

Buck talks fishing

Maybe Your Problem Is On The Other End Of The Rod

Editor's Forward:

E. L. (Buck) Perry, of Hickory, North Carolina is the father of "structure" fishing. It is Buck Perry who gave modern day structure fishermen a "language" with which they could communicate. It is Buck Perry who first coined the words "structure", "migration route", "breaks and breaklines", and many more. It is also Buck Perry who correlated many of the basic facts concerning fish habits, their movements, and how they could best be caught. He later named these facts about fish and fishing, SPOONPLUGGING.

In his first series of thirteen exclusive Fishing Facts articles - titled "Knowledge Is The Key To Fishing Success" - Buck discussed many of the important BASIC aspects concerning structure, fish environment, fish behavior, and many of the controls that must be exercised in order for a fisherman to be consistently successful. This thirteen part series began in June of 1972 and concluded with the September, 1973 issue of Fishing Facts.

Each month Fishing Facts is introduced to new readers. For many of them the words "structure" and "structure fishing" will be totally new. For these new readers, we will continue to emphasize the basic concepts of structure, fish habits, instincts, etc. from time to time.

However, in this present series titled "Buck Talks Fishing", Buck Perry will be addressing those fishermen who have already studied their "BASICS" and are now ready to move on to additional knowledge. In order to gain the most benefit from the articles, it is important that the student have a clear understanding of the terminology and nomenclature

If you are a new reader, may we suggest several steps which will allow you to "catch up" or achieve a better understanding of the articles.

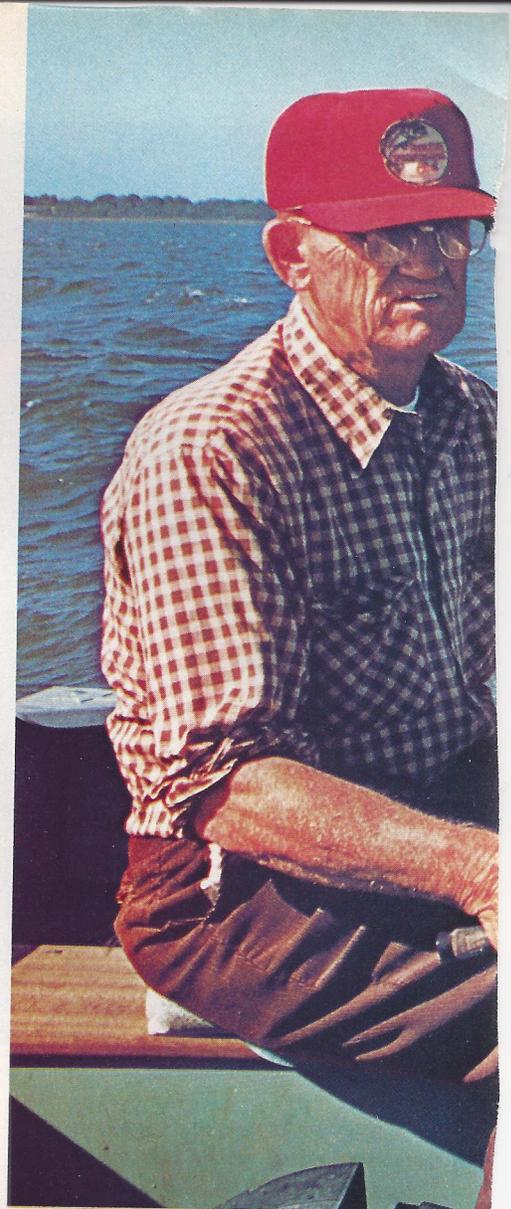
May we suggest that you:

1. Study a copy of Buck's great new book, "Spoonplugging, Your Guide To Lunker Catches". This book contains all the basic facts of fish movements, basic structures, basic weather and water conditions, basic presentation of lures, and much more. This book was 25 years in the making, a quarter century of fishing knowledge put down on paper for the first time so that fishermen everywhere could share in better fishing. The book is on sale for \$9.90 and available on an unconditional money back guarantee from us, Northwoods Publishing Co., Inc., P.O. Box 609, Menomonee Falls, Wis. 53051.

2. Familiarize yourself with our glossary of terms titled "Fishing Talk - Our Language of Structure Fishing", which can be found near the beginning of each issue of Fishing Facts.

3. Reprints of Buck Perry's original series titled "Knowledge Is The Key To Fishing Success" are available from us at 25¢ each. Order all thirteen, or only those you missed, of course.

No other publication is privileged to have Buck Perry on its staff. He has become a legend in his own time. As Fishing Facts Education Editor, this former Physics Professor from North Carolina State, has consented to share his vast fishing knowledge and experience with us. Many of today's successful fresh water anglers owe him more than they may ever realize.



If I had to describe my Daddy in a few short words, it would have to be, "He was a good man." Not only was he a good man, but he taught me more about what made this old world tick than anyone I ever knew.

I can't recall all the times he would say, "One thing I can't stand is a smart alecky kid", and with that he let me have it real good. Then he would come over, pick me up, brush me off and say, "That'll 'learn' you not to shoot off your big mouth about something you know nothing about, and start yakking before you have all the facts." At first I thought he was using bad grammar, but then I remembered he had been a teacher way back in the mountains in a one room log school house. Those big rough mountain boys had quickly shown him the difference between 'teach' and 'learn'.

He would sit down and calmly put all the facts before me as completely as he knew how. He never tried to



Education Editor Buck Perry makes a trolling pass along the edge of a tree lined drop-off in order to determine whether the fish have moved up from deeper water. When fish contact is made, the boat is then anchored and pinpoint casting begins.

impress upon me that he had all the answers. Quite the contrary. He would say, "There are a lot of people in the world, but most of them are followers of what other people have said and done. I do not want you to do this. Get as many facts and answers as you can, *think about it*, and then draw your own conclusions. You have to make your own decisions, and stand on your own two feet. To do otherwise will create many unhappy moments in your life. I'm sure you are smart enough to change your thinking if new facts come to light."

His stories to prove his points would fill a large book. One that I recall at this time, was about a farmer who was going to build a new barn. He called in all his neighbors and asked them as to where *they* would build the barn. John said, he would build it south of the house near the small stream, and he went into detail why he would build it there. When

Fred was asked his opinion, he said it shouldn't be built where John said, but should be placed over to the west near the big oak trees. Albert spoke up, and said both were wrong, and the best place was to the east near the small hill. Jack said they were all wet, and that the barn should be built near the southeast corner of the house.

Finally the farmer said, "I sure want to thank all you fellows for helping me decide where to build the barn. I'm going to build it up there" — as he pointed to a flat place to the *north*.

Many times my Daddy would finish up one of these sessions with, "Son, you may not believe all of what I am telling you until many years in the future. But, as you get older, have experiences, and 'git out amongst 'em', you'll probably come to the same conclusions that I have." (What a wise man he was).

As an afterthought, probably due

to the rough treatment he had given me, he would say, "Remember one important thing, I'm your Daddy, not your buddy. Your buddy lives across the street."

Not for one moment in my whole life did I question his deep love for me — nor mine for him.

We receive a great many letters from our readers. Mainly they fall in two groups. 1. — Those asking for additional information or clarification on some particular point. 2. — Those expressing their gratitude for sharing our experiences and knowledge with them.

Then we also have a third group, very small I might add, that gripe, scoff, and call us everything in the book. We have no trouble getting the message.

In my case, a letter in this last group gets more attention than those from either of the first groups. When I say 'attention', I do not for one instant consider it as an insult,

nor would I entertain for one moment the idea of replying to defend myself. I have been a teacher far too long to let a letter such as this 'bug' me. My reaction is to try and analyze just what motivated the reader to write such a letter. Oh, probably if he said it to my face, I'd shake him good to get his attention, then I'd try to lay the facts out before him, and let him draw his own conclusions. He may not draw any quick conclusions, but at least I might get him to thinking. In this case I have accomplished my mission.

When talking fishing the last time, I reproduced a letter from a reader, and I asked you to think about how you would answer it. I'll reproduce the letter again as you might have forgotten. This is in order also, because we may have many new readers since the question was asked.

"Dear Buck: I have been reading Fishing Facts for almost two years. I have purchased about every lure you recommend. I have bought other items as well, including some books.

I belong to a bass club, and after buying all lures, lines, markers, depth sounder, oxygen meter, temperature meter, Solunar Tables, etc., I still get beat most of the time on our field trips.

I can get to most of the good spots before any of the other guys in the club. I have the biggest and fastest boat in the crowd. I can get to a good spot and cast all your recommended lures without any luck, then a couple hours later one of the club members will catch a good fish there on a lure he bought for 25 cents or one he made at home.

I have purchased about every color available in plastic worms, spinner baits, jigs, and other lures. I do not leave a bunch of "stickups" until I have tested lots of colors. I can use a white one on clear days, and the best fish is caught on a black one. I can use a black one on a cloudy day and the best fish is caught on a green one.

If I use nightcrawlers, someone catches them on plastic worms. If I use plastic worms, the fish are caught on spinner baits. If I go to spinner baits, the contest is won on something else.

I have not tried Spoonplugging as we are not allowed to troll in our tournaments. But, I talked to a fisherman who said he had tried your

Spoonplugs. He trolled them for a couple days, but all he caught was weeds and brush. He said he lost them all before he could catch the first fish. He also told me that while he was trolling, another fisherman caught some nice fish on a plastic worm.

I have used lines of all test. I have kept reducing them until I was down to 2 lb. test. All I got for my trouble was several lost lures.

You guys say the fish spend a lot of time in deep water. I have spent hours in deep water looking for fish. I have looked for them on my depth finder and I have drifted or trolled (with my electric motor) all over deep water. I have added weights and gone down as far as 50 feet. While I am doing this a member of the club is catching some fish in the "stick-ups", or some shallow weedbed.

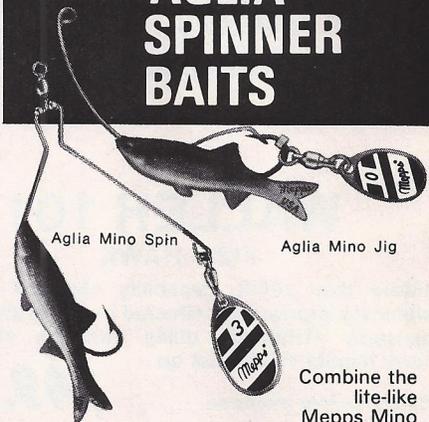
You tell us to fish fast. I have yet to catch a fish except when moving the lure just about as slow as I can. You guys tell us that bad weather is better than nice sunny days. Let me tell you my best luck is on those nice sunny days, with only a warm gentle wind putting a slight ripple on the water.

I have also tried your muddy water theory, and I didn't catch any fish. I find I have better luck fishing clear water where I can see the brush or weedbeds to fish. This tells me your dingy water theory is all wet.

I quit reading that section you call our "Our Readers Say". You only print the "good" letters. Why don't you print some of the letters from the guys who 'tell it like it is'. I think your gang is trying to give us the old 'rip-off'.

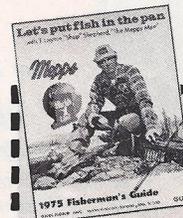
I am sending you a map of the lake I fish the most. Would you mark the best spots for me? If I catch some fish off these spots, then maybe I'll buy some more tackle and I just might subscribe again to your magazine".

As in most letters of this nature it doesn't take much thought as to what motivated the letter. HERE IS A VERY UNHAPPY FISHERMAN. His frustrations are about to get the best of him. He is clearly hollering for HELP. This is the only way he knows to do it. Is it little wonder that letters such as this get our attention? Fortunately this writer went into detail on his gripes. This gives me a



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chance to be specific in my reply. If he had just called me some dirty so-and-so, with no detail, I'd have a hard time answering it. In this case, probably all I could say is "the same to you, friend".

When I first read the letter, two things stood out like a sore thumb. 1. He has a driving force to *beat* the other guy. 2. He is placing great emphasis on *equipment* as the key to his success.

Fishing is supposed to be fun. Trying to always beat the other guy makes fishing a chore. It produces sloppy fishing, and a plateau is quickly reached as to how good a fisherman you can become. I am not going into detail on why this is so. This is another subject entirely. I am often at a loss for words to explain why the "ego" is the driving force of a lot of people. Suffice to say, our letter writer is suffering as a result of his driving force to beat the other guy.

His emphasis on "equipment" clearly points out he thinks he can go to the store and buy instant success in some fancy-wrapped package. He is breaking his back, and probably his pocketbook as well, trying to find a shortcut to success. He'll most likely spend the rest of his life seeking success by changing the gadgets on the small end of his rod, never once giving thought to the fact that the trouble may lie at the other end (of the rod).

Let us look at this reader's letter in more detail. I'll reproduce portions for comment.

"Dear Buck: I have been reading Fishing Facts for almost two years. I have purchased about every lure you recommend. I have bought other items as well including some books."

Bless you! If it were not for our devoted readers, we wouldn't be in business. We try to express our thanks in the type magazine we send to you each month. Each month we try to include articles not only for enjoyment of reading, but primarily those we feel will give you the best information possible to make this great sport of ours more enjoyable, successful and satisfying. Our uniqueness is the fact we are dedicated to help you become a better fisherman.

The items we mention are all a

part of our purpose. It would be a sad state of affairs if we only told you what you should do to become a successful fisherman, and then left out the "tools" to do it with. Each will do the job for which it was built. But none of them will do the job if you do not understand their purpose or you do not give them a chance. We know many "tools" will never be used as they should be, and some fishermen will become unhappy with the results.

As stated, we thank you for your reading and purchasing of our magazine. But, in looking at your letter, it appears to me you have not absorbed what you have been reading. Probably your use of the word "reading" is correct. You certainly have not been "studying" the material. It is hard for me to believe you have studied the material, when I find you in such a state at this time.

As to your purchasing every lure we "recommend," it would appear to me, you are still seeking that magic gimmick that will solve all your problems, and you can go out and strut your stuff before all your fishing buddies. Well, if you believe this, just keep on buying, (and, you can keep on getting your pants beat off by the other guys).

"I belong to a bass club, and after buying all lures, lines, markers, depth sounder, oxygen meter, temperature meter, Solunar Tables, etc., I still get beat most of the time on our field trips".

Belonging to a fishing club is great, providing the purpose of the club is for things other than seeing who is the best fisherman in the crowd. This will never be accomplished because of the nature of the fish, his survival instincts, his movements, structure, weather and water conditions, etc. One trip it will appear one person is better, then the next trip some other guy walks off with the honors. There just isn't any way a guy can be called "the best." There is just too much to know, too many types of lakes, species of fish, etc.

Quite often a club will give some other reason for the field trips, but when they get out there, they fight tooth and nail to see who catches most of the biggest fish. They'll pull every gimmick in the book to see that they come out the winner. Your

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letter bears this out very well. Field trips and friendly competition is one of the finer things connected with a fishing club. This gives each member a chance to "learn" from his fellow members. It gives each member a chance to "teach" those with less or no experience. This fellowship should be the major reason for the trip, and there is little doubt in my mind that it is the main reason why some fishing clubs are more successful than others.

You stated that you had purchased some "markers". For what purpose? How many times have you placed markers along a breakline, so that your fellow members with less ex-

perience could use them to position their boats and lures? How many times have you left a marker on a particular productive spot and then told the other fishermen where to find the marker, and how and where to fish the area? How many times have you used your CB radio (I'm sure you have one) to call in your fellow fishermen when you got into a school of fish? How many times have you told your fellow fishermen what lure presentation was needed, or what depth, speed, size, color or action was working best for you?

One of the main ingredients of becoming a GREAT fisherman is the complete elimination of all selfish-

ness in your fishing. If your main purpose in fishing is the building of a reputation, you will never become exceptionally good at the game. You will only learn *when you begin to teach*. The greater satisfaction that comes with helping your fellow fisherman has no equal. But above all, when you approach your fishing in this manner **THOSE OTHER THINGS WILL BE ADDED**. In a short period of time, you will become a great fisherman, and you can bet your shirt everyone will know about it. This type recognition will *last*, while the other kind will fade in a very short while.

There are a number of Spoonplugging Clubs over the country. These are primarily "family" groups. (Mama and the kids enjoy fishing too). The most coveted award is the "Spoonplugger of The Year". The awarding of this trophy gets a *standing ovation*, while those for the biggest or the most fish, get a modest round of applause.

You state that after you purchase all those items you still get beat. Maybe this is the very reason you get beat. I gather, as stated above, you are looking for success in some package ordered from a store. These are merely *aids* in helping you accomplish **WHAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO**. How you expect a piece of metal or plastic to do a job and you refuse to direct their use, is beyond me. I suppose by the time you go through all your gadgets, you have little time for fishing. You probably use each item, and try to put words in the fish's mouth by saying where he will be. "He's just gotta be there for my instruments say he is comfortable," or, "This is an ideal place for him to be." Or, "This lure has the 'wiggle' or the special color that the fish can't resist, and all of them will rush to gobble it up." Hog-wash! **You can use each item to aid you when searching for fish, but you have to KNOW where, what, when, why and how to use it. Then you have to test the area correctly to see if the fish are there. Most of the time they won't be there, even after you have gained the knowledge on how to use these aids.**

In our past schools, one of the items that created the biggest teaching job, was the electronic depth sounder. *Most people cannot read what they see*. Unless a fisherman can interpret what the instrument

In this article Buck Perry, the daddy of structure fishing, discusses why a fisherman can own all the finest modern day fishing equipment and still have difficulty catching fish consistently. He also discusses what can be done to change the situation.





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says, he would be better off without one. However, if a person knows *what he is looking for*, then they can become one of the better "tools" in his possession. To purchase a scientific aid, without first knowing what they should be used for, is like getting the cart before the horse.

Give some thought as to why you get beat all the time. You have a boat full of stuff — so why are you crying? I can sympathize with you. You say you have the biggest and best rig around. There is just one little item missing — you still can't catch a fish.

"I can get to most of the good spots before any of the other guys in the club. I have the biggest and fastest boat in the crowd. I can get to a good spot and cast all your recommended lures without any luck, then a couple hours later one of the club members will catch a good fish on a lure he bought for 25 cents, or one he made at home."

I can just see you roaring away from the dock. I have wondered why more careless fishermen don't break

their necks. I get a lot of letters, quite a few of them deal with the great number of big, fast fishing boats on the water. Many of these writers express their feelings in no uncertain terms. Many will say that at one time their fishing was made uncomfortable due to the water skiers. Now they find big fishing boats make things much worse, and that they will take the water skiers any time.

Several times in my fishing I have observed fishermen who roared around a lake like a bunch of maniacs. It appeared like the opening of the Oklahoma Territory. Several times I saw them preparing for the opening of the trout season in the West. Many arrived several days ahead of the opening date. They spent the time readying their boats and motors. Testing, testing, testing to get the greatest degree of performance. Shortly before the opening gun, they were all lined up — ZEEROOM, ZEEROOM impatiently goosing their big motors. As the gun sounded, away they roared, it's a wonder half of them didn't pile up. They would zoom across the lake

about a quarter of a mile — skid into a stop, throw out the anchor, grab up their rods and hooks, and then drop a piece of marshmallow or cheese over the side of the boat.

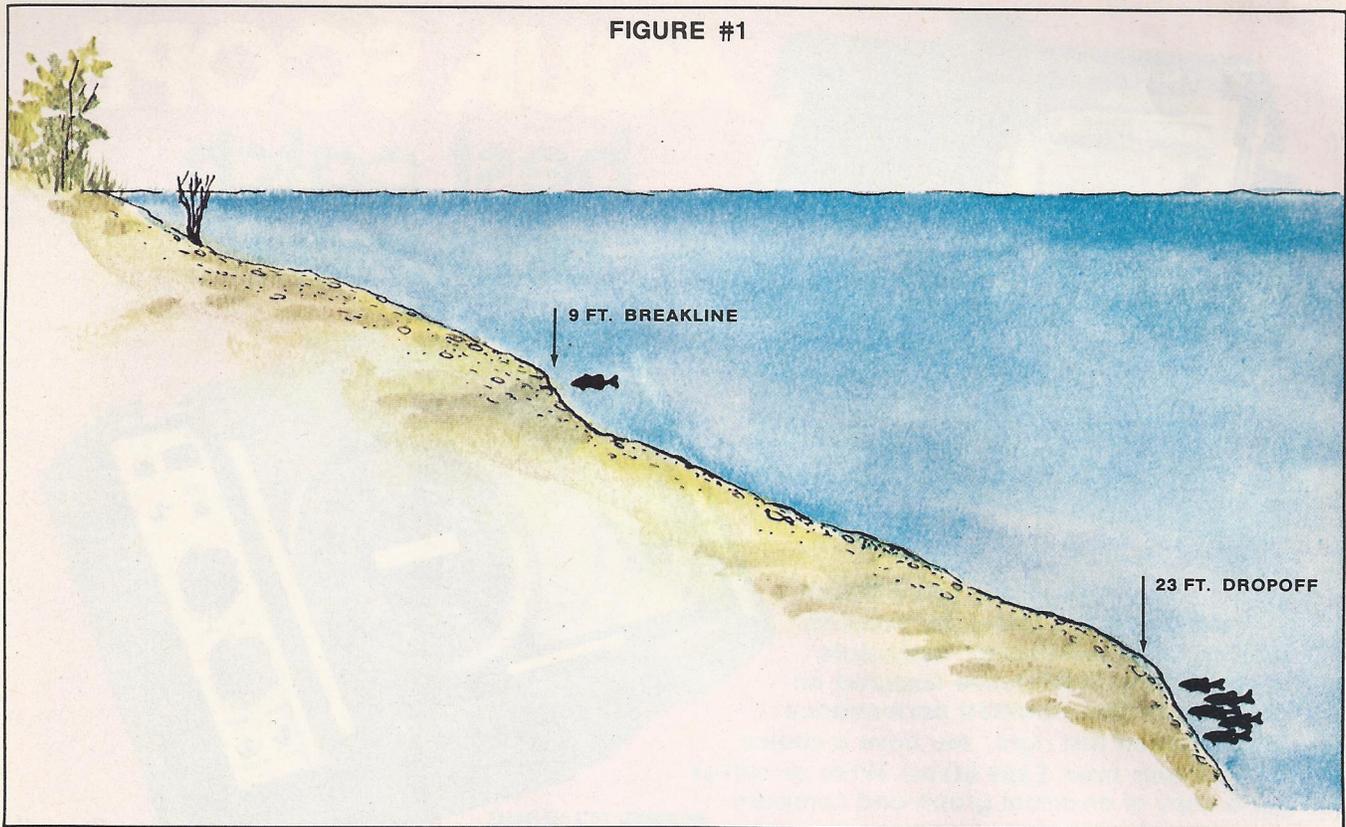
Big fast boats in themselves are not bad. In fact, they are solid comfort. The greatest drawback is that they may limit the fisherman in the presentation of his lures and also may produce sloppy fishing on his part.

However, if the fisherman will not let his gear reduce his effectiveness in mapping, interpretation, presentation or lures, etc. — I say, the more comfort the better. Unfortunately, as boats get bigger and bigger, and faster and faster, his fishing may soon become adversely affected both mechanically and mentally. The net result being that success will not be what it should be. It will become a hit or miss type thing and fishing know how will slow to a crawl. Our letterwriter is a case in point.

FIGURE I

Now let us look at your situation where you checked a spot and failed, and later a fellow fisherman

FIGURE #1



took a good fish. Figure 1 is a side view of a "bar" coming out from a point in the shoreline. There are some "stickups" in the shallow water. At a depth of 9 feet a breakline occurs. It breaks to 13 feet. The ridgelike bar continues on out with the drop-off occurring at 23 feet. I have placed a lone fish at the breakline, but the mass of the fish are slightly below the drop-off.

One of the main things quite often overlooked by the fisherman is the Fishing Fact that fish do *not* move constantly nor consistently. What this means — lucky is the fisherman that makes contact with the fish the first time he arrives at the structure. The movements and migrations of the fish are controlled by the weather and water conditions at *any particular time*. Just how far they migrate toward the shallows and how long they stay is predicated on these two things. Most of the time conditions will not be good enough for the haphazard fisherman to make contact. Another very important thing often overlooked, is the fact, as your fishing efforts go deeper, *the more exactness must be had*. You can get by with sloppy fishing in the shallows, but not as you go deeper.

Let us suppose that the situation existed just as shown in Figure 1 as

you first made your stab at the structure. Let us also assume that you limited your casting to the "stickups". By looking at the position of the fish in Figure 1, you should be able to answer why you failed.

Now let us assume that you *did* cast toward the deeper water. Did your casts reach the breakline — in the right spot? Suppose the lone fish had not moved up to the breakline at the time you fished the spot?

A couple hours later your fellow fisherman either did something different or the situation had changed. My guess would be that the situation had changed. But, then as I look at it, maybe he did throw his cheap or homemade lure in the right place and moved it correctly. There are two lines of thought here as to why he was using that style of lure. First he might have been looking for some magic lure, and had decided to build one himself, so fame and fortune would be his. OR, maybe he put color, size and action in their proper place, and realized these lures would suffice to control his depth and speed at that particular time and place.

The fact remains that he got a fish and you didn't. He either put his lure to the fish at the breakline, or the fish had moved up to the stickups.

Maybe he got to the structure before the fish moved to the breakline, and being a knowledgeable fisherman, he just waited until the fish moved into range. But, as I look at it, I don't believe this last thing occurred, and his fishing knowledge wasn't too extensive. If the weather conditions were such that a good fish moved to such a shallow breakline, it is greatly possible the mass of fish moved to the drop-off (or beyond). He only caught the one fish, and if the mass of the fish had moved this shallow (23 ft.), they would have been ready for plucking.

I have no way of knowing exactly what happened to cause your friend to catch the fish, but I have a pretty good idea why you failed. Did you ever consider asking him how and where he caught the fish? Probably he would have told you something. Maybe you would have learned a little bit — that is, if you can separate fact from fiction.

"I have purchased about every color available in plastic worms, spinner baits, jigs and other lures. I do not leave a bunch of stickups until I have tested a lot of colors. I can use a white one on clear days, and the best fish is caught on a black one. I can use a black one on a

Buck Talks Fishing, cont.

cloudy day, and the best fish is caught on a green one.

If I use nightcrawlers, someone catches them on plastic worms. If I use plastic worms, the fish are caught on spinner baits. If I go to spinner baits, the contest is won on something else."

Oh brother. You have Size, Color and Action on the brain. These are AIDS to help you catch a fish. You can use all the sizes, colors and actions in the world, but if you do not use them where the fish are (depth control) and move them in such a way as to make the fish take (speed control) — you will not catch a fish. It's as simple as that. I can see no reason why every lure in your tackle box wouldn't catch a particular fish, at any given time, if each was placed where the fish was, and moved just halfway right.

You have often heard me say, or have read, where I stress you must answer all fishing questions (successes or failures) in terms of Depth and Speed Control, NEVER in terms of AIDS. Again I say, in as simple terms as I know how, in order to catch a fish you must place your bait or lure where the fish is, and move it in such a way to make him take. Depth Control means WHERE depth, WHAT depth, WHEN depth, WHY depth and HOW depth. Speed Control means the same Where, What, When, Why and How. By answering fishing questions (or problems) in this manner you will learn fishing and become better at the game.

Let me take these thoughts further and see if we can't get a better picture of what I mean.

FIGURE II

Figure 2 is a top view of a portion of a weedy shoreline. Extending out from the shoreline is a structure the fish use on their migrations. In other words, this particular area of the shoreline is productive when conditions are right.

YOU DO NOT KNOW IT, but the structure is in the form of a big wide sand bar. A breakline runs all the way round the bar. There exists several "fingers" on the breakline that "break" at different depths. The water color is a light yellow-green, not too clear, not too dark. When you



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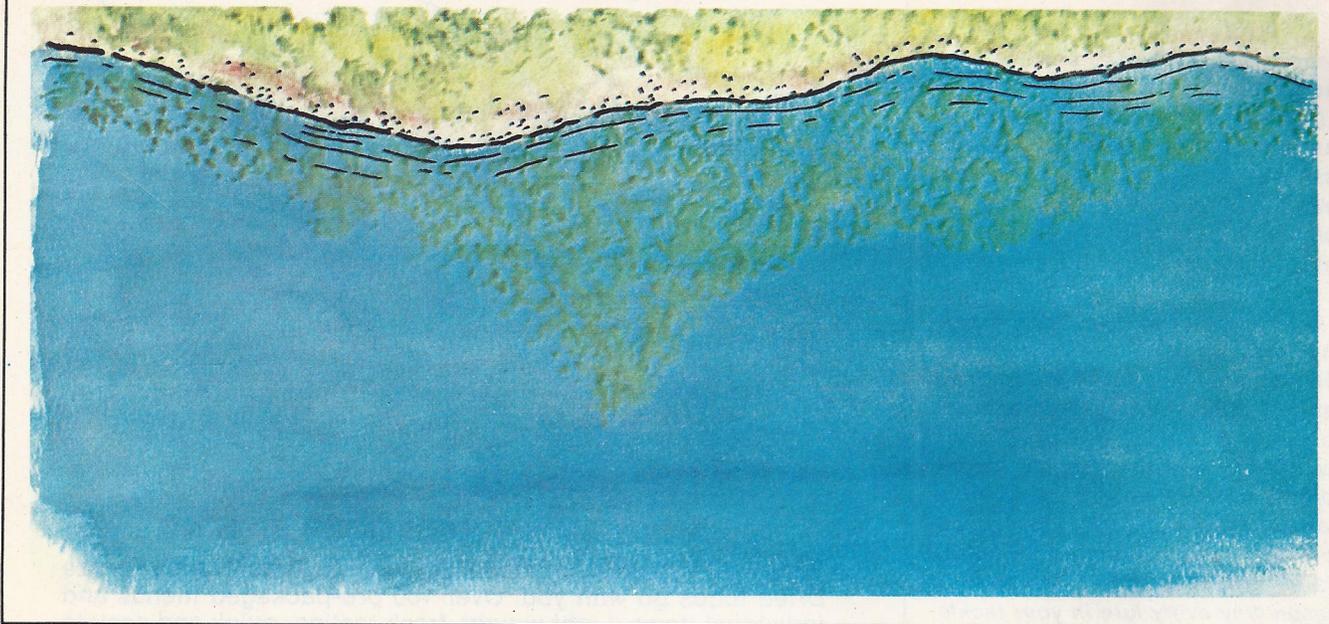
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FIGURE #2



fish this particular area, the weather has been clear and hot. Recent movements of the fish have been of short duration, and migration has only been to the breakline.

As stated, you do not know all the details of the structure. You should

have noted the water color, and the hot weather though. Probably all you know is that this particular area of the weedline produces at times, and that recently the fishing has been slow.

BUT, you do have a big fast boat,

and a tackle box full of plastic worms, spinner baits, speed baits, etc. — in all SIZES, COLORS and ACTIONS.

Now let's take these three things and catch us a fish. We look at each and say, WHERE should I fish each Size, Color and Action? WHAT size, color or action is best? WHEN is each size, color or action best? WHY is that particular size, color and action best? HOW should I use each size, color and action to make the fish take? With the conditions present you should know you can't mess around. You have to make your choice. You have but little time to make your catch. Think about it a little.

Let's face it, if you had a week to spend here you might figure it out — FOR ANY PARTICULAR TIME AFTER YOU HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH THE FISH. How about tomorrow WHEN CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED?

FIGURE III

Now let us assume you are a so-called "structure" fisherman, and in some manner you have established the structure, depths, etc. Figure 3 represents what is found. (Study this figure, noting details of structure-breaklines, depths, etc.) We add this knowledge to what we already have as per time, bottom, water color, weather, etc.

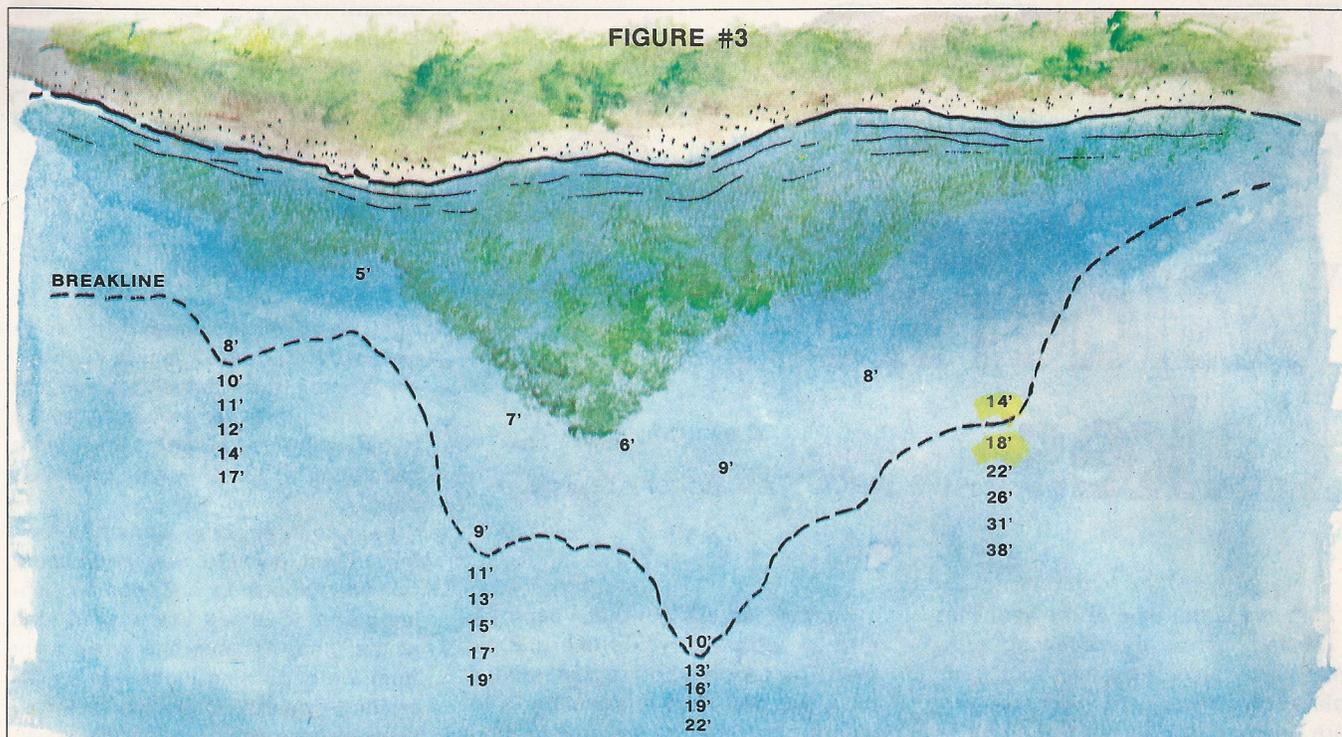
First, let us review the WHERE, WHAT, WHEN, WHY, AND HOW with each Size, Color and Action. With

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ITEM #K-9

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this added information you should immediately determine the best Size, Color, and Action. Did you come up with it? Who are you trying to kid?

Now let us approach our fishing of this particular area in terms of Depth and Speed Control. You must never forget that you must maintain both of these controls AT THE SAME TIME. You cannot sacrifice one for the other.

- 1—WHERE (depth) should you fish?
- 2—WHAT (depth) should you fish?
- 3—WHEN should you fish this depth? (timewise)
- 4—WHY should you fish this depth?
- 5—HOW should you fish this depth?
- 6—WHERE should you check your speed carefully?
- 7—WHAT should be the best speed?
- 8—WHEN should you check speed carefully?
- 9—WHY should you check your speed?
- 10—HOW should you check your speed?

As you considered these questions on Depth and Speed, you probably saw very quickly that the Depth Control appeared to be of more importance and that the "Speed Control" would fall more into the same classification as size, color and action. This is true, up to a point, but you didn't know this until you con-

sidered it in terms of depth control. Speed control (how fast you move your lures) is "what makes the fish take". This is what makes the size, color and action become aids at that particular time and place. But of more importance, you and I can figure out the questions to the speed, from the conditions that exist, and the depth we are trying to fish. Controlling the Speed becomes very easy after you have established the Depth. All you have to do is check it out. Where the rub comes, is maintaining Depth and Speed control at the same time. It is here that your choice of styles and types of lures used becomes so important. You are not concerned with what size, or color, or wiggle so much, for if you could not use them at different speeds, and maintain the depth (or spot) at the same time, they wouldn't do you any good. Let's suppose you are trying to hit a particular spot on a breakline. Most any sinking lure would obtain the depth. BUT, will just any type lure allow you to maintain this depth at different speeds? What good would those juicy sizes, colors, and actions be, if you lost your depth (where the fish is) with a test of speed? The same thing would hold true when casting or trolling at any place.

Let us say you were using a purple plastic worm at a spot in 14 feet of water, and with just a slight twitch

of the rod tip (speed control), you got a nice fish. What caused you to catch that fish? Was it due to the fact you had the right depth, or the slow twitch, or the purple color? Now let us suppose on the next cast, you dropped the purple worm to the spot, but now instead of the slow twitch, you raised your rod tip up high and fast. Now answer why you failed to catch a fish. Was it due to the depth, the speed, the color (or size, or action)?

Your lures are "tools" in helping you do "what you are trying to do". They are used in the control of Depth and Speed. If you persist in viewing your success in terms of size, color and action, my advice to you is to take up some other sport, such as golf or bird watching. For not only will fishing not be enjoyable, but it's going to make a nervous wreck out of you. Besides, if your horizons in fishing do not extend beyond "beating the other guy", you should stop anyway.

Next time we will take up the other portions of this reader's letter. Oh yes, I was about to forget. I certainly hope you quickly hit (casting or trolling) the end of the finger (Fig. 3) that breaks from 14 to 18 feet with a fast bumping lure, either early or late in the day. (I don't care what size, color or action your lure might have.)

