

the deep water side.

Small bottom bumping lures have proven real killers for me in trolling for stripes in this fashion. Some other people do well by trolling a bottom bumping lure with a small trailer lure tied on behind with a length of monofilament. When jiggling slab spoons or tailspinners, be sure to check all speeds. Sometimes stripes will demand a very vigorous upward jerk of the spoon and will strike on the downward flutter of the lure, (between jerks).

Some of the most productive water in flatland reservoirs will be found on either side or on top of "deltas" (when they are present). The delta condition peculiar to these reservoirs is best described in Buck Perry's book "Spoonplugging," but the condition amounts to an elevated ridge adjacent to the old river channel and usually found well out in the lake from the shoreline. Finding deltas is a simple task with a depth finder, but it can be accomplished easily enough without one by remembering, that *channel buoys* are placed along the edge of the river channel. Deltas, where they exist, won't be far from the buoy line. (See Figure 2).

Having located stripes by trolling, the angler can opt to put away his trolling rod and cast for them. That is usually an easier switch than is the case with black bass, at least large black bass, which tend to school much tighter and in smaller numbers than stripes. Also, stripes will do a great deal more roaming up and down a stretch of delta than will black bass.

Stripes in their relentless pursuit of shad minnows will also travel greater distances from structure than will black bass, sometimes well out onto flats. However, when looking for stripes not in the jumps, it's always best to assume they will be very near good structure. Long sloping bars which reach all the way into deep water are excellent structure, as are rocky areas, bridge areas, deltas and the edge of flats off creeks and other channels.

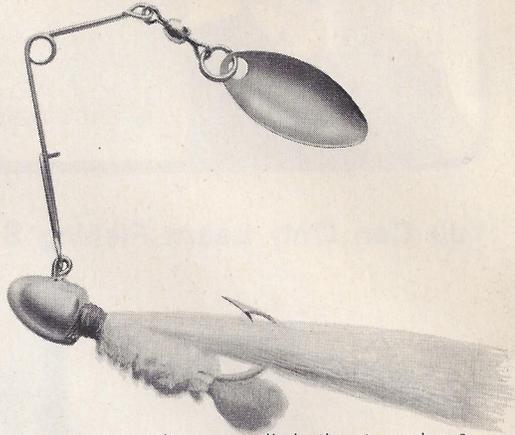
Although stripes will at times strike anything almost as large as themselves, a good rule of thumb is to stick with smaller lures because of the stripe's relatively small mouth. Most of the time artificials with quick flashy action are the ticket, but never consider a spot checked until you

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have tried very slow retrieves.

As is the case with other game fish, stripes are taken consistently only by those fishermen with knowledge of the WHEN, WHERE, WHY

and HOW — knowing where they will be when you are after them, and the why and how to use the different methods and lures to make them bite.



Members of the Tennessee Spoonplugging Club and their sons enjoy the fast action of white bass. Many a young angler has been bitten by the angling bug as the result of his first encounter with a school of "stripes."

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 \$10.30 postpaid 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.

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.

In the March '75 issue of Fishing Facts, Buck Perry devoted his article to answering a letter which he received from a frustrated and somewhat irate Fishing Facts reader. Space limitations did not allow sufficient room to print the letter and Buck's answer in its entirety. This month we present the second part of the fisherman's letter plus Buck's concluding remarks.

Now, let us look at the last part of the reader's letter.

"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 of 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 a nice fish on a plastic worm."

It wasn't necessary to tell me you hadn't tried Spoonplugging, it was obvious from the beginning of your letter. The word Spoonplugging is a word I coined many years ago to express the things I thought were necessary to become a good fisherman. It involves a great many things, but basically, it means that you must know what makes a fish tick, and what you must do to catch him consistently. It could be expressed in another way. In order to catch a fish you must be at the *RIGHT PLACE* at the *RIGHT TIME*, fishing in the *RIGHT MANNER*.

Spoonplugs are merely pieces of bent metal to assist you mainly in the control of depth and speed. They go way beyond the common lure in this respect, because they were designed with this in mind. They will catch most anything that swims, BUT they replace not a single item in your tackle box. If they are used, as directed, they become a most valuable tool in your search for fish and for fishing knowledge. If not used as a "tool", they become just another item you have wasted your money on.

You stated that the (other) fisherman was *trolling* them. More likely what you should have said, he was *dragging* them through the water. The results surely indicate this.

It seems to me that you have confused Spoonplugging with the trolling of the lures, as if they were one and the same thing. What you must do to consistently catch fish involves a lot of things. Becoming a GREAT fisherman involves a great many things also. In my opinion, one of them is to learn how to troll properly. The use of these specific lures on the troll is a means by which you can learn how to do it correctly. You cannot use these lures, as directed, without learning or being forever conscious of depth and speed control. I put a lot of emphasis on your learning how to troll, but by no means say that Spoonplugging is just trolling specific lures. If you were an accomplished Spoonpluggger, you would also spend a great deal of time presenting many other type lures, in a different manner. In fact, if you were an accomplished Spoonpluggger, you would for the

## Three Reels with a Great Name

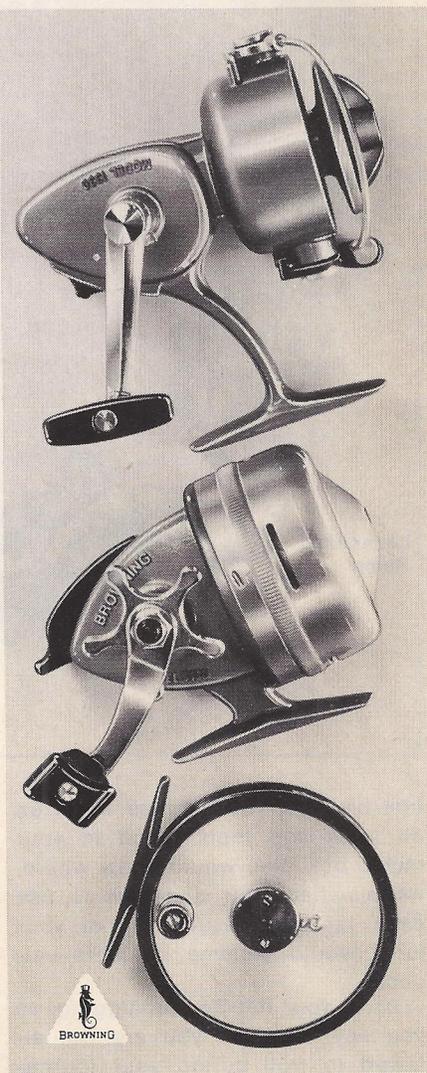
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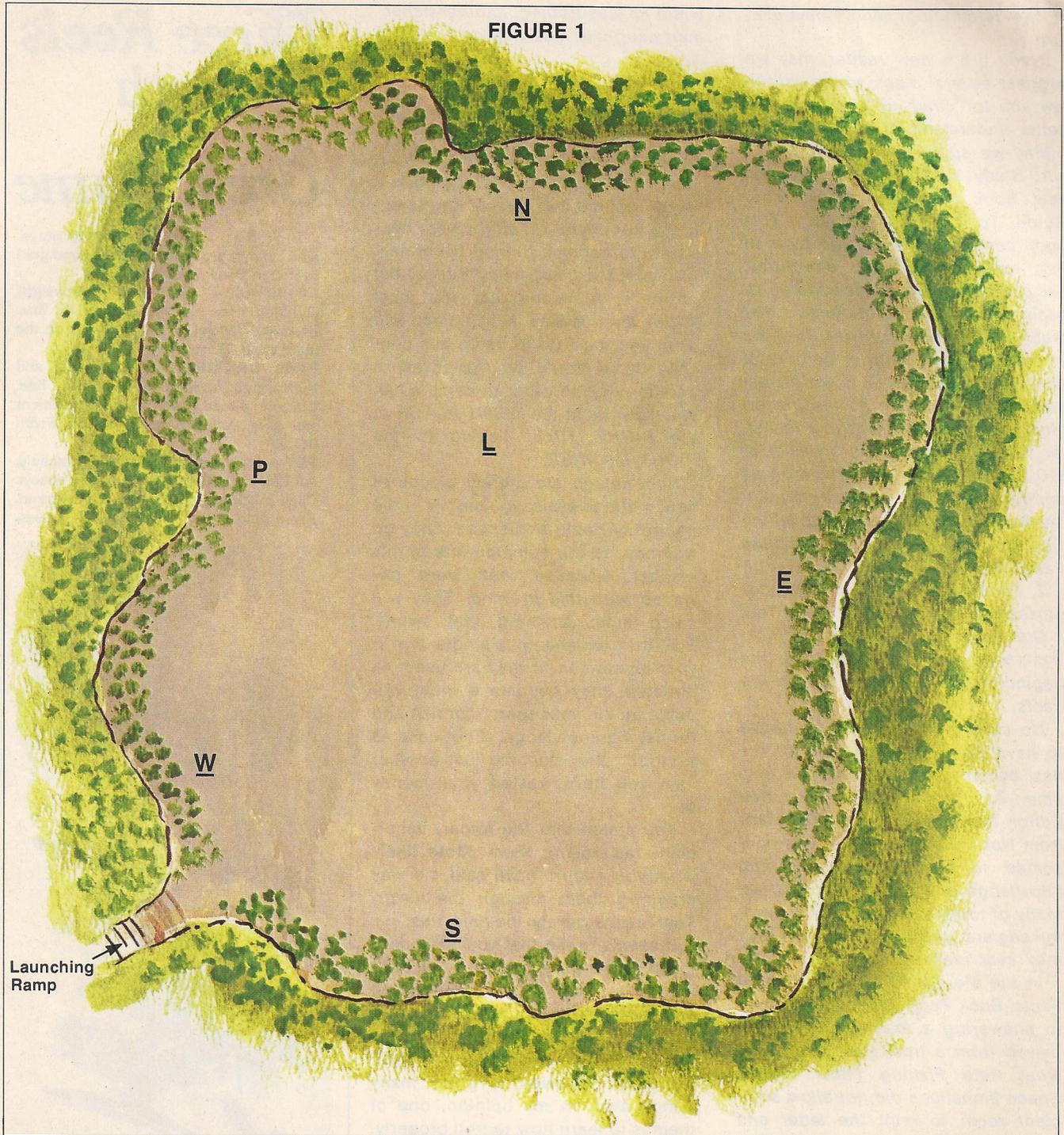
\*suggested retail price



## BROWNING

F-13

FIGURE 1



first time get your monies worth on all lures and tools found in your tackle box. You would know where, when, what, why, and how to use each for best results. All of your lures would become far more valuable.

As to your not Spoonplugging, as you say, because you are not allowed to troll during your tournaments, requires some comment. I can see very little difference between trolling, and the use of a depth sounder or any other scientific aid used in mapping, interpretation,

and finding fish. Certainly a fisherman 'dragging' a lure behind the boat isn't going to catch any more fish than a knowledgeable caster. A guy that does not know what trolling is all about, is in far WORSE shape than a caster that does not have much on the ball. The sloppy caster has a much better chance to catch a fish than a sloppy troller.

Most any person can learn how to cast. He can learn how to cast like the experts — in his back yard. But, just any person cannot become an accomplished troller. It takes a great

deal of time and effort, but above all, it takes a head full of fishing knowledge. Most fishermen will not put forth the study nor the work involved. Every move, on every trolling pass has a reason, and the fisherman must know the reasons, and must be able to "read" every move to arrive at the fish. One good trolling pass can tell you more than a hundred casts. After the fish have been located, it's a piece of cake casting to them and putting them in the boat.

After it's all said and done, trolling

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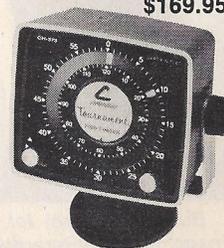
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is the only fast "teacher" you have on depth and speed control, mapping and interpretation. As far as I'm concerned, this is reason enough to learn how to troll. You might ask yourself *why* your club has a ban on trolling in the tournaments? You might be surprised at the answers.

With the many aids, boats, motors, lures, lines, rods, contour maps, depth sounders, graph recorders, and all the other scientific aids, it would appear to me that the "no trolling" rule is slightly out of date for most club tournaments. Not only does it eliminate the "teaching" factor, but it also eliminates most of the family, and those with limited means or physical handicaps. As stated many times, sport fishing should be a FAMILY recreation. This means young, old, experienced and inexperienced alike. In our book, there is no room for selfishness.

### FIGURE 1

Figure 1 is a top view of a flatland natural lake that Mike DeMayo, of West Penn Boat Sales, Butler, Pennsylvania, and I worked a while ago. It is located in the deep South, the wa-

ter color is dark cypress, it is shallow, but rather large, covering several square miles.

For a week or more I had been showing Mike how to work shallow flatland natural lakes. Most were quite shallow, all had dirty or muck-covered bottoms, and none had any degree of "structure" to speak of. What structure existed was of such small detail that only the most observant fisherman would become aware of them.

We had heard that this lake (Figure 1) had been producing some fine fish in the shallows among the standing cypress trees. This was understandable, as the weather had been good for the past week. The fish had been caught on plastic worms, spinner baits, and other shallow working lures. The "shiner" (minnow) fishermen had been taking nice fish also.

The cypress trees were standing in the shallows all around the lake. The water was approximately 2½ to 3 feet deep at the outer trees. The water extended back among the trees, in most places, a distance of 30 feet or more. Most of the workable water

could be reached with a long cast. Though quite thick, there was enough room between the trees to make casting rather easy, and if there was ever a "fishy looking" place, this was it.

Upon arriving at the lake, we tried to find out something about the lake, but all we could uncover was the story about the fish that were caught, and what they were caught on. No one was able to provide information regarding the type bottom, structure, nor the location of any deep water. They did point out the area of the lake where the fish had been caught. We could see some big boats working the area across the lake. I have marked the area as "E" in Figure 1.

After launching our boat, I proceeded to get in the front, and told Mike he had exactly 4 hours to show me "what made this lake tick." He mumbled something about, "I'd better hold onto my hat."

As we entered the lake from the short launching ramp channel, he swung the boat to the left and told me to put on the smallest, shallowest running lure for trolling: He tossed



*Buck would not let Mike go back among the cypress trees during Mike's mapping and interpretation of the lake. Even though they fell short of their daily limit (10 bass per day in Florida), Mike still did quite well.*

me a neutral (yellow) color and snapped on a darker polished lure (copper finish). I agreed with his color selection for the water condition present. Mike moved the boat in until the lures were as close to the outer trees as possible, and at a fairly fast rate of speed, trolled up the shoreline marked "W" in Figure 1.

We hadn't gone a hundred yards, before he cut the throttle and swung the boat out. He was into a nice fish that had lapped up the small morsel. After the fish was landed, he swung the boat back to make another trolling pass by the same area, and again he was onto a fish, and I, too, had one while reeling in my lure.

With a sort of question mark on his face, he asked me if we hadn't better start casting back among the trees? As I looked at my watch, I said, "What are you trying to do, show me you can catch a fish? Or are you going to show me what makes this lake tick? You have exactly 3 hours and forty-five minutes left!"

Being a good student, he didn't make a comment, but immediately went to work to find out WHY this particular area contained fish on a shallow movement.

In short order he was off and running (trolling) up the shoreline

("W"), and he found scattered fish on both sides of the point marked "P". It didn't take him long to find out WHY this area was good when the fish moved shallow.

At a fast clip, he moved on around the west shore, cutting across most all shallow flat areas, and it wasn't until we reached the area marked "N", that another fish was caught. The fish was very small, and repeated passes did not produce anything better, but they did show the reason why we should keep moving.

When we reached the area marked "E", we took four fair fish trolling the outside of the treeline.

When we arrived back to the point of the launching ramp, after checking area "S", I looked at my watch and told him he had only two hours left to show me what made this lake tick. All he had shown me up to that point were a few "hot-spots" along the shoreline.

Mike took off fast, with his lures and depth sounder running to supply me with some answers. I was wondering how long it would take him to find any deep water that might exist. But, after a few fast runs across the lower section ("S"), he headed directly toward position "L" as shown in Figure 1. He started grinning as he saw his depth meter start moving

up (indicating deeper water). His grin became bigger as he began noting the depths, structure, and breaklines involved. He knew he had found the *real* key to this lake.

After working out the shape, size, depths, and bottom conditions of the area, he then determined the best method of presentation to locate the fish. Since all bottoms were dirty (muck and dead vegetation), he concluded the best method was to work the not too pronounced breaklines, with a trolled lure just barely skipping the muck. We had no trouble doing this as our metered line (No-Bo trolling line) enabled us to adjust our lure depth effectively, and also allowed us to keep the lures working. By utilizing vigorous rod action (a quick snap of the rod tip) we were able to clean (or clear) the lures of most bottom trash or bottom debris. Mike could not determine to any degree of accuracy as to the best casting position for the deeper water work, but neither could I. It really didn't make much difference, as a trolled lure on future trips would locate the fish, and positioning the boat would not be difficult in any case.

I looked at my watch and said, "You better get the lead out of your britches, you're running out of time." Off he went making fast runs back and forth across the upper ("N") part of the lake to check the depths and bottom conditions, but mainly to see if any more deep water existed there also. He didn't find any. After he had done this, he stopped the boat and said, "How'd I do?"

Since we now had the lake "made" (mapped), we knew WHERE to cast the shallows, where to go, and what we must do if the fish were not moving good. I said, "You did just fine. The only trouble is, you took twenty minutes too long!"

Mike looked at me and said, "Yeh, you ole rascal, you didn't think I saw those big black birds working when we went up the west shore earlier. I saw you glancing at them several times, but you didn't open your mouth."

I replied, "Of course I didn't open my mouth. This was your little red wagon, and I was waiting to see if you had learned your lesson when I told you a couple days ago, that in a big shallow lake such as this, the big, diving, fish-eating birds such as, the Loon and Water Turkey (if they

hadn't been disturbed) *would be working the deep water in an area, and often the deepest water in the lake.* If you hadn't headed toward them ("L", Figure 1) pretty soon, I was going to flunk you, regardless what you did on the other stuff. Besides, if you hadn't seen them, you'd probably still be floundering around trying to find some deep water."

He grinned and said, "Now can I go back into those cypress trees?"

I took the back seat near the motor, and moved to the areas where we had seen the boats fishing among the trees. There were a couple of boats in area "N" and several in the area marked "E". There were a few lone boats in other areas also, but we never did see a boat in areas "W" or "P". The only time we saw a boat in open water was when they

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were crossing the lake at high speed.

I moved to area "N", asked the first boat, "How's fishing?" Neither guy answered, just shook their heads. I moved to the next boat, and asked the same question. This time we got an answer. He said he had caught only one small one, but had seen a couple of anglers in boats down the lake, who had caught several nice fish on plastic worms. I thanked him and took off down the lake toward area "E".

As we approached the first boat, we saw two guys perched in their high seats casting plastic worms around the cypress trees. I asked them what kind of luck they were having, and they told us they had a few nice fish, one going over 6 lbs. I asked them if they had caught them on the red plastic worms they were using at the time. They informed us that this was "THE" bait, if we expected to catch any fish out of this lake. I told them we had been trolling and had caught some fish in a couple of areas over on the west shore, and had found some deep water also. I pointed across the lake to both areas. One said, "We haven't fished that area, but most of the fish caught recently have been caught along here. Early this morning they were biting pretty good, but in the last hour or so they've slowed down."

I turned to Mike and said, loud enough for everyone to hear, "Mike, do you have any red plastic worms?" He said, "Yes," and we both dug down into our tackle boxes and put on a red plastic worm.

After moving a short distance away, we cast into the trees with our worms. It was slow pickings, but in about 10 or 15 minutes, Mike connected with a nice fish. I immediately started the motor and went back to the two fishermen. I told them we sure wanted to thank them for their help, and that my partner had caught a nice fish. Mike held the fish up for them to see. We got little response, and it appeared they were sort of "irked" that we had caught a fish, even though we had been fishing the area they had just recently vacated.

Before we arrived at the second boat in the area, we noticed he was casting a plastic worm also. Not only could we see the lure as he made his cast, but we could also see his worm working during the retrieve. While

still a distance from him, he looked up, and immediately went to his tackle box and changed lures. By the time we got within talking distance, he was casting a fluorescent yellow spinner bait. I asked him how fishing was, and he said he had had fair luck. I asked him what he had caught his fish on, and he said he was "using" a double bladed spinner bait. We then told him about the fish we had caught earlier along the west shore, and also where the deep water was.

Mike and I both went to our tackle boxes and dug out a yellow fluorescent double-bladed spinner bait. We moved off a distance and started casting. This time, I thought we never would catch a fish, but it wasn't long until I had one on. It was a small bass, but with all the fuss and yelling going on, the guy in the other boat must have thought we had tangled with a gator, or had caught the biggest bass in the lake.

I pulled out of the trees, and slowly and quietly worked down to where our fishing friend was casting a plastic worm.

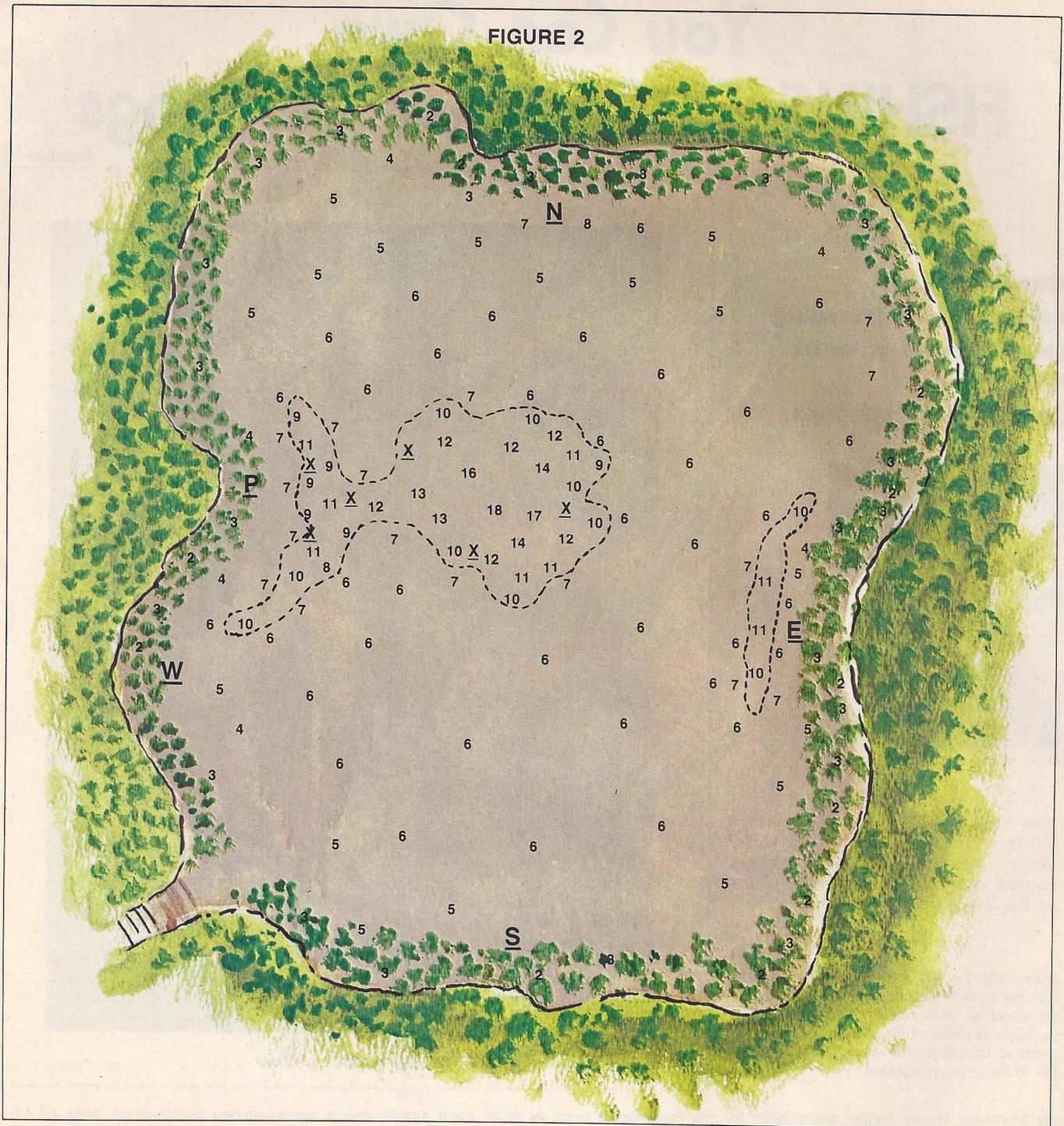
We didn't show him the fish, but I thanked him for the help, and said the yellow double-bladed fluorescent spinner bait was a real "killer" on lunker fish. Before we had gotten out of sight, we could see him throwing some sort of big, flashy, yellow fluorescent lure.

We stopped and talked to several more fishermen, but we got about the same thing we had already experienced. In each case we told the other fishermen what we had found. Mike didn't comment during the encounters with the fishermen. He had already been exposed to approximately the same last fall, when we were working some highland, lowland, and flatland artificial reservoirs.

As I motored toward the launching ramp, I saw Mike glancing toward areas "W" and "P". He pointed and said something. I cut the motor and asked him what he (had) said.

"Aren't you going to cast the trees in those two good areas? Those cypress trees must contain the most and biggest bass in the lake, and we may never get such a chance again. I'll bet we could fish this lake a hundred times in the future and not find conditions like this."

"True, true, but what do you care, you have the lake worked out, and



can find the fish. What are you anyway, some sort of fish hog? School's out!" — and we headed for the ramp.

**FIGURE 2**

Figure 2, is what Mike found out. Note the depths very carefully. You will see that most of the lake is very shallow. You can see the deeper slots that are feeding fish to areas "W" and "P". Note the depths in the deeper hole. This area should contain the greater mass of the fish during most of the season, and under bad weather conditions. This deeper

hole would feed the slots on good migrations of fish. Due to the depths involved, and due to weather conditions, most movements of fish would be confined to contact points along the breaklines around the deeper water. "Straggler fishing" would call for continued trolling of the breaklines with lures as close to the dirty (mucky) bottom as possible. On good migration, some schools of fish should be expected in areas marked "x", and the major part of them should be caught by *casting*, rather than trolling.

On the north shoreline ("N"), you will note a little deeper depression out from the trees (8 ft.). There exists no visible structure or breaklines, and the increase in depth is not great. There may exist some scattered fish during the spawning season, but for the most part area "N" should not get much attention.

Area "E", however, is another story. You can see why the trees along this area would receive fish on a good migration. The water is not very deep, but the deepest water in the area runs in the form of a 10-11

WHERE you are trying to place lures, you must know WHY you are putting them there, and you must know HOW to do it. If you can't do these things, you would be better off going back into shallower water with the other member who is fishing the stick-ups and the weedbeds. You shouldn't be out there running around in deep water if your friend located some fish in the shallows. You should have found this out before you moved out into that deep water in the first place.

*"You tell us to fish fast. I have yet to catch a fish except when moving my 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."*

Another fishing fact is that you must control the speed of your lures

*Mike Demayo holds a pair of bass which he found on the outside edge of some cypress trees. These bass were "indicators" which showed Mike the shallow water areas where casting would be in order.*



if you expect to have consistent success throughout the year. Your fishing slow is not out of order — for the time and place. Where you fail is when that slow speed isn't the "thing." It would appear you misunderstand the idea of "speed control," as do many other fishermen who lean toward the extra slow speed. This has been brought about primarily due to spring fishing when lots of fish have moved to the shallows, and shorelines, due to the spawning urge. The water is still quite cold, and a slow speed is called for. This gets results. The fisherman explains his success to the slow speed, not due to the season or time of year. As the season changes and the water warms, he can't understand why he fails, as he is still using the same lure at the extra slow speed, in the same areas.

The first place the speed should increase as the season progresses is the shallows. Then as the water warms to greater depths, the speed must be increased accordingly. Increased speeds will require that you note carefully the style, types, and sizes of lures. Increased speed will often create a depth control loss if great care is not exercised in the selection of lures. You can't afford to lose depth control as you increase speed. Too often a fisherman will continue to use the same lure he had success on during the colder period. After the water warms, he may increase speed due to the fact he heard or read where this was in order. But, what he fails to realize is, as he increases the speed, he loses depth control. In other words, his lures get out of position.

Let's look at your comments on weather. Weather is one of the few things you can't do much about. Your best bet is to hope it is good. Weather will determine whether you have a good fishing day or a bad one. Sure, you can offset much of the weather by having a good head full of fishing knowledge, but even then your results will show if the weather is good or bad.

It appears you are confused on what we consider "good" or "bad" weather. Probably you have reference to the darker or rainy days before a Cold Front, or you have in mind those bright, clear, windy days following a Cold Front. But, your reference to your success on those nice warm sunny days with just a

slight ripple on the water as your best days, is just what most of us pray for. This indicates the effects of the Cold Front have passed. The wind has died down, the air has warmed up and we are into those post-frontal days when the fish are on the move again. We would be looking for improvement in the movements of the fish at each movement period. We would expect the best movement to occur on the hottest muggiest day of the period. We would expect the movements to remain good through the rough weather that moves into the area from a nearing Cold Front.

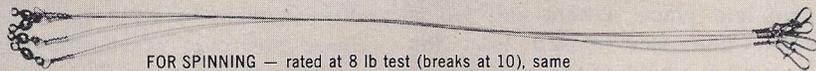
Probably where you got the wrong idea, is the fact that in the greater part of the country, and for the greater part of the season, the time BETWEEN Cold Fronts ISN'T LONG ENOUGH TO RECEIVE THOSE NICE WARM SUNNY DAYS YOU SPEAK OF. In these areas you have to make hay as best you can, and that is to grab those so-called bad weather conditions right before another front. You can bet that just about the time the fish begin to move a little, another Cold Front comes blasting through.

In a greater part of our country the weather can louse up the total season. One year it is fair, and the next, the whole season is shot without any degree of fish movement. This is especially true with bass, and often the total season is not lost due to the fact the areas have other species, such as walleyes, northern pike and muskie, which may not be so greatly affected.

Consider yourself lucky to live in an area where you get such good fishing weather. I have often wondered what would happen to a fisherman who lives where the weather is good most of the time and (he) is suddenly moved to an area such as the states surrounding the Great Lakes? At the same time, I can imagine what would happen if a fisherman from this area was suddenly transferred to an area with "good" weather. Probably he would make many locals appear like a bunch of rank amateurs.

*"I have also tried your muddy (dirty) 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."*

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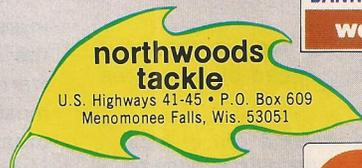


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ft. slot for quite a distance. This area is not as good as the section across the lake, but for the fish in this part of the lake, the slot is home. Here again, for most of the season, the fish would be located near or in the slot.

Mike put this lake "in his back pocket" in less than a day's fishing time. Most all his mapping and interpretation was done by trolling. I doubt if he could have ever done it by casting alone.

Now, back to our reader's letter.

"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 didn't state the reason for reducing the line diameter, or test. Most likely you reduced it so the fish would not see it. Line diameter plays a very important part in the control of depth and speed. If your line is too heavy (or too light) to hinder your presentation of certain types, weights, and sizes of lures, then it should be changed. If you changed

your line diameter for any other reason than to better control your depth and speed (remember you have to control both at the same time), then you changed your line for the wrong reasons.

"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 weed-bed."

One of the first things you will have to accept is a basic fishing fact — deep water is the home of the fish. That is, he spends a greater portion of his time here. If he is not here, and things go bad, he scoots back to this sanctuary as fast as he can go. And, he is going to stay there until things get better.

Your running around looking for

fish on the depth sounder could call for a lot of comment, but suffice to say, you do not go out into deep water looking for fish on your depth sounder. Your purpose in using the depth sounder in deep water is to show you the BOTTOM CONDITIONS that exist. If you are able to interpret deep water structure and can read what your meter says, you can also expect to see any suspended fish that might be in the area. But, do not use the sounder to look for suspended fish alone. Find the structure (humps, breaklines, breaks, drop-offs, etc.) and then, if you care, observe for any suspended fish. Sure there are types of fish that suspend, and you have to fish accordingly, but your guide is STRUCTURE, not suspended fish.

As for your putting lures to 50 feet, I might ask, "What for?" You just don't put lures deep hoping to run over a fish. You put lures deep to reach deep structure. As I have said many times before, you have to have exactness — right on the money when working deep. No halfway presentation will pass. You must know

FIGURE 3A

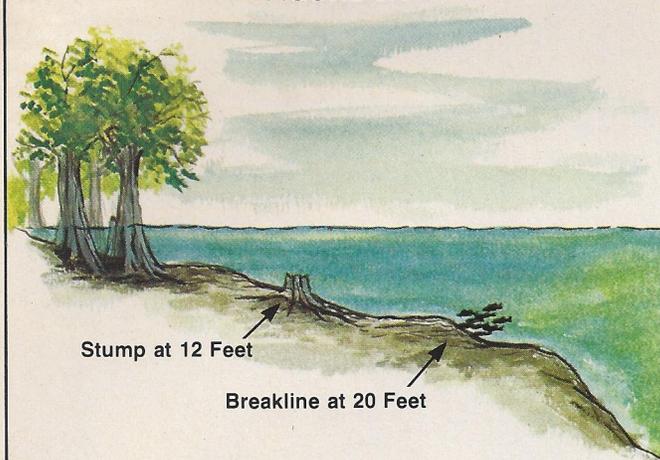


FIGURE 3B



FIGURES 3A and 3B

Figures 3A and 3B are side views of the lake bottom that is used as a migration route. Figure 3A is the area with a clear water condition. Figure 3B is the same bottom with a dark yellow-green color, or "dingy" as you call it. The fish that I have placed in each figure is to point out a basic fishing fact, and a reaction you can expect in different colors of water. We have exactly the same bottom conditions all the way round. The only difference is water color. Study the figures, and with your fishing knowledge on how depth affects the nature of fish, and your knowledge on presentation of lures, which condition would you rather have?

You hit the nail on the head, when you said the best for you was where you could "see" the brush or weedbed. Probably where the water color is dark, and you cannot see things to cast to, you would be completely lost. At times some of the objects that you can see are located on productive structure and when the season or the weather is right, the fish use these objects as "breaks" on their better migrations — and the two of you meet. I shudder to think of all the casts you have made to visible objects in clear water that never produced a fish. Not only were they too shallow for water conditions, but most were far from productive structure, and would rarely hold a fish *whatever* the weather or season.

*"I quit reading that section you call 'Our Readers Say'. You only print the 'good' letters. Why don't you print some of those letters from the guys who 'tell it like it is'? I think*

*your gang is trying to give us the old 'rip-off'."*

To us, the section of "Our Readers Say" is one of the better features of our magazine. Your saying we do not print letters from the guys who "tell it like it is" is all wet. Everyone of them "tell it like it is." In every case we print the name and address of these writers. They are proud of their progress and success. They are thankful that we have helped them with their fishing. We are happy and proud for each of them. They deserve our praise, and the reproduction of their letters and pictures. You have their address, write them and see who is getting the old rip-off.

You have apparently missed those letters we have printed from readers that have "ripped" us off. Yours was printed and I am taking time, space, and effort to make a reply. You will note we did not print your name nor address. This was done on purpose as we wanted to make the reply FIRST. The last time we placed a letter such as yours in the 'Readers Say', the poor guy was almost ripped to pieces by our other readers.

Probably you have missed a great deal by not reading what 'Our Readers Say.' Maybe if you had read what they said, and didn't have such a closed mind, you'd also be writing a letter telling us how your fishing has taken on more meaning. I have been told that the fellow whose bad letter we last printed has become one of our better fishermen. Some of those that "gave" it to him, have said, "He is a pretty nice guy after all." I suppose this would be true of most fish-

ermen who have become "educated".

*"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."*

Send in your map. We will mark it as best we know how. However, marking your map isn't going to do you much good, if you do not understand why a particular area was marked. I am sure you know "where they catch fish when they bite." It doesn't appear that this has meant much to you in the past. Probably all we will do is to verify the same general areas. However, if you begin to study WHY we marked the map as we did, or WHY people catch fish in an area ever so often, then maybe our efforts will be worthwhile.

As for your threat to "drop the magazine," your decision would in no way affect our efforts to bring Fishing Facts to the fishermen in this country. If we were to fold up everytime we got a kick in the pants, we'd have been dead years ago. As long as we can get people thinking for themselves, we are in business.

Until next time, I would like to ask all Fishing Facts readers to be thinking about your chances for consistent catches, IF YOU SPEND YOUR FISHING TIME (ONLY) CASTING TO VISIBLE OBJECTS IN THE SHALLOWS. This covers a lot of ground, so do not take it lightly.

