

The

November 2006

Mack Attack

Monthly publication of Mack's Lure, Inc.

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Rub-a-Dub Chub

by Dennis Foster

A large, lively chub is by far, my favorite of all live-bait options for Walleyes. It's true, big bait does equal big fish. If they were readily available during the summer months, and easier to keep alive, I can guarantee you that my boat would never leave the trailer without them.

Once we enter the fall period, keeping them healthy is no longer a problem and we have no excuse for not using them. Keep things very simple... throw in a couple dozen, a quality live-bait rod, some pre-rigged snells, and you're good to go.

I'll give you some tips on selecting your chubs: If you can find them, creek chubs are the absolute best you can get. They're tough and will stay super-active on the hook all

day long. They actually seem to irritate the fish into biting. If they are not available, the second choice would be a wild shiner. These aren't

the dainty and fragile little pond raised models, but rather, the darker and friskier ones that are trapped. There is a huge difference, and I would personally recommend avoid the domesticated type. The third and most

commonly found choice are sucker chubs. They are a pretty good bait, as long as you're conscious about replacing them often, as they tire easily and become listless on the hook.

Since we are fishing sizeable baits, the best way to present them is by using a slip sinker rig. I typically start out with a Lindy style sinker and if snags become a problem, then I



Tip of the Month

Blade Bending for Better Action

Just like when you tune a crankbait, you also want your Smile Blades properly tuned for alignment. They should always arrive that way right out of the package.

Once they have been checked for the proper alignment you can change the pitch to vary the speed of the spin in the water. So if you want to pull the blades at say .8 m.p.h., and still want a lot of spin action, simply pinch the blade closer together and the spin will increase. Open the blade up so it is somewhat flatter and you will decrease the spin. Fisherman know how important trolling speed is. Believe me the rate of spin on the blade can make just as much difference at times.

For aligning the Smile blades the fold needs to be exactly through the middle of the hole and the middle of the notch.

Combine the four different blade sizes, four patterns, and the myriad of colors the Smile Blade are available in. With your ability to adjust the spin and you are sure to have a smile for any situation.

switch to a Mack's Lure Slither Rig sinker. Always fish with your bail open and when you feel a pick up, release line to the fish and let them have it for at least 20 to 30 seconds. This lets them get the bait positioned in their mouth sufficiently for you to set the hook.

The most important part of this system is having a good leader setup. Once you have the fish located, an attractive leader, and lively bait... your odds of tying into a good fish are very high. I tie all of my own leaders and have come up the following combination of components.

I begin with a 6 foot section of a quality mono with supple char-

acteristics such as 8 pound Berkley XL. This will allow the chub to move freely and in turn, be much more seductive. For the hook, a number 2 Gamakatsu Walleye Wide Bend, is snelled on. I choose this particular hook not only for Gamakatsu's well known reputation for sticky sharpness, but also for its design. It has a unique bend which creates a much larger hook gap. This is extremely important when using big baits. The large gap gives you a lot more "bite" than a conventional hook provides. Thus, ensuring a nearly 100 percent hooking ratio. After all, our goal is to convert bites into hooked fish.

Directly above the hook I like

to place either a Glow Bead or a Rattling Floating Bead. This helps to serve two purposes. As an additional attractor and to act as a spacer, for the jewel of the presentation: Mack's Lure Smile Blade.

The Smile Blade is a unique, nearly paper thin mylar blade, with a delta wing shape. This gives it the ability to turn, and therefore attract, at speeds in a range from 1/4 m.p.h. all the way up to 2 m.p.h. The slower end of the spectrum is the key. We want to give the chub every opportunity to do its deadly dance and not quickly drag it by. Give this a try. I think you'll appreciate the results.

Mack's Lure Unveils New Logo

Mack's Lure has a new logo that will be turning heads in the next few months. The new "WildFish" logo is an aggressive representation of a mean-looking fish creature that is sure to turn heads and become an icon in the sport.

Soon you will begin to see the

WildFish logo on caps and clothing, in addition to boat and truck window decals, and later on Mack's Lure packaging.

Keep an eye out for it in many different places. It's a real attention getter and it's sure to be a hit!



Cookin' Your Catch

Grilled Salmon

This is a good recipe for medium-sized salmon and steelhead. This works best with whole filets less than three inches thick at their thickest point.

Place the filets skin side down on a double layer of tin foil and fold up the edges of the tin foil to keep the juices from running over the edge. Place several pats of butter on the filets. Sprinkle garlic powder, Lawry's Seasoned Salt, and Lemon Pepper liberally on the filet.

Preheat the grill to about 350-400 degrees. Grill for about ten minutes or until the flesh begins to flake and separate on its own. It will be a little bit longer for thicker filets. The filets will retain their moisture pretty well and melt in your mouth! Hint: you can do this with the skin on and the meat flakes right off the skin.

Mack's Lure Blades

"They'll Leave You With A Smile"

Part 2

Irene Fike would have been very proud of her sons.

If you read my last column, you'll recall I mentioned how a pair of trophy-winning brothers from Pennsylvania credit their mother for much of their success as professional walleye anglers. The brothers are Richard and Mark Fike, of Farmington.

"Our mother supported us all the way," the brothers say. "We still feel like her spirit is with us." The Fike brothers lost their mother to cancer in April of this year. She didn't have the opportunity to see them win the 2006 Cabela's National Team Walleye Championship at South Dakota's Lake Sharpe in June.

As I've mentioned, she would have been justifiably proud of the record her sons have compiled in the field of tournament walleye angling had she been here to see it.

Richard, the oldest of the brothers, didn't sit around thumping himself between the shoulder blades as a result of winning that South Dakota Championship in June. How do I know? Because in early July he took part in the Northeast Walleye Circuit Championship on Lake Erie. I'll be darned if he didn't win that one too! Richard and his partner weighed in a whopping 39-pounds of walleyes to take the top prize.

Run into somebody who has established the track record Richard Fike has and it goes without saying

he can provide details to help with your own walleye fishing. In my last column I talked mainly about my interview with Mike, Richard's younger brother. This time around let's look more closely at Richard's thoughts about putting walleyes in the boat.

As those who read my previous column know, Richard and Mike used Mack's Lure Smile Blades to win the Cabela's National Team Championship. I was particularly interested in learning the details on how they made these lightweight, easy-turning Mylar blades perform as they did.

"I've been using Smile Blades in my tournament fishing for the past three years," Richard says. "They've made it possible for me to utilize a whole new concept where bottom bouncing for walleyes is concerned. These blades are so versatile they make it possible to use a variety of techniques."

Boat speed is one of the areas where Smile Blades played a major role. In the Cabela's tournament in South Dakota Richard and Mike pulled their bottom bouncing rigs at speeds of 1.3 to 1.5 miles per hour. They have two GPS units mounted on their boat and they keep a sharp eye on those units. Once they determine the speed that's required to consistently catch fish, they make darn sure they stick with it.

Newcomers to walleye fishing might not realize just how important moving at the right speed is. In South Dakota for example, the brothers found that if they slowed down to a boat speed of 1.1 miles per

hour they started picking up catfish and carp instead of the walleyes they were after.

I asked Richard if Smile Blades have helped where boat speeds are concerned. "Absolutely," he says. "I found that out in a tournament in which I took part in Ohio last year. Don't ask me why, but we just couldn't get hits on the other spinner blades we tried. Once we switched to Mack's Lure Wally Pops and used them with two Smile Blades out front we started catching fish.

"We dropped clear down to .5 miles per hour in that tournament.

Compare that to the Cabela's tournament on Lake Sharpe. In the Cabela's tournament we ran mostly at 1.3 miles per hour. If you weren't going that fast, you just didn't get any hits. Our Smile Blades enabled us to change boat speeds with no problem. They perform well at either

fast or slow speeds."

It requires a basic understanding of the magnitude of the annual Cabela's National Team Championship to really appreciate exactly what it means to win the event. A total of 65,000 anglers participated across the US in Cabela's qualifying tournament events. The field was eventually pared down to a 222-man field that was on hand for the Lake Sharpe competition.

You don't even get into a national competition like that without sufficient expertise, attitude and effort. Having the right gear is also a big time factor and all of us here at Mack's Lure are proud of the fact that Mark and Richard used our Smiles Blades to get the job done.



I asked Richard Fike to share his thoughts with me regarding the three most important things any of us has to do to become consistently successful at catching walleye. I also wanted to know the role Mack's Lure Hot Wings played in his winning the

Northeast Walleye Championship at Lake Erie. I'll share how he answered those questions my next column beginning here on Sept. 1.

Don't miss it! You're a cinch to pick up some more tips you can use in your own fishing.

Photo of the Month

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



Big Fish, Big Payday

Mack's Lure Pro-staff member Troy Walwood caught the largest fish, by far, of any walleyes caught at the recent Professional Walleye Trail Championship Tournament held on the Missouri River out of Bismarck, ND. The big fish was 27 inches long and weighed 6.64 lbs. "We were fishing along a sand bar cut in 17 feet of water, allowing the

wind to bring us down the bank, matching the current to stay vertical," Troy said. "It was a very intense few minutes as we battled the big fish to the net. It took three attempts to bring the fish to the net and once in the net the jig feel free as if the fish was not even hooked." The big fish pay out was \$2000.00 and 22nd place also paid out \$2000.00.



Here are just a few of the dozens of color and size combinations in which Mack's Lure Smile Blades are offered.

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!**

