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The Mack Attack
www.mackslure.com
2514 Easy Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801 509-667-9202

SLOOOOOOW!

BY MACK'S LURE PRO STAFFER BOB MEHORCZYK



I know its fall and the weather is turning colder, but don't put that boat away just yet!

Up here in the Midwest people are out bow hunting and water fowling this time of year. Not me! I'm out on the water trying to locate those staging walleye looking to come up river from the bay of Green Bay.

Some people might think that the fish go into hibernation when the water temps start dropping and they can't find them on their usual haunts. Things couldn't be farther from the truth. Bait fish are getting pushed out of the dying weeds and heading for shallower and warmer water.

The predators are on a feeding frenzy to fatten up for winter and

are following the bait. The shad are usually abundant and bites are far and few between. However, with the right presentation, you can have some of your best fishing up until first ice. Look for points and ledges off main river mouths, feeder creeks and flats near shallower water and you'll eventually find the fish.

The trick to making them bite is, GO SLOW! Try rigging a redbait chub or a crawler to a lindy type rig and bounce your weight off the bottom just enough to make it attractive to a predator that no longer has to chase its prey.

Sure the cold water makes them a little sluggish, but with all the forage fish around, they don't have to work real hard to get them. That's when I start trolling big stick baits that have only a subtle wobble and at slower speeds than usual.

When I find some takers, I switch over to rigging live bait and go even slower. Run an open bale and when you feel that light tap, release the line and let them take it and swallow it before reeling up to them and crossing their eyes. I like to put a red bead and a 0.8 Smile Blade in front of my bait rig in order to make it more attractive and call in the fish that are not so close to the

strike zone. Try alternating your presentation from a small lift forward and steady drop back to adding a few rips forward in between to make that Smile Blade add some flutter and sound to the action. You can even take the rear hook off a 3 treble stick bait and tie on a 2 hook harness with a Smile Blade on it to follow the lure as an added attractant.

Now remember that the fall weather can turn in an instant. Try not to go out by yourself. If you do, make your plans known to someone like where you will be launching, fishing and approximately how long you will be out. Wear your PFD when its rough and the water temps are cooler. Make sure you have a means of communication on board. If you also carry your cell phone, do what I do and put it in a zip lock bag in your pocket. If you end up in the water, your phone will not likely work. Remember there are more important things in life than fishing. (My wife can't believe I just said that!)

If the temps are going to drop below freezing, make sure you drain your livewell and bilge hoses completely along with burping your motor to ensure no freeze damage.

Anyway, remember to go slow and

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be safe out there. Give this fall fishing a try and let me know how you all do by posting your reports on the Mack's Lure Forums. Get there using the following link: <http://www.mackslure.com/forums/index.php>.

Another nice thing about fishing this time of year is, you're one of the very few out on the water and it is very peaceful and relaxing. Give it a try, you won't be disappointed.

"Tips and Rigging Techniques"

BY MACK'S LURE PRO STAFFERS

BILL AND BERNADINE AYRES



Each Mack's Lure product is fantastic right from the box, but there are little ways you can enhance their activity in the water.

We have described some of them under the "Tips and Rigging Techniques" on the Mack's Lure home page.

The other day we came up with another tip. We attached a #6 treble hook in the loop under the skirt of the Sledge Hammer. We then saturated a cotton ball with liquid attractant and hooked it onto the treble hook. As the Sledge Hammer moves in the water it leaves a scent trail as well as its unique flash. Just another tip to add to your arsenal!

The Mack's Lure Forum...

"Ask The Pro Staff"

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Cookin' Your Catch

Baked Muskie (Over Fire)

Ingredients

- one large muskie (nine pounds or more)
- salt pepper

Stuffing mix:

- 1 1/2 pounds stale bread, cubed
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 bunch parsley, coarsely chopped
- 1 can tomato soup
- 1 can full of milk (fresh or re-constituted dry milk)

Build a fire in an 18-inch-deep hole, that is longer than your muskie and about two-feet wide. Gut and scale the muskie. Rinse the muskie thoroughly and sprinkle the interior cavity with salt and pepper. In a large bowl, combine the stale bread, onion and a generous amount of parsley. Fold the can of soup and an equal amount of milk into the stuffing mixture. The stuffing should be on the wet side. Using a large needle and white thread sew down the gill covers and stitch the muskie's mouth shut. Stuff the fish with the stuffing mix and then sew the stomach cavity shut.

Wrap the muskie in four or five layers of dry newspaper, folding the paper in at the head and tail. Truss the entire muskie with string (the way you would tie up a rolled roast.) Soak a dozen or more sheets of newspaper in water until it is saturated. Wrap the fish as before tying it securely with string. Tie the muskie to a board that is a few inches larger than the fish and about two feet wide.

Stan's Space

"You Can Help 'Em Keep Their Promise"

by Hall-of-Fame Angler
Stan Fagerstrom

Part 2 of 2

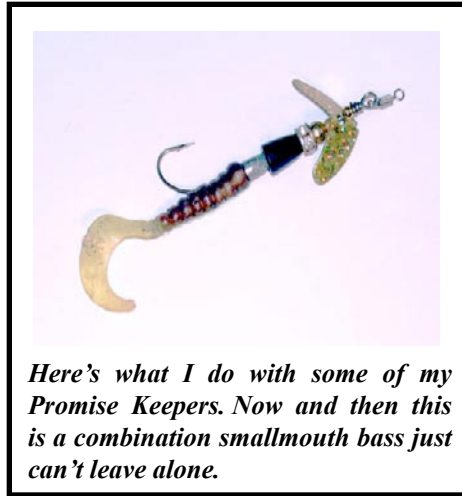
The Mack's Lure Promise Keeper catches its share of fish just the way it comes out of the box. I want to be very clear about that as I begin this second column dealing with these dandy little lures.

I devoted my previous column to telling why it is so effective. If you've not read that column, I urge you to do so. I wound up that column by saying I'd found a way that can, on occasions, make the Promise Keeper even more productive, especially for bass.

I've done the same thing in the past with certain lures produced by other companies. Remember the old Bomber Waterdog bass plugs? Some of the best largemouth bass I've ever put in the boat came on my revised version of these lures.

Another example is the Arbogast Jitterbug. Years ago I found a way to use the skirt from a Hula Popper lure on the rear end of my Jitterbugs. Now and then it really works.

You'll note I've not used the word "always." That's because fish, especially foxy critters like bass and walleye, don't "always" do anything. I learned that lesson long ago. Be that as it may, sometimes just a slight change or two in a lure or a technique get results when nothing else does.



Here's what I do with some of my Promise Keepers. Now and then this is a combination smallmouth bass just can't leave alone.

The changes I make with some of my Promise Keepers aren't all that involved. If you're familiar with these lures you're aware they come equipped with a small treble hook or a small single hook. The first thing I do is snip the wire that holds this hook in place.

Once I remove the hook I straighten out the wire that runs through the bait. Sometimes I remove the bottom portion of the lure's mid section. The next step is to attach a single hook. I always make sure that the single hook I attach rides point up.

Attaching the single hook is the only part of the procedure that is a bit tricky. I've done it by wrapping the hook in place with fly tying thread and applying waterproof glue. I've also used epoxy to hold the hook in place.

Experienced bass fishermen will have no problem knowing why I want the hook point to ride upright. What this revised version of the Promise Keeper does is let me throw the lure into cover where a treble hook would be almost certain to hang up.

The final touch I add to the lure is something else bass fishermen will recognize. Before I fish this single hooked Promise Keeper I slide a small plastic grub up on the hook. I love the result and it's easy to tell you why.

Now I have the Smile Blade up front to add a little wiggle and waggle and the Wedding Ring in the center to add its fish-attracting flash. I also now have that little grub back there doing its thing at the tail end of the bait.



Smallmouth bass are just plain fun to catch. If your lures don't get 'em one way, it sometimes helps to give them a little difference appearance.

Smallmouth bass are suckers for this set up some of the time. Largemouth will also whack it. The same is true of large crappie if you'll fish it where they are located with an extremely slow retrieve.

My favorite grubs for use with this set up are the curly tailed jobs. Try to find grubs that are 2-inches in length. Make sure they have good tail action. Also be sure you have light, dark and in between shades.

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Finally, when you slide your grub in place on the single hooked Promise Keeper be sure that the free end of the grub points down. There's a reason for this.

When the lure is pulled through the water the tail straightens out. It will continue to function even if it bumps the bottom now and then if the tail points down. Slide it on with the tail pointing up and the tail ceases to function when the belly of of the bait touches bottom cover.

That's the size of it. As I said in the beginning of this two part series, I enjoy working with my tackle. Sometimes I come up with something that works, sometimes I don't.

I've just finished telling you about one approach that does get the job done.

-End-

Question of the Month

Have a question? We'd love to answer it! Contact us at bob@mackslure.com if you have a question you would like to see featured!

Q: Is there an effective way to use the Smile Blade when jig fishing?

A: Yes indeed, in fact it has proven to be a favorite technique with quite a few of our Pro Staff. Some of them put the Smile Blade with two 4mm beads between it and the jig, and a stopper two inches above it. The stopper can be a bobber stop knot and bead, or a bead that has been pegged with a toothpick. Others put two beads and Smile Blade right on the shank of the jig hook, along with a crimp bead to hold it. Since this technique has become so popular, we will be introducing a jig that will feature the Smile Blade attached to the jig. Read more about the Smile Blade® UV Jig, and its release date, in an upcoming issue of the Mack Attack.

Take a Kid Fishing!



You will be glad you did!

Photo of the Month



On Sunday, September 27, Kyle Anderson of Rapid City, MI caught this 50-pound 8-ounce Great Lakes muskie. The fish is now the new Michigan state record. It beat the old record, set in 1984, by 2.5 pounds. Anderson was fishing in Torch Lake, near Traverse City.

The Mack Attack is a free service provided to anyone who is interested by Mack's Lure, Inc. We need your input! If you know of anyone who would like to be on the mailing list to receive the Mack Attack, please forward their e-mail address to al@mackslure.com.

Photos, stories and comments are welcomed and encouraged. Please forward all content materials to bob@mackslure.com.



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