

TACKLE TIPS

A Collection of Bass Fishing Tackle & Tips!



www.probassfishing.ca
Copyright 2008

Written by
Nic
Di Gravio

Introduction

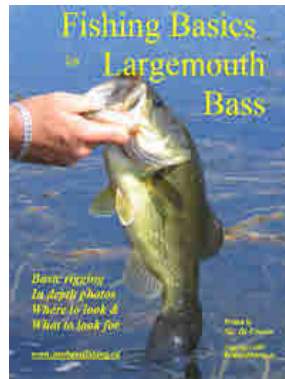
We at www.probassfishing.ca have put together a collection of Bass fishing tackle and tips for the die-hard Bass angler out there. All baits mentioned have performed for us and the tips have been proven out in the field.

Make no mistake; these are just a few of the many so you'll be glad to know that there are many more to come.

Remember; 90% of the fish are in 10% of the water. The bait used is important, but where and how it's used is just as important for the baits success! These fundamentals combined are what make a Bass angler lethal!

Happy fishing!

All our Bass Fishing E Books are available at
www.probassfishing.ca/bass-fishing-ebooks.html



Yamamoto 8 Inch Grub

The Yamamoto 8-inch grub is fine Bass catching bait! It has just enough buoyancy to fall tantalizingly to the bottom, dancing the curly tail 'Bass twist'. Bass in the vicinity cannot miss it!

The tail is not its only asset. I am sure the Bass hone in on it on the initial fall, but it's the first bite that gets them every time!

It's all meat to the Bass! Just feel one for yourself and you will know why the Bass won't let go. I rarely lose a fish using the 8-inch grub because it feels so good the Bass can't resist, they have to have more!



www.probassfishing.ca

Deep undercut banks, weed matted bays, lumber, you name it, combined with 2 feet of water or more, and the Yamamoto 8 inch grub shines. The deeper the water the longer it does its dance. For a faster 'Bass twist' I rig the 8-inch grub Texas, with a bullet weight on a 5/0 rigging hook from Owner. It works especially well in deeper water to give it a steady tail-dancing fall!

They are different than the average size grub normally used, but when it comes to catching Bass the Yamamoto 8 inch grub is effective! Why wouldn't we have them in our tackle boxes?

'Line up' for Bass Hot Spots

Just because you are first in line to fish prime Bass real estate doesn't mean guaranteed success! Believe me, that isn't always the case!

I have been on hot spots many times after the fact and still boated Bass. It all boils down to which technique the Bass will prefer at that particular time.



www.probassfishing.ca

I passed a reed bed 3 or 4 times during a one day tournament wanting to fish it, but because of stiff regulations it wouldn't hold more than one boat. Finally, we were able to get in, and would you believe we put 2 fish in the live well and lost 3 others! The Bass obviously preferred our technique of dead sticking the bait over the techniques of the others. No one can tell from a distance what technique or bait others were using, but I am willing to bet that dead sticking wasn't one of them. Basically, in a given day your pattern for catching Bass might work while others have failed. Being first, third or fifth in line is irrelevant!

So, let's see now. As far as I saw, 4 boats fished one reed bed. We were the fifth boat in line and hooked 5 fish in a matter of one hour! Hmm.....should I or shouldn't I wait in line to fish that hot spot????

Senko Worm Tactics

Gary Yamamoto really broke the mould when he invented the Senko Worm. It is brilliant bait and it is widely used. But are we using the Senko to its fullest ability?

There are fundamental tactics that, to me, are key when fishing the Senko Worm. Oh yes, there are many proven ways to fish the Worm, like 'dead sticking' or 'wacky worming' to name a few. All will work in fooling old Bucket and Smallmouth, but consider what a smaller hook and finessing the Senko worm can accomplish! I personally think that's what it was meant to do. It works so well because it mesmerizes the Bass into submission with its unique patented action on its own, there is no need for jerking the rod to give it life. All the Senko Worm needs is for you to strategically place it out there and watch it work!

I rig my Senko Worm Texas with a 3/0 Owner wide gap 'rigging' hook with the point imbedded into the Worm. I think that "fussy" Bass will



take their first bite and feel what they think is 'fresh meat', not steel and the next 'chomp' is the stinger! When they aren't fussy though, the 3/0 Owner will

hook them just the same. It has been proven over and over in my endeavours. The other advantage to a smaller hook is longer fall time, which is essential to Bass wanting to engulf the Senko Worm. The alluring fall of the Senko is what attracts the Bass's attention. This is where Senko Worm tactics or the ABC's, if you will, come in to play.

In order for the Senko to do its thing it requires slack line. That is the most important part of its ability to fool Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass. When casting the Senko worm, I try to cast it over hand, giving it an arch shape of line so that when it hits the water it automatically has the slack it needs for the fall. If I am not able to cast over hand then I give it ample line as soon as it meets the water surface. By using Power Pro braided line with this combo one only has to watch their line for detection of Bass. When they take the bait, reel in the slack and set the hook hard!

When rigged this way your Senko Worm should fall slowly and move slightly front to back while quivering! I have taken the time to try many hook sizes and line combinations and I have found through trial and error that Owner 3/0 wide gap hook + Power Pro + Senko Worm = Bass! "Mr. Yamamoto, you are a genius"!

Second Chance Bass

Hey, instead of saying, "#*~*.... I lost him", throw a different bait in the same general area as the fish you just missed and you will be pleased with the results. Odds are pretty good you'll have a second chance hooking that very same Bass!

The key here is time. The longer we take wondering and 'crying the blues' the more precious time is wasted! Cast out the backup bait as soon as possible and you will hook up!



The 'second chance' bait thrown should be a totally different type and style of bait altogether. This is where a partner comes in handy.

There have been instances where fast baits such as Buzz Baits have missed potential hook ups, but by casting to that same vicinity with a slower bait the result is eight out of ten times, a BASS!

I always keep a 'backup' bait near by while I'm Bass fishing. It pays off for me and it will for you too! We definitely have nothing to loose and much more to gain!

Gambler's 5" Flapp'n Tail Worm



The five inch Flapp'n Tail Worm by Gambler is nothing but pure genius! It is a multi tasked plastic that lasts a long time. This fish after fish bait is good bang for the anglers buck! And the Flapp'n Worm's garlic scent goes on and on too!

Try it finessed on it's own with a 3/0 Owner rigging hook and let it do its thing. Waving its tail back and forth like the real thing gets the Bass' attention. In deeper water I rig it with a screw on bullet weight, Texas. As it quickly moves to the bottom the tail vigorously wiggles and entices any finned creature in the vicinity to strike and Bass are no exception!

You can twitch it, dunk it, dead stick it, finesse it, work it slow or work it fast it doesn't matter. The five inch Flapp'n Tail Worm from Gambler has amazing versatility to get the job done! It catches Bass.

More Than One Bass

When you notice a Bass quickly swimming off with your bait chances are there is more than one! I strongly believe that when competing for food Bass will take the bait and swim away with it in one quick motion when schooled together! Keep working the same area....what can it hurt! I have been rewarded time and time again!



Smallmouth Bass and Lumber

Lumber can be an effective asset in finding Smallmouth Bass. Especially shores littered with fallen trees, stumps or flooded timber.

But not all shorelines riddled with lumber produce Smallmouth. The key characteristic to look for is a good steady sloping bottom. Smallmouth occupy the deeper water column for refuge from the sun's hot rays. The shallower the shoreline the quicker the sun will warm it, lumber or not. So if the shoreline looks good with good lumber Bass potential and you find that you are in 3 feet of water, 30 or so feet away, then it may be too warm to house Smallmouth. But if that same scenario found us in 10 or 12 feet of water, well, let the Bass games begin!

The Bass' prey utilizes the lumber for cover and the Smallmouth are always a short distance away. Remember, they have the deeper water in close proximity. So travel is at a minimum for the Bass. Therefore, they will tend to stage much longer in such real estate before warmer temperatures eventually get them in the deeper summer transition.

Berkley 3" 'Realistix' Power Minnow

A serious Bass angler should not be without the 3" Berkley 'Realistix' Power Minnow. It is 'brilliant' bait! Especially when down sizing is required for weary Bass.

www.probassfishing.ca



It is a simple concept really. Just hook and go! The best action, I find, is rigged with a 1/8th ounce jig head. 'Dart' it back in after the initial cast, letting it fall every so often. This method is usually productive for the Bass' morning feed!

For deep structured Bass try it on a Lindy or Carolina rig with a 2/O Owner rigging hook weed less or even a floating jig head to keep it suspended. Fish it any way you like! The Realistix Power Minnow wrote the book on versatility!

The Realistix 3" Minnow is good bang for the Bass anglers buck! It lasts and lasts, fish after fish. Berkley once again makes Bass catching easy!

The Jitterbug

The Jitterbug has been around, pretty much as long as I have! It takes me back to my roots, shore fishing for Bass. It worked back then and still does to this day.



www.probassfishing.ca

The Jitterbug from Arbogast is my favourite bait to use on a hot still summers eve just before dark. Cast it out there and bring it back letting it ring the dinner bell. It will wake up any snoozing

Bass from a distance and is a site to see when the Bass strike!

Go Deep During Cold Fronts

During Tournaments I have been confronted many times by cold fronts and believe you me it can be frustrating! One thing that I have learned through the years is that when cold fronts come in I go deep!

The reason we do better in deeper water during cold fronts, in my opinion, is that the Bass down deep aren't as susceptible to the sudden climate change as the shallow Bass are. The only thing dictating what depth to fish is the wind. When a strong wind is a part of the front then I go even deeper simply because deeper water will 'turn' later than shallow water.

We don't have a crystal ball to see the Bass fishing future, but at the very least we can try something that has worked in past outings!

Magic Shad

When it comes to soft jerk baits the Magic Shad gets the vote of confidence in many different situations. When I am faced with clear water conditions I reach for my Lake Fork Magic Shad and cast it a good distance. I let it fall abruptly so that the Bass know its there. Giving it plenty of slack, I let it glide ever so gently down on its own merit. Once it stops moving don't reel in, let it sit there, 'dead sticking' it for a few seconds. Jerk it, then reel in some more and let it sit. Using the Magic Shad with this method has been very successful in my Bass fishing.



A good asset the Magic Shad has is the ability to work matted weeds very well. It is excellent weed less bait! Simply cast it out there. Then, using the rod move it towards you so that it can find a hole in the weed patches and again giving it slack line, let it fall gracefully. You will be pleasantly surprised at its Bass catching capabilities.

I use a 5/0 Owner wide gap rigging hook with my Lake Fork Magic Shad. I have done experiments out in the field and know that with this set up, it moves down the water column just like the real thing swinging its tail side to side minding its own business until WHAM!!!!!!!

The Lake Fork Magic Shad comes in all sorts of sizes and colors with that infamous garlic scent, so choose your weapon for whatever your Bass fishing heart desires. Twitch it, dead stick it, or just plain reel it in, this bait is simply a 'must have' in your arsenal.

Boss Rat



The Boss Rat, better known as the 'dirty rat' in my boat, is a must have for any Bass angler. It's made by Snag Proof so you know that it is an excellent weed less top water bait.

The Boss Rat is very simple to use, and it makes for easy casting. After the initial cast let it sit for a while, say a good 10 seconds or until the ripples have dissipated. Then twitch it towards you a little bit at a time working it slowly and reeling in the slack. When you see the strike give the fish time to get the Boss Rat into

them and when you feel tension set the hook hard.

When I was first introduced to the Boss Rat I chuckled! But now I'm serious when I say "Bass fishing with the 'dirty rat' is no laughing matter" it attracts big hogs because it looks and feels like a perfect easy meal"! A good tip when using the Boss Rat is remembering to squeeze the access water out of it every 2nd or 3rd cast so that it can float properly and do its thing.

The Boss Rat, by Snag Proof, it made a believer out of me and it will make a believer out of you too! Try it!

Spot in a Spot

Can you see the spot in the spot? If a Bass angler fishes this real estate without casting to the stump, as small as it may be, they should have their eyes checked!

If I was to take a first 'crack' at it, the stump would be my prime target. There have been countless instances where a subtle little target like this has produced a big Bass.



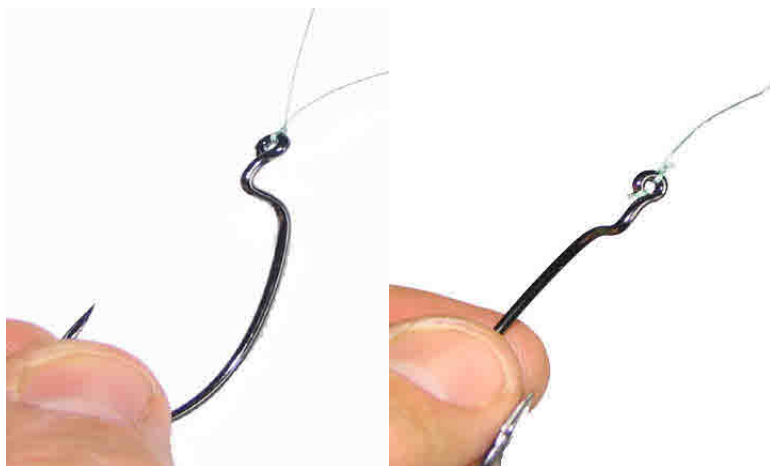
Eight out of ten times the success of a 'spot in a spot' is dependant on the stealth and accuracy of the first cast!

Braided Line

If you are like me (a die hard 'rope' user) then you have probably, at one point or another, wondered why the polymer knot would give way! It took a few lost fish before I finally saw the light! I learned long ago that using braided line required a second knot especially when fishing plastics!

After you tie the initial polymer knot you will notice that the line is free of movement around the eye of the hook. The flaw lies in that alone. Because of its movement it tends to get caught in the end of the hooks eye where it meets the shank. This is where the steel of the hook is sharp and in time it will sever our knots. There is a remedy for this!

Tie the first knot as usual. Then cut both ends close to the knot itself. Slide the knot to the junction of the



hooks eye and shank. Now you can tie your normal polymer knot and you are good to go. The first knot will keep the second knot from getting in the groove therefore keeping us Bass anglers worry free!

This is the small price we have to pay for using braided line in our Bass fishing. And if that's what it takes to loose less Bass, then that is exactly what I will do!

Flipping Tube Jigs

www.probassfishing.ca



Flipping a tube jig is nothing new to the Bass Fishing industry! They are still readily used to put big Bass in the live well because they work!

Rigging the flipping tube jig weightless is the best way for it to do its thing, but rigging it with a weight gets it through thick matted weeds when needed. Different situations call for

different rigging methods to get the job done!

Ordinarily a flipping tube jig is 4" and up to fill the heartiest of Bass bellies. There are many different brands out there such as Mizmo and Strike King, the list is endless. Purchasing tubes impregnated with salt is always a good choice for that added fish holding capability for a good hook set.

When I'm flipping in docks or sparse weed cover, I like to rig my tube with my 5/O Owner hook penetrating both layers of skin. I then embed the hook point back in the second layer for somewhat weed less fishing for a fast hook set. Thick weed growth, however, requires the Texas styled Owner hook penetrating the first layer of skin only to make it much more weed prone. Using this method requires a good strong hook set to get the hook through the second layer of tube skin,

not to mention the mouth of the Bass. Wait until you feel the weight of the Bass before setting the hook!

Hidden tube weights are an excellent way of getting your flipping tube down through the slop with the weight being totally hidden in the void of the tube itself. These 'in tube' weights also come with built in rattles for added attraction to give us an edge in our Bass outings. As with the tube jig, there are many different manufacturers of hidden weights in the industry today and any of them will do the trick. Experiment with what's out there to find out what size works best for you. I like the 1/4 ounce myself under normal conditions, but again, having a few to choose from is common sense, I think.

The flipping tube jig is a proven winner in my Bass fishing. Plastic bait has no limits to its use. Versatile baits like this are in my tackle box for a good reason, because they earn the right to be there, plain and simple!

Bass in Rippled Water

Have you ever tried to spot Bass in rippling water? If you cannot see them, they can't see you, which puts you, the Bass fisherman in a good position! I have had many instances where the bite was off and



all it took was a little ripple in the water to turn the Bass back on.

Think of it like a security blanket for the Bass. They start to roam around freely thinking the gulls and humans can't see them, thinking

they are somewhat invisible to predators, but nothing stops them from hitting a finessed bait and chomping away until, oops! 'Gotchya'!

Another good advantage is creeping up with our electric bow mounts to get much closer without spooking them, which makes our offerings seem more..... genuine!

Lake Fork Pig Claw

www.probassfishing.ca



The Lake Fork Pig Claw is an excellent jig trailer I happen to have a lot of confidence in! It calls the Largemouth, since they hone in on its strong scent! Just open a package and smell for yourself!

The package clearly states, "The lures with an attitude". When a bait has such a potent garlic scent and an authentic

appearance, it's no wonder it has an 'attitude'. The Bass caught with the Lake Fork Pig Claw know it too! Seriously now, this trailer works!

There is no shaping or cutting of any kind for my Bass fishing. It's a simple 'hook and go' routine, it is time efficient and it lasts a long time. It's a trailer fit for tough, thick cover jig fishing!

The Lake Fork Pig Claw looks and smells potent. It has the right to be on the hooks of my jigs because of its track record and that spells BASS in my book!

Rapala X-Rap

The Rapala X-Rap by Normark is a 'must have' bait. It is a step beyond the floating minnow since it casts like a dream and has excellent action. Twitching it is the norm, but the speed in which an angler does so gives it different action which makes it a good versatile bait for the Bass angler.



www.probassfishing.ca

The X-Rap comes in different sizes and brilliant colors so you can't have too many because you never know what color the Bass will want. I particularly like the feathered treble hook because in clear water conditions it's an asset and can make all the difference in the world.

There are many minnow imitators out there, but the Rapala X-Rap is surely one of the best! It too has earned its place in my tackle box!

The Perfect Rod for the Job!

Dunking: Dunking is best done with a long rod. The longer the better. But light is a key factor as well. I like to use the Diawa Steez 8' Heavy action trigger rod. It is as light as a feather and has the reach needed to get the Bass out of heavy cover.

Drop Shotting: Drop Shotting is best done with a 'hinged' tip to a spinning rod. This is not only important for the initial cast; it also serves as a flexible tool in giving the bait a quivering motion. Dead sticking in this fashion is this techniques strong point. I like the Shimano Crucial 6'8" medium extra fast action rod.

Pitching: My favourite pitching rod is the 6'10" Heavy Quantum Tour Edition PT trigger rod. It is also as light as a feather and has the back bone to pull any Bass out of its heavy cover.

Crank baits: Casting Cranks is a job for the Shimano Calcutta medium fast action trigger rod. Here is a rod that has the power to bring them in and the flexibility to get the crank baits out there. It also has a great feel to it when it's loaded with a scrappy Bass!

Skipping: Now, I have made many heads turn with my, you might say, unorthodox way of getting that bait under that dock with ease. I use a 5'9" Shimano Crucial medium heavy fast action trigger rod. I skip under hand so with my 5'6" height combined with the boats height from the water this rod makes a perfect match for my Zebco Omega spin casting reel. Yes, I said SPIN CAST! Try it!

Spinner Bait: Oh yah! Spinner baits are a must have in a Bass anglers arsenal! I like to use a Quantum 6'6" medium action trigger rod. For angling from shore I bump it up length wise to get the needed distance which is key from shore.

Twitch Bait: A twitch bait is again, another must have in our arsenal as a Bass angler. I like to work my twitch baits with the rod pointed down at the water surface using my wrists to twitch the rod towards me. Because of my height I need a rod with just enough length to place the rods tip just above the water. So, of course, at 5'6" in height the 5'9" Shimano Crucial medium heavy fast action trigger rod does the trick. Calculating the height of the boat deck from the waters surface is factored in as well.

Tube Bait: I like to use the Quantum 6'6" medium heavy Tour Edition PT spinning rod. It is my tubing rod because it has good hook setting ability and yet enough sensitivity to distinguish takers from bottom debris.

Carolina Rigging: Carolina rigging requires a good lengthy rod. I like the Shimano Cumara 6'8" medium heavy extra fast action trigger rod. This light weight rod is perfect for this technique because it has the light weight for all day rigging and it has the length which is needed for the actual dragging of the bait. The longer the rod the more lineal footage the bait can be dragged and we all know it's the little things that make all the difference.

Finessing: Finessing soft jerk baits, grubs, you name it, the rod that gets the nod for me is the Shimano Crucial medium heavy extra fast trigger rod. This is my meat and potatoes rod for finessing baits. With the technique of finessing the rod and reel combo must feel as one, in my opinion, and the crucial 6'6" medium heavy is a great addition to the equation.

A Reel for Many Techniques

The Pflueger Patriarch bait cast reel is, in my opinion, a great buy. 'Smooth' is its middle name. It has a 7.1.1 gear ratio, 11 bearings, and it feels like it is part of my anatomy. This reel can make 1000 casts feel like 50. It is consistent and best of all, it can be quickly fine tuned by dial or we can set the brakes manually by exposing its spool by removing the spool cover. Best of all; it doesn't cost a fortune!





All our Bass Fishing E Books are available at
www.probassfishing.ca/bass-fishing-ebooks.html

