

A Legacy of Innovation
Since 1969

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Those Other Bass

by Bernie Barringer

Tip of the Month

Slip Bobbering With Glo Hooks

Sometimes a plain old bobber and live bait is the best tool for the job. But sometimes the fish are in deep water and you can't cast a rig with a bobber ten feet above the hook. That's where the slip bobber comes in. It consists of a bobber that slides on your line, a stop that positions the bobber and regulates the depth of the bait, and a hook or jig on the end of the line. Mack's Lure Glo Hooks are perfect for this presentation.

Simply tie the snelled Glo Hook to a small barrel swivel, put a couple small split shot sinkers just above the swivel and you have a great fish catching tool. Try it!



HummBaits and white bass go together like hand in glove!

When you say the word "bass," most people think of largemouth bass, the number one gamefish in almost every state, and far and away the most sought after freshwater gamefish in the southern two-thirds of the US. The smallmouth bass has a very strong following in the north-

ern half of the US and is more prevalent in the western states. Of course there are a lot of saltwater bass, and the striped bass has done well in freshwater reservoirs across the warmer regions of North America.

But there is another bass that is pursued by a small number of die-



Two Great Crappie Recipes

Next time you have a mess of crappie filets and you feel like trying something new, try one of these recipes.

Mountain Dew Crappie Bake

Ingredients include:

- Roughly one dozen crappie filets
- 1/2 can of Mountain Dew
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 2 eggs
- dash of garlic powder
- dash of lemon pepper
- dash of lime juice
- dash of sea salt
- 2 to 8 drops of Tobasco or similar hot sauce, depending on taste
- virgin olive oil

Brush filets with virgin olive oil. Drink a good sized guzzle of the Mountain Dew and mix the remainder with the rest of the ingredients. Coat the filets with the mixture and lay in a baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-17 minutes.

Crappie Curl-Ups

Slice crappie filets lengthwise into finger-size strips. Refrigerate in saltwater for at least 1/2 hour.

Boil in two quarts of water with 8 ounces of shrimp or crab boil. Filets will curl up and become firm. Carefully remove them from the water with a strainer.

Dip in a seafood cocktail sauce if you like or eat them plain. Yum!

hards, and at times by casual anglers who have found a hot bite somewhere. Well that's a shame because the white bass is one of the gamest fish that swims. They hit a bait with a bone-jarring jolt and go ballistic once hooked. They're considered marginal table fare; but they're really pretty good if you go to the work to get the dark meat trimmed from the filets.

Their popularity is limited, I believe because they are not as geographically widespread as many other species. Add that to the fact that they spend much of their time suspended out over deep water where they are hard to find and present a bait to, and you have a fish that often confounds anglers.

White bass do well in some natural lakes and most reservoirs. And if you know what to look for, you can have a ball fishing them.

I have had the opportunity to fish for them several times and I must confess that when I hear of a good place to fish for them, it turns my head, because they are so much fun.

When I first saw the new Mack's Lure HummBait, one of my reactions was that it would be a fantastic lure for white bass. It looked to have all the flash, vibration, attracting and triggering properties that seemed like it would make it hard for a white bass to refuse.

So recently when I had the chance to fish a lake that has a good white bass population, I grabbed a handful of them and told my two boys, Dawson and Sterling, who are ages

11 and 13, that we were going to have some wild action. The lure and the fish did not let me down.

We headed towards the back end of a bay where I thought we might be able to shake a couple loose. Lo and behold, my first cast produced a big boil and a tooth-rattling strike. So did the next several casts. As I suspected, they couldn't leave it alone. Since they were confined in a small area, by the time we had boated a dozen in probably less than 15 minutes, they were pretty spooky and we decided to move on.

The following day, we found a couple more in another bay, but we were driven off the lake by a thunderstorm before we had a chance to dial them in. The next day would be different.

We found a school of them in the same bay, concentrated in an area about a half acre and proceeded to whoop up on them in unbelievable fashion, catching roughly a hundred in the next four hours before our backs and muscles finally tired of the trauma. We had doubles, triples, and often caught them on three and four consecutive casts. I have been fishing a long time for a lot of species but this was some of the wildest action I have ever seen.

Needless to say I am sold on the white bass and I am even more sold on the HummBait than ever before! Sometimes a bait comes along that's just a perfect presentation for the right place and time, and this was one of those times. Get a handful of them and experience it for yourself!

ATTENTION ALL READERS! The *Mack Attack* newsletter wants you to share your stories about the new HummBait or any other Mack's Lure fishing lures. Don't stress about writing an entire fishing story. All we need is a short statement concerning the products performance. If you are selected your comments, name, and any picture will appear in a future issue of the *Mack Attack*. Also you may be contacted to be interviewed for a feature story. Please email your statement along with a photo to bernie@mackslure.com. We look forward to reading about your best fishing story.

He Makes His Planning Pay

By Hall of Fame Angler Stan Fagerstrom

Part 2



This 44.4-pounder is proof that Dave Pitts' tactics are working!

I've interviewed as well as fished with some of the best known anglers in the country.

In making that statement I'm thinking about guys like Bill Dance in the field of bass fishing or Buzz Ramsey for salmon and Gary Loomis for steelhead. Without exception, every darn one of them had definite plans they followed. Those plans were the result of countless hours on the water.

The man I wrote about in my last column is cut from the same piece of cloth. He's Dave Pitts, a retired California police officer, who now goes after salmon the way he used to pursue the bad guys. This time around let's look at some more of the tactics he employs in following his own plan of action.

In winding up my last column I mentioned that Pitts knows salmon often move into shaded areas next to



shore. There's also another stretch of river he favors. "I try to pinpoint those areas where there's a shallow riffle," he says. "Once I find them, I concentrate on the water just above or below the riffle. I don't look for 'soft spots' in the riffle itself. I ask myself if there is a slightly faster current with darker water close to the bank. If there it is could be a fish holding spot."

Are you among the many dedicated anglers who figure unless you're on the water at dawn's first light you might as well have stayed in the sack? Pitts says he once had the same sentiment, but not anymore. "I've come to believe," he says, "that being the first one on the water isn't always necessary. It isn't because fish move. I've had anglers in my boat who got upset because I held back on purpose and let several guide boats go through a stretch of river ahead of us. The guides all hit the same slot in close to the bank.

"I know for a fact that fish move when repeatedly pressured. One day comes to mind when I simply moved my boat about 20 feet to the left and more toward the center of the river. We hadn't drifted more than 25 yards before we hit our first king. It hit a Mack's Lure Sledge Hammer tipped with an anchovy. The guides who had just fished through the prime area closer to the bank ahead of us turned around to watch us boat that fish."

This likeable salmon hooking expert says he fishes his Mack's Lure Sledge Hammer so it has a rolling, darting action. As I mentioned in my last column, he rigs his Sledge Hammer with a plug cut herring or a strip bait. He attaches a bead chain swivel in front of the lure.

"The bead chain swivel," Pitts says, "eliminates the line twist I might otherwise get with this set up. I also favor 4/0 or 5/0 hooks and I fish them with 40-pound monofilament line. My favorite colors in Sledge Hammers are the chartreuse sparkle silver tiger blades with a runny nose glo eye skirt and the red sparkle silver tiger blades with the

army truck glo eyes skirt.”

Finally, Pitts has another bit of advice that I know from my own experience is well worth heeding. It's to keep a meticulous record of every fishing trip. Note things like river flow speed, water color, weather conditions and everything else that might be of importance.

As your record file grows, so does your ability to plan future trips. Just like the guy holding the rod, fish are creatures of habit. Record keeping is an excellent way to bend the odds in your favor.

Dave Pitts is indeed a man with a plan and that plan helps him put fish in the boat. There's ample proof in the photos you see of Dave with fish

Welcome to our new monthly question feature! Feel free to contact us at bernie@mackslure.com if you have a question you would like to see featured!

Q: A state record walleye was caught on a Mack's Lure spinner in 2007. In which state was it caught? How big was it?

A: The exhistng Washington

in this column. If you're a salmon angler you'd best pick up your own

Question of the Month

State record walleye was caught by Mike Hepper from the Columbia River on February 5, 2007. Hepper was fishing with a Smile Blade spinner and hooked the walleye, which weighed in at 19.3 pounds, in 32 feet of water near the Finley area.

supply of Sledge Hammers and get in on the action.

Photo of the Month

We want your photos! Send your photos to bernie@mackslure.com.



My What Big 'Eyes You Have!

Bernadine and Bill Ayres are one of tournament walleye fishing's first couples, and they are longtime loyal Mack Lure users. They recently hooked this huge limit of walleyes during a Michigan Walleye Tour event on Lake Erie. The Boogie bait played a key role in cashing a big check for them.

The Mack Attack is a free service provided to anyone who is interested by Mack's Lures Inc. We need your input! If you know of anyone who would like to be on the mailing list to receive the Mack Attack, please forward their e-mail address to al@mackslure.com. Photos, stories and comments are welcomed and encouraged. Please forward all content materials to bernie@mackslure.com. **THANK YOU!**

