

thickness. Lures like the Slider do just fine with this material in front of them. Now use a long gliding bait and use a light leader made of titanium or Fluoro Carbon. Then use a leader made out of piano wire and the difference will amaze you! In short, for optimal presentation it is good to have a variety of leaders in the lure box. And yes, I am sure for myself that this also helps you catch more and bigger fish!

Now my high five gliders.

As told before, there are loads of jerkbaits in the gliding types out there. To minimize the numbers of jerkbaits in your tackle box, I think it's wise to concentrate on the sinking types only. And again, do not worry about the sinking rate. This is often a slow process and with the rod tip upwards, there is little change to snag the lure in even very shallow water. And if the water is that shallow, try a surface lure. I am sure that in these conditions, a surface lure works just as nice.

Number One:

My first choice is the Salmo Slider. Even 'under construction' and far from the product it is now, it was a hell of a jerkbait. First advantage is the way it performs in the flight to the target. Better said: it's like a bullet! I was especially impressed during a trip to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Fishing from the beach and using heavy surf casting rods, I still had a reach of well over ninety meters and with the wind in the back, even more. This was far enough to reach those beautiful rooster fish and nice Sierra mackerel. But back to pike, it's just great in the water. OK it is not gliding all that far out, but more than enough to tease pike and drive them mad. Then comes the hang time. Most of the jerkbaits sink down in a straight angle. Actually as a dead object. Not so for the Slider for in its way down, it seeks balance with a left right movement. Especially on a dead moment, say the 'hang time' between two jerks, this near capsizing action often seems to pull the trigger for lure following pike. I don't go without a few of those to any lake. And yes, it is trollable too!

Number Two:

Hell it is a Hell Hound! Frankly speaking, it has a lot the Slider has too. The difference is the left right action which is simply incredible. In balance I think the Hell Hound swings out half a meter and more. And that's what I call pike triggering. It also keeps searching for its balance when paused and sinking down. You just have to see this to believe it. Put simply: I still have to find a better glider so far. So why not have this lure as the number one? Well, first of all it is a bulky bit of hard foam. The weight comes close to or exceeds a hundred grams. Then comes casting itself. It had the tendency to seek balance in the flight which means it won't cast as far as the Slider. It's also badly effected when some weed tangles the treble. If so, the lure losses the brilliant swing it has when clean. And last



The Hellhound get's it's share of big fish too!

but not least, this lure is certainly not made for the trollers among us. But than again and in the right hands, this for sure is one to fish with and you won't keep the hands clean!

Number three:

No question this must be the Cobb's I love this lure, the Cobb's was one of my first jerkbaits ever. When we fished the first Cobb's we had instant success with it and since then it still is one of the favourites. Jack Cobb's lures are works of art and the paintjob on them is simply fantastic. Combined with a great swing under the surface no angler should go out without a Cobb's.

Number Four:

Is a relatively new lure. Smuttly is the name and when I fished this lure for the first time, I could only say that the action is just great. Smuttly Dog comes in three sizes, but for general pike fishing, the 6 inch is big enough to have a great time on the water.

Number Five:

This for sure is the Phantom. It is not only well made, it also has a great finish. Next to that and most important, it has the right action. With a length of 7 ½ inch, it is just great for searching big pike in big water. There is or there should be no problem casting all day with these lures. You can fish the Phantom in various ways. Try a gentle approach and watch this lures great left right action. For me one of those that's always in my box and just as often on the line.

Remember don't always fish with too aggressive an action and concentrate on WHERE you cast to and how you retrieve the lure.

Bertus Rozemeijer

Bertus on Fluorocarbon

In his article Bertus mentions the use of Fluorocarbon as a leader material for pike fishing. As soon as I read this I knew there would be more than a few UK based anglers shaking their heads and suggesting that it is just not strong enough to withstand the teeth of a decent sized pike. I put this to Bertus and asked him to be a bit more specific about the brands of fluorocarbon he uses, how he constructs the traces and just how safe he thinks they are. Here's what he said:

Regarding Fluorocarbon:

I have fished with this material for quite some time and I have never had one single problem with it. When using soft body lures, like shads, twisters, Bull dawgs etc. we all know that pike can take this type of lure pretty deep. I have caught lots of big pike, with the line well in reach of the teeth of the fish, but never had a break off. I have had traces broken with seven strand steel wire and even with titanium. Actually a titanium trace cost me a very big musky some years ago.

FluoroCarbon comes in many brands, like Climax, Suffix, and Rozemeijer etc. The manufacturer is usually the same, so in general it all comes from the same factory.

For safety I use 80lb equal to a diameter of 0.8 mm. In Västervik, Sweden. I counted my pike for a week. Boating 124 pike with just one Fluorocarbon leader told me enough. I am 100% confident that, if anglers use 80 or 100lb test Fluorocarbon, they can catch a whole lot of pike with just one leader. HOWEVER there are problems. Fluorocarbon is costly and many anglers think that they can have cheap lines which actually are nylon coated with Fluorocarbon. I believe it is using these cheaper so called Fluorocarbons that is the cause of the problems that are reported about the material

If you do try using Fluorocarbon only ever use trusted brands and do use crimps. Then just produce the trace as you would a steel or titanium one, with a swivel at one end and a swivel plus snap lock (I mostly use Cross Loks) at the other.