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The Mack Attack
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2514 Easy Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801 509-667-9202

TOURNAMENT FISHING CAN DRIVE A GOOD MAN BATTY SOMETIMES

By MACK'S LURE PRO STAFFER BRUCE MIRABELLA



Bruce Miraella with his winning catch.

I was fishing the Green Bay, WI AIM Pro Walleye Series Tournament and was on a great bite leading up to the event. I mean 15-20 fish a day ranging from 22-26 inches. My approach consisted of trolling the Macks Lure Double Whammy Pro-Series harness with a juicy crawler at 1.3 miles per hour. Snap weights were employed for the delivery system and planer boards to keep the baits far from the boat. For almost two weeks the walleye I was targeting were in 20 feet of clear water and relating close to the bottom up to about 13 feet in the column.

Three days prior to the event the temp dropped substantially and the wind direction changed and started to blow from the north at 17-30 miles per hour. This lasted for about 5 straight days. Because of the change in wind direction coupled with the consistency and strength of

the wind what happened next was unbelievable. The fish I was targeting were not showing up on my graph. I mean thousands of fish all of a sudden disappeared. I thought to myself, "this just can't be!"

I had caught a couple fish running this program, but nothing like I had done in practice. Well, after day one had come and gone and I was scratching my head and wondering what the heck was going on. I found myself back at my original spot on day two. The same thing was happening. I was not able to mark fish, let alone catch anything. At this point I was upset and starting to go into panic mode. All of a sudden I look out towards the boards and I saw a walleye dorsal fin in a trough of a three-foot wave. Then a minute later I saw another big walleye smash a may fly on the surface like a bass. I immediately instructed my co-angler to reel in everything fast. I then put all four Double Whammy harnesses ten feet behind the board with no weights. I could see the baits clear as day riding just below the surface. Bingo! Fish on! We started to hammer all kinds of fish. 32 inch sheep head, 22-pound catfish, and of course nice walleye.

Here is what happened. When the

wind blew all the warm water down to the south end of the bay, all the fish moved up to the surface where the sun was now warming the water. This included all types of fish that normally would be found towards the bottom. I could not mark fish on my graph because they were on the surface and moving off to the side as my boat approached. The transducer looks down at a 45 degree angle and was positioned two feet under the fish. When I hold seminars about open water trolling I preach about starting high in the water column and then work down towards the bottom. I had never thought to start at the very top of the column. In all my fishing I had never seen this before and wished I figured it out the previous day. Who knew that after a strong consistent blow, and lack of marks on the graph, I need to move the baits way up on top of column? After talking to my other pro buddies on the tour that have a great deal of experience on the Great Lakes, the general consensus is that this was not a fluke. This happens quite often, and in all types of large bodies of water. Now I know and wish to forward this info on to you. Good luck, God bless, and go get-em.

SYNOPSIS OF THE 2009 WASHINGTON STATE WALLEYE CIRCUIT

By Ted Beach

May 2nd and 3rd was the Rod Messeberg Spring Walleye Classic Tournament, held at Potholes Reservoir- Othello, WA.

Several of the top ten finishers used smile blades in various colors to put them in the top ten finishes.

May 16th and 17th was Big Walley's Spring Classic Tournament, held on Banks Lake- Coulee City, WA.

2nd place team of Mike Zook and Brett Sorenson caught 28.7 pounds, pulling worm harnesses with a silver 1.1 smile blade.

3rd place team of Ron Charlton and Don Ghramm fished 30 to 35 feet with speed being critical, using a worm harness with Mack's smile blade.

This system netted Charlton and Ghraham 28.18 pounds to take 3rd place.

June 6th and 7th was Moses Lake Walleye Classic Tournament, held on Moses Lake- Moses Lake, WA.

1st Place team of Randy Parks and Dennis Morgan pulled Mack's Lure purple Wally Pops both days to give them the winning weight of 45.74 pounds.

Note: several of the top 20 teams used smile blades.

June 27th and 28th Washington Governor's Cup Walleye Tourna-

ment held on Lake Roosevelt- Kettle Falls, WA.

2nd place went to Dennis Morgan and Bruce Morgan. The team pulled Mack's Lure Wally Pops, in 30 to 40 feet, giving them the weight of 20.42 pounds.

Also several of the top 20 finishers pulled smile blades in various colors.

July 25th and 26th Washington State Walleye Championship Tournament held on Lake Roosevelt- Kettle Falls, WA.

1st place team was Rob Jimenez and Paul Rossigonal from Montana. 2nd place team was Kurt Sonderman and his wife.

The results have not been posted at this time and I was not able to contact the top teams. But knowing how these teams fish, I can assure you that Mack's Lure Smile Blades were used to put them at the top.



Mack's Lure Guide Staffer Jerry Brown sent this photo in of his wife with a Rainbow Trout caught on a Mack's Lure Promise Keeper.

Cookin' Your Catch

Walleye Cooked on Sea Salt

Ingredients

- Walleye, whole, cleaned with head & scales on
- Rock Salt or Sea Salt (for human consumption)
- Vegetables (Celery, Onions, Peppers-diced)

Prepare a bed of rock salt in the bottom of a non-reactive pan (a coarse sea salt will also work). A spray bottle of water is used to mist the rock salt so the salt will fuse together while cooking.

Place the fish on the bed of salt. A dressing may be placed into the body cavity or a mixture of vegetables may be used to stuff the cavity. The scales will help prevent the meat from becoming too salty. A layer of salt is used to cover the fish-you will mist this covering with your water and bake in a 450 degree oven. The salt will fuse together in this high heat and the fish will steam in the salt covering.

Cooking time will depend on the size of the fish being cooked. The salt case will be cracked when you go to serve the dish and care is used to prevent from burning when the steam is released upon breaking the salt.

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“Make Your Down Time Pay”

by **Hall-of-Fame Angler Stan Fagerstrom**

Part 2 of 3

There's no better time than the dark days of winter to check on the condition of your fishing gear.

In my last column I mentioned some of the steps we can all take that help a bunch when the chance to fish does come. Now let's look closely at what some of the other things are.

We'll start with hooks. Chances are some were dulled when you bounced them off the rocks last summer. Is there a barb missing on some of your trebles? Replace the hooks that should be replaced, sharpen those that need it.

I also use my downtime to take care of the skirts on my spinnerbaits. Sprays are available to spray on rubber skirts so the tails stay separated. Taking care of the skirts on your spinnerbaits or other lures is another of those little details so easily taken care of when the winter winds are blowing.

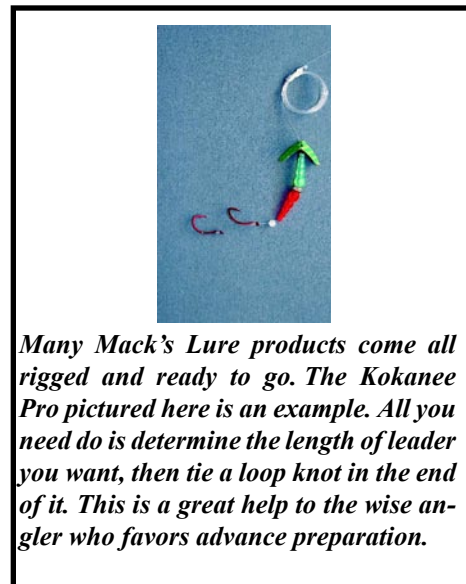
Do it now and next spring you won't lose valuable fishing time. I know I'll be reaching into my tackle box on my first 2009 bass fishing trip to find a favorite Stan's Spin spinnerbait. Then, when I do find it, I don't want to discover its skirt looks like the last rose of summer. Clean up worn lure skirts now during your down time. If they're really beat up, simply replace them.

While hook sharpeners and skirt

sprays are great items for getting tackle into shape, don't despair if you don't have them. There are a jillion other things you can do. They range from painting plugs to polishing spinners.

Like me, you may have found certain lure colors more effective than others last season. A variety of paints are available. I purchase some of them from auto supply houses. Another great spot to find such items is them Jann's s Netcraft catalog. If you're really into fishing, you should have one. You can visit the Netcraft website at www.jannsnecraft.com and get all the details.

If you've read my book, "Catch More Steelhead," you know there's a chapter titled "Do It In Advance." Often winter steelheading means repeated casting in air temperatures near freezing and water temperatures not much warmer. That book was written many years ago but what I said about preparation then still applies today.



Many Mack's Lure products come all rigged and ready to go. The Kokanee Pro pictured here is an example. All you need do is determine the length of leader you want, then tie a loop knot in the end of it. This is a great help to the wise angler who favors advance preparation.

They say the future belongs to the guy who prepares for it. I'll go along with that because when it comes to steelhead fishing the prepared an-

gler is going to wind up with more fish.

One of the simple but important things a steelheader can do in advance is pre-tie leader and hook setups. I've always done it on those dreary winter days I can't fish. It applies whether you are using natural bait or artificial lures.

That's one of the things I especially like about certain of the Mack's Lure products. Many come already rigged. All you need do is tie a loop in the end of your leader and you're ready to go.

Mack's Lure's Pip's Leader Caddy as well as its Pip's Box are made to order for the guy who is serious about advance preparation. If I rig up drift bobber rigs and perhaps leaders that have two hooks, all I have to do is store them in the Pip's Leader Caddy. The Leader Caddy is a magnum version of the smaller Pip's Box.



Having your hook and leader set up all rigged and ready means more time with your lure in the water. It also means you've got a better shot at catching fish than other anglers who aren't as well prepared.

The smaller Pip's Box provides super storage for your pre-tied leaders. Like the Leader Caddy, it comes in different colors so you can tell a glance what you have where.

Once you've got your rigs tied up
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Once you've got your rigs tied up and ready, put 'em in the Pip's Box, slip the box into a pocket of your fishing vest and you're ready to go.

and ready, put 'em in the Pip's Box, slip the box into a pocket of your fishing vest and you're ready to go.

I do most of my fly tying in the winter. If there's a better time to stock up on productive patterns, I've not found it. I never put the finishing touches on a proven pattern without catching myself grinning. I do so

because I know what I'm going to do with that fly once the snowflakes quit flying.

We'll take a final look at how to make your winter downtime pay dividends in my third column in this series.

Take a Kid Fishing!



You will be glad you did!

Question of the Month

Have a question? We'd love to answer it! Contact us at bob@mackslure.com if you have a question you would like to see featured!

Q: Do any of the Mack's Lure Smile Blades have UV glow?

A: Yes, we have several. In the sparkle pattern, we have green and chartreuse that are UV glow. In both the scale and mirror patterns, we have chartreuse. And seven of the eight colors in the tiger pattern, exception being transparent, have UV glow.

The Mack's Lure Forum...

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Photos, stories and comments are welcomed and encouraged. Please forward all content materials to bob@mackslure.com.

THANK YOU!

Photo of the Month



Attached is a picture of a 18-lb 6-oz lake trout (36.5-inches) I just caught at Jackson Lake, WY using a Mack's Double Whammy Classic spinner. The same lure caught several cutthroat trout and smaller lakera the same day. I was using flatfish and rapalas with no luck and then switched to the Mack's spinner and the fish started biting. I lost the lure on bottom the next day (it was my only one) but will stock up before my next trip.

Thanks for the help with my trophy fish!

Chad Weigel

Central, AZ

