, bass love to hang out in the thickest of grass. Submerged vegetation and matted grass canopies provide bass shade from the hot sun and the perfect hiding spot to ambush baitfish. It's tough to reach these concealed bass with most lures, that's where the punch rig comes in.

The punch rig gives you the profile of a skirted jig and the weedless ability of a Texas rig. Use a heavy bullet weight on your punch rig and you'll be able to get your rig down through even the gnarliest of grass mats. Here's what you'll need to setup your punch rig:

Step-1 - Bobber/sinker stopper

Thread the tag end of your line through the loop on the bobber/sinker stopper, then slide the bobber stopper up onto the line.

Step-2 - Bullet weight

Choose the right bullet weight for your punch rig. The thicker the vegetation you're fishing is, the heavier weight you'll need to get your bait down to the fish. Once you have the right sized bullet weight, slide the weight onto the end of the line.

Step-3 - Punch skirt

Take the punch skirt and slide it onto the end of the line below the bullet weight, or use a punch weight with an already fitted skirted.

Step-4 - Straight shank or EWG hook

After threading the bobber/sinker stopper, bullet weight, and punch skirt onto the line, it's time to tie on your hook. If you are using a straight shank flipping hook, use a Snell knot to attach your hook to the line. If you went with a standard EWG hook, then your favourite fishing knot will get the job done.

Step-5 - Soft plastic creature bait

Take your favourite soft plastic creature bait or craw and thread it onto the hook like you would a Texas rig. Make sure the hook point is embedded in the bait to prevent your rig from snagging vegetation.

Step 6 - Presentation

Flip and pitch your completed punch rig through matted grass, lily pads and other heavy cover to trigger big bites. Don't be timid on your gear selection when you're punching. Use a heavy action rod over 7'4" in length and strong braided line to wrench bass out of thick cover. 🐟



The punch rig



A skirted punch weight



**WE ARE
BASS FISHING.**

**KingPrice™
INSURANCE**

Ruffnek Basswarehouse Dominates Geekzsoft Brawl at Lake Oanob

Tournament Results:

1. Ruffnek Bass Warehouse –
Gregg Howard / James van
Rooyen / Dex Geiger (Junior) –
6.440 kg
2. Varkenelli Customs Namibia –
Max Pieper – **4.160 kg**
3. WBM Lureworks 1 – Neil
Engelbrecht / Willie van der
Merwe – **2.170 kg**
4. Fluke – Willie Sowden /
Christian Sowden – **2.120 kg**
5. Williams and Knight 2 –
Thinus Williams – **1.700 kg**
6. Diesel – Wilbur Slabbert –
1.110 kg
7. HKGK – Neels van Tonder /
Danie Marias – **1.050 kg**
8. Moegoes – Wilmar Four /
Ulrich Fourie (Junior) –
1.680kg



Jurgen Geiger with a bass of 2.610kg

The Geekzsoft Brawl MLF tournament held on Lake Oanob on Saturday, February 22, 2025, proved to be an exciting and competitive event, with Ruffnek Basswarehouse emerging as the winning team. Their strategic approach, adaptability, and fine-tuned techniques played a crucial role in securing victory.

We caught up with the team after their impressive win, and they shared their insights on how the day unfolded.

“We had a pretty solid practice leading up to the tournament,” said a team member. “We found a lot of small fish and located several key areas where the fish were concentrated.





**WE ARE
BASS FISHING.**

**King Price™
INSURANCE**

Once we identified these spots, we experimented with different techniques to see what worked best.” However, things didn’t go exactly as planned at the start of the tournament. “We couldn’t get onto our desired starting spot, so we moved to a long point where we managed to catch some undersized fish on jerk baits,” they explained.

A key moment came later when another boat vacated their primary area. “We moved in and it was wild! We were catching fish cast for cast using deep-diving jerk baits and drop shot rigs. Dex got a solid 970g fish there, which was a great addition to our bag. We kept fishing until the bite slowed down.”

They then made the decision to target bigger fish. “We knew we had to hit our big fish area. The key to getting bites on jerk baits was long pauses and giving the fish time to eat. For the drop shot, we had to use a long leader with a floating worm.”

Their use of technology played a big role in the day’s success. “Once we got to our big fish area, we saw on our Lowrance Active Target that there were big bass sitting in 10 feet of water on timber, with tons of small bait around. That’s when Jurgen called it—he tied on a jiggle minnow and managed to get two solid fish that really helped our bag! We missed a few more but ended up with nearly 40 keepers



Max Piper, with one of his bigger bass in his bag that earned him second place

The team relied on jerk baits like the Vision 110+1 Jnr and the 6th Sense 97DD to entice bites. For the drop shot setup, they used a 1/4oz weight with a small #4 hook paired with a floating worm from Z-Man. Additionally, the jiggle minnow technique proved effective, with the Rapala Mooch Minnow rigged on a 1/8oz jighead playing a crucial role in their success.

With the rainy season now in full swing in Namibia, the next tournament is set for March 15 at Von Bach Dam in Okahandja. Thanks to the recent heavy rains, the dam's water level has surged from 6% to 30% over the past few weeks, promising exciting fishing conditions. Anglers can expect a dynamic event with increased fish activity in newly flooded areas. Stay tuned for more action as the MLF Namibia King Price Team Tournament Trial season continues to unfold!

Breeden earns victory at MLF Toyota Series at Lake of the Ozarks, Osage Beach, MO



The only man to catch a limit three days in a row, it's fitting that pro Cole Breeden of Lebanon, Missouri, took the win in the Toyota Series Presented by Phoenix Boats Plains Division event at Lake of the Ozarks. Weighing bags in the low teens every day, Breeden managed 13 pounds, 7 ounces on the final day and totaled 40-13 win on a week that featured incredibly tough fishing.

For the win, which is his second at the Toyota Series level, the young Missouri pro takes home \$33,727, which will doubtless bolster his bank account amid the start of a busy tournament season. The win also automatically qualifies him for the Toyota Series Championship, which will be held in the fall on Grand Lake, where Breeden won the 2021 Abu Garcia College Fishing National Championship.

Finishing second with a 39-1 total, pro Andy Newcomb of Camdenton, Missouri, blasted 20-11 on the final day to move up from 11th place. Another Lake of the Ozarks stalwart, pro Brad Jelinek, of Lincoln, Missouri, finished third with 37-5.

A master with his forward-facing sonar, it was no surprise to see Breeden in the hunt this week. But, as the weights proved, simply pointing a transducer at a fish didn't put it in the boat. Plenty of pros talked about fish blowing through umbrella rigs and never getting hooked or fish biting a jerkbait or jig and still getting off. Add in frigid water and a major shad kill (think pizzas steadily falling from the sky), and the fishing was extremely tough.

On the pro side of the event, anglers with full control of the boat and armed with all the best gear struggled. A stunning 43 pros double zeroed, failing to bring a keeper bass to weigh-in across two days of fishing. That list included some real luminaries, both locally and nationally – Dennis Berhorst, Casey Martin, Eric Olliverson and even the great Rick Clunn couldn't catch one.

All told, it makes the fact that Breeden caught five every day seem pretty monumental, even though it's ordinarily the bare minimum for tournament fishing. According to Breeden, even in practice, he was clicking with the lake at an above-average level.

"I practiced for three half days, and on my third day, I started finding fish, and I didn't catch very many, but I was seeing groups of a lot of fish," he said. "Like 10 to 30 bass on a spot, which was just crazy. So, I actually felt pretty good, because I had been talking to a lot of people that were talking about how tough it was, and nobody was really catching any bass. So, I actually did feel good going to the tournament – not for winning purposes, but maybe just making a check or a Top 10."

The key for Breeden was fishing a lot of new water that fit the pattern he increasingly dialed as the event went on.

"The way I started finding fish was kind of on flat, secondary points," he said. "And then in the tournament, I ran a mixture looking for new stuff, of flat secondary points and creeks or a real flat bank or a pocket in a creek. That's the kind of stuff I was running – just looking for brush and looking for fish on the brush."

“I know there were fish on other stuff, too, but that was just a good way for me to find numbers of fish,” he outlined. “And I think that was the important thing – throwing in front of as many as possible. Because, if you talk to anybody in the Top 10, they found a ton of fish also, but it was almost impossible to get them to bite.”

Fishing brush in 12- to 18-feet, Breeden did the vast majority of his work with a jerkbait.

The key bait was either a Berkley Stunna 112+1 or a Berkley Stunna 112 in a worn out Table Rock colorway. For both baits, he used a 6-foot, 10-inch, medium-light Abu Garcia Fantasista X paired with an 8.3:1 Abu Garcia Zenon MG-X and 10-pound Berkley Trilene 100% Fluorocarbon.

Per Breeden, most of the bass would be near the bottom of the piles, and he needed to coax them into a feeding scenario.

“Most of them were on the bottom or close to the bottom,” he said. “Every now and then, there’d be one up in the top of the pile. But if there was a lot of fish there, most of them would be on the bottom, and then one or two would be high. And then it seemed like if there was a lot of fish there and I could throw my jerkbait in there for the first time, then if I got the attention of one, the whole school would come up. That was when I started catching them, whenever I could get the attention of all of them. Because usually the first one or two or three to come up to it wouldn’t eat it; it would be one that comes up from behind and gets to it.”

Getting the fish in the mood to feed required the perfect bait and the perfect presentation. A challenge considering the windy conditions, Breeden had to use all his wiles to put the bait where it needed to be.

“A lot of times I would be fishing it 15 foot deep, trying to get it down there,” he explained. “I had to make really long casts and just let my line sink. So, every cast was several minutes. And you couldn’t throw a weighted jerkbait, because they were moving so slow that if you threw a weighted jerkbait, it would sink past them by the time they really got to it or wanted to eat it. So, you really needed a suspending jerkbait, but you needed to let your line sink so that it would get deep enough to the fish. It was just a kind of a painful way to fish.”

On Day 3, Breeden added another wintertime trick into the rotation – a float ‘n’ fly. Using a homemade jig with bucktail and feathers on a 1/8-ounce Picasso head with a slip bobber, Breeden actually nabbed the key 5-pounder that gave him the win.

“I didn’t throw it all week because I was just trying to be efficient with my time,” Breeden said. “But today, I knew that I was going back to stuff that I had caught fish on and

where I saw some bigger fish. So, I wanted something that would hopefully generate a bite.”

Essentially casting it out and letting it sit above the brush until a fish got interested, Breeden watched his 5-pounder eat on ‘Scope while his co-angler watched the bobber go down.

“I’m watching on LiveScope, and there’s so much slack in your line between the fish and your rod because the bobber is floating 15-foot above the fish,” he said. “So, the 5-pounder I caught today, I saw her eat it, but I didn’t feel it. And I just kept reeling, and finally, it got tight. But my co-angler said that my bobber was down for several seconds before I pulled into it.”

While Breeden seems to have a real knack for Grand Lake, as many Ozark anglers do, he hasn’t previously considered himself to be a favorite at Lake of the Ozarks.

“These guys here, they always catch them, and they catch big ones,” he said. “And I don’t know how they do it, but they do it pretty consistently. So, I pretty much did what I always do at Lake of the Ozarks, which is catch 13 pounds a day and take my check and go home. This one was just a bigger check.”

Now, he’s earned a big win on a historic fishery in maybe one of the toughest tournaments ever held there.

“Finally getting a big win against the competition that we have here just feels amazing,” Breeden said. “It’s a great start to the year, and obviously, I can use that as momentum. And, man, I’m fishing so many tournaments this year that my bank account was looking a little thin.”

The top 5 pros at the Toyota Series at Lake of the Ozarks finished:

1	Cole Breeden	Lebanon, Mo.	15 bass	40 - 13
2	Andy Newcomb	Camdenton, Mo.	14 bass	39 - 1
3	Brad Jelinek	Lincoln, Mo.	13 bass	37 - 5
4	Adam Boehle	Warrenton, Mo.	10 bass	36 - 12
5	Travis Fox	Rogers, Ark.	11 bass	35 - 7

Complete results can be found at MajorLeagueFishing.com

Angling & Outdoor World
Est. 2010

For all your fishing tackle requirements, contact us today!

- @anglingoutdoorworld
- @anglingoutdoorworld
- Tel: 013-752-2091
- info@anglingandoutdoor.co.za

SHOP 9, RIVERSIDE JUNCTION SHOPPING CENTRE, MADIBA DRIVE, MBOMBELA

Pro Justin Luetkemeyer of Osage Beach, Missouri, earned Thursday's \$500 Berkley Big Bass Award with a bass weighing 5 pounds, 5 ounces. On Friday, pro Austin Culbertson of Moberly, Missouri, caught a 6-pound, 10-ounce bass and earned the \$500 award.

Mark Sloan of Harrison, Arkansas, won the Co-angler Division Saturday with a three-day total of five bass weighing 16 pounds, 15 ounces. Sloan earned the top co-angler prize package worth \$34,050, including a new Phoenix 518 Pro bass boat with a 115-horsepower outboard motor.

The top 5 co-anglers at the Toyota Series at Lake of the Ozarks finished:

1	Mark Sloan	Harrison, Ark.	5 bass	16 - 15
Phoenix 518 Pro boat w/115-hp Mercury outboard				
2	Dan Bowman	Osage Beach, Mo.	7 bass	15 - 0
3	Drew Boehle	Saint Charles, Mo.	5 bass	12 - 3
4	Douglas Guidorzi	Fenton, Mo.	5 bass	12 - 1
5	Alan Bernicky	Dardanelle, Ark.	5 bass	10 - 8

Co-angler Clayton Hale of Grove, Oklahoma, earned Thursday's \$150 Berkley Big Bass co-angler award with a 4-pound, 2-ounce bass, while Friday's Day 2 \$150 co-angler award went to tournament winner Mark Sloan, who brought a 5-pound, 11-ounce largemouth bass to the scale.

The Toyota Series Presented by Phoenix Boats at Lake of the Ozarks was hosted by the Tri-County Lodging Association. It was the first of three regular-season tournament for the Toyota Series Plains

Division. The next event for the Toyota Series Plains Division will be April 8-10 on Kentucky and Barkley Lakes in Gilbertsville, Kentucky. For a complete schedule of events, visit MajorLeagueFishing.com

The 2025 Toyota Series Presented by Phoenix Boats consists of five divisions – Central, Northern, Plains, Southern and the South-western – each holding three regular-season events, along with the International and Wild Card divisions. Anglers who fish in any of the five divisions or the Wild Card division and finish in the top 25 will qualify for the no-entry-fee Toyota Series Championship for a shot at winning up to \$235,000 and a qualification to REDCREST 2026. The winning Strike King co-angler at the championship earns a new Phoenix 518 Pro bass boat with a 115-horsepower outboard. The 2025 Toyota Series Championship will be held Nov. 6 - 8 on Grand Lake in Grove, Oklahoma, and is hosted by the City of Grove Convention & Tourism Bureau.

Proud sponsors of the 2025 MLF Toyota Series include: 7Brew, Abu Garcia, Athletic Brewing, B&W Trailer Hitches, Berkley, BUBBA, Deep Dive App, E3 Sports Apparel, Epic Baits, Fishing Clash, Grizzly, Humminbird, Lew's, Mercury, Minn Kota, Mossy Oak, Onyx, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Phoenix Boats, Polaris, Power-Pole, Precision Sonar, Strike King, Suzuki Marine, Tackle Warehouse, T-H Marine, Toyota, WIX Filters and YETI.

For complete details and updated information visit MajorLeagueFishing.com.

For regular Toyota Series updates, photos, tournament news and more, follow the MLF5 social media outlets at Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

About Major League Fishing (MLF)

Major League Fishing (MLF) is the world's largest tournament-fishing organization, producing more than 250 events annually at some of the most prestigious fisheries in the world, while broadcasting to America's living rooms on CBS, Discovery Channel, Outdoor Channel, CBS Sports Network, World Fishing Network and on demand on MyOutdoorTV (MOTV). Headquartered in Benton, Kentucky, the MLF roster of bass anglers includes the world's top pros and more than 30,000 competitors in all 50 states and 20 countries. Since its founding in 2011, MLF has advanced the sport of competitive fishing through its premier television broadcasts and live streams and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for bass through research, education, fisheries enhancement and fish care. 🐟

SA BASS PRESENTS FISHING DESTINATIONS

As a service to readers Fishing Resorts and Lodges are invited to place their information in this section. Readers who discover other destinations are invited to place the information on this page. Each entry consists of one photo plus no more than 200 words.

Om ons lesers ingelig te hou word Hengel-oorde en Lodges uitgenooi om hul inligting in hierdie afdeling te publiseer. Lesers wat nog bestemmings ontdek word uitgenooi om die inligting op hierdie afdeling te plaas. Elke inskrywing beslaan een foto plus nie meer as 200 woorde.

Stuur aan: editor@sabass.com.



Bernally's Fishing Lodge

Only 50 minutes from the bustle of Johannesburg, it's well within reach for a welcome break for the whole family (and even pets by arrangement). Nestled in the heart of the beautiful Magaliesburg, Bernally's offers furnished self-catering chalets with fire places, tented accommodation, camping sites and caravan sites. There is also a boma and bar area (self catering) are set close to the water.

Facilities for campers and day visitors and well stocked dams make this an ideal getaway place. Bernally's has four

dams which are stocked with bass, blue kurper, barbel, carp, yellow fish and in winter, trout. Small rowing boats are for hire.

For those not keen on fishing Bernally's offer safe walking trails along the river, dams and wooded areas. Some beautiful indigenous bird life can be seen here or bring your mountain bike and enjoy the trails around Bernally's.

Other activities in the area include hot air ballooning, horse riding, quad biking or visit the home of Hekpoort Heksie in Magaliesburg. 🐾

For more information or bookings, please contact Bernally's Fishing Lodge on 071-367-6990 or e-mail them on bernallys@gmail.com



PALANIUK CLAIMS SIXTH BASSMASTER ELITE WIN AT LAKE OKEECHOBEE

The gift that kept on giving finally stopped giving. Thankfully, that gift had given enough for Brandon Palaniuk to cruise across the finish line with a four-day total of 95 pounds, 4 ounces in the Champion Power Equipment Bassmaster Elite at Lake Okeechobee.

“It’s so crazy how things happen for a reason”, Palaniuk said of a slow day that tested his resolve. “This morning, me and (seventh-place Greg DiPalma) were fishing next to one another and I watched him lose several big ones. I hate that and I love it, at the same time.

“I don’t wish that upon anyone, but if he would have caught those, I would have been sweating bullets. I could not get a bite, and then I just kept sticking with it and picking off one here and there.”

Starting strong with a third-place, first-round limit of 23-7, the pro from Rathdrum, Idaho, moved into the Day 2 lead by sacking up 34-10 — his personal best and the heaviest bag weighed in a Bassmaster Elite at Lake Okeechobee. That feat sent Palaniuk into Day 3 with a 9-12 lead over Day 1 leader DiPalma.

On Semifinal Saturday, the fish shied from the previous days’ pressure. Enduring a few painful losses and a close call that sent a big crankbait colliding with his face (no serious injury), Palaniuk caught 23 pounds and expanded his lead to an 18-3 advantage over Day 1 leader Greg DiPalma.

Palaniuk, a two-time Progressive Bassmaster Angler of the Year, endured a stingy Day 4 and sealed the deal with a final-round limit of 14-3. Edging John Garrett by 15-13

— the fourth-largest winning margin in Bassmaster Elite history and Palaniuk’s second double-digit win (also his first Elite win at Bull Shoals, 2012) — he collected the \$102,000 top prize and his sixth blue trophy.

All week, Palaniuk has camped in a small stretch of the C-41A Canal, which flows southeast from Lake Istokpoga. The key location was a ridge with an adjacent trench passing between the high spot and the riprap bank.

“I think the biggest thing was this spot had deep water and spawning areas nearby and it allowed those fish to funnel through and replenish every day,” Palaniuk said. “The structure set up right for them to position and funnel into there.

“In the back of that trough was a flat that came off the bank. That created an area where those big females could get sun, and there was tons of bait that they could feed on.”

The final round started slowly for Palaniuk, as the early afternoon found him with only four fish for less than 10 pounds. Losing a key fish sent him huddling to his deck, but Palaniuk recomposed himself, got back to work and ended his day with a 5 1/2-pounder that crushed his Clutch The Boss glidebait.

After the first day’s weigh-in, Palaniuk noted that he cycled through a wide array of baits to determine what

would trigger the fish. As the week went on, he dialed in a few key performers, including the Megabass Kanata jerkbait, a prototype Megabass crankbait and the hulking Megabass Big M 4.0.

He also caught fish on a KGB glidebait, a Neko-rigged green-pumpkin Zoom Magnum Finesse Worm, and an XZone Lures Muscle Back Craw punched through a hyacinth mat.

Reviewing this week's accomplishment, Palaniuk said marking a half dozen Elite victories has stoked his fire for future achievement.

"We're not done yet," Palaniuk said. "I'm 15 years into it; I figure I have at least that many more. I feel like we're just getting started."

Hailing from Union City, Tenn., Garrett finished second with 79-7. After tying Chris Zaldain for 62nd place on Day 1 with 10-8, Garrett bolted into 12th place with a Day 2 limit of 22-7.

Adding 23-3 on Semi-final Saturday, Garrett rose to fourth before closing the event with a final limit of 23-5. Coming off a fourth-place finish at last week's FXR Pro Fish Bassmaster Elite at St. Johns River, Garrett anchored his Day 4 bag with a 7-4.

"This Florida swing has been absolutely unbelievable," Garrett said. "Most of the time when I'm in Florida I take a right hand turn, and I was supposed to take a left, but every decision I've made the past two weeks has been the right one."

Garrett fished a black and blue Strike King Hack Attack Swim Jig with a Strike King Rage Scounbug trailer and a Texas-rigged black and blue Strike King Rage Bug. He used the former in shallow water to locate aggressive fish, while the latter handled his flipping duties in deeper spots.

Kyoya Fujita of Yamanashi, Japan, took third with 77-4. His daily weights were 18-0, 11-15, 25-13 and 21-8.

Fujita did most of his work in the Rim Canal. On Day 4, he stayed east of the Taylor Creek area.

"I fished the canal because I practiced in the lake and everything had changed (from his previous visit in 2023)," Fujita said. "I found my fish on LiveScope and fished a jig head minnow with a Jackall Driftfry and Deps Sakamata Shad.

David Gaston of Sylacauga, Ala., won the \$2,000 award for Phoenix Boats Big Bass honours with an 11-8. Gaston's catch is the largest fish caught at Lake Okeechobee in Bassmaster Elite history. That fish also ranks as the 10th-biggest and the 75th double-digit bass in Elite Series history.

Bernie Schultz of Gainesville, Fla., won the \$1,000 BassTrakk Contingency award. Garrett won the \$1,000 award for leading the Progressive Angler of the Year standings.

Palaniuk won the \$2,000 Rapala Crush City Monster Bag award for his Day 2 limit of 34-10.


Garrett leads the Progressive Bassmaster Angler of the Year standings with 204 points. John Cox of Debarry, Fla., is in second with 191, followed by Gaston with 183, Bill Lowen of Brookville, Ind., with 182 and Will Davis Jr of Sylacauga, Ala., with 182.

Evan Kung of Pickering, Canada, leads the Dakota Lithium Elite Series Rookie of the Year standings with 143 points.

Davis Jr also took home an additional \$3,000 for being the highest-placing entrant in the Toyota Bonus Bucks program, while DiPalma earned \$2,000 for being the second-highest placing entrant.

As part of the Yamaha Power Pay program, Palaniuk earned an additional \$4,000 while Garrett claimed an additional \$1,500 for being the second-highest placing entrant. Fujita and Gaston both earned \$1,000 for being the third- and fourth-highest placing entrant, respectively.

Visit Florida hosted the event.

- 2025 Bassmaster Elite Series Platinum Sponsor: Toyota
- 2025 Bassmaster Elite Series Premier Sponsors: Bass Pro Shops, Dakota Lithium, Humminbird, Mercury, Minn Kota, Nitro Boats, Power-Pole, Progressive Insurance, Ranger Boats, Rapala, Skeeter Boats, Yamaha
- 2025 Bassmaster Elite Series Supporting Sponsors: AFTCO, Daiwa, Garmin, Lew's, Lowrance, Marathon, Triton Boats, VMC 

About B.A.S.S.

B.A.S.S., which encompasses the Bassmaster tournament leagues, events and media platforms, is the worldwide authority on bass fishing and keeper of the culture of the sport, providing cutting-edge content on bass fishing whenever, wherever and however bass fishing fans want to use it. Headquartered in Birmingham, AL, the 500,000-member organization's fully integrated media platforms include the industry's leading magazines (Bassmaster and B.A.S.S. Times), website (Bassmaster.com), TV show, radio show, social media programs and events. For more than 50 years, B.A.S.S. has been dedicated to access, conservation and youth fishing.

The Bassmaster Tournament Trail includes the most prestigious events at each level of competition, including the Bassmaster Elite Series, St. Croix Bassmaster Opens Series presented by SEVIN, Mercury B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier Series presented by Lowrance, Strike King Bassmaster College Series presented by Bass Pro Shops, Strike King Bassmaster High School Series, Bassmaster Junior Series, Bassmaster Team Championship, Newport Bassmaster Kayak Series presented by Native Watercraft, Bassmaster College Kayak Series, Yamaha Bassmaster Redfish Cup Championship presented by Skeeter and the ultimate celebration of competitive fishing, the Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Classic presented by Under Armour.

Tournament basics – Part 2/3

Boating etiquette



Keep your gear organized

In the last issue, we explored fishing etiquette during bass tournaments, emphasizing the importance of fostering a fair, respectful, and enjoyable atmosphere for all participants.

This time, we focus on boat etiquette, an essential aspect of bass tournaments that promotes sportsmanship and ensures safety for everyone. Here are some key guidelines to follow when fishing from a boat in a bass tournament:

1. Respecting personal space

- **Keep a safe distance**

Maintain at least 45 - 100 meters (or as specified by tournament rules) from another competitor's boat unless both anglers agree otherwise.

- **Avoid cutting off anglers**

If someone is fishing a particular bank, point, or structure, avoid moving ahead of them on the same path. Let them fish through the area first.

2. Handling wake and speed

- **Minimize wake near others**

When passing other boats, especially those fishing, slow down to avoid creating a wake that could disrupt their fishing or cause safety issues.

- **Obey no-wake zones**

Follow all speed regulations, especially in areas

marked as no-wake zones, to ensure the safety of other competitors and nearby boats.

3. Communication and courtesy

- **Use signals or verbal cues**

If you need to pass close by another angler, signal them with a wave or a friendly word, ensuring they are aware of your intentions.

- **Offer help if needed**

If you see another angler in distress or facing a mechanical problem, offer assistance, even if it means delaying your fishing. Sportsmanship is highly valued in tournaments.

4. Respect the fishing area

- **Respect pre-fishing efforts**

If you know someone has been pre-fishing a specific spot, avoid taking that area unless it is clearly first-come, first-served.

- **Don't crowd known spots**

While productive spots are often shared knowledge, give anglers space to work, even in popular areas.

5. Handling fish properly

- **Minimize time out of water**

Handle fish carefully to minimize stress, and avoid keeping fish out of the water longer than necessary to weigh or photograph them.

- **Follow live-well practices**

Ensure your live-well is operating properly and has enough water and oxygen to keep fish alive until weigh-in.

6. Launch and docking etiquette

- **Be efficient at the ramp**

Prepare your boat *before* getting on the ramp to avoid holding up other competitors during the launch.

- **Dock responsibly**

When docking, ensure you're not blocking others from accessing launch areas. Be aware of other boats coming in or leaving.

7. Handling tackle and gear

- **Be tidy**

Keep your gear organized and in your designated area to avoid tangling with your partner's equipment.

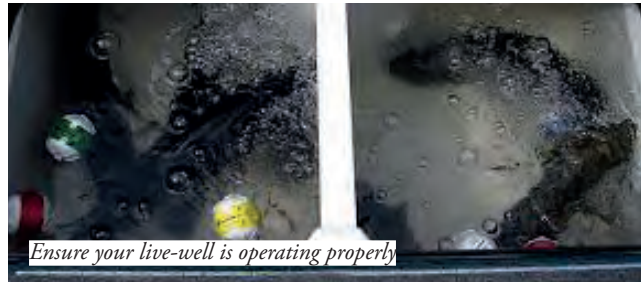
- **Share boat responsibilities**

If fishing as a co-angler, offer to help with launching, docking, or any tasks to make the day smoother for the boater.

8. Follow tournament rules

- **Adhere to the event's specific rules**

Each tournament may have its own set of rules regarding boat conduct, proximity to other competitors, and fish handling. Make sure to understand and follow these.



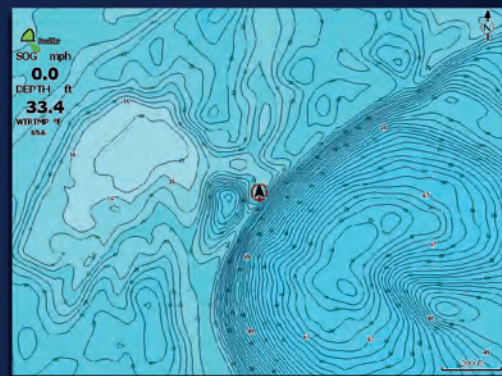
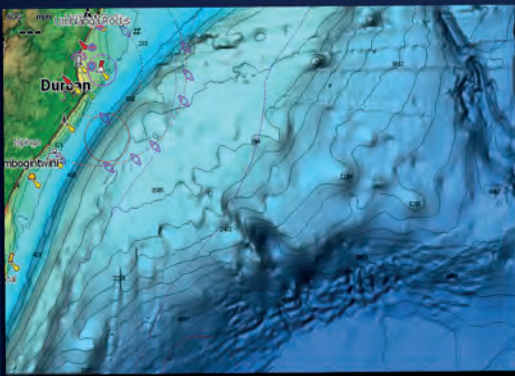
These guidelines help ensure a fair, respectful, and enjoyable environment for all competitors in a bass tournament.

In the next issue we address boat safety procedures when encountering unfair weather during a bass tournament. 🐟

Visit our website www.mlfsouthafrica.com for more information about our monthly bass angling tournaments, the dates and venues.

CASH-BACK

C-MAP[®] REVEAL[™] & DISCOVER[™]



Get up to R1080 Cash-Back when you purchase a C-MAP Reveal or Discover Charts.

From 1 April - 31 May 2025

Contact your local Lowrance SA Dealer for more info and pricing.

Terms & Conditions Apply - www.lowrance.co.za

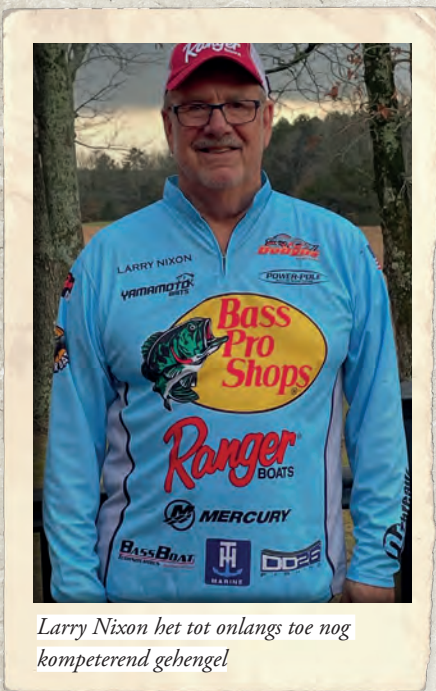
Lowrance South Africa 031 368 6649 sales@lowrance.co.za www.lowrance.co.za



Die Heldesaal

LARRY NIXON (1950)

Larry Nixon, ook beter bekend as die "The General" is op 3 November 1950 in Arkansas, VSA gebore. Sy rekords in die baarswêreld spreek boekdele en is hy die eerste professionele hengelaar in die geskiedenis wat meer as 'n miljoen dollar in baarshengel verdien het.



Larry Nixon het tot onlangs toe nog kompetender gehengel



Larry Nixon en nog 'n legende Hank Parker

>> Philip Kemp*

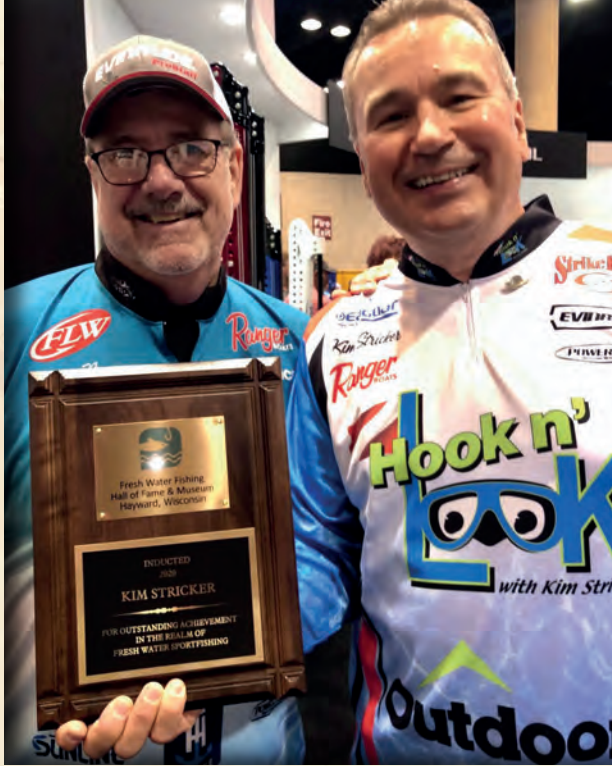
Larry Nixon se liefde vir baarshengel het ook maar as 'n hengelgids begin maar tog het hy die behoefte gehad om sy kennis nog verder uit te bry. In 1972 besluit hy om van Arkansas te verhuis na Toledo Bend Reservoir op die grens tussen Louisiana en Texas. Hier was Nixon se fokuspunt juis om rekord grootte baars te vang. In 1977 besluit hy toe om in te skakel by die B.A.S.S. toernooie. In sy eerste toernooi eindig hy 19de en wen \$600. In sy eerste groot toernooi in 1978 wen hy egter 'n ten volle toegeruste Rangerboot. Natuurlik was dit die begin van seker een van die mees suksesvolste loopbane ooit deur 'n professionele baarshengelaar en sou hy daarna nog 10 bote wen. Plastiese wurmhengel was sy gunsteling tegniek en op Toledo Bend, sy gunsteling meer, was hy onstuitbaar.

Gedurende Nixon se suksesvolle loopbaan het hy nie aan minder as 260 hengeltoernooie deelgeneem. In hierdie tyd het hy 23 keer vir die Bassmaster Classics gekwalifiseer, twee keer B.A.S.S. "Baarshengelaar van die Jaar" titels verower en 14 toernooie gewen. Boonop het hy ook gedurende die 1983 seisoen die Bassmaster Classic op die Ohio rivier naby Cincinnati gewen. Sy totale sakgewig is

tot vandag toe die derde ligste wensak ooit, gewees. Wat sy prestasies egter nog meer spesiaal maak is die feit dat hy ook die Bassmaster Megabucks toernooi vier keer kon wen, waarvan drie agtereenvolgende oorwinnings was. Larry het veral presteer op riviere en mere waar baars skaars en moeilik was om te vang. Sy swaarste vis by een van die kompetisies, wat hom die toekennig vir die swaarste vis van die toernooi gegee het, was maar 'n skamele 2,7kg by Lake Dardenelle in 2009. Nixon se swaarste vangs ooit was in 2004 by 'n FLW toernooi op Lake Okeechobee in Florida. Hier het hy 'n sak (5 baars) van 13kg gevang. Sederdien kon hy nog nooit die perk verby steek nie.

Nixon het ook in die FLW toernooie geskitter waar hy ook verskeies gewen het. Hy het ook in al sy ander toernooie altyd onder die top 25 hengelaars geëindig. Sy beste prestasie was by die Forest Wood Cup waar hy in die derde plek geëindig het.

Die een titel wat hom egter 'n huishoudelike naam in Amerika gemaak het, was die feit dat hy die eerste hengelaar is wat een miljoen dollar in die B.A.S.S toernooie verdien het.



Larry Nixon verwelkom Kim Stricker in die varswater Haldesaal

Benewens Nixon se prestasies op die hengelwaters is hy ook nie skaam om as 'n aanbieder op televisie te verskyn nie. Larry Nixon het vir drie jaar ook sy eie televisie hengelprogram aangebied en is ook in die Arkansas- en die Varswater Haldesaal opgeneem. Sy ander groot liefde, net soos baie van die ander bekendes in die baarswêreld, is natuurlik jag. Gedurende die Amerikaanse winters spandeer hy baie tyd in die jagveld.



Larry Nixon word die eerste hengelaar om meer as een miljoen dollar te verdien

Nixon is met Amy Britner Nixon getroud, en uit hulle huwelik is drie kinders gebore, 'n dogter, Lindsey, en twee seuns, Beau en Christopher.

Larry het later selfs sy eie visvang-video-speletjie, "Larry Nixon's Super Bass Fishing" in 1994 in Japan bekend gestel en twee maande later in Amerika en ook in Kanada. Nashville Network het egter die speletjie en regte by Nixon oorgekoop en die speletjie se naam verander na TNN Bass Tournament of Champions

Huidiglik laat Larry Nixon se gesondheid hom nie meer toe om so aktief te hengel nie. Die "Generaal" sal altyd onthou word vir sy liefde vir die sport en dit wat hy in die professionele era vermag het. 🐟

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



Bringing You a Bigger Selection at Better Prices

FISHING TACKLE SPECIALISTS
SINCE 1969

Fourways Crossing

Cnr William Nicol Dr & Sunrise Blvd
Tel: (011) 465 2937 / 072 274 2783
Email: sollys4ways@telkomsza.net
Open Sundays 9:30am to 12:30pm

Johannesburg

Cnr Booysens Rd 151 & Garland Rd
Tel: (011) 493 1848 / 493 1452
Email: sollys@netactive.co.za / sollys@hb@gmail.com

Rustenburg

Shop 13, Matfar Motor city Howick Avenue, Waterfall Mall (Next to Hyundai)
Tel: (014) 537 2107
Cell: 072 252 8852
Email: sollysrtb@gmail.com

Pretoria

Shop B10 Menlyn Retail Park
Cnr Lois & Garsfontein Road Newlands, Pretoria, 0049
Tel: (012)348 0207 / 348 9597

Vereeniging

47 Voortrekker street
Tel: (016) 422 5545 / 455 2513

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter



GEAR UP

THE LATEST FISHING ADDITIONS

The latest fishing additions on the market.



1



3

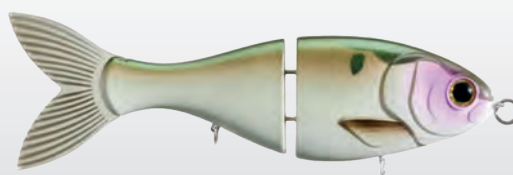


5



2

4



1. HAPPY HOOKER BAIT STORAGE BAGS

>> Something new from Happy Hooker

The Happy Hooker Bait Bag is a durable, water-resistant storage solution designed to keep fishing gear organized and protected. Made from waterproof polyethylene, it features three spacious compartments, industrial-grade zips for longevity, and padded shoulder straps for comfortable carrying. Measuring 600mm x 360mm x 180mm, it is available in Red, Black, Royal Blue, and Yellow—ensuring anglers can transport their baits efficiently while preventing damage.

2. KEITECH BABY TEE BONE

>> Available from Sensational Angling Supply

The ultimate dirty water and night time spinnerbait the all black Keitech Baby Tee Bone combines a solid profile with a thumping Colorado blade that bass in the dirtiest water can hunt down.

3. SENSATION ATOMIC FROG

>> Available from leading fishing outlets

The new Sensation Atomic Frog has been designed for explosive strikes and bone jarring hits from big bass. Combining the best features

of a hollow body frog with the action of a buzzing toad it enables anglers to present a moving frog you can buzz on the surface, twitch like a frog and kill it in place when a bass misses on the first strike. Its bass boat, hull shaped body enables it to ride on the surface without the tendency to blow out or roll over and the cupped kicking legs deliver max action. Equipped with a stout BKK Double Frog Hook and available in six exciting new colours.

4. BUCCA BRAND 6" TRICK SHAD

>> Available from Bad to the Bone

A slightly smaller offering than the original 7" Trick Shad, the Bucca Brand Trick Shad was designed by renowned swimbait creator Mike Bucca and delivers swimming proof that some baits have a little extra magic. Featuring the same durable ABS hard plastic as its larger cousin, the Bucca Brand Trick Shad is purpose-built to produce strikes from monster bass lurking in shad-heavy fisheries.

A testament to Bucca's bait designing experience and knowledge, the Trick Shad stands out as a value-packed offering that has the action to attract big bites with high-quality components to ensure you get them in the boat. Armed with Mustad Triple Grip hooks, a replaceable tail, and swivel hook hangers, the Bucca Brand Trick Shad

comes with everything you need to get the job done when facing daunting challenges on the water.

5. BATES HUNDO 100

>> Available from Blue Water Gear

The next evolution in precision angling is here - The Hundo LTS. Crafted with uncompromising attention to detail and industry leading innovation, this reel is poised to make big waves in the light tackle game.

The Hundo LTS features a gunmetal grey anodised aluminium frame with accents in anodised gold. It's expertly CNC'd from 6061-T6 bar stock aluminium on our state-of-the-art 9-axis machine, but what sets this iteration apart are its re-engineered spool and brakes, meticulously designed to enable the use of micro-finesse baits and lures.

With the Hundo LTS, finesse fishing reaches new heights as we've elevated the performance of premium materials without compromising weight by fine tuning the internal components (ensuring optimal distance in every cast), and redesigning a shallower, skeletonised spool.

Their precision in design allows for an effortless adjustment of lighter lines and delicate presentations, empowering

6



7



8



9



light tackle anglers to dial in with an unparalleled precision of their own.

6. BATTLE BAITS BRIGADE BLADE

>> Something new to look for

One of the most common questions we receive is, "What's the difference between these and a jack hammer?" The answer is significant. The Brigade Blade delivers a distinct, tighter swim action that is both subtle and realistic. Its rigid wire frame allows it to deflect off wood effectively, keeping it weed-free. Moreover, the rear kicker blade creates a unique flash that mimics a wounded baitfish while also helping to deflect grass from the hook point. Originally tested in clear, pressured lakes in southern Missouri, the Brigade Blade has since proven successful for many anglers across America.

7. DOBYNS RODS BIG BLADE LAUNCHER

>> Something new to look for

The new standard for sensitivity, strength, weight and balance and now featuring Fuji Guides! Champion XP Series rods feature proprietary high modulus graphite blanks, Fuji Alconite guides, Kevlar wrapping, Fuji graphite reel seats and AA-grade Portugal

cork. Champion XP Series rods are light, strong, sensitive and perfectly balanced. There are over 60 models to choose from and includes every technique specific model you could want! The Champion Series will always be the backbone of the company.

8. DOUBLE DIGIT ANGLING SIREN 7 GLIDEBAIT

>> Available from Double Digit Angling

The Siren 7 showing its capabilities at getting the bigger fish to commit in very tough conditions.

Definitely a standout feature for the Siren is the hard knocking rattle. In rough, turbulent water the rattle along with the bigger presence allow the fish to hone in and violently strike the Siren.

9. OMEN BLACK CASTING RODS

>> Available from 13 Fishing

Long respected as the OG of the 13 Fishing line-up, their Omen Black series continues to lead their domination of the new school. With lengths, actions and powers that cover techniques both current and emerging, every stick in this tournament-proven series features Japanese 36 ton Toray blanks with Poly Vector Graphite technology.

BECOME A SUBSCRIBER MEMBER



WE ARE BASS FISHING.™

Join MLF's most successful and avid anglers who enjoy all that **BASS FISHING** has to offer.



Now it's even easier to sign up and receive a full year's subscription (6 issues) to **BASS FISHING MAGAZINE**

BASS FISHING magazine is only available in digital format outside the borders of USA

South Africa

Dam Levels



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

Eastern Cape Province			↑↓
Beervlei Dam	0.0%	0.0%	
Bridle Drift Dam	108.4%	9.2%	
Darlington Dam	43.2%	4.6%	
Impofu Dam	55.5%	-1.1%	
Wriggleswade Dam	101.6%	1.4%	

Gauteng			↑↓
Bronkhorstspuit	103.1%	25.5%	
Roodeplaat Dam	100.9%	0.3%	

Kwa-Zulu Natal			↑↓
Albert Falls Dam	102.8%	7.6%	
Bivane Dam	101.7%	-0.4%	
Goedertrouw Dam	100.6%	4.9%	
Inanda Dam	103.8%	2.0%	
Midmar Dam	101.1%	0.6%	
Ntshingwayo Dam	80.9%	-3.4%	
Pongolapoort Dam	90.9%	6.6%	
Spioenkop Dam	101.1%	0.5%	
Spring Grove Dam	97.5%	24.6%	
Wagendrift Dam	100.8%	-1.1%	
Woodstock Dam	99.2%	2.2%	
Zaaihoek Dam	100.4%	3.4%	

Limpopo			↑↓
Albasini Dam	99.8%	5.8%	
De Hoop Dam	100.8%	0.4%	
Ebenezer Dam	100.8%	-0.7%	
Flag Boshielo / Arabie	105.4%	2.0%	
Doorndraai Dam	99.6%	0.2%	
Mokolo Dam	46.3%	13.1%	
Nandoni Dam	101.6%	-1.3%	
Rust de Winter Dam	102.1%	1.2%	
Tzaneen Dam	60.3%	26.2%	

Mpumalanga			↑↓
Da Gama Dam	100.3%	0.0%	
Driekoppies Dam	91.8%	5.0%	
Grootdraai Dam	102.4%	0.8%	
Heyshope Dam	101.0%	0.5%	
Injaka Dam	93.6%	#####	
Jericho Dam	92.5%	11.6%	
Kwena Dam	101.0%	10.8%	
Loskop Dam	101.6%	0.4%	
Middelburg Dam	98.6%	0.4%	
Morgenstond Dam	95.3%	19.9%	
Nooitgedacht Dam	100.4%	0.4%	
Rhenosterkop Dam	102.2%	7.1%	
Vygeboom Dam	100.3%	-0.6%	
Witbank Dam	99.4%	-0.1%	

North West			↑↓
Boskop Dam	102.1%	-0.6%	
Buffelspoort Dam	101.5%	0.4%	
Hartebeespoort Dam	96.8%	-1.3%	
Klerkskraal Dam	102.8%	-5.9%	
Kosterrivier Dam	100.6%	4.7%	
Molatedi Dam	114.8%	75.5%	
Roodekopjes Dam	87.2%	12.1%	

O.F.S.			↑↓
Allemanskraal Dam	38.2%	3.2%	
Bloemhof Dam	95.3%	23.0%	
Gariep Dam	90.1%	11.4%	
Kalkfontein Dam	61.6%	-1.7%	
Knellpoort Dam	89.6%	3.6%	
Koppies Dam	104.7%	24.9%	
Sterkfontein Dam	99.1%	0.7%	
Vaal Dam	103.0%	39.7%	
Vaalrivier Barrage	96.8%	0.3%	
Vanderkloof Dam	67.8%	-1.7%	

Western Cape			↑↓
Berg River Dam	67.2%	-8.7%	
Brandvlei Dam	51.0%	-7.0%	
Clanwilliam Dam	43.4%	-15.6%	
Kwaggaskloof Dam	49.9%	-6.6%	
Theewaterskloof Dam	67.4%	-8.0%	
Voëlvllei Dam	66.3%	-8.0%	

Levels on: 17-Mar 17-Feb
 Average: 89.3% 84.1%



For all anglers who are mad about bassin'
and mad about FUN.

CASH prizes to be won

One day bass angling tournament;
First weekend of the month;
Open to anybody – no need to belong to a club;
Register on the day at the venue;
Entry fee: R300/angler;
Buddy tournament – fish with your friend, family member, or alone;
Fishing is from small watercraft (less than 4.6m in length) - No outboards allowed;
Limit is 3 fish per team;
Big cash prizes + trophies to be won;
Lucky draw prizes

**New season starts
September 2025**



Call 082-416-5524, or get all the rules, dates and venues on our website



WORLD'S LARGEST TOURNAMENT
FISHING ORGANIZATION
www.mfssouthafrica.com





SOMEDAY YOU'LL TELL
YOUR LIFE STORY.
ONE FISH AT A TIME.



Mercury 250 and 300hp Pro XS

Your best stories begin out here. Where the only thing on the line is what you can catch. And every cast is another chance to fill your memories with the fish of a lifetime.

**MERCURY ENGINES ARE MADE FOR EXPLORING.
SO ARE YOU. GO BOLDLY.**



MERCURY
GO BOLDLY.®

Rutherford

Marine

Exclusive Distributor of Mercury and MerCruiser

EXPLORE THE LINEUP AT RUTHERFORDMARINE.CO.ZA