



Buck talks fishing

by BUCK PERRY, Education Editor

Be Sure You Select The Best Lure For The Job

Editor's Note:

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.

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.

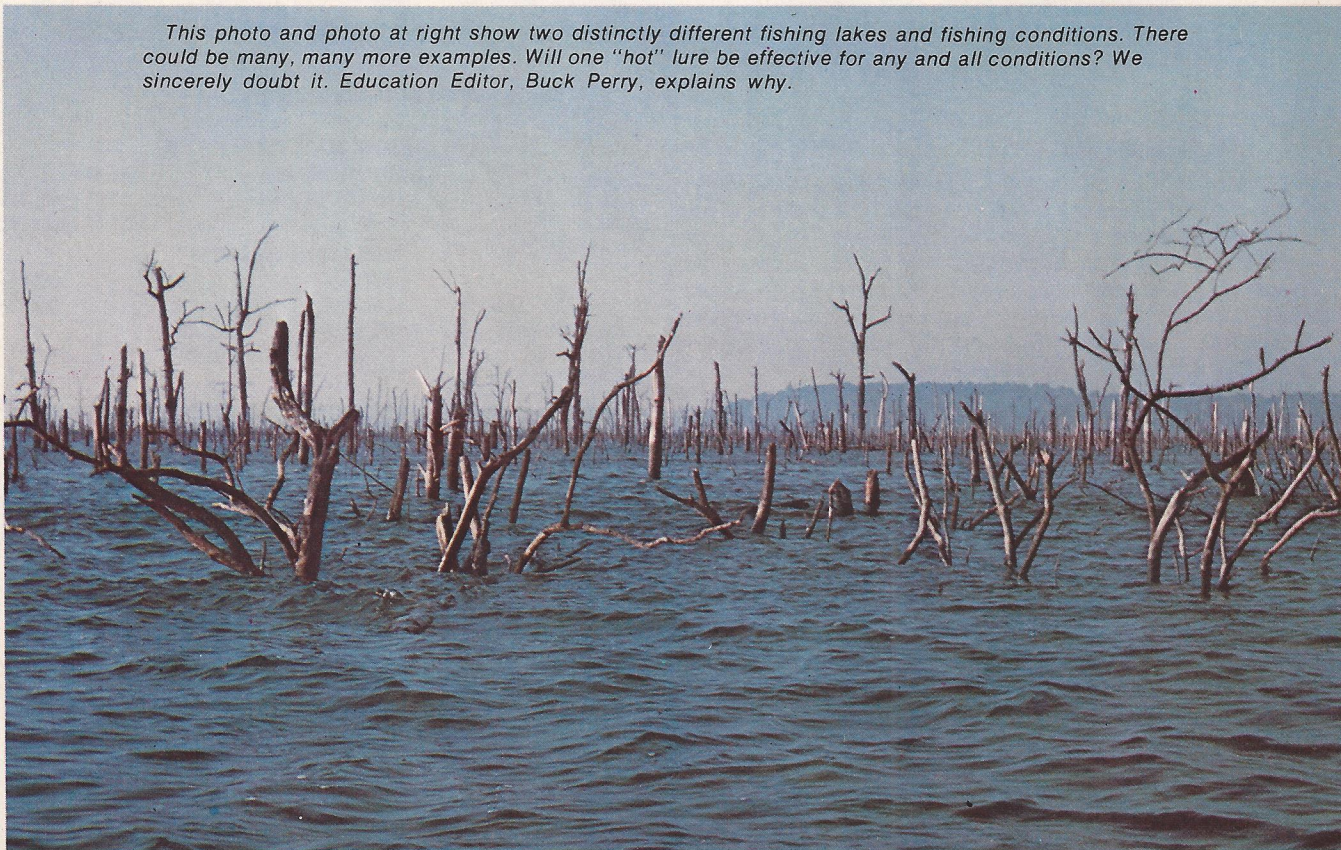
May we suggest that you:

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 \$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

This photo and photo at right show two distinctly different fishing lakes and fishing conditions. There could be many, many more examples. Will one "hot" lure be effective for any and all conditions? We sincerely doubt it. Education Editor, Buck Perry, explains why.



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.

Quite often, when talking to a group of fishermen, the statement may be made that fishing success is predicated upon knowledge. Then, in passing, the comment may be made that the APPLICATION of this knowledge is more of a mechanical process; or, in the final analysis one could say that successful fishing is a mechanical process. When we make this last statement, you can just see some individuals throwing up their hands in utter "horror".

Most of the time, when speaking to fishermen, a top view photo of a lake or reservoir is projected upon a screen. The question is then asked, "How many of you can tell me where the fish are in this lake?"

At times I may get an answer such as, "In the water!"; but for the most

part, most groups sit there in complete silence. It is then pointed out that, "the fish are either in the shallows, in the deep, or somewhere in between." This statement usually takes a little time to sink in but, without fail, it produces a lot of laughter. After the laughter subsides, my next comment is, "What are you laughing about? That observation wasn't meant to be a "funny", it was made to point out a basic fishing fact; and, if you desire to catch fish consistently in the future, it would be best to keep the statement in mind!"

I suppose more is said about LURES in fishing than any other gear that might be used. Lures come in all shapes and sizes and probably, in the long run, more money is spent on lures than any other item. Fishing lures are a very important subject, and a great deal should be said about them. But I have often wondered just how much thought is given as to which lures or what lure TYPES a fisherman should have in his tackle box. I believe, with just a little thought and study, the proper selection of lures, or the finding of EFFECTIVE lures is not such a difficult task as it would appear. I am quite sure a bit of preliminary thinking would be more effective than

rushing to purchase every new lure that came on the market, or every lure claimed to have caught a fish. When thinking about the selection of lures, or the need to purchase new ones, some thought should be given to the reasons "WHY" a particular lure is selected.

When considering the proper presentation of lures, it should be remembered that fishing gear (and lures) should be looked upon as "tools". These "tools" must allow you and I to accomplish the things we are trying to do at a particular time and place. If the gear we are using does not allow us to do the things we are attempting to do, then they are the wrong tools, and should not be used at that particular time. We have to keep in mind that in order to catch a fish, we must be at the right place, at the right time, fishing in the right manner. If ANY of these things are forgotten or neglected, chances are we will not be successful.

When mapping and interpreting a body of water, much can be accomplished by observing the weather and water conditions. Still more can be learned by talking to other fishermen, studying the surrounding terrain, locating the "hot-spots", study-

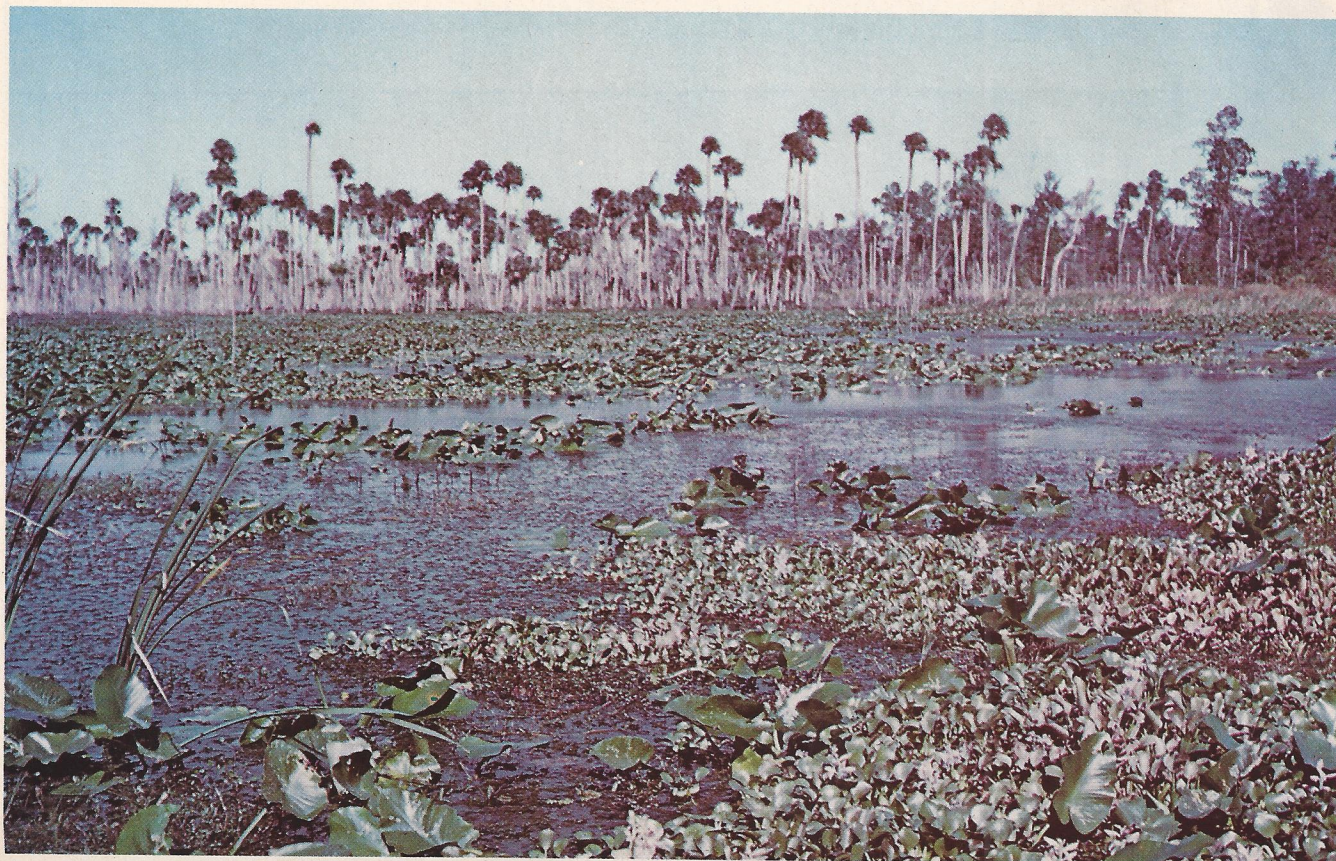


FIGURE 1

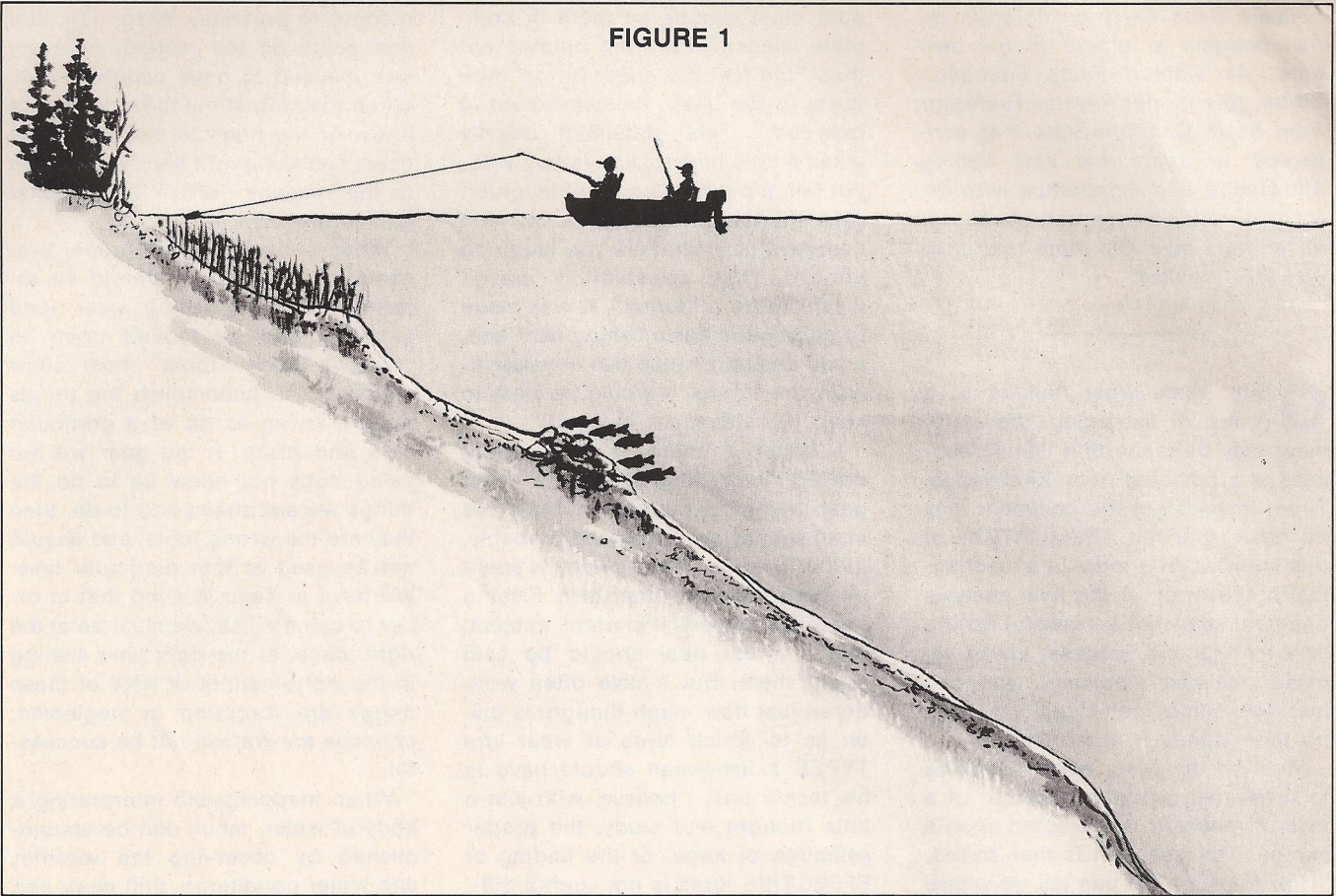
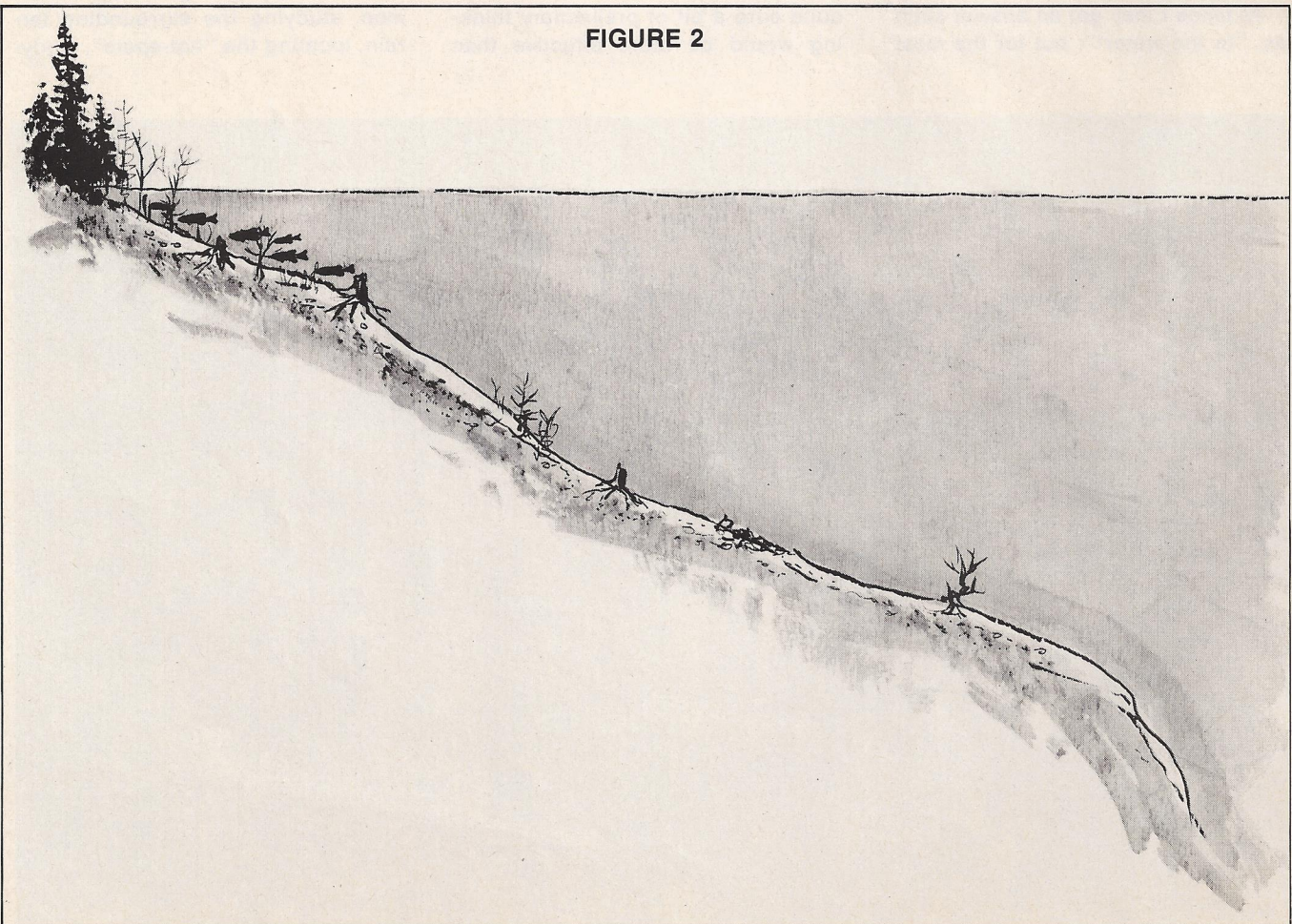


FIGURE 2



ing contour maps, scrutinizing the situation with depth sounders, etc. But fishermen would do well to remember that in order to get the FINAL interpretation of a body of water (structure, breaks, breaklines, weather, water, etc.), you and I must put our lures down there and find out if our interpretations are correct — by catching or not catching a fish. If we catch a fish, we are at the right place, at the right time, presenting our lures in the right manner. However, if our lures will not ALLOW us to fish in the right manner, at any place and time, we will not get the correct interpretation of the situation — nor are we likely to catch a fish.

FIGURE 1

Figure 1 is a side view of a fishing situation you and I may face quite often. The fish are located (due to weather and water conditions) in an "in between" position. They are not in the shallow weeds, nor are they in the deepest water. Let's assume you are fishing the area and are using your "best" surface lures or your shallowest running lures over the weeds. It doesn't take much imagination to see that you ARE fishing at the right TIME; but what about your PLACE, type lures and MANNER OF PRESENTATION?

I believe we all will agree that our lures must allow us to CONTROL our presentation. If we desire to place our lures at a particular place, or move them a certain way, then our selection must be made based on considerations other than looking for something "pretty", something WE might prefer, or something we have heard has caught a fish.

In past study, we have discussed several of the things that we can CONTROL in our fishing. We view most of the things we have control over more in terms of aids, rather than absolute controls. We arrived at the conclusion that of the many things we can do, successful fishing finally reduces down to the control of DEPTH AND SPEED. We also determined that these two controls must be used TOGETHER. We cannot sacrifice one in obtaining the other. In our previous study, we went still further and decided that we should answer all our fishing successes and failures in terms of these two controls (depth and speed). By doing this we would always be *learning*, and our presentations would al-

ways be done in the most *productive* way.

We have discussed how depth control involves a great deal more than fishing shallow, deep or in between. Total depth control means putting the lure where the fish are. Total speed control means moving the lure (or not moving it) in such a way as to make the fish "take". Thus, "depth control" involves many things such as: "WHERE" in the water; "WHEN" in the water; "WHY" in the water; "HOW" in the water, etc. The control of speed also involves knowledge regarding Where, When, Why, What and How. What it all boils down to is the fact, if you and I want to catch a fish, we must place our lures where the fish are (depth control) and move them in such a way as to make the fish take (speed control).

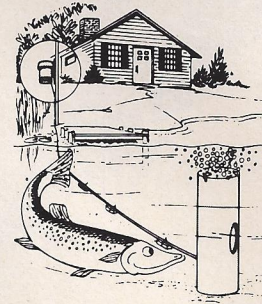
Many fishermen will stick with one particular lure style, regardless of the fishing situation. He gives no thought that he might achieve, or be able to gain, better depth and speed control with a different lure. This difference may be in size, weight or in design. It also may involve a different type lure presentation (casting or trolling). But whatever is involved, our lure selection must be made so that we can do what we are trying to do and give us maximum control at all times. There are a multitude of good lures on the market. ALL will catch fish at one time or another. Most of them have "goodies" of color, size, action, etc., BUT, none of them will catch a fish if not placed where the fish is, and moved in such a way as to make him take (depth and speed control). Most of us have experienced fishing with a particular lure, and caught no fish, while at the same time, other fishermen made a catch using the same lure.

Let us look at some typical fishing situations you and I may face, and see if they might help us in the selection of suitable lures for our tackle box. At the same time the following situations might give us ideas as to whether we should present our lures casting or trolling, or if we are using each at the right time and in the right manner.

FIGURE 2

Figure 2 is a side view of a fishing situation where the conditions of weather and water have produced a movement of the fish to the shallows

aerate your lake or pond



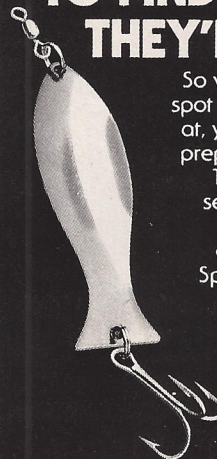
- Prevents fish kills.
- Eliminates off odors.
- Adds life-giving oxygen.
- No maintenance—just pennies a day for electricity.
- Burns up pollutants which grow algae permitting fish life to flourish.
- Easy to install—comes complete—plugs into house current.
- Can be installed through ice.

For further details write

**gen-Airator
-KEMBRO**

Box 205, Mequon, WI 53092
or call (414) 242-2630

IT'S EASY TO FIND WHERE THEY'RE NOT-



So when you find the spot you know they're at, you want to be as prepared as possible.

The Worth Demon series of lures gives you that needed edge. The Demon Spoons are artificial lures that will consistently out-produce natural bait and may well be the most proven tackle available.



**the worth
company**

dept. FF
stevens point, wis. 54481

SPECIAL OFFER! Water Demon lure, lure guide-book, embroidered jacket patch (\$2 value) ONLY \$1.00. Send coupon with one dollar to:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State, Zip _____

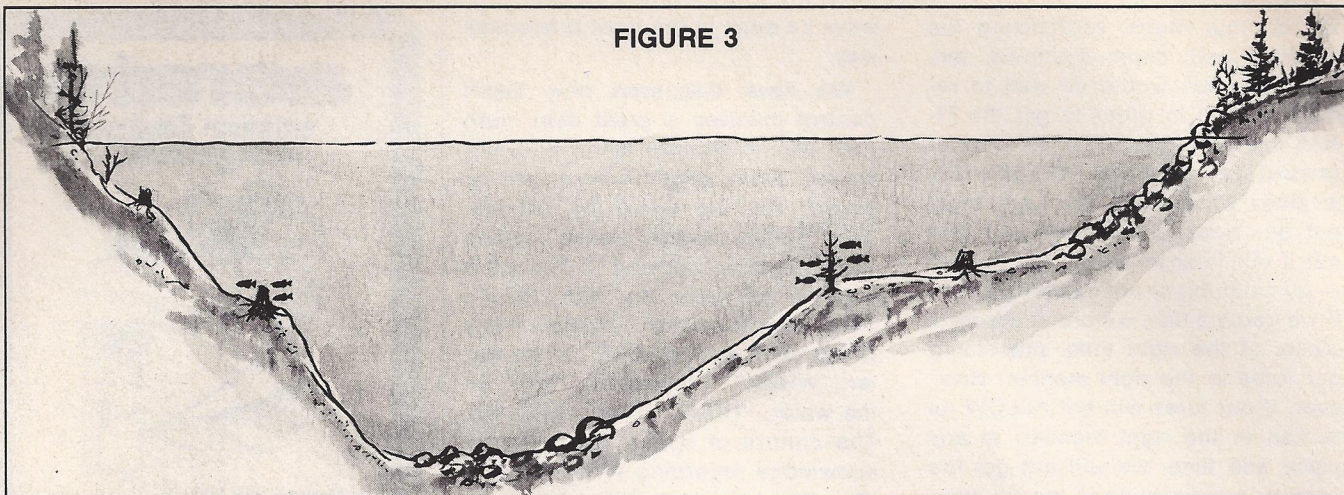


FIGURE 3

of the shoreline. Our main job is to put our lures where the fish are (depth control) and move them so as to produce a "take" (speed control). Our lure selection must be made as to not encounter any problems in working this area. There are a great selection of lures that would give good depth and speed control in a situation such as this. This would be an excellent condition where that favorite surface or shallow running lure would do a good job. Depth control is no major factor here, and all we have to do about the speed is

to "check it out" (check various speeds).

FIGURE 3

Figure 3 is another situation that we may encounter. The weather and water conditions have produced a much shorter movement of fish than in the case of Figure 2. In this case the fish are located at a deeper "break". It is apparent that our surface lures, or our shallow running lures, will not provide good depth control and will not catch the fish regardless how well we check out the

speeds (or colors, or sizes, or actions). In order to have good depth control we must have lures that will "reach" the fish, either trolling or casting. We must have "deep diver" type lures in our tackle box.

FIGURE 4

Figure 4 is another situation that you and I may encounter. In this case the fish are at the base of a tall weedline. This weedline could be as tall as 15 to 18 feet. This means we must get our lures to the base of the weedline. We could use either a

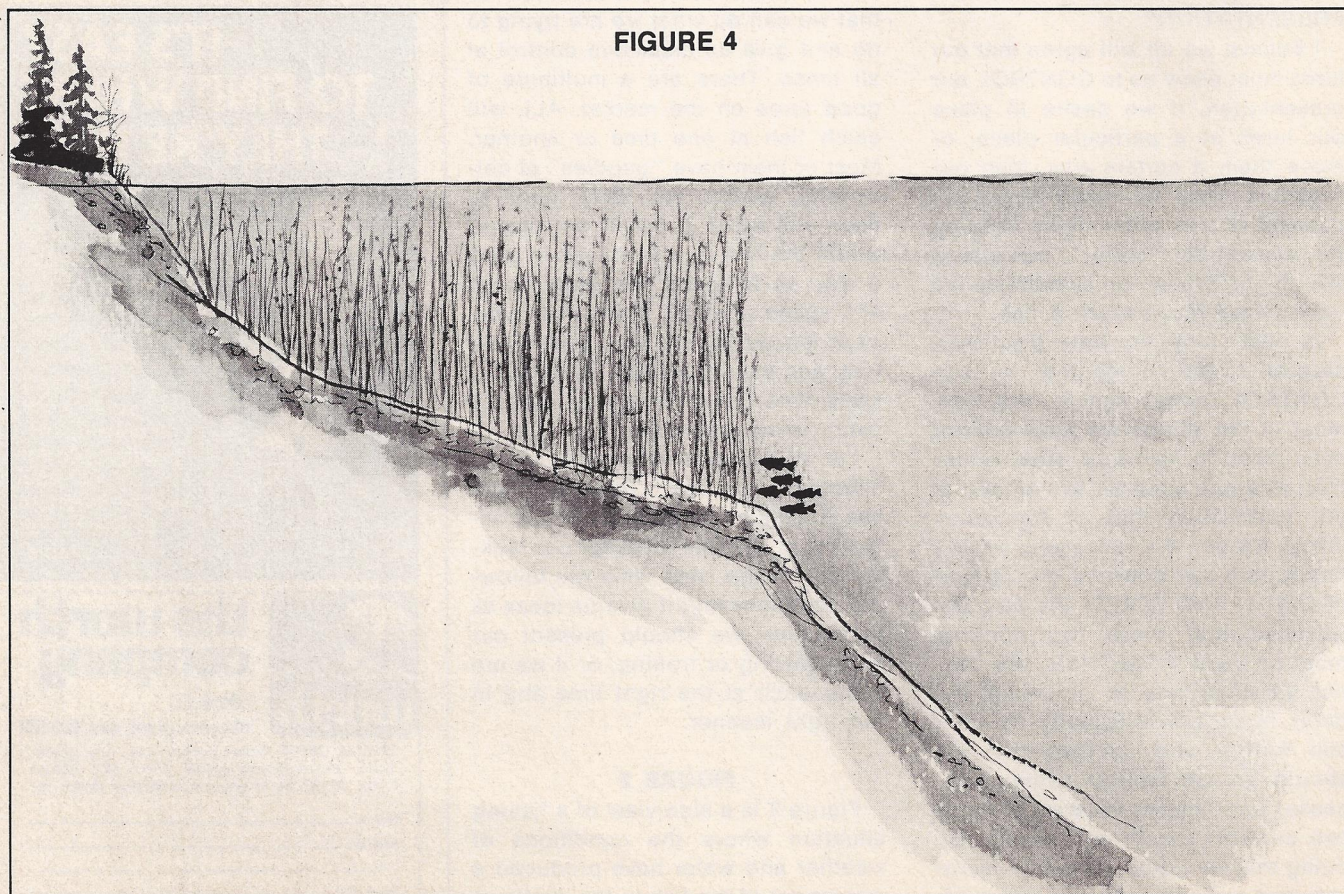
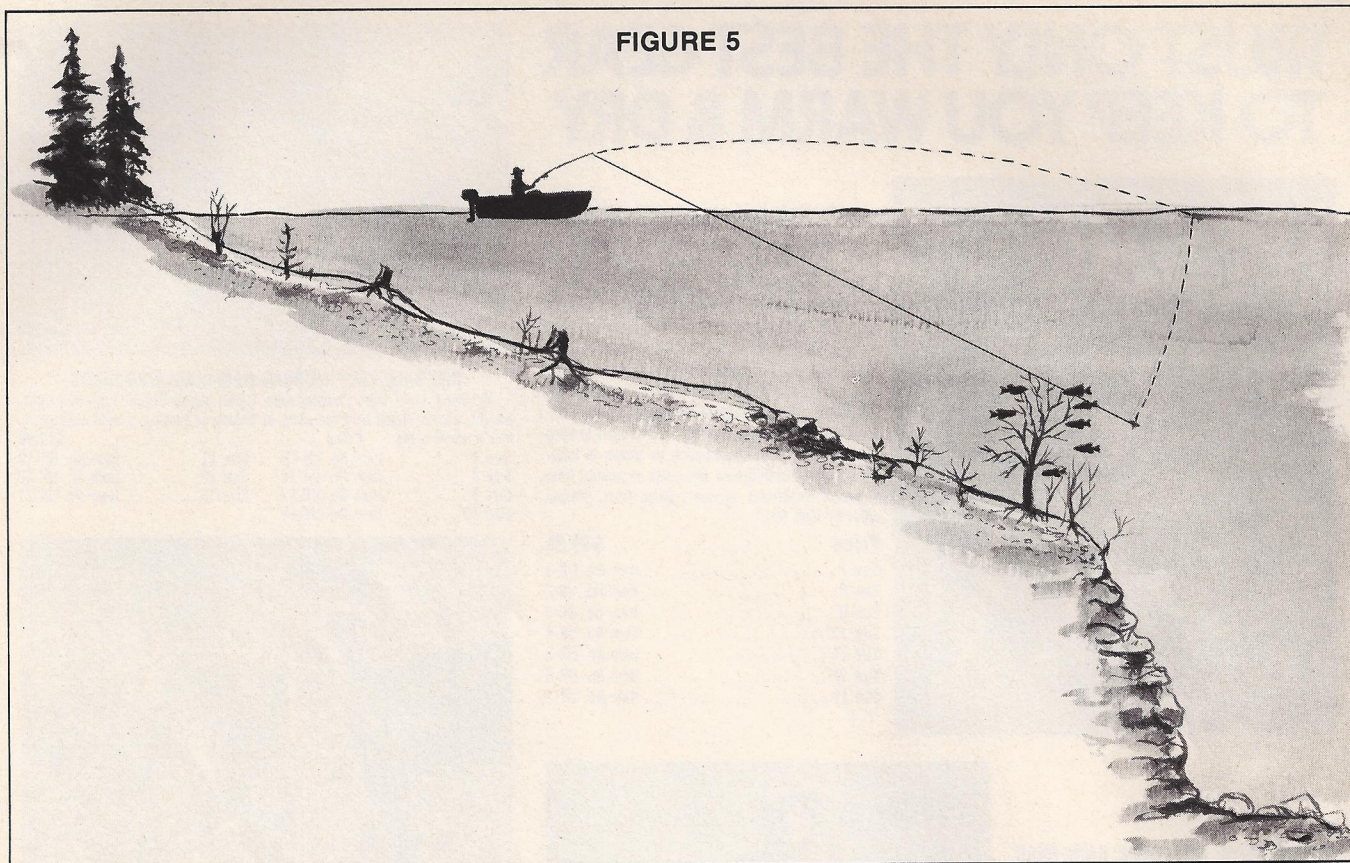


FIGURE 4

FIGURE 5



sinking type "jump" lure, (letting it sink to the bottom before starting the retrieve), or we could use a deep diving lure that will dive to these depths when trolled or cast. Our best position to cast the base of the weedline is to position the boat close to the weedline and make our casts parallel with the weeds. A trolling run should have the boat as close to the weedline as possible, and the lure used must reach these depths with a "controllable" line length.

FIGURE 5

Figure 5 is a situation where the fish have not moved very far from the sanctuary of the deep water. They are located in and around a bush that is positioned right next to the drop-off. To make an effective trolling run would require a lure that did not run too shallow, nor too deep. It would require a lure depth that allowed it to "rip" through the outer twigs and branches. To effectively

cast the bush, some type of sinking lure would be required so as to secure the right depth. We may find if we let the lure sink too far into the deeper water, we get hung on the breakline or the brush before we get a chance at the fish. However, if we do not let it sink deep enough, we get no reaction from the fish. Our best bet is to use some type of "countdown" system, so that our lures only sink so deep and no deeper before starting the retrieve. We

FIGURE 6

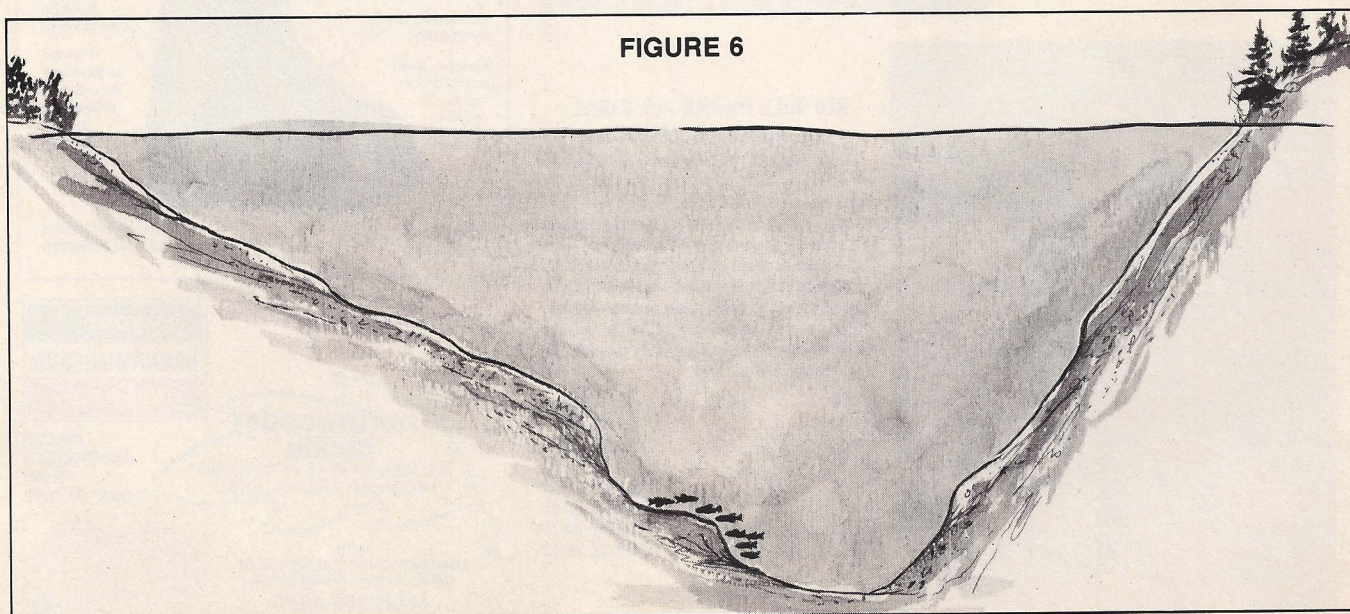


FIGURE 7

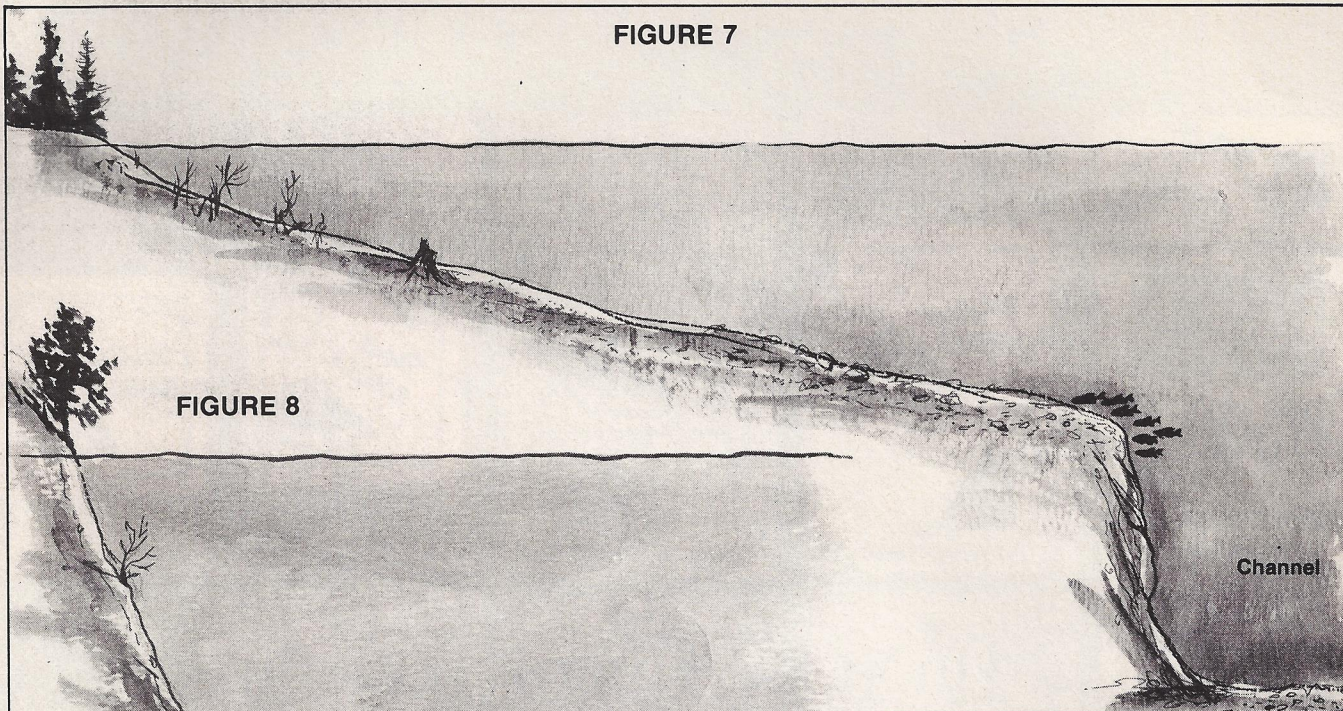
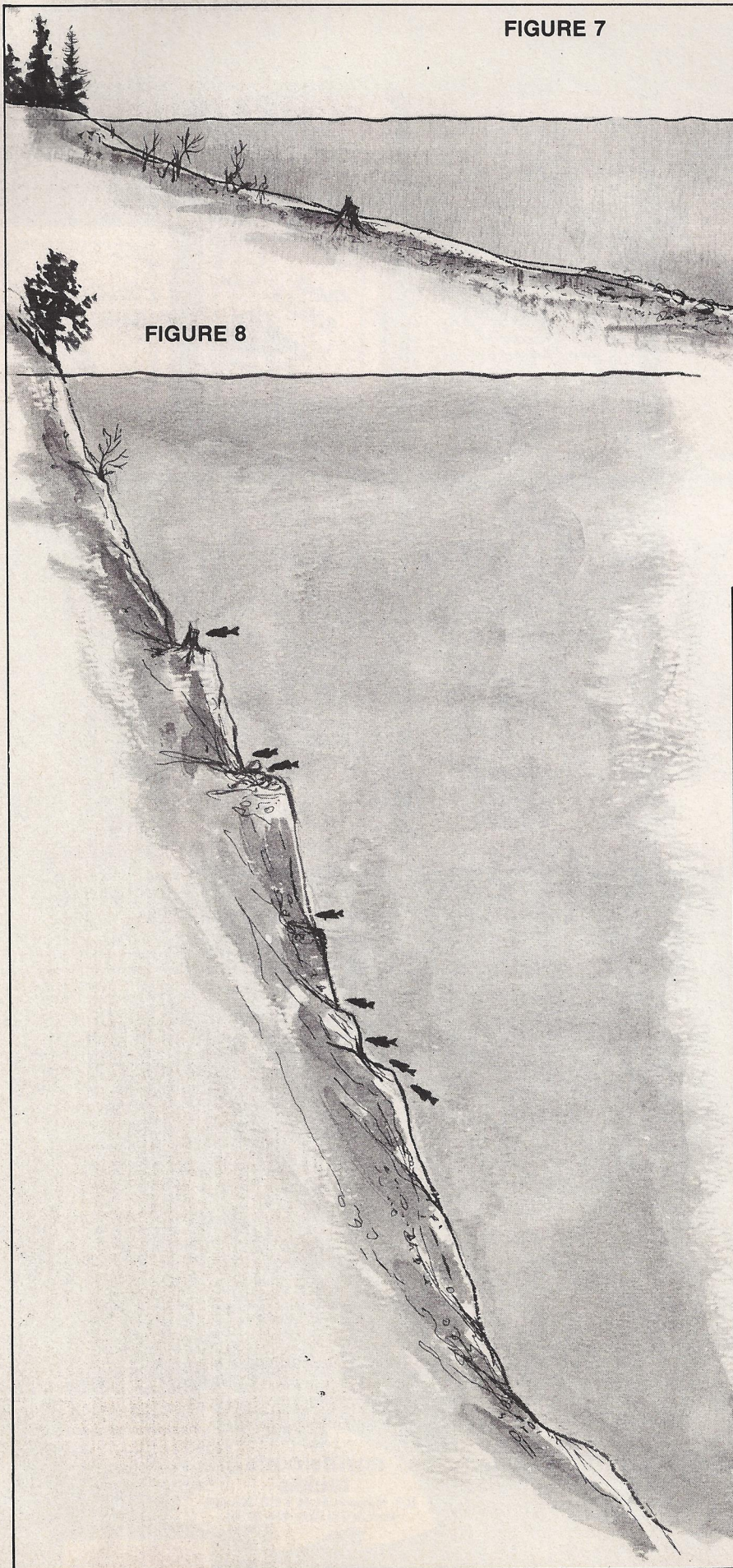


FIGURE 8



may have a couple false casts, but it shouldn't be long before we have the lure "ripping" just right through the twigs and branches.

Figure 5 shows the best position of the boat when casting a condition such as this. Lure styles are plentiful for such a situation, and they should be included in our tackle box.

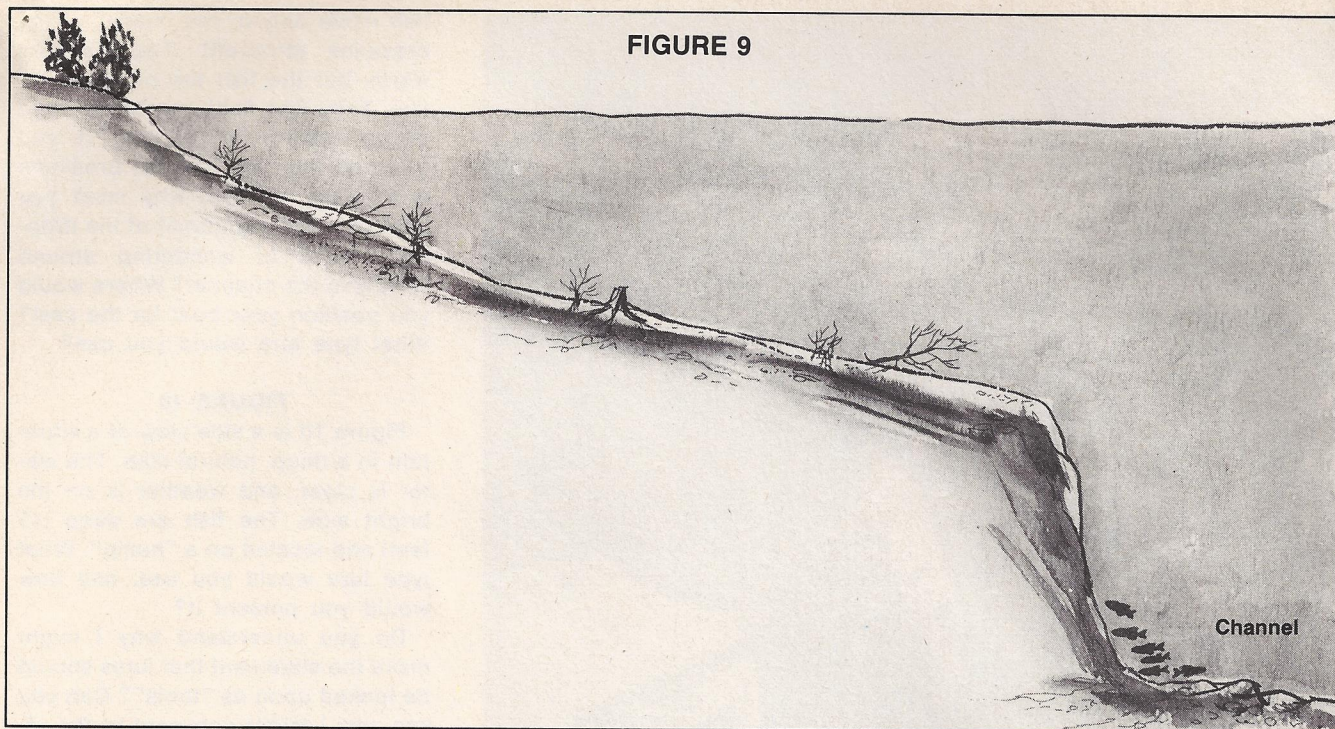
FIGURE 6

Figure 6 is a situation you and I will face a great part of the time. In this example, movement of the fish from deep water HAS NOT OCCURRED. They are quite deep and very inactive. That is, they are dormant and non-chasing. This situation means you and I must put our lures "right on the money" (extreme accuracy is called for) and we must be very careful in checking how slow or how fast we move them. We must be able to check the area without pulling our lures away too fast (or too far). This condition would be a situation where casting may be better than trolling. It would require some type of "jump" lure, such as a jig, spoon or soft plastic. It is possible we may have to place our boat directly over the spot and fish straight up and down.

FIGURE 7

Figure 7 is a side view of a situation where the fish have moved to the "top" of the "drop-off". The depth isn't great, the weather and

FIGURE 9



water conditions are good, and the fish are extremely active. The questions are: What type lure should I use on the cast? Where should I position my boat so as to catch as many fish as possible? Should I position my boat over deep water using a "jump" type lure working "down-hill"? Or, should I position my boat shallow and work "uphill" with a fast-walking lure up over the break-line?

Those of you who have experienced situations such as this will agree the "uphill" approach will put more fish on the stringer. In most situations when casting deeper structure, better depth and speed control (together) can be had by working "uphill" rather than "down-hill". When fish have moved shallower, and are active, a fast lure is better than a slow one.

Shown next are some additional figures (Figures 8, 9 and 10) showing some typical fishing situations you and I may face. Look each of them over carefully — keeping in mind the size and metabolism of the fish. Consider what type casting outfit you are using, the changing weather and water conditions, the season, etc. In each situation try to figure out how you can obtain the best depth and speed control.

FIGURE 8

Figure 8 is a side view of a steep shoreline situation. The weather is cold (winter). Which is better, cast-

ing or trolling? What type lure would you use on the cast? How about the speed of the lure? What would be the best position for the boat while casting?

FIGURE 9

Figure 9 is a side view of a situation in a reservoir. The weather and water conditions are such that the

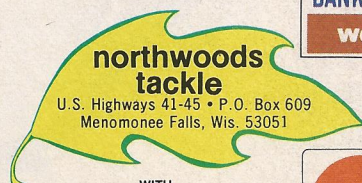
THE PRACTICAL FISHING SUIT YOU'LL BE PROUD TO WEAR — ANYWHERE

Circulation Director, Dave Herrewig is wearing one of the best and most practical fishing suits we've ever come across. Machine washable, tough & durable, permanent press, pockets everywhere ... and very good looking.

	Yellow Item #'s	Blue Item #'s
Small (34-36)	No. FA-1	No. FA-8
Medium (38-40)	No. FA-2	No. FA-9
Medium Tall (38-40)	No. FA-3	No. FA-10
Large (42-44)	No. FA-4	No. FA-11
Large Tall (42-44)	No. FA-5	No. FA-12
Extra Large (46-48)	No. FA-6	No. FA-13
Extra Large Tall (46-48)	No. FA-7	No. FA-14

Price . . . \$21.75

ORDER BY PHONE OR MAIL
FROM



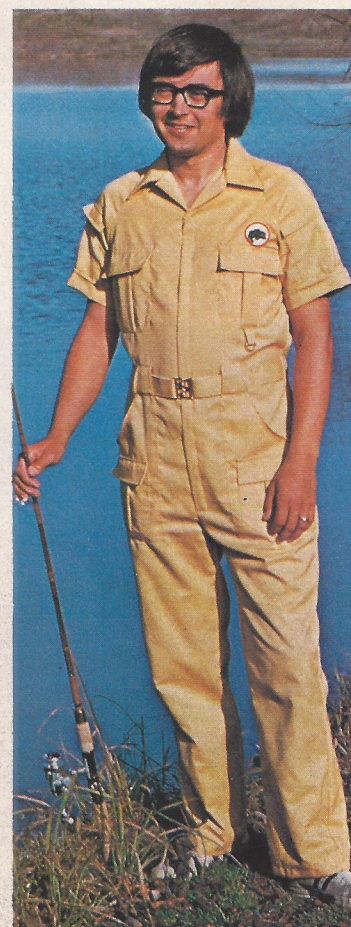
WITH
BANK AMERICARD • MASTERCARD
C.O.D. • CHECK • MONEY ORDER

(414) 255-4660

ORDER BLANK ON LAST PAGE OF THIS ISSUE.



PRICES
GUARANTEED
THRU
OCT. 10, 1976





fish move only to the "base" of the breakline (drop-off). The water is warm, but the fish are not very active. They (the fish) can be reached either casting or trolling. If you checked the "top" of the breakline and found no fish, why must you check the base (bottom) of the drop-off instead of wandering around blindly in the channel? Where would you position your boat for the cast? What type lure would you use?

FIGURE 10

Figure 10 is a side view of a situation in a deep, natural lake. The water is clear, and weather is on the bright side. The fish are deep (45 feet) and located on a "hump". What type lure would you use, and how would you present it?

Do you understand why I might make the statement that lures should be looked upon as "tools"? Can you see why I might comment to the affect that catching fish CONSISTENTLY is mostly a mechanical process; that we must look at successes and failures in terms of depth and speed? After viewing these examples (and there could be many, MANY more), I'm sure you understand why I say the fish are either in the shallows, the deep, or some place in between.



Education Editor, Buck Perry, has spent almost 40 years traveling throughout the United States, Canada and several continents while studying a multitude of fishing situations. In this article Buck's vast warehouse of fishing knowledge is brought once again to Fishing Facts readers.

FIGURE 10

