

The

February 2007

Mack Attack

Monthly publication of Mack's Lure, Inc.

www.mackslure.com Mack's Lure, Inc.. 2514 Easy St, Wenatchee, WA 98801 509-667-9202



Traditions? Who needs traditions!

*By Chad Richardson
Part II*

Knowing the forage base and knowing how to apply it to your fishing location and your presentation is vital to success on non-traditional waters. Use this information to plan your strategy for the day. If you want

to target big fish and you know those fish are likely keyed in on larger forage, something like a crankbait is a good option. However, if you want to target numbers of average sized fish than you would be better off us-

Tip of the Month

My Sault Slayer

submitted by Johnny Synett



Like most walleye nuts, I like to tie my own tackle and this is my favorite creation. The gold faceted beads look great with the gold Smile Blade. I have found that on cloudy days the walleye like the red bead and red hooks and on sunny days they seem to prefer the all gold beads with gold hooks. I have taken this set-up everywhere from shallow water bays to Lake Erie and it has been by far the all around best set-up I have used. When I fish it in big open water trolling with in-line weights targeting suspended fish I will change the tail hook to a treble. Fishing off a bottom bouncer I always use the single hooks to keep from picking up bottom debris. I have fished this set-up at .4 mph to 4 mph, that's the great thing about the Mack's Lure Smile Blade with just a simple fold of the blade one way or the other you can tune the blade to your boat speed instead of tuning your boat speed to your blade.

ing a jig and night crawler or a bottom bouncer and a small spinner because that would closely represent what those fish have available to them and likely what they are keyed in on.

If you are unaware of the forage base and the particular species occupying your waters you should start by calling the local state fisheries biologist. Most biologists are more than happy to provide this information to anglers, but keep in mind that he/she may not have a lot of time to sit and tell fish stories, so have specific questions ready and don't forget to thank them for their time.

One major difference between traditional waters and non-traditional waters is the sheer numbers of walleyes. In most non-traditional waters, walleyes share their predatory reign with temperate bass (white bass, stripers and hybrids), black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted), or salmonids (trout and salmon). I mention this because one must tailor your presentation and techniques to best target fish which may be scattered or found on specific spots but generally are found in lower numbers than traditional waters.

Favorite baits and local methods for non-traditional walleyes usually exist on most waters. Sometimes those local baits are definitely better producers but most of the time any proven walleye technique will catch fish. Don't be afraid to try any proven technique just because the locals preach the only way to catch walleye.

In general, you have three options to choose from: crankbaits, spinners or jigs. You first need to locate fish. Remember that in non-traditional waters, walleye numbers may be limited, so you should be in the search mode to begin with. Once

fish are located then you can switch to the catch mode.

Trolling crankbaits is the most efficient way to cover water when looking for non-traditional eyes'. I prefer a crankbait with an aggressive wobble and my favorite is a Reef Runner. These crankbaits not only have a wide enticing wobble, they tend to roam from side to side as they troll. This action does make them difficult to keep in tune at times, but learn how to tune crankbaits and your efforts will be rewarded.

If fish are just a little slow to take cranks, then slow down a bit and break out the bottom bouncers and spinners. Spinners, in my opinion are the best all-around method to search and catch walleyes. My go to spinner blades for non-traditional eyes' are also non-traditional, they are "smile blades" by Mack's Lure. These are a plastic mylar-type blade that will spin at extremely slow speeds, but do not spin out of control at fast speeds, making them more versatile than metal blades. They were developed in Washington state originally for trout and salmon, but anglers have discovered they are dynamite on walleyes too. I use a variety of sizes and colors depending on the conditions. Mack's Lure also makes a larger version of the smile blades called "Hot wings". These are designed as attractor spinners which run in front of your bait. I attach them two feet in front of a Reef Runner crankbait as an added attraction while trolling and on some days nearly every walleye comes on a Reef Runner with Mack's Lure Hot wing combo.

Crankbaits and spinners are a great way to locate and catch non-traditional eyes' but sometimes once fish are located it's tough to beat a good ol' jig. Sticking with the non-traditional theme, I like to use Road

Runners when I am "getting jiggy with it". They are best known as a crappie jig and were developed in Missouri as a multi-species lure but believe me, they account for a lot of walleye in the south.

Whatever technique you decide to go after non-traditional walleyes with, remember it often times requires patience, trial and error, and a little luck never hurts. Don't get intimidated by their slightly different behavior, they speak the same language as their northern cousins only they talk with a slightly different accent.

Cookin' Your Catch

Poor Man's Lobster

submitted by Bernie Barringer

I was about to toss a five-pound northern pike back into the lake one day when my friend Gary Taylor just about tackled me. "Don't you dare release that fish, it's the perfect size for poor man's lobster!" he stated. Thus was my introduction to one of the simplest, but tasty fish recipes I have ever come across.

I suppose you can use something other than pike, but it is perfect for the strips of flesh you have when you remove the Y-bones from the pike fillets.

It is so simple and so good. Bring a pot of water to a rolling boil. Add the northern pike filets and let it boil for about five minutes. In the meantime, melt a stick of butter in a bowl (I do it in the microwave... takes less than a minute) and season the butter with a splash of garlic powder.

The fish comes out white and firm and you can simply dip it in the butter/garlic mixture and eat. It is really that simple. Yum!

He Hits 'Em With A Sledge Hammer

By Stan Fagerstrom
Part 2

Darn few fishermen have put more Alaskan coho salmon into their boat than Eric Adams. Eric is a long time resident of Anchorage.

In my last column I told you the name of the lure Adams uses to clobber those silvery battlers in his summertime fishing on Resurrection Bay at Seward. This time around let's take a look at exactly how he does it.

There's no big mystery in how this coho-catching expert goes about putting fish in the boat. "I troll a Mack's Lure Sledge Hammer off my downrigger," Adams says. "I use an 8-pound ball with my downrigger. I use a flasher of one kind or another out from the downrigger. I run about 18-inches of 20-pound leader between the flasher and my Sledge Hammer."

This veteran Alaskan angler says he gets most of his hits when he has his Sledge Hammer 35 to 40-feet down. "I just troll at a slow speed," he says. "The digital readout on my downrigger tells me when I've got my lure down where I want it."

Adams started out using herring along with his Sledge Hammers but he doesn't mess with adding the bait much any more. "I don't find it's necessary," he says. "I don't think it makes any difference. Coho smack the Sledge Hammer just the way it comes out of the package."

So what the heck is it that makes this Mack's Lure product so effective? I asked Eric that question. "I think it's the flash of the lightweight blade and its glittering Flashabou skirt," he says. "The

combination makes it look more like a baitfish."

Adams will tell you he started using Sledge Hammers because an Alaskan guide friend told him how well they worked. It always pays to listen to what a professional fishing guide has to say about lures. Adams did. "The Sledge Hammers are so simple to use," he says. "All you have to do is get them down where the fish are and you'll start getting hits."

Eyeball a Sledge Hammer up close and careful and you'll find that it utilizes the largest of the Mack's Lure Flash Lite spinner blades. It also has a soft float tube for buoyancy inside its flashing Flashabou skirt. The lure and its 5/0 hook are rigged on an extra strong 150-pound test metal cable.

Eric needed that strong cable one day when a 50-pound halibut came up to grab the Sledge Hammer he

was trolling for early season kings. "I had my hands full for awhile," he laughingly recalls.

If you have opportunity to see the 2006 Mack's Lure catalog you'll find that the Sledge Hammer is available in eight different colors. Like the rest of us, Eric Adams has his favorites. In blade colors he favors the chartreuse sparkle silver tiger, the glo silver tiger and the hot pink silver tiger.

If you don't have access to a 2006 Mack's Lure catalog, you can find the same details on different Sledge Hammer colors at the Mack's Lure web site. Go to www.mackslure.com. Everything you'll want to see is right there for you. I've not had opportunity to talk to Eric's wife Susan, his 10 year-old daughter, Katie, or his 12-year-old son, Brandon. No doubt they'd say the same thing about Sledge Hammers Eric does. "My whole family loves to fish," he says, "it's a good thing because they wouldn't see much of me if they didn't. I rig up everything for them when we go salmon fishing together. All they have to do when fish come along is just reel 'em in. And they love it"



Adams says word about just how effective Sledge Hammers are for Alaskan coho salmon hasn't got around yet as much as it eventually will. "Many fishermen still use stuff they've been trolling for years," he says. "Those who don't use these lures are really missing a bet."

I've heard that same thing from



some of the top salmon guides in the Pacific Northwest. So I repeat what I said in the beginning: If you head for Alaska, pack some Sledge Hammers. They won't take up much room in your bag going in, but you'll need a sizeable box for the fresh coho they're a cinch to help you bring home coming out!

Product Feature



The New Mack's Lure Line Tamer is designed to hold a single spool of line. The end of the line comes out through a hole in the holder. All you have to do is simply pull out the desired amount of line.

You'll find there's no fumbling around for a knife or scissors needed to snip off the desired length. The side of the Line Tamer has its own cutter. Just run the line through the cutter, give it a tug and you're ready to go.

The Line Tamer also eases the headache anglers sometimes encoun-

ter when it's time to put new line on a reel. Just place the line you want to use in the container, attach the end to the reel's spool and start cranking. There's another feature anglers who often rig leaders in their boats are going to like. Each of the two-box Line Tamers units sold contains a Velcro patch that lets you stick the holders just about anywhere you choose. Position it where it's easy to see and use. You won't have to search through tackle boxes, storage bins or coat pockets when new line or leader is needed.

Photo of the Month

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



Don Lockwood of Castle Rock, Wash. caught this beautiful 14-pound rainbow at Rufus Woods Reservoir while fishing with Guide Joe Heinlen. The fish had a 23.25-inch girth and took a Mack's Lure ChaCha Squidder trolled behind a 0000 Dodger with a Hot Wings. Congratulations Don!

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!

