



# LAKE <sup>OF THE</sup> OZARKS *Fishing News*

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## FEATURED ANGLER

**“The” Andy Newcomb**



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## FROM THE FOUNDER

Bob Bueltmann  
Founder, BassingBob.com

Well, are we back to normal in the fishing business? Yes, no, maybe, I don't really know for sure. As I write this in mid-September, this past weekend we reported on four tournaments, combined these tournaments had over two hundred teams that's over four hundred total anglers. As, I observed these tournaments, things seemed to be back to normal. Last year we saw many tournaments, cancelled, rescheduled and a host of restrictions promoting social distancing, so far this year, I have not observed any such changes in the tournament process. On the other hand, fishing product manufactures, rods, reels, baits, boats, motor makers all seem to have some issues with the supply chain, causing delays in products reaching fishing consumers. Considering such, we are not back to normal. I really don't know.

One thing that has not changed is the continued success of local young anglers. Our featured angler, Andy Newcomb, 36 years old has put together several years of success on a local and regional level. In 2021, Andy won the Major League Fishing Toyota Series Angler of the Year Award

Fishing Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit, where Andy will be competing against the top anglers in the world on some of the top bass fisheries all around the country

Check out our newest column in both the Fishing News Magazine and on the Bassing Bob website, "Clays Corner, An Introduction to Bass Fishing" with Clay Dixon.

Clay had a successful business career and fishing career. Clay fished 30 tournaments a year for 7-years. Twice represented Kansas on their state team in the World BASS Federation Championship against other 6-man teams from 36-states and 3-foreign countries. Qualified for the first ever "Florida Freshwater Fishing Championship". Did a fishing Blog and videos for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks as the only non-employee on their official state web site. Clay loves to teach others about bass fishing, in fact he had a website of his own focused solely on learning to bass fish. Clay weaves good humor and stories into his writing about bass fishing. Clay will be contributing more articles and videos

in the Plains Division earning him an automatic invitation to fish the 2022 Major League

in the future. I think you will really enjoy "Clay's Corner"

This edition of the fishing news has many tips for catching fish during the fall and winter on Lake of the Ozarks, including detailed article from 6th Sense "Building Your 6th Sense: Jerk Bait Fishing". The article describes the many variables to jerk bait fishing, structure, line, rods, reels, and conditions.

Our Fish-Intel business continues to grow nationally with the addition of four more lakes. Fish-Intel provides individuals around the country the opportunity to own their own fishing website by licensing the Bassing Bob platform.. We have introduced a new program "Quick Catch", where all of you can make money by referring to us individuals that you feel could benefit from owning their own fishing website.

We hope you will enjoy this edition of the Fishing News Magazine. As always, we ask you all to pay close attention to the advertisers in the magazine and on the Bassing Bob website and please make every effort possible to patronize their businesses, with out them and all of you we could not provide the content that hopefully will help you to catch more and bigger fish.

- Bob Bueltmann



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# Fall Transition Crappies on LOZ

By Capt. Dave Dzurik  
USCG Certified Master Captain

The dog days of summer are coming to an end and the transition to cool crisp fall weather is a much welcome time. Much is the same with the crappie on the Lake of the Ozarks. The summer's warm 86 degree bath water puts the crappie into a lethargic funk. They have become scattered and tend to hang out in their deep water haunts. These spots are usually the main channel points, deep water docks, steep bluffs and deep brush piles.

As the days get shorter and the water gets cooler the crappie's biological clock tells them to start feeding so they can fatten up so they can endure a cold winter. The crappies favorite food this time of year is the young shad that have hatched in the summer. If you can find the schools of baitfish the crappie should be nearby. They should be moving up the creeks and moving to the backs of coves.

The first thing I do is gather intelligence from local experts. You should check out Bassing Bobs fishing reports or stop in and support the local fishing stores. Rob and Ben at Fitz's Fishing can put you on the right baits and hot locations. Also, check

the weather and the wind direction before you hit the water.

Next is to locate the Shad, being the favorite meal of crappies, are weak swimmers and the wind will push them around. Check out the windward sides of coves and channels to see if they are stacked up. If so, the crappie may be close. If the water is clear the fish may be deeper or under cover. Their eyes are on the tops of their head and make them light sensitive. Use your electronics to look under docks or on deep brush piles.

Once you find them, a cork and minnow are a deadly tactic. Pitching jigs and dock shooting can also fill a live well. Depending on water clarity, colors make a big difference so choose wisely. In clear water, I prefer blue ice and monkey milk. If the water is stained, try chartreuse or pinks. Crappie nibbles may help on a jig. You can also use a fish attractant like Capt Dave's Hawg Jam smeared on a jig which will coax a skittish fish into biting.

One other technique to stack up the crappie is long line trolling. A simple spinning rod pulling a Bandit 200 or 300 let

out 50' at a speed of 1.5 mph will work fine. Finding the baitfish and troll through the clouds of shad can bring success. My favorite bandit colors are Citrus Shad, Blue Chrome, Mad Cow and Hotty Totty. Try smaller crank baits like a #5 flicker shads also because they are feeding on smaller baits.

Fall is a great time to get out. The temperature is getting cooler and so are the water temps. Be safe and let someone know where you are going. And most importantly wear a life jacket. A fun day out can go south awful fast with a slip overboard.



## Captain Dave's "HAWG JAM" Fish Attractant

Fish can see, hear, feel vibration, smell and taste. They use all these senses to hunt prey on a daily basis.

The evolution of Hawg Jam started 40 years ago while perch fishing on Lake Erie. I was intrigued with attractants to increase my catch on any given day on the water. This included the use of various extracts, squeezing minnows to exude fish scent and even spraying bait with WD 40 to put off an oily sheen in the water. They all work to a varying degree.

Since retiring as a mechanical engineer I have decided to elevate my love of fishing to the next level. What is the ultimate fish attractant for bass, crappie and all other game fish? By working with my son, a degreed bio-chemist, we have developed an all natural garlic infused "grease" we call "Hawg Jam". It appeals to a fish's sense of smell and taste. It can be applied to crank baits, hard baits, spinner baits as well as all soft plastics.

Hawg Jam has been field tested by guides, tournament anglers and avid fisherman. It has been tested on bass, crappie,

walleye, catfish, perch and salmon with amazing results. The grease lasts longer on baits and exudes a fish oil garlic infused trail in the water. Fish attack the bait and hold on longer. We have developed two versions. One a greasy waxy version for soft plastics including jigs, worms, and

swim baits and the second version in a chapstick style dispenser for crank baits, spinnerbaits, spoons and hardbaits.

Hawg Jam is now available at Fitz Fishing stores in Osage Beach. I can also be contacted at [CaptDave@crappiehourfishing.com](mailto:CaptDave@crappiehourfishing.com) for more information.



[puddlejumperlures.com](http://puddlejumperlures.com)





**Greg West**  
573-216-7131

**Randy Schanuel**  
573-480-4512

### Ozark Winter Division

October 24, 2021  
November 7, 2021  
December 12, 2021  
January 9, 2022  
February 6, 2022  
February 27, 2022

March 5, 2022  
(MAKE UP DAY IF NEEDED)

### Truman Division

April 10, 2022  
May 22, 2022  
June 5, 2022  
July 10, 2022  
August 7, 2022  
September 11, 2022  
\*Tentative pending Regattas

### Pomme De Terre Division

April 9, 2022  
May 21, 2022  
June 4, 2022  
July 9, 2022  
August 6, 2022  
September 10, 2022  
\*Tentative pending Regattas

### Mark Twain Division

April 17, 2022  
May 15, 2022  
June 5, 2022  
July 17, 2022  
August 21, 2022  
September 11, 2022  
\*Tentative pending Regattas

### Ozark Division

March 5, 2022  
May 15, 2022  
June 11, 2022 (Night)  
July 23, 2022 (Night)  
July 24, 2022 (Night)  
August 13, 2022 (Night)  
\*Tentative pending Regattas

### Salt River Division

April 16, 2022  
May 7, 2022  
June 4, 2022  
July 16, 2022  
August 20, 2022  
September 10, 2022  
\*Tentative pending Regattas

### Shelbyville Lake Division

May 18, 2022  
June 6, 2022  
June 20, 2022  
July 18, 2022  
August, 15, 2022  
September 26, 2022  
2022 Shedule coming soon

### Coffeen Division

April 23, 2022  
May 14, 2022  
June 4, 2022  
June 25, 2022  
July 16, 2022  
August 6, 2022  
\*Tentative pending Regattas

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# Tournament Schedule *at The Lake*

OCTOBER					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
10/02/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB#2RdOkAlhonnaPtRandIvyBnd	1400	Big Bass Bash	314-591-4578
10/03/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB#2RdOkAlhonnaPtRandIvyBnd	1400	Big Bass Bash	314-591-4578
10/09/2021	12:00 PM - 04:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	30	Missouri Student Anglers Federation	734-323-4852
10/09/2021	07:00 AM - 03:30 PM	Robin's Resort	12	Dan Tiefenbrunn Memorial Fishing	636-219-8494
10/09/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	LORA Marina	40	Lake of the Ozarks Rec Area	573-346-5673
10/09/2021	08:00 AM - 07:00 PM	1 MM - 38 MM	600	Lake of the Ozarks CVB	573-348-1599
10/09/2021	06:45 AM - 03:30 PM	Point Randall Resort	15	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
10/09/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	40	Just Fish Open Team Trail	573-619-3074
10/10/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	30	Missouri Student Anglers Federation	734-323-4852
10/10/2021	06:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	15	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
10/10/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	45	Angler's Choice	573-619-3074
10/13/2021	07:00 AM - 03:30 PM	PB #2	20	MO State University Fishing Team	573-202-5123
10/15/2021	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Lake Breeze Resort	20	PayneCrest Electric Buddy Bass	314-642-2121
10/15/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	150	MLF/FLW College & HS Fishing	270-252-1593
10/16/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Lakeview Resort	65	Teamsters Joint Council #13	314-426-4618
10/16/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	StartAnywhere/ EndTheWetSpotBar&Grill	20	Rod Benders Bass Club	816-985-0387
10/16/2021	06:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	25	Steel City Bassmasters	636-575-8300
10/16/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	25	Show Me Bass Club	636-262-7309
10/16/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
10/16/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	100	Dupo Marine Center, LLC	618-286-5252
10/16/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	150	MLF/FLW College & HS Fishing	270-252-1593
10/17/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	StartAnywhere/ EndTheWetSpotBar&Grill	20	Rod Benders Bass Club	816-985-0387
10/17/2021	06:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	25	Steel City Bassmasters	636-575-8300
10/17/2021	07:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	25	Show Me Bass Club	636-262-7309
10/17/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Pa He Tsi	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
10/23/2021	06:30 AM - 04:30 PM	Red Oak Resort	30	Hawg Hawlers Bass Club	573-718-4510
10/24/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	60	Bass World Sports	573-216-7131
10/24/2021	06:30 AM - 01:30 PM	Red Oak Resort	30	Hawg Hawlers Bass Club	573-718-4510
10/29/2021	06:30 AM - 04:00 PM	StartAnywhere/EndOff-Site	40	Kayak Anglers of Missouri	417-545-1600
10/30/2021	06:30 AM - 03:00 PM	StartAnywhere/EndOff-Site	40	Kayak Anglers of Missouri	417-545-1600
10/30/2021	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	80	Alhonna Resort Buddy Bass Tourn	573-365-2634
10/30/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
10/31/2021	07:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Alhonna Resort	80	Alhonna Resort Buddy Bass Tourn	573-365-2634
10/31/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
11/06/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Larry R. Gale Access	20	American Bass Anglers Division 49	417-718-2036
11/06/2021	08:00 AM - 05:00 PM	Lakeview Resort	15	Thousand Hills Bass Club	660-341-2192
11/06/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	20	East Kansas Bassmasters	913-424-8285
11/06/2021	08:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	15	Bush Beaters Bass Club	573-821-3259
11/06/2021	07:15 AM - 03:30 PM	Point Randall Resort	15	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
11/06/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	25	Tri-County Bass Club	573-762-2668
11/07/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	60	Bass World Sports	573-216-7131

Listings only available until December 2021 at time of print, for a complete listing of tournaments visit [BassingBob.com](http://BassingBob.com)



# 2022 SEASON SCHEDULE

BIG BASS BASH / ANGLERS IN ACTION TOURNAMENT TRAIL



## 2022 BIG BASS BASH SCHEDULE

LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MO: APRIL 23-24

GRAND LAKE, OK: MAY 21-22

LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MO: OCTOBER 1-2

## 2022 ANGLERS IN ACTION SCHEDULE

LAKE OF THE OZARKS

March 6 | April 2 | May 7

GRAND LAKE

March 12 | April 9 | June 4

TABLE ROCK LAKE

March 19 | April 10 | May 14



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# Tournament Schedule *at The Lake*

NOVEMBER (continued)					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
11/07/2021	07:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Lakeview Resort	15	Thousand Hills Bass Club	660-341-2192
11/07/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Red Oak Resort	20	East Kansas Bassmasters	913-424-8285
11/07/2021	07:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Point Randall Resort	15	Rodbenders Bass Club	314-378-2696
11/13/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
11/14/2021	05:00 AM - 05:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	30	Central Missouri Catfish Tourn.	660-651-2408
11/14/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
11/16/2021	07:00 AM - 03:30 PM	Red Oak Resort	35	Sage Rovenstine Benefit Tournament	417-410-5964
11/20/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
11/21/2021	08:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	25	Eldon Bassmasters	573-480-2640
11/21/2021	07:00 AM - 04:00 PM	Linn Creek Campground Ramp	35	Camden County Bass'rs Club Tourn	573-723-1020
11/21/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
11/21/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	45	Angler's Choice Open	573-619-3074
11/27/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	200	Anglers in Action	314-591-4578
11/28/2021	08:00 AM - 03:30 PM	PB #2	60	Bassingbob.com	314-650-6812
11/28/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	30	Just Fish Open Team Trail	573-619-3074
DECEMBER					
Date	Time	Location	Boats	Club	Phone
12/04/2021	07:30 AM - 04:00 PM	Shawnee Bend Access	8	Central Missouri Bassmasters	573-885-1507
12/04/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
12/05/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	50	USA Bassin	314-346-6963
12/11/2021	08:00 AM - 03:30 PM	Alhonna Resort	60	Bassingbob.com	314-650-6812
12/11/2021	07:30 AM - 03:30 PM	Coffman Beach Access	25	Bass'n Nuts LLC	314-258-7993
12/12/2021	07:00 AM - 03:00 PM	PB #2	60	Bass World Sports	573-216-7131
12/12/2021	07:30 AM - 03:00 PM	Coffman Beach Access	25	Bass'n Nuts LLC	314-258-7993

Listings only available until December 2021 at time of print, for a complete listing of tournaments visit [BassingBob.com](http://BassingBob.com)

## 2022 Bass Pro Tour Schedule Visits Lake Ozarks

### Stage Four – Lake of the Ozarks, Osage Beach, Missouri (April 30- May 5)

MLF history runs deep at this 54,000-acre impoundment of the Osage River in the northern Ozarks: Takahiro Omori won the 2020 Summit Cup at Lake of the Ozarks, and it has hosted multiple Toyota Series and Bass Fishing League tournaments in late spring (many of which have required 23 to 25-pound bags to win).

"Lake of the Ozarks is a well-known lake, but as many times as the major tours have been to the Ozark (Mountains), we've never gone to the one with the biggest fish: Lake of the Ozarks," Bertrand said. "That's going to be a really interesting tournament, it's a great fishery."



**Stage One – Lake D'Arbonne, Caney Creek Reservoir, Bussey Brake**  
West Monroe, Louisiana (Feb. 5-10)

**Stage Two – Lake Fork**  
Quitman, Texas (Feb. 19-24)

**Stage Three – Lewis Smith Lake**  
Cullman, Alabama (March 2-7)

**REDCREST 2022 – Grand Lake**  
Tulsa, Oklahoma (March 23-27)

**General Tire Heavy Hitters 2022 – Lake Palestine**  
Tyler, Texas (April 9-14)

**Stage Four – Lake of the Ozarks**  
Osage Beach, Missouri (April 30- May 5)

**Stage Five – Watts Bar Lake**  
Spring City, Tennessee (June 4-9)

**Stage Six – Cayuga Lake**  
Union Springs, New York (Aug. 6-11)

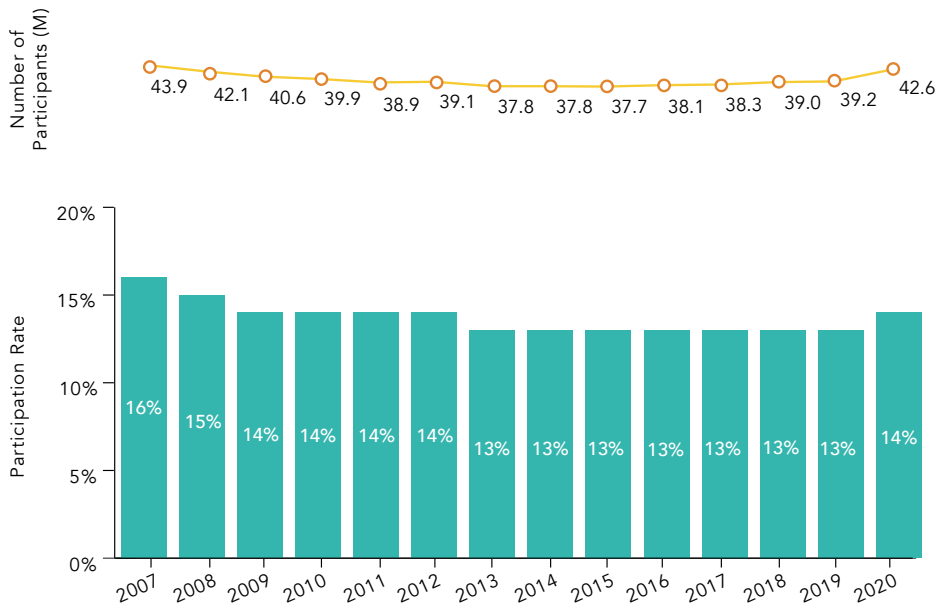
**Stage Seven – Mille Lacs Lake**  
Onamia, Minnesota (Sept. 10-15)



# Freshwater Fishing Participation

## PARTICIPATION OVER TIME

By every measure, freshwater fishing remained the most popular type of fishing. Freshwater gained a whopping 3.4 million participants and reached its highest number of participants since 2007. Prior to COVID-19, freshwater participation was fairly steady, and the 2020 participation rate of 14% was the highest in over a decade.



# 42.6M

# OF FRESHWATER PARTICIPANTS

# 14%

FRESHWATER PARTICIPATION RATE



## 677M

# OF OUTINGS



## 16

AVERAGE ANNUAL OUTINGS



## +3.4M

GROWTH IN PARTICIPANTS

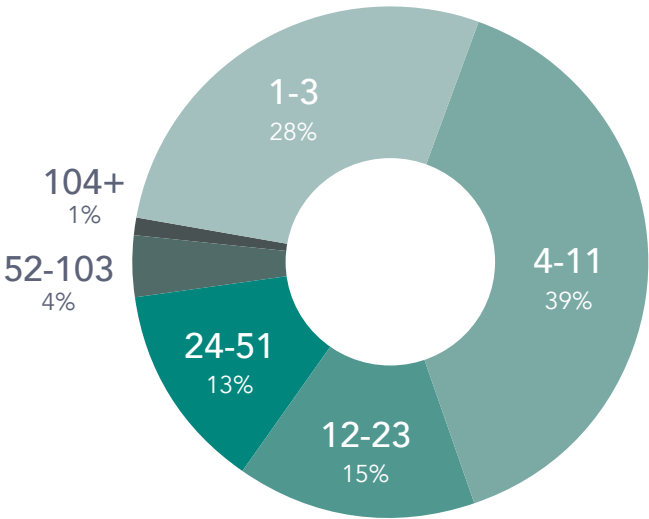
since 2019



# Level of Participation

## ANNUAL OUTINGS

Freshwater participants were slightly less active than total participants. Just 5% reported participating 52 or more times last year versus 7% of overall anglers. The fastest growing group is the least active, as those freshwater fishing only 1-3 times per year grew 1.3% annually over the last three years.



## PERCEIVED LEVEL OF FISHING PARTICIPATION

Most freshwater participants described their fishing activity as “occasional.” The percentage of those who said they’d like to fish more was the same as those who said they fished as often as they like—48%.

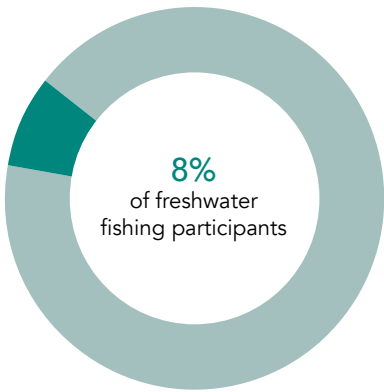
PERCEIVED LEVEL OF FISHING PARTICIPATION	PERCENTAGE
Occasional participant, would like to fish more often	28%
Occasional participant, fish as often as I want	27%
Avid fishing participant, fish as often as I want	21%
Avid fishing participant, would like to fish more often	20%
Don't fish currently, but would like to fish	3%
Don't fish currently, not interested in fishing	1%

+28%

INCREASE IN FIRST TIME FRESHWATER PARTICIPANTS

+8%

GROWTH IN FIRST TIME PARTICIPATION annually since 2017



## FIRST TIME PARTICIPANTS

8% of total freshwater fishing participants were new participants, the highest proportion on record. The number of first time freshwater anglers grew a whopping 28% in 2020, infusing the sport with energy and opportunity amid COVID-19. Among the 2.9 million new anglers, 1.6 million were males and 1.3 million were females.



# First Time Participants

## EXPECTATIONS FOR A FIRST FISHING TRIP

Amid the stress and strain of 2020, the highest percentage of first time participants, 61%, expected that their first fishing trip would be an opportunity to relax and unwind. About the same percentage wanted to spend time with family and friends, spend time outdoors and try something new.

EXPECTATIONS FOR A FIRST FISHING TRIP	PERCENTAGE
Relaxing and unwinding	61%
Spending time with family and friends	58%
Spending time outdoors	57%
Trying something new; maybe catch a few fish	55%
Exciting time catching a lot of fish	35%
Teach my children about fishing and nature	27%
No expectations	23%
Competition to see who could catch the biggest or most fish	21%

## PERCEPTIONS OF FISHING BEFORE PARTICIPATING

The top three perceptions of fishing prior to a fishing trip were unchanged in 2020 from the year prior. Unfortunately all the negative perceptions—that fishing is too time consuming, uninteresting, requires too much equipment or “is not for someone like me”—were all more prevalent answers than in the year prior.

PERCEPTIONS OF FISHING BEFORE PARTICIPATING	PERCENTAGE
Stress-free activity	43%
Easy to learn	43%
Exciting way to spend time outdoors	37%
Time consuming	35%
Uninteresting	29%
Intriguing	24%
Not for someone like me	23%
Requires too much equipment	21%
Only for serious outdoors people	17%
Too much of a financial investment	11%

# 61%

## EXPECTED THEIR FIRST TRIP TO BE RELAXING

## CHANGE IN FIRST TIME FISHING PERCEPTION

Perceptions shifted slightly after participating. First-timers' expectations, whether positive or negative, were largely confirmed by their experience.

CHANGE IN PERCEPTION	5=AGREE 1=DISAGREE
Exciting way to spend time outdoors	4.4
Stress-free activity	4.3
Intriguing	4.1
Easy to learn	4.1
Time consuming	3.8
Too much of a financial investment	3.6
Requires too much equipment	3.3
Only for serious outdoors people	2.3
Uninteresting	2.1
Not for someone like me	1.9



# Fishing Stereotypes

## STEREOTYPES OF FISHING PARTICIPANTS

Most fishing participants did not have a stereotype of anglers. Of those that did, "outdoorsy" was the most common, followed by "sportsman." Women were more likely than men to report no stereotype, while men were more likely to associate "families with kids" and "quiet" with fishing. Only a small number—6% of males and 11% of females—said that fishing is "not typically for someone like me."

FISHING STEREOTYPES	MALE	FEMALE
No stereotype	56%	70%
Outdoorsy	29%	23%
Sportsman	21%	13%
Families with kids	20%	13%
Quiet	19%	12%
Older	7%	6%
Educated	8%	3%
Not for someone like me	6%	11%
Younger	6%	3%
Lazy	3%	2%



**OUTDOORSY**  
MOST COMMON  
FISHING STEREOTYPE

**"Best Recreational Lake"**  
IN THE NATION AS CHOSEN BY  
Readers of **USA TODAY & 10Best**

# LAKE OF THE OZARKS

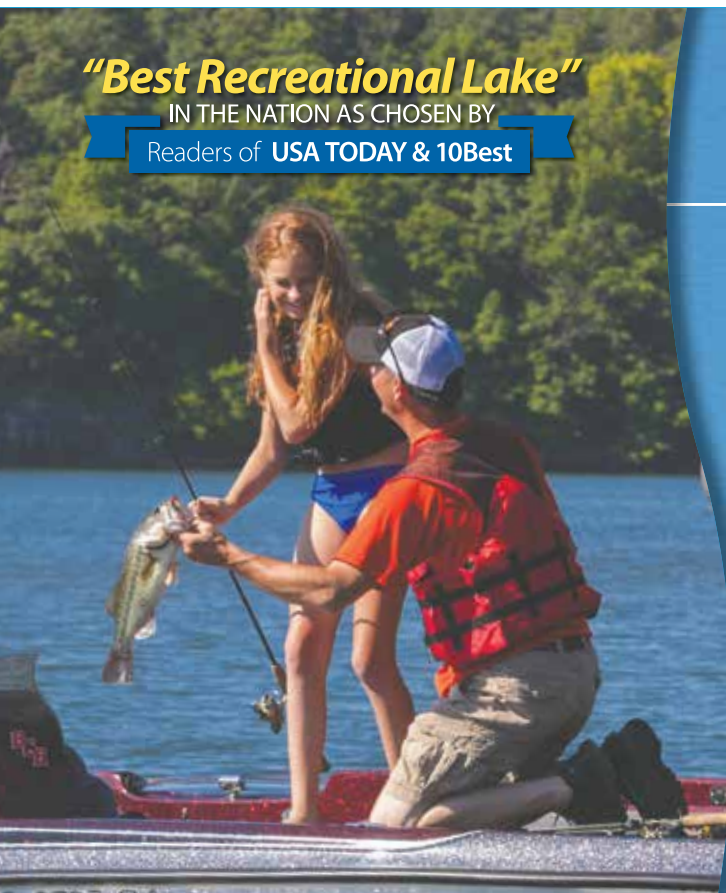
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# Fish-Intel Websites Spawn Online Success for Entrepreneurial Anglers *by Deborah Wolfe*

In little more than two years since inception, the Fish-Intel prebuilt website platform has brought online opportunity to a rapidly growing pool of business-minded anglers. Developed by the founders of the Lake of the Ozarks No. 1 fishing resource BassingBob.com, Fish-Intel's turnkey web building software allows site owners to reap big rewards with a low startup cost.

"With Fish-Intel, license holders can launch their own monetized fishing website with a low startup cost," Bueltmann said. "In turn, they receive a fully functional website along with a high level of tech support, robust content archives, marketing tools and expert guidance from the same team that developed BassingBob.com."

Following the lead of BassingBob.com, Fish-Intel websites feature a wealth of in-depth fishing content that includes expert articles and videos, daily and weekly fishing reports, tournament schedules and results, lake maps and graphs, photo galleries and interactive tools. This depth of content draws legions of followers and reels in multiple streams of revenue from website subscribers, online advertisers, email newsletters, social media advertising and more.

In addition, Fish-Intel licensees benefit from the technical and business support of the Fish-Intel team of experts. The Fish-Intel team includes tech professionals, business advisors, and of course, expert anglers who are committed to supporting site owners through the long haul. Fish-Intel license holders also benefit from the marketing expertise garnered by Bassing Bob through years of building online revenue.

"Fish-Intel websites provide numerous opportunities to profit from online revenue," Bueltmann said. "Our startup package includes materials and advice on selling online advertising, email marketing and sponsorship opportunities that will maximize income potential."

Initial Fish-Intel licensee. Eric Prey credits Fish-Intel's user-friendly platform and team of experts for the successful launch of TableRockFishingIntel.com. Better yet, Prey reaped a rapid return on his initial investment.

"Within a few weeks we put together a membership-based revenue generating



website that has been nothing short of fantastic," Prey said. "Within six weeks of launching [tablerockfishingintel.com](http://tablerockfishingintel.com), I was able to recoup all of my initial investment and have been in profit ever since. I highly recommend the team at Fish-Intel if you are considering creating a website for your lake, from start to finish they make the process seamless and incredibly easy."

In the short time since the launch of Prey's [tablerockfishingintel.com](http://tablerockfishingintel.com), a growing web of Fish-Intel sites has spread throughout the country. Avid anglers can now get the latest news, tournament results, detailed fishing reports and more covering lakes from Missouri to Texas. Current and upcoming Fish-Intel sites include:

- [tablerockfishingintel.com](http://tablerockfishingintel.com)
- [trumanlakefishingintel.com](http://trumanlakefishingintel.com)
- [grandlakefishintel.com](http://grandlakefishintel.com)
- [tommymartinfishingintel.com](http://tommymartinfishingintel.com)
- [lakecountryfishing.com](http://lakecountryfishing.com)

## From Small Ponds to Pro Tournaments – Fishing is Big Business

Given the tremendous growth and economic impact of recreational fishing over the last decade, investing in a fishing-driven online business is a good bet. With \$50 billion in annual retail sales, recreational fishing is a powerhouse industry that shows no sign of slowing down.

Now is the time to dive into ownership with your own Fish-Intel website.

By owning a Fish-Intel website you will stand out from the crowd by focusing on the type of highly targeted content specific to locations, conditions and type of fishing relevant to your followers. With support from Fish-Intel experts, you will become

the go-to source for anglers and advertisers wanting to grab their attention.

"At Fish-Intel, we are excited to get you off the dock and on the web with your own professional and profitable website," Bueltmann said. "We promise to give you our full support from start-up to maximum growth, cheering you on the entire way!"

Learn how you can profit from your passion for fishing with your own Fish-Intel website by visiting [fish-intel.com](http://fish-intel.com) or call Bob Bueltmann at 314-575-5545.

## Reel in Fast Cash with a \$500 Fish-Intel Referral Bonus

Know someone who is passionate about fishing and has an entrepreneurial spirit? Refer them to Fish-Intel and if they become a licensee, we'll send you a \$500 referral bonus! Simply contact us through the email form on [fish-intel.com](http://fish-intel.com) or Bob Bueltmann at 314-575-5545

## About BassingBob.com

Realizing the high demand for rich, reliable fishing content, Bueltmann launched BassingBob.com in 2013. Since that time, he and his team have spent countless hours on and off the water compiling fishing reports, interviewing pro fishermen, tracking lake levels, weather conditions and tournament results; as well as serving up donuts and hot dogs at dozens of tournaments each year.

Their efforts spawned the most comprehensive compilation of online information to found about fishing the Lake of the Ozark. And today, BassingBob.com garners hundreds of thousands of page views each year, making it the No. 1 source for information about fishing the Lake of the Ozarks.

Now, Bueltmann and the Bassing Bob team are ready to help others turn their passion for fishing into online profits with the new Fish-Intel website platform.





# STATE PARK MARINA

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Located at the park's two public beaches, the marinas have everything you need for a memorable day on the water - whether you want to cast a line, kayak in a secluded cove or motor across the lake. Along with watercraft and slip rentals, each marina has a general store where you can find boating and fishing supplies. We also offer gift and keepsake items.

Boat ramps allow access to the park's aquatic trail. Campers and day-trippers alike can benefit from our newly-merchandised campground store!

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### **Marina Amenities:**

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- Kayaks
- Snacks and hand-dipped ice cream

### **Grand Glaize Beach Marina** (573) 348-1233

711 Public Beach Road, Osage Beach, MO

The Grand Glaize Marina has covered and open slips for rent. Boat rentals, a fuel dock and a pump-out station are also available. There is a paved four-lane boat ramp at the adjacent beach. The marina is located in the Grand Glaize area of the park, off Highway 54, west of the Grand Glaize Bridge.

### **Public Beach #1 Marina** (573) 302-1044

257 Public Beach Drive, Brumley, MO

Stop by the Public Beach #1 Marina to rent a boat, stand-up paddleboard or kayak. Nightly open dock slips are available for rent and a paved two-lane boat ramp is available seasonally. There is also a fuel dock. The marina is located along Hwy 134.

### **Campground Store** (573) 302-7940

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**T**his Issue's Featured Cove is Lynch Hollow, but many refer to the cove as "Deer Valley". Located on the 10 Mile Marker, this cove features both shallow and deep water that makes for good fishing year round.

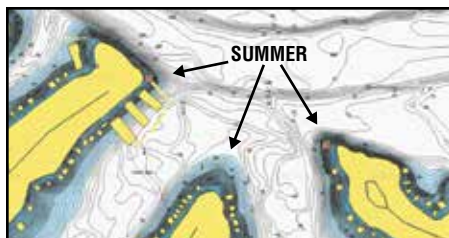
## Spring

Spinnerbaits and suspending jerkbaits are excellent choices for catching big fish in the springtime on this part of the lake. In early spring, try jerkbaits on the secondary points leading in to the many pockets of this cove. Later in the spring, look for shallow cover in pea gravel pockets that have access to deep water nearby.



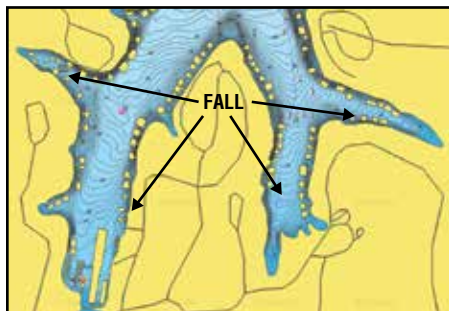
## Summer

This cove features two main lake points at the mouth, and also a large secondary "splitter" point that are all great places to catch fish as the water warms. Typical summer patterns, like 10" worms and deep diving crankbaits excel here in the summertime.



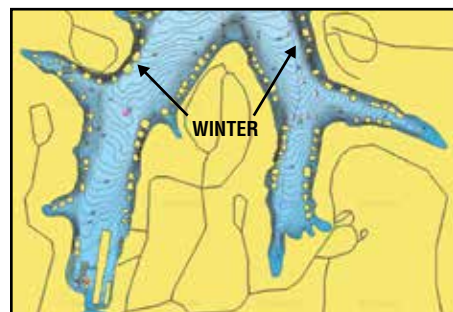
## Fall

Fall is one of the best times to fish this cove. Since the cove features both shallow and deep water, jigs and flipping style plastics are going to be the go-to baits. Target shallow docks in the backs of the pockets for bigger fish, and deeper docks towards the mouth of the cove for numbers.



## Winter

During the winter months, you can target bass grouped up along the deepest holes of the channel banks towards the back of the cove, and also on one of the many secondary points. Finesse jigs, Wiggle Wart crankbaits, and jerkbaits are going to work best on these banks.



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**CLAYS CORNER**

# RULE #1

*of Clay's*

## "10-Rules of Successful Bass Fishing"

I am getting nervous just writing this, my very first article for Bassing Bob. No not because it's my first article but because it brings back memories. I may be sitting peacefully in my chair as I write this... but...just thinking about what happened a few years ago makes me shake and break out in a cold sweat. I was filming a video for posting on the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks website.

I was fishing with Jim H. a guy who I fished with before but had to buy his lunch to "bribe" him to fish with me again. But that's a story for another day. Jim did something that made me almost pass out from anxiety. Even today as I write this I need a beverage to help settle my nerves!

He broke Rule #1 of Clay's "10-Rules of Successful Bass Fishing"...

### Clay's Rule #1: "Never Leave Fish to Find Fish...EVER...!"

I guarantee that you will catch a LOT more fish if you would adopt this Rule. Except in extreme circumstances... game fish of the same species congregate together because the environmental needs of a particular fish is the same for other fish of that same species. They "school" because "mother nature" forces them too. Whatever draws a bass (or walleye, catfish, crappie, etc.) to a particular location will naturally draw other fish of the same species to that same location as well. What draws fish to a particular location is ALWAYS food and cover...except during spawning. So when the available food and cover draws one fish to that location then there is a good chance there are more fish in the same area.

**Important:** When you catch a bass you should ALWAYS assume others are in the

area. Most of us simply continue moving our boat down the bank without regard to the "schooling" nature of fish. When you catch a bass you should spend time trying to catch others in that immediate area. That might mean using the same lure (at the same depth and speed used to catch the first fish) or it might mean changing lures, colors, presentations, etc. to trigger the other fish.

A LOT of tournaments have been won by fishing the same 100-300 yard stretch of bank...over and over and over...back and forth...changing lures, changing presentations, changing retrieves, etc.

Pro Matt Arey won the Forrest Wood Cup as a co-angler and has finished 9th in the Angler of the Year (AOY). Arey said he learned the difference between being an average tour pro and a good one isn't simply a matter of locating fish. It's also about understanding what you've found and how to manage it.

*"You've really got to maximize your fish once you've found them. I used to be way too content to just catch a fish here and there off a shaky head. But I've learned that if you have identified a productive area you really have to try seven or eight different presentations and milk it for all its worth." Matt Arey-Professional Fisherman*

Okay...so here I am filming a fishing video and...you guessed it...we found bass...a lot of bass!

**Then it happened.**

We were fishing in his boat and he wanted me to see the entire lake so, like a good tour guide, he continued down the bank until eventually we were on the opposite side of the lake of the fish.

NO...I'm SERIOUS...! We went to the opposite side of the lake! Really!

At first it started slowly...just a little "dry mouth". Then came the sweating followed closely by the shakes. By the time we were on the other side of the lake I was almost hyperventilating. So bad did this affect me when I got home I was soon forced to return to seeing my therapist. Me...the "Hemmingway of Fishing Articles" having to see my therapist...again!

Want to catch more fish (and avoid seeing your therapist)? Adopt Rule #1 of Clay's "10 Rules of Successful Bass Fishing"...*"Never Leave Fish to Find Fish...Ever!"*

Until next time...take a kid fishing... or take me...my wife says it's the same thing...!

*Clay Dixon*

The upcoming  
2021 Missouri Invitational  
will be held  
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at Old Kinderhook.

While amateur spots in the event are limited, please email to [ben@bassingbob.com](mailto:ben@bassingbob.com) if you are interested in participating. Sponsor programs are also available if you would like to promote your business or products during the event.



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# Heading Up Tributaries for Early Bass

By John Neporadny Jr.

**T**erry Blankenship likes to run up a creek without a paddle to catch early spring bass.

Actually the Missouri angler runs up the tributaries of Ozark highland reservoirs with his outboard engine until the water gets too skinny. Then he moves farther up the creek or river with his trolling motor to reach early spring bass.

"In early spring there is always a migration of fish that go up the rivers," Blankenship says. He believes bass in the tributaries migrate down into the lake in late fall and early winter to find warmer and more stable conditions in deeper water. Then when warm spells and longer daylight hours occur in early spring, bass leave the deeper water and migrate to the riverine sections of the upper lake.

Rain runoff will also cause bass to move into the rivers, but Blankenship avoids targeting tributary bass then because the fish are on the move which makes them harder to pinpoint. The river could also be high and muddy, especially after heavy rains. "If it is a big rain it really gets the creeks up running big," Blankenship says. "Then your odds have gone down a lot because that limits you to only a few spots to fish."

Warmer water flowing into the lake from the tributaries also triggers bass into migrating up the rivers and creeks. "Once the river water gets to be warmer than the lake water that is just a trigger," Blankenship says.

That's the time to follow the bass up the creek or river "as far as your boat will let you," according to Blankenship. The depth of bass in the tributaries varies. "Some of the rivers just don't have a lot of depth," Blankenship says. "A lot of the rivers have

filled in with gravel and have lost some of the main holes. But there is always current that causes some kind of an area to get dug out. Any time you can find a place that has a little sheltered area where there is a turn in the river or a log it kind of gives those fish a chance to ambush whatever bait comes through there or just kind of rest up there.

"Any time you can find some type of small eddy that has some kind of current break in it the fish will really pile up in those places," Blankenship says. "You can then catch a lot of fish in one spot which is what really makes the river fishing fun early in the year."

The regional tournament angler begins searching for tributary bass in the deeper holes first. The tributaries also feature vast mud flats strewn with partially or wholly submerged logs and steep rock banks, both of which hold bass.

Sunshine determines if bass are more active on the flats or the steeper rock banks. "There will be days whenever the sun has been beating on the rocks and the fish will be right up on the shoreline where as soon as your bait hits the water you will catch them right tight to the bank," Blankenship says.

"It is always nice to have a good sunny day," Blankenship says. The water in the tributaries usually has some stain to it so the dirtier water absorbs the warmth of the sunshine and the warmer water tends to activate the bass then.

The water temperature in the tributaries usually dictates which lures Blankenship prefers throwing for early spring bass. During the earliest stages of the bass migration into the tributaries, Blankenship tries slow-moving lures such as suspending jerkbaits, jigs or a Texas-rigged Gene Larew Lures Hoo Daddy creature bait. If the weather has been sunny and warm for a few days, he suggests trying faster moving lures such as Storm Lures Wiggle Wart crankbaits or spinnerbaits.

Fishing up the tributaries in the early spring

can produce a mixed bag of smallmouth, largemouth and spotted bass. Blankenship frequently catches numbers of bass in the tributaries and some quality fish in the 4- to 5-pound range.

The tournament competitor notes the tributary pattern can last for two to three weeks until the fishing pressure starts slowing down the bite or the bass migrate farther up river than his bass boat can travel. He suggests anglers with jet-driven boats can run farther up the river to continue catching those fish throughout the spring and summer.

The tributaries contain plenty of navigation hazards such as logs wedged in the mud bottom of the channel and the shallow mud flats, so Blankenship advises to use extreme caution when running up the creeks and rivers. "I just recommend you take your time any time you are in unfamiliar water that you think has a lot of shallow logs and debris and rocks that can tear up your boat or even do harm to yourself," he says.

Navigating at idle speed is a good safety precaution any time you start seeing logs sticking up in the middle of the tributary.



*Terry Blankenship concentrates on deeper holes of reservoir tributaries to catch bass in the early spring.*



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# AN INSIDE LOOK INTO

## TOURNAMENT FISHERMAN “The” Andy Newcomb



**A**ndy Newcomb has been one of the hottest and most successful anglers over the past several years. Andy moved to the Lake of the Ozarks area at five years old, his grandpa would take him fishing in the local rivers and streams, helping Andy learn how to cast and catch fish. At age 12 he would ride his bike to fish, he would fish all day from the bank when he could. Andy fished for whatever would bite, catching blue gill, catfish, bass and crappie. Andy purchased his first boat an 1988 Ranger.





He mostly launched his Ranger at Larry Gale ramp fishing for white bass, bass, crappie and again anything that would bite. He spent countless hours fishing the Nianguas and the four corners area.

Like most successful anglers, Andy is very competitive. He was an excellent baseball and basketball player and was highly competitive in slow pitch softball. When he blew out his knee playing these sports he turned his attention to competitive fishing.

In addition to fishing several team tournament trails with great success, in 2016 he started to fish the FLW Bass Fishing League (BFL) tournaments. The BFL format provides a competition format where individual anglers are competing with other anglers on an individual basis. The BFL circuit is one of the most competitive circuits in the U.S. as some of the best anglers in country that have full-time careers, which does not afford them the time to fish at a national Pro level on a full time basis. The BFL anglers are some of the absolutely best anglers in every regional geography in the country.

In his first season fishing the FLW BFL's, Andy fished four of the five tournaments, missed the fifth tournament due to ankle

surgery, he continued his fishing success fishing against all of the other regional Pro's, with two top 10 finishes, finishing 6th place on Table Rock Lake and finishing 4th place in the two day Super Tournament. Finishing 4th in the Super Tournament really lit Andy on fire, seeing his name on the list of top anglers including Dion Hibdon, Marcus Sykora, Roger Fitzpatrick, James Dill, Dennis Berhorst and others. Andy gained the confidence that with hard work, he could compete with many of the best anglers in the region and the country.

Andy continued his drive for success in the next few years, fishing all five BFL tournaments in 2017, with two top 10 finishes and finishing 19th in the FLW Costa Series Tournament (now Toyota Series) on Lake of the Ozarks. The Costa/Toyota series in the next level up in FLW, now Major League Fishing (MLF), with a field of national Pro's as well a regional Pro's. In 2018, Andy again had two top 10 finishes in the BFL Tournaments and finished in the money in the two day FLW Super Tournament.

Andy summarized 2017 and 2018 as learning years. While cashing some checks but a bit frustrated by not winning them. Considering Andy worked full time during these years, he really did not have much time to practice and yet with little time to practice he achieved a good measure of success on his own. Practicing when he could, doing map study, watching YouTube videos and following his own instincts. Andy did not have a mentor

the fed him information, he simply worked it all on his own. Andy feels not having a mentor and/or listening to







dock talk from other anglers fishing stories has been to his advantage as he goes to the water with a clear head and depending only on his own study and practice.

2019 was a break out year for Andy. In only his second full FLW BFL season, Andy won Angler of the Year (AOY) in the Ozark Division. Angler of the Year is highly prestigious award, which is awarded to the angler with the most total points, points accumulate throughout season based on how high you finish in each tournament. He had a top 10 finish, always in the top 20 and lowest he finished in any of these five tournaments was 24th. In addition to his FLW success Andy and his partner finished 2nd in season long points accumulation in both the Anglers Choice tournament series and the Anglers in Action tournament series.



Andy then fished the FLW BFL Regional Tournament on Grand Lake. The regional tournament requires qualification as a top 40 angler in multiple divisions around the country. The top 6 anglers in the three-day event qualify for the All-American Championship. Andy finished 6th place and was on his way to the All-American event on Lake Hartwell and finished 25th.



*Andy Newcomb and Chris Bridges with the 2019 Missouri Invitational Trophy.*

In 2019 Andy also won the very prestigious Bassing Bob Missouri Invitational Fishing and Golf Championship at Old Kinderhook. As many of the tournaments that Andy has achieved success, this tournament also includes some of the best anglers in the country. In addition to the many regional Pro's, the tournament also features national Pro's Mike McClelland, Jeremy Lawyer, James Watson, Bill McDonald, Jason Vance and others. The Missouri Invitational is a three-day event, that includes two days of fishing and one day of golf. Due to weather conditions, the

2019 event was pretty much a three-day fishing event. Andy and his amateur partner, Chris Bridges won \$25,000 and etched their name on the championship trophy.

Andy continued his success in 2020, finishing 3rd in the MLF BFL points standing for Angler of the Year, having (3) top 10 finishes on Lake of the Ozarks, Truman Lake and Grand Lake. In addition, Andy finished 4th in the MLF Costa Series three-day tournament on Lake of the Ozarks. He and his partner continued to have many successful tournaments in the varying team tournaments on Lake of the Ozarks.

In 2021, Andy decided to fish all three of the MLF Toyota Series tournaments in the Plains Division. His goals were to win one of the three events and Angler of the Year. Those are some very lofty goals competing against some of the best anglers in the central USA. Andy achieved both of those goals, placing 2nd on Lake of the Ozarks, winning the event on Grand Lake, and finishing 8th place on very tough Lake Dardanelle. Before the tournament on Dardanelle, Andy practiced for 12 straight days, he was solely focused on winning the Angler of the Year Award. In March of 2021, Andy won the MLF/BFL on Lake of the Ozarks.

By winning the Angler of the Year, Andy qualified to fish the 2022 MLF Pro Circuit. Andy is very clear about his goals for the Pro Circuit, win one and win Angler of the Year. He is not just satisfied with qualifying he wants to win. In addition to the Pro Circuit, Andy will continue to fish all three MLF Toyota Series events and if his schedule permits, some B.A.S.S. Open Events.

With the success Andy has had he has not only earned a reputation as one of the best anglers in the country but earned enough prize money to quit his full-time job to realize his dream as pro angler on the national stage.







Andy thanks his wife Ria for her support over these past several years and her continued support going into 2022. Andy will be on the road a lot and he stated that just getting ready for a full schedule of pro fishing is a bit stressful and expensive. Preparing for 2022 Andy said that instead of working 40 hours a week, he is now working 90 hours a week. Planning his travels, working to attract sponsorships in addition to countless hours of map study for the lakes that he will be competing.

Andy has been overwhelmed by the support that he has received from his friends, family, and the community. He said that support goes a long way when being on the road competing.

He has done a great job attracting sponsors which helps to offset the expense that goes along with tournament fishing.

### Major League Fishing Stats

Career Wins	2
Top 10s	13
Total Events Fished	37
Winnings	\$138,666



### “The” Andy Newcomb’s Favorite Baits by Season

Spring/Spawn	Summer	Fall	Winter
Spinnerbait	3/4 oz. “THE” Jig from Apex	1/2 oz. “THE” Jig from Apex	Dirks Jig
3/8 oz. and 1/2 oz., “THE” Jig from Apex	Swim Bait	Top Water Baits	Jerk Bait
Start fishing shallow then move out deeper	Deep or Suspended on Points	Cover a lot of water	Alabama Rig
	Sometimes there will be some really shallow.		Find the bait fish.

### “The” Andy Newcombs Keys to Success

- Being versatile and open minded. Not getting stuck doing the same things if its not working and being willing to change things up.
- Putting in time on the water. Including time on the water in all conditions, rain, snow, hot, no wind to big winds and make adjustments as necessary based on the conditions.
- Fishes to win. Andy does not fish for points, fish to win and the points will come.
- Does his own thing. Doesn’t listen to dock talk or rely on history spots/patterns.
- Staying mentally tough and strong.
- Map study. Google Earth, Lake Master, YouTube Videos and others
- Andy found a key spot at Grand Lake doing map study the night before the tournament’s final day.
- Doing things the right way, as Andy calls it “community karma”, such as when he towed another anglers boat during the Missouri Invitational Tournament. He also cut a turtle out of net during the Toyota Series tournament on Grand Lake. Andy said, “it is not always the easiest to do those things but it is rewarding”.

Andys sponsors include, Apex Tackle (currently working on an Andy Newcomb Signature Jig), Phoenix Boats, Mercury Motors, Anglers Port, Power Pole, Daiwa, Vicious Fishing Line, Catch Company, Aftco, Rogue Custom Apparel, S&S Custom Building, Wyatt’s At the Lake Barbershop, Fitz Fishing, Midwest Land Group (Justin Swast Agent) and Fish-Intel.



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## ***Tournament Success? It's in the Bag!***

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We do offer online shopping as a convenience to customers who may not have retail access to the entire Chompers line. At present, orders can be filled only within the USA and shipping charges will be incurred by the customer.

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# Tournament Fishing in January & February

**E**ven though winter isn't the busy season for tournaments, anglers wanting to get out on the lake in January and February for a competitive bass fishing experience can definitely find the opportunity to do so. Bassing Bob has added a series of winter bass fishing tournaments called the Bassing Bob Winter Bass Challenge to encourage people to come and enjoy the beauty of the lake during the colder months of the year. For more information on the Winter Bass Challenge, as well as a complete list of tournaments being held at Lake of the Ozarks organized by date, visit [BassingBob.com](http://BassingBob.com).

Uxa advises anglers participating in tournaments during January and February that practice is probably more important than any time of the year because the bass aren't everywhere.

"When the bass are in their winter pattern, there will be a lot of blank water," says Uxa. "They will be in certain locations and you will be able to run a pattern. You just have to spend the time to find the active water."



**Marcus Sykora on Fishing Winter Tournaments**

Bassing Bob interviewed Marcus Sykora, a well-known

tournament bass fisherman from the Lake of the Ozarks who strongly encourages anglers to come out and fish the competitions in January and February.

"Winter at Lake of the Ozarks is one of the few times of the year when you can catch not only the most fish in one outing, but also the biggest fish of the year," says Marcus. "Also, you can't beat fishing the lake in the winter months for the sheer tranquility; it's the most relaxing, beautiful, and peaceful time of the year."

**Q: How do you pre-fish for a tournament in January or February?**

**A:** I like to focus on points within larger creeks and transitions where the size of the rock along the shoreline changes. Those are the places where it's easiest to find the fish. Once Ameren does the drawdown and the lake level is low, you can really see the rock composition and transitions.

If I were starting from scratch and wasn't familiar with this lake, I'd go into a smaller cove, start on main lake and then fish all the way around the cove.

Everywhere I got a bite, I'd document where that was and note whether it was a point, a channel swing, a rock transition, or anything that's unique about that spot. Then I'd go to the next cove and try to repeat that success to find a pattern.

**Q: What strategies do you use to find the fish, and where are you most likely to find them in January and February?**

**A:** It's all about the bait, all about the forage. If you can find the forage, you increase your odds significantly, whether you've found it on the main lake, at the very back of the cove, or somewhere in between. So I base my plan around where I've found the forage. The reason jerkbait is so deadly in wintertime is that it's an exact match-the-hatch forage. Shad are very delicate creatures, and very sensitive to life and death in the winter. When the water gets into a certain temperature range, they start dying off. Their metabolism is very slow, and their death process is very slow.

A suspending jerkbait mimics these dying shad. As you allow the jerkbait to suspend, and then twitch it down, you're mimicking a shad as it dies. You're showing the bass something that looks like an easy meal during a time when their own slowing metabolism means they'll only put so much energy into going after their prey.

Another important thing: I try to find places where the wind hits the bank at a 90-degree angle. This pushes the fish up on the bank, blows them into shallower water and makes them easier to catch. Wind also helps create a lower light environment, which bunches up the shad and creates a more active foodchain. If you can relate to the bank, that's very helpful. Around docks, I might try throwing a suspended jerkbait on the windblown shady side of the dock in the deeper part of the cove.

**Q: How do you decide what part of the lake to fish?**

**A:** I almost always fish the lower end of the lake in the winter. Water clarity is such an important factor at this time of the year and the Bagnell Dam end of the lake is usually pretty clear. Also, because there's so much more water there, it's historically warmer; it's deeper and so it's a lot more stable.

**Q: If it's a buddy tournament, what do you do to complement each other out on the lake?**

**A:** We'll both be fishing as slow as we can, and our presentation will probably be very similar. But the other person might be throwing a different version of the bait, maybe a different manufacturer, or change up the color pattern. For example, I might be using something natural while my fishing partner may throw something a little brighter or wilder in color.

**Q: You are well known for your focus on brushpiles in the winter. What makes fishing brushpiles so effective for you?**

**A:** First of all, I personally sink over 100 trees in the lake each year. I believe a successful bass fisherman is one who finds the places where opportunity and preparation meet. By sinking my own brushpiles, I'm creating more opportunities for myself. Brushpiles are incredibly effective as a form of cover, and a key location piece. When I'm fishing with a jerkbait and I know I'm directly over a good piece of cover, I'm more confident, and that confidence helps me catch big bass. It will help other anglers too; that's where preparation and doing your own legwork comes into play. The better prepared you are, the better you'll do in a tournament.

**Q: Most anglers say winter fishing is all about three things: jerkbait, jigs and the Alabama rig. What's your preference, and what advice can you give anglers to help them catch a big bass in the winter?**

**A:** I don't find jigs to be as efficient as the jerkbait, so I rarely use a jig when the bass are in their winter pattern. I'd say 97-99% of winter tournaments will be won with a jerkbait. Here are a few specifics I can share about how I like to fish a jerkbait:

- I like to use .060 lead wire wrapped around the front hook of the jerkbait to make sure it's perfectly suspended. I prefer wire over SuspenDots because the dots can fall off without you realizing it. I want my bait completely suspended, maybe sinking a little, in the 6- to 10-foot range.
- I twitch the jerkbait down to my desired depth. The most important thing is where you throw it and how long it sits still. Count as you let it sit: one-one thousand, two-one thousand, etc., all the way to a 14 or 15 count. When you get a bite, remember where



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## BASS TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

**October 30 - 31, 2021**  
**March 26 - 27, 2022**

Take off is scheduled at 7:00 AM on Saturday and Sunday.  
Weigh-ins are at 4:00 PM on Saturday and 2:00 PM on Sunday.  
The cash prizes are given out following the weigh-in on Sunday.

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you were in your count, and that will give you your guideline for how long you need to let the bait sit still.

- Make sure you have the right rod, reel and line set up for throwing a jerkbait. I prefer 8 lb. test monofilament and a basic standard reel with a 6.2 gear ratio. My preferred rod to use on a relatively windless day is a 6'8" 4-power rod. If you're fishing on a day when there's a lot of wave action, you need to switch to a heavier rod to deal with the bow the wind will put in your line. You have to be able to take the bow out of the line before you can set the hook, and the wrong rod can cause you to lose your fish. So on days when there's extreme wind chop, I recommend going with a heavier rod.



**Q: There's a ton of options in the jerkbait market. What's one of your go to jerkbaits?**

**A:** I really like the 6th sense Provoke series jerkbait. It's something totally different than the other baits. It has a much more durable bill, it's wider across the back, taller sides and has a ton of realistic and unique colors. It also won't break the bank. I view it more as a shad bait versus a minnow style bait. I love the hooks on it as well, especially when the water warms up and the fish begin jumping. It has erratic action or a nice subtle roll.



Missouri law requires that only three of the five baits on an Alabama rig have hooks.

**Q: How do you feel about using the Alabama rig to fish tournaments in the winter?**

**A:** The Alabama rig is a very powerful bait. If I were a weekend warrior, that's all I'd use. It's fun to throw, exciting to use and it does a great job of catching fish. I like to rig mine with Zoom Swimmin Super Flukes. Missouri law requires that only three of the five baits on the rig have hooks, so I'll make the top two the dummy baits.



Zoom Swimmin Super Fluke

This is a very expensive bait to use, and the start-up cost is pretty high. Keep in mind that not all tournaments allow anglers to use the Alabama rig, so make sure you read the regulations before you use it. But if the tournament you're fishing in DOES allow use of the Alabama rig, you pretty much have to stay married to it and throw it every single cast to stay in the game.

## WINTER BASS CHALLENGE SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 28, 2021\*  
Saturday, December 11, 2021  
Saturday, January 8, 2022

Saturday, January 22, 2022  
Saturday, February 5, 2022  
\*Note: Nov. 28th out of PB2

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# 2022 Bass Pro Tour Invitations Extended to Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit Qualifiers

AUGUST 27, 2021 • MLF • BASS PRO TOUR



TULSA, Okla. – MLF confirmed today the 10 MLF Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit anglers who have earned their qualification into the 2022 MLF Bass Pro Tour. The 10 anglers who qualified earned their invitation based on their 2021 Pro Circuit Angler of the Year (AOY) rank, or the average of their 2020 and 2021 rank – whichever rank was higher. The 10 anglers with the highest rank receive invitations.

The top 10 pros from the 2021 Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit who qualified for the 2022 MLF Bass Pro Tour are:

- 1st: Michael Neal, Dayton, Tenn. (2021 AOY rank: 1)
- 2nd: Skeet Reese, Auburn, Calif. (2021 AOY rank: 2)
- 3rd: \*Ryan Salzman, Huntsville, Ala. (2021 AOY rank: 3)
- 4th: Justin Lucas, Guntersville, Ala. (2021 AOY rank: 4)
- 5th: \*Cole Floyd, Leesburg, Ohio (2021 AOY rank: 5)
- 6th: Cody Meyer, Star, Idaho (2021 AOY rank: 6)
- 7th: \*Ron Nelson, Berrien Springs, Mich. (2020/2021 Avg. AOY rank: 7)
- 8th: \*Clabion Johns, Social Circle, Ga. (2021 AOY rank: 7)
- 9th: \*Jeremy Lawyer, Sarcoxie, Mo. (2021 AOY rank: 8)
- 10th: Mike McClelland, Blue Eye, Mo. (2021 AOY rank: 9)

*\* denotes new entrant into the MLF Bass Pro Tour*

Only the top 10 anglers in the rankings receive an invitation to the 2022 Bass Pro Tour. Five of the top 10 anglers who qualified (Michael Neal, Skeet Reese, Justin Lucas, Cody Meyer and Mike McClelland) already fish the Bass Pro Tour and have thus requalified for the 2022 season through the Pro Circuit. The other five anglers (Ryan Salzman, Cole Floyd, Ron Nelson, Clabion Johns and Jeremy Lawyer) will be new to the Bass Pro Tour and considered rookies for the 2022 season.

The full 2022 Bass Pro Tour schedule is expected to be announced in early September. The complete rosters for the 2022 Bass Pro Tour and the 2022 Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit will be announced later this fall.

The 2022 Bass Pro Tour will feature a field of the 80 top professional anglers in the world competing in seven regular-season tournaments around the country for millions of dollars and valuable points to qualify for the annual Heavy Hitters all-star event and the REDCREST 2023 championship.

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# Catching Bass in January & February

## Finding the Fish

In some ways, fishing Lake of the Ozarks in January and February is less complex than in other months because it really comes down to three baits: a jerk-bait, jig and the a-rig. The trick to successful bass fishing at this time of the year is figuring out where the fish are and slowing things down. "In January and February, you're still looking for schools of baitfish, because that's where the bass will be," says Uxa. "Finding the baitfish may be even more important in these months than others. You just have to get out there and look around."

In January and February, you're still looking for schools of shad, because that's where the bass will be. This shad is 8 inches long and is probably 2-3 years old.



Greg Stoner, formerly the Missouri Department of Conservation Fisheries Management Biologist at Lake of the Ozarks, says the smallest shad in the lake in January and February will be those that were spawned the previous spring, and will be about 3 to 4 inches in length.

"Gizzard shad can get pretty big," says Stoner. "The largest I've personally seen was 19 inches! I'm not certain how big of a shad a bass will try to tackle, but it does depend to some extent on the size of a bass. I did have a bass in the 21-inch range cough up a 10-inch crappie on my measuring board. A hungry bass can get pretty ambitious!"

A common mistake anglers make when fishing in the winter is assuming the bass are all suspended in deep water. "I've caught bass in January and February in some pretty shallow water, but the key is that the deep water is nearby," says Uxa. He suggests starting your search with the steep banks in the coves, especially those with big rock along the shoreline. Other good places to begin your search are bluff

ends, points, channel banks and swings, and places along the shoreline where there's a transition, like a change in the size of the rocks.



Good places to begin the search for bass in the winter are bluff ends and steep rocky banks.

"If you have electronics on your boat and see fish on your fish finder," Uxa advises, "slow the boat down and start fishing. This is a time of year when you really have to go slow and make a cast last, sometimes 2 or 2 ½ minutes. Remember that the bass won't go after anything that's moving too fast now that their metabolism has slowed down for the winter. You need

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to make whatever you throw out there look like an easy meal."

Uxa says bluff ends are a prime place to throw a jerkbait or an Alabama rig in January and February. "If there's current, you should check out some of the tucked-in spots around these bluff ends where the fish are protected from the current," he says. "If the water level is going down, they'll key on steeper banks and bluffs."

Docks don't play as big a role in the wintertime as they do in other months, but docks can produce shade, and even in the winter, sometimes the bass seem to like the shade. "If it's a sunny day and you're not getting a bite in the more usual winter hangouts," suggests Uxa, "try throwing an Alabama rig parallel to docks in the shady areas, especially if you know there's a brushpile there."



On sunny winter days, try throwing an Alabama rig in shady areas parallel to docks.

Another good bit of advice from Uxa is to follow the wind. "Wind can really have

a positive effect on your day out on the lake," he says. "It's one of the factors I look for to help me catch active fish. Even just a little breeze can help by pushing the fish into shallower water. I look especially for the places where the wind is hitting rocky banks or docks at a right angle."



Even a slight breeze can help by pushing the fish into shallower water. Look especially for the places where the wind is hitting rocky banks, points or docks at a right angle.

In the winter, most anglers will opt to fish the lower end of the lake where the water is clearest. "The clearer the water you're fishing in the winter, the better," says Uxa. "You want the bass to see your bait so

they'll come up and get it. Remember that fish feed up. They may be suspended down to 10-12 feet, but they're looking up, so you need to work your lure down to where they'll see it. Depending on how clear the water is, that may be as shallow as 4-5 feet. That's why even in winter you might catch fish in fairly shallow waters even though they're suspending in deeper water than that."

Uxa says conditions tend to remain fairly constant in the winter months, so not much changes in how you fish in January and February. "Even an unseasonably warm day won't make much of a difference in the middle of winter," he says. "It might pull them up a little bit higher, but usually you need two or three days of warmer weather in a row to change anything. Remember though, a one-degree difference in water temperature can really change things up and make the fish more active, or they may gravitate to the part of the lake where it's just a little warmer."

On the other end of the weather spectrum are the days of real winter weather. "While you do need to take extra safety precautions on days when you have icy or snowy conditions," says Uxa, "most anglers will tell you that if it's snowing, it's probably going to be great fishing, and it's absolutely beautiful."

# Denise Dill

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*Most anglers will tell you that if it's snowing, it's probably going to be a good day to get out on the lake and catch some fish. And the view isn't bad either!*

Most anglers will tell you that sometimes it seems like the worse the weather, the better the fishing! But Uxa says that you do need to take extra precautions when the weather forecast calls for ice or snow. "Wear a life jacket in case you slip and fall in the water," he cautions. "Mustang-style life jackets are good because they inflate if you fall in, but the rest of the time you hardly know you've got one on so they don't get in the way."

Boat ramps get icy, as do the boat decks so be careful when conditions get icy or

snowy. Take extra changes of clothes, and be prepared for how cold it will be when you're running the boat. Every angler on the lake who fishes regularly in the winter has found specific things that work for them to stay warm but in general you want to layer your clothes, take extras in case you get wet, and be aware that you'll need extra warmth for times when your boat is moving.

It's also a good idea to check regularly for ice forming on the line guides of your rod. If this happens, dip the rod in the water and move it around until the ice comes off. The ice can damage the line and have negative effects on your casting and hook setting.

Uxa likes the ½ oz. MegaBass ITO Vision 110 jerkbait for actively feeding bass. Sometimes he'll put a SuspenDot on the throat so it will gradually sink, but notes that some anglers prefer to use lead wire wrapped around the top of one of the hooks to add weight instead of using the dots. "To get your jerkbait to sink and suspend the way you like it," he says, "you may need to customize your

lure with additional strategically-placed weight. Storm SuspenDots [also available as SuspenStrips] are small weights with adhesive backing that can be applied to modify the action of a lure. These are very pliable weights that you can bend or fold. Put the weight in the middle if you want the bait to sink levelly, though I like it to have a little tilt downward. When I want to fish a little deeper, I'll use a Lucky Craft Bevy Shad; this one will automatically go down a little deeper than the MegaBass."

Uxa says that at this time of the year, the bass will take more time to inspect the lure and sometimes the more commonly used colors just won't be what they want. "Normally you can't go wrong with lures that mimic a baitfish," he says. "I like to use something with a little blue, a little shine, gold when it's cloudy, silver when it's clear.

A couple of my favorite jerkbait colors for January and February are Aurora Black and French Pearl. But sometimes if I'm not having any luck with these, I'll throw some wacky color and that'll do the trick!"



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# 10 Trolling Motor Maintenance Tips

This trolling motor maintenance checklist will help you keep your Minn Kota running like new for years to come.

**A**rguably the most important tool on your fishing boat is your trolling motor. Can you guess which tool takes the most abuse on your boat? It's likely your trolling motor. They get bumped against stumps, rocks, docks, ran for hours on end, and abused by weather.



Minn Kota® trolling motors have been around for over 86 years and they're the toughest out there, but that doesn't mean periodic maintenance should be ignored.

We're going to break down the most important trolling motor maintenance and care procedures for all trolling motors to keep them running like new for years to come.

A little bit of TLC goes a long way in keeping this important fishing tool in good condition.

## Check and Tighten Battery Connections

Poor connections to batteries are one of the most common sources of trolling motor problems. All trolling motors require a clean connection to power to run effectively.

While this doesn't necessarily extend the life of your trolling motor, it does prevent unwanted headaches during your valuable time on the water.



Simply pull out your wrench or socket and check that all connection points are snug. While you are there, check the battery terminals and wires for corrosion. Give them a quick clean with fine

sandpaper or emery cloth and replace any corroded wires.

It's also important to check any additional connection points, for example, where your trolling motor wire meets a terminal ring. If it's loose, re-snug or replace the terminal ring.

**Frequency:** It only takes a minute, so it may be good to check every or every other outing depending on how often you fish.

## Properly Charge Your Trolling Motor Batteries

Your batteries are the lifeblood of your trolling motor and keeping them in a healthy state is the most critical piece to trolling motor performance.

For maximum battery life, recharge the battery as soon as possible after every use. For best motor performance, restore the battery to full charge prior to use.



*Trolling Motor Batteries Connected to Minn Kota On-Board Charger*

Check out [The Importance of Marine Battery Maintenance](#) and [How to Charge a Deep Cycle Battery](#) articles for in-depth tips and recommendations to ensure you get the most out of your batteries at [www.minnkotamotors.com/blog/articles](http://www.minnkotamotors.com/blog/articles).

Also, consider adding an On-Board Charger to simplify your charging process and to confirm that you apply the proper charge for your battery type to ensure a long lifespan.

**Frequency:** After every use.

## Clean Trolling Motor Prop of Weeds and Fishing Line

We take our trolling motors and boats into thick vegetation, stump fields, dirt shallow bays, and other areas that can gunk up our trolling motor prop. Many of these areas are spots where other anglers have gotten baits snagged and broken off.

Stray fishing line can damage your motor more than you might think. It's critical to remove any fishing line or weeds that you've picked up over the course of a fishing day because if line or weeds get behind the prop, it can damage the seals and allow water to enter the lower unit of the motor - causing much bigger headaches.



*9/16 Socket to Remove Prop*

Not only is it important to pull off any grass or fishing line during your day of fishing, but it's also important to remove your prop completely and do a deeper inspection for weeds and fishing line that has crept behind your prop.

Disconnect power, break out that socket (9/16) or wrench, pull off your propeller, and remove all vegetation and fishing line that has wrapped around the trolling motor prop shaft.



*Vegetation and fishing line wrapped around trolling motor prop shaft.*

**Frequency:** Clean vegetation off of prop during and after every outing. Remove prop and inspect for vegetation and fishing line after every few uses - it only takes a minute.

Make sure you reference your trolling motor owner's manual for in-depth guidelines.





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## Remove and Inspect Trolling Motor Prop Drive Pin

While your prop is off, it's a good time to check the Prop Drive Pin for wear or to check if it is bent.

Remember that time that you were trolling along and slammed into a stump or rock? Those moments are where your prop pin can be bent or broken. They are designed to bend or break under pressure to prevent greater damage from happening to your prop and driveshaft.



*Bent prop pin vs new prop pin*

Luckily, these pins can be quickly and easily replaced.

Make sure you reference your trolling motor owner's manual for in-depth guidelines.

**Frequency:** 2-4 times a year or more depending on how often you fish.

## Wash Your Trolling Motor - Especially When Fishing In Saltwater

**Freshwater trolling motors:** Spray down your entire trolling motor with water to lightly clean the motor when you're able (ideally after every few uses).



**Saltwater trolling motors:** Just as important as spraying down your boat, it is also important to rinse your trolling motor with fresh water after every trip when fishing in saltwater environments!

## Lubricating Your Trolling Motor

Next time you give your boat a wash, don't forget to lubricate your trolling motor shaft.

This can be done after you have cleaned your trolling motor with water and a mild soap solution and wiped dry.



Grab a bottle of Pledge® multipurpose cleaner, Armor All®, or another water-based\* silicone spray and apply some spray to a soft cloth, and wipe down the composite trolling motor shaft.

This lubrication helps ensure smooth deployment and stowing of your trolling motor, especially on electric steer motors.



**\*Important** - Make sure the spray chosen is aqueous-based, **NOT oil-based!** Avoid wood polish spray as they contain oil.

**Frequency:** **Freshwater trolling motors** - Every few uses. **Saltwater trolling motors** - After every use.



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## Tighten Mounting Bolts

Vibration is the worst enemy of most marine equipment, and when mounting bolts become loose or a stabilizer bar is not holding tight to the deck of the boat, bushings and other moving parts can take serious abuse – especially when running in heavy waves and chop.



Check all mounting points and tighten.

**Frequency:** Depends on how often you fish, but a couple of times a year is best and before/after your fishing season.

## Prolonged Storage Prep

Lightly coat all metal parts with an aqueous/water-based silicone spray or Pledge cleaner like mentioned above.

Spray into a soft cloth and simply dab or wipe all metal parts of the trolling motor.



Disconnect the trolling motor from its power source/battery prior to storing.

As mentioned in the first two tips, we recommend connecting your batteries to a smart on-board battery charger to apply the perfect charge over long periods of time.

**Frequency:** Prior to long-term storage before offseason.

## Trolling Motor Cable Management and Inspection

Using zip ties and/or PET expandable braided sleeving are easy and cheap ways to clean up any excess cables you may have near your trolling motor.



When stowing cable steer style bow mount motors like Ultrex™ (Mono-Arm), Fortrex® (Mono-Arm), Edge, and

Maxxum® you should be mindful of the power and built-in transducer cables and how they lay down because if not routed properly, they can get caught inside of the bracket and are susceptible to being pinched or even cut. Allow your cables to fall in a safe place and it's often a good idea to protect them with any of the following solutions.

**Popular cable management solutions include:**

- PET Expandable Braided Sleeving
- TH Marine G-Force Troll Jacket Organizer Sleeves
- DD26 Trolling Motor Cable Management Sleeve Wrap

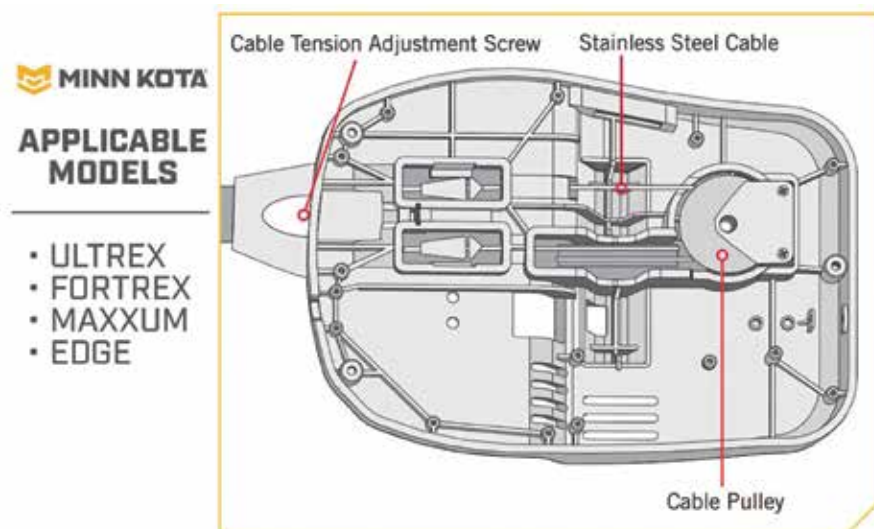
**Frequency:** Initial install to ensure cables are clear of pinching and inspection of cables routinely throughout the year

## Steering Cable Tension

### Adjustment –

### Cable Steer Motors Only

The steering cable tension is pre-set at the factory but, through normal use, it may need occasional adjustment to ensure the proper “feel” when steering (Ultrex, Fortrex, Maxxum, and Edge Models).



Adjust the tension of the cables by turning the cable tension adjustment screw (Phillips pan-head screw) located near the bottom of the foot pedal, just under the steering cable cover.

Turn the screw clockwise to increase tension and counter-clockwise to decrease tension.

**Frequency:** When/if you feel a noticeable change in foot pedal tension.

## BONUS: Weedless Prop Performance

The Minn Kota Weedless Wedge 2™ prop is designed to provide weed-free operation with very high efficiency. To maintain this performance, it's important that the prop blades are kept smooth.

As your prop bounces off of rocks, stumps and other hard objects it can get nicked or roughed up.



If this happens, you can smooth the prop blades by sanding them with very fine sandpaper to ensure its weedless effectiveness.

See our Trolling Motor Propeller Selection Guide if you need to replace a prop.

**Frequency:** Once a year or situational as needed.

*Put these basic trolling motor maintenance tips to use after your next fishing trip and keep your motor running like new.*

*Please reference your Minn Kota trolling motor owner's manual for more information on general maintenance and steps to complete certain procedures.*



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# Drive for Excellence

**Angler's Port Marine continues their commitment to providing top-rated boats and stellar customer service. by Deborah Wolfe**

Ask Angler's Port Marine owner Klaus Fink about his formula for success and he is likely to answer with three words – exceptional customer service. In fact, building strong customer relationships plays a central role in everything from choosing product lines, managing inventory and hiring personnel, to ensuring service techs have the tools and training to offer the highest level of customer care.

Since purchasing the Warsaw, MO boat dealership in 2016, Fink has driven the once small boat dealer to the top in sales and customer satisfaction. performer in the marine industry. Under Fink's leadership, Angler's Port has consistently ranked as one of Lowe Boats' top dealers, garnering the prestigious Lowe's President's Award in 2018 as one of the brand's top three performing dealers with over \$5 million in sales. Most recently, boaters from across Missouri voted for Angler's Port as the Best Marine Service in Missouri Magazine's 2022 Best of Missouri awards.



Angler's Port Sales and Marketing Director Don Schlesselman credits Fink's love of fishing along with 25 years of product development and engineering experience as being key factors in the company's impressive growth.

"As a lifelong fishing enthusiast, Klaus continues the fishing heritage of Angler's Port Marine," Schlesselman said. "His focus is to create a place where fishermen and boaters can receive the guidance needed to buy the right boat for their lifestyle, and then provide them with exceptional service over the life of their boat."

Toward that goal, Angler's Port ensures new customers leave the lot with everything they need to get the most from their

time on the water. Each new boat purchase includes:

- Square Throw Cushion (Rescue life preserver)
- Motor & Trailer Included in the Price of the Boat.
- 4 Life Jackets
- Fire Extinguisher
- Boat Registration Number Decals
- Full Tank of Gas
- The Correctly Paired Propeller
- Brake Light Check
- All Required Batteries
- Trailer Hitch Adapter Plug

## Raising the Bar As a Marine Industry Certified Dealership



to achieve Marine Industry Certified Dealership status (MICD).

The MICD program is a voluntary process wherein dealerships that earn Marine Industry Certification have made a commitment to complete customer satisfaction. Dealers pledge to post and abide by a Marine Industry Consumer Commitment standard that ensures fair and equal treatment for every single customer. Dealers who have reached the highest level of Certification are considered Five Star Marine Industry Certified Dealers. They must demonstrate to a third-party reviewer that they meet or exceed program standards in key areas, including customer service, employee satisfaction, facility and business practices. They must commit to following up with 100 percent of their customers. And to confirm their dedication, they are re-certified every two years.

To some, achieving MICD status may seem like a daunting challenge. For the Angler's Port team, it is another step in ensuring their employees and customers receive the highest care on a business and personal level.

"We believe in safety first, doing the right thing, and maintaining a friendly,

professional environment for our customers," Schlesselman said. "If a buyer lets us know that they are first-time boaters, we will be happy to take them out on the lake for some beginner boating lessons. Regardless of your boating style or level of experience, Angler's Port is dedicated to being there for our customers."

FLW Ozark Division Angler of the Year Andy Newcomb is a loyal Phoenix boat owner and Angler's Port customer. Newcomb recently took the top spot at the Phoenix Bass Fishing League tournament presented by T-H Marine at Lake of the Ozarks. The win landed him \$12,000 that included a lucrative \$5,000 Phoenix MLF BIG5 Bonus.

He gives Angler's Port credits Angler's Port's customer support and service high marks for keeping his Phoenix bass boat finely tuned for the demands of competitive fishing.

"Angler's Port Marine has a friendly and knowledgeable staff that make the boat buying process a breeze and their service after the sale is top-notch," Newcomb said. "I highly recommend you check out Angler's Port the next time you're in the market for a new or used boat."

## About Angler's Port Marine

Located at the intersection of Truman Lake and the Lake of the Ozarks on 7 HWY, Angler's Port Marine brings together two of the premier fishing and boating lakes in Missouri and gives customers convenient access from both lakes.

In addition to selling Phoenix, Caymas and Lowe boats, Angler's Port carries an extensive line of electronics and boat accessories. Plus, they provide top-rated service from certified technicians highly experienced in servicing all types of boats including Yamaha and Mercury motors, and MERCUISER® I/O engines that require servicing by hard-to-find specialized mechanics.

To learn more about Angler's Port Marine boats, services and events, visit [anglersportmarine.com](http://anglersportmarine.com) or call (660) 438-4600. Or stop by their showroom at 13979 MO-7, Warsaw, Missouri.



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# Building your 6th Sense: Jerkbait Fishing

**I**t is no secret the jerkbait is a lure that has the power to catch fish in nearly any body of water.

Whether you are fishing stained water in Louisiana, tannic water in Florida, or clear water in the Great Lakes, a jerkbait is a valuable tool that should be included in every angler's arsenal. However, in order to experience top-level success with this technique there are several different variables to consider when throwing a jerkbait. Our team at 6th Sense laid out this playbook to help you understand different conditions and hopefully help you catch more fish with your Provoke 106X Jerkbait.

## Water Clarity

The presentation of a jerkbait revolves heavily around a fish's eyesight. In the right conditions, this lure and its action can draw fish in from extreme distances. Water clarity is a very important factor that can help you determine what color jerkbait you should throw.

Clearer water will often call for a more natural or translucent presentation. 6th Sense colors such as 'Ghost Bone Minnow' or 'Shad Burst' are excellent options to "provoke" strikes from fish that can see every detail of your lure.



*Ghost Bone Minnow and Shad Burst*

Moderately clear water (2'-4' visibility) is perfect territory for some of our flashier color patterns like 'Shad Pro' or 'Chrome Threadfin.' These colors provide just enough contrast to catch a fish's eye without being too bold.



*Shad Pro and Chrome Threadfin*

To compliment those muddy water situations, such as a typically dirty lake or after a rain where there is runoff, we recommend bright 6th Sense colors such as 'Gold Reactor' or 'French Bone Pearl.' These color schemes are extremely bright and can provide enough flash to attract fish in low visibility conditions.



*Gold Reactor and French Bone Pearl*

## Structure

This Provoke 106X can be fished around many different types of cover, such as docks, rocks, and standing timber. Throwing a jerkbait around this kind of structure can entice fish to come out of their protected environment and strike.



In addition, you can also rip this bait through hydrilla with the right gear. For this situation, we recommend throwing 15-17 lb. test fluorocarbon. Heavier line will make it easier to snap this bait out of grass and give you a better chance of landing bigger fish.

## Water Temperature

The #1 effect water temperature has on fishing a jerkbait is retrieval speed and cadence. Knowing when to snap your Provoke 106X faster or slower will help you catch more fish when you are out on the water.

When fishing in colder water, it would behoove you to implement a slower retrieve and longer pauses between twitches. The fact of the matter is, fish are cold-blooded animals and as water temperatures begin to cool, baitfish movements will naturally become slower.

On the other hand, fishing in warmer water will allow you to fish faster with less of a pause in between twitches.

Try these different speeds and delays, you might just put more fish in your boat.

## Line

The line diameter you choose can be a major key to getting the most out of your jerkbait presentation. To start, we always recommend using some sort of fluorocarbon. This type of line has very little stretch and it sinks, which allows you to get the most depth and erratic action out of your bait. From here you need to consider the depth range you are looking to target. The Provoke 106x will typically achieve a depth of 5' on a long cast with standard 12-pound test fluorocarbon. However, if you fish it on 15-pound test fluorocarbon it will not dive as deep. Heavier line can be beneficial when fishing around shallow vegetation so you can keep your jerkbait above the grass and attract those reaction strikes. In contrast, downsizing to an 8-pound line will greatly increase your bait's diving depth. This will help in open water when you find baitfish or schooling bass. If you consider your line diameter in different situations, you will more likely be successful.

## Rod

The purpose of a good jerkbait rod is to have enough backbone to crisply snap and twitch the bait but enough forgiveness in the tip of the rod to not tear hooks out of a fish's mouth. This technique can, and will be, fatiguing on your elbows and wrists. However, to minimize this issue, we recommend using a rod that is 7' or shorter. A great rod used by many 6th Sense pros is the Lux 6'9" medium, moderate-fast. By using a shorter rod, you can snap, twitch, and jerk the bait for longer periods of time with ease. Using a more compact rod will also increase casting accuracy, which is crucial while fishing around structure like trees and docks. This will give you more time fishing and less time hanging up.

If you implement these techniques and consider the conditions in which you are fishing, you will have a better chance of landing more fish using your Provoke 106X Jerkbait.





## Lake of the Ozarks is a great fishery *By John Neporadny Jr.*

Known as one of the Midwest's most popular vacation spots, Lake of the Ozarks also has a reputation of being one of the best fishing lakes in the country.

**A**lthough younger reservoirs appeal to an angler's eye with flooded timber and undeveloped shorelines, the Lake of the Ozarks entices fishermen with its hidden charms. This 54,000-acre lake lost most of its natural cover when the standing timber was cleared before the lake was formed. New cover has developed over the years as dock owners and anglers have planted brush piles throughout the impoundment. Other fish-holding structure includes steep bluffs, creek channels, humps, and points. Docks provide plenty of shelter for a variety of fish, while lay-downs and log jams are the primary cover for bass, crappie and catfish in the undeveloped sections of the lake.

The various arms of the lake offer diverse water clarity and structure so anglers can catch fish on a wide range of tactics. The Osage arm runs 98 miles from Bagnell Dam to Truman Dam and changes drastically from one end to the other. The North Shore section close on the lower end contains some of the deepest and clearest water on the lake, while the upper Osage near Warsaw narrows until it turns riverine in appearance with the water remaining stained to murky most of the time. The winding Niangua arm resembles a large river more than a reservoir since it has few major coves and a narrow main channel for most of its length.

The 10-mile Gravois arm is one of the oldest developed sections of the lake so its shoreline is dotted with boat docks. Fed by the gin-clear waters of the Gravois, Little Gravois, Spring Branch, Soap, Indian and Mill creeks, this arm usually remains one of the clearest sections of the lake throughout the year. The Grand Glaize arm runs about 16 miles from its confluence with the Osage arm to the swinging bridges

area where the Glaize narrows down to a stream.

If variety is indeed the spice of life, then Lake of the Ozarks spices anglers' lives with its smorgasbord of fishing opportunities. The lake rates as one of the best reservoirs in Missouri for catching a variety of game fish. Largemouth bass and crappie are the most sought-after fish at the lake, but catfish, white bass, walleye and sunfish also offer plenty of action throughout the year.

The Missouri Department of Conservation's 9-inch minimum length limit on crappie has helped keep crappie fishing consistently good throughout the year. Limits of keeper-size crappie can be taken in the shallows from March through May and again in October through early December. The key to catching crappie the rest of the year is to find some of the hundreds of brush piles sunken at various depths throughout the lake.

The lake is also loaded with keeper-size bass thanks to the Missouri Department of Conservation's 15-inch minimum length regulation on black bass. Renowned for its bass fishing, Lake of the Ozarks draws numerous tournaments ranging in size from 10-boat bass club events to 150-boat national circuit contests, which are held each weekend just about year-round. With this sort of attention, the lake receives plenty of fishing pressure, yet still yields heavyweight stringers of bass to tournament competitors.

White bass are another popular catch in the spring and the fall. Local anglers head for the riffles in the major creeks and tributaries to catch spawning whites in April and May. In the fall, they target wind-blown points and pockets to track down white bass chasing baitfish.

Lake of the Ozarks catfish are an obliging sort. They will eat just about anything you put on a hook and can be taken on a variety of methods throughout the warmer months. The three most popular species to catch at the lake are channel, blue (or white cats as the local anglers call them) and flathead catfish. The lake has a reputation for yielding big blue cats each year and has also produced a former state record flathead catfish, a 66-pounder caught by Howard Brownfield in 1987.

Three state record fish have come from the Lake of the Ozarks. Gene Snelling caught a state record muskellunge (41 pounds, 2 ounces) in 1981; Allen Schweiss landed a 36-pound, 12-ounce smallmouth buffalo in 1986; and Ronald Wagner made the record book in 1980 with a 40-pound, 8-ounce freshwater drum.

Several marinas and resorts rent boat to visiting anglers who don't own one and want to venture out on the water. Newcomers to the lake also can have a rewarding day on the water by hiring a Coast-Guard licensed guide.

Customers at the various lake resorts on the lake can enjoy catching crappie, bass bluegill and catfish from the docks that the resort owners enhance by sinking brush piles in multiple locations.

*For information on lodging and other facilities at the Lake of the Ozarks or to receive a free vacation guide, call the Lake of the Ozarks Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-FUN-LAKE or visit the Lake of the Ozarks Convention and Visitors Bureau web site at [funlake.com](http://funlake.com).*

*Copies of John Neporadny's book, "THE Lake of the Ozarks Fishing Guide" are available by calling 573/365-4296 or visiting the web site [www.jnoutdoors.com](http://www.jnoutdoors.com).*



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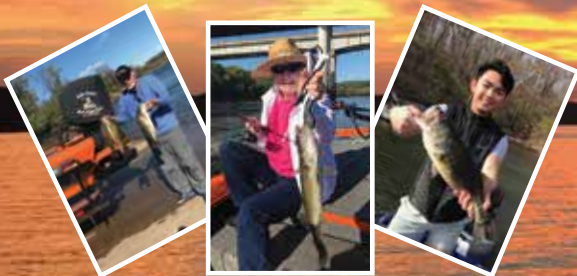
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# TINCUP Whiskey Sharpens its Competitive Edge on-and-off the Water

An expanded roster of pro anglers and major sponsorship deals deepen the brand's commitment to the sport of fishing. *by Deborah Wolfe*

In 2019, TINCUP Whiskey announced the inception of the TINCUP Professional Fishing Team with the signing of fishing legend Dion Hibdon as pro-angler and brand ambassador. They continued to build on the Hibdons' rich fishing legacy by signing Dion's son Lawson, in 2020. And now, the highly regarded mountain whiskey distillery has raised the stakes with the addition of four notable anglers to their pro lineup. With combined career earnings of more than \$1.4 million, new TINCUP team members Seth Feider, Matthew Robertson, Zack Birge and Kristine Fisher will no doubt ramp up the competition on the water.

2021 has been a banner year for Feider in particular. His four Top 10 wins and no finishes below 29th place garnered Feider the title of Bassmaster Angler of the Year.



Seth Feider is the 2021 Bassmaster Angler of the Year. (Feider photo credit Bassmaster)

Since its launch, the TINCUP Professional Fishing Team has become a pivotal part of the company's outdoor-focused marketing drive. Named after Tincup, an old mining town set on the Western Slope of Colorado, TINCUP Whiskey is a celebration of the rugged spirit of the Colorado mountain lifestyle and enjoying the great outdoors.

Promoting the earthy spirits comes easy to Dion Hibdon who learned the ins and outs of public relations by watching his legendary father Guido greet legions of fans.

"TINCUP Whiskey is all about fishing and the outdoor lifestyle, and it's great to be out promoting them," Hibdon said. "Getting to know fans and showing our appreciation is what it's all about."

Expanding the dynamic father-son Hibdon duo to a roster of six powerhouse pros is sure to make the TINCUP Pro Fishing Team hard to beat.

"All of the anglers bring something different to the team and appeal to every kind of angler," said Luke Foli, Proximo Spirits area manager. "We at TINCUP feel very lucky to have these anglers on our team and look forward to everything that they will accomplish in the near future."

You can follow the progress of the TINCUP Professional Fishing Team on the Tin Cup Whiskey Facebook page and by following Dion and Lawson Hibdon on Facebook. Learn more about TINCUP Whiskey at [tincupwhiskey.com](http://tincupwhiskey.com).

## New in 2021: TINCUP Signs on as Official Sponsor of Bass Pro Tour, Exclusive Whiskey of Major League Fishing BIG5 and B.A.S.S. sponsor.

Furthering their support of recreational and tournament fishing, TINCUP inked a major sponsorship deal with Major League Fishing (MLF) in March 2021.

According to a recent MLF press release, the agreement ensures that TINCUP will be showcased across multiple MLF tournament circuits and through exclusive digital content, as well as an official sponsor of the Bass Pro Tour and the Exclusive Whiskey of the MLF BIG5. TINCUP, The Mountain Whiskey, is proud to support the growing outdoor sport of fishing and MLF given the dynamic and challenging nature of the sport, as well as the powerful bonds that are formed between participants in its pursuit.

"This sponsorship agreement reinforces the marketability that professional bass fishing offers," MLF President and CEO Jim Wilburn said in the release. "The popularity of our sport continues to grow, and the involvement of the TINCUP whiskey brand reinforces this. The passion and loyalty of fishing fans in this country is something that TINCUP recognizes and plans to embrace. MLF is the unquestionable leader in the industry, and this alliance



solidifies our commitment to bringing the sport to mainstream America."

TINCUP will be prominently featured at all Bass Pro Tour, Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit, Toyota Series and Phoenix Bass Fishing league tournaments and will be showcased with the TINCUP Whiskey Winning Moment, which takes place at each Pro Circuit tournament. The Mountain Whiskey will also be seen across MLF's various media platforms including MajorLeagueFishing.com, the "MLF NOW!" live stream broadcasts, the MLF social media outlets and MLF Bass Fishing magazine.

TINCUP is also slated to be the presenting sponsor of 30 Bass Fishing League events during the 2021 tournament season.

*TINCUP American Whiskey is a blend of two great American whiskeys, each aged in #3 charred oak barrels. "High rye" bourbon, distilled and aged in Indiana, is blended with a small amount of Colorado single malt whiskey. These whiskeys are then cut with Rocky Mountain water and bottled in Colorado. The result is a smooth, yet bold, whiskey fit for enjoying with friends in the great outdoors. TINCUP Whiskey is available nationally in three expressions: American Whiskey (Bourbon plus Colorado Single Malt), Straight Rye and 10-Year Aged. Learn more about TINCUP Mountain Whiskey at [tincupwhiskey.com](http://tincupwhiskey.com).*



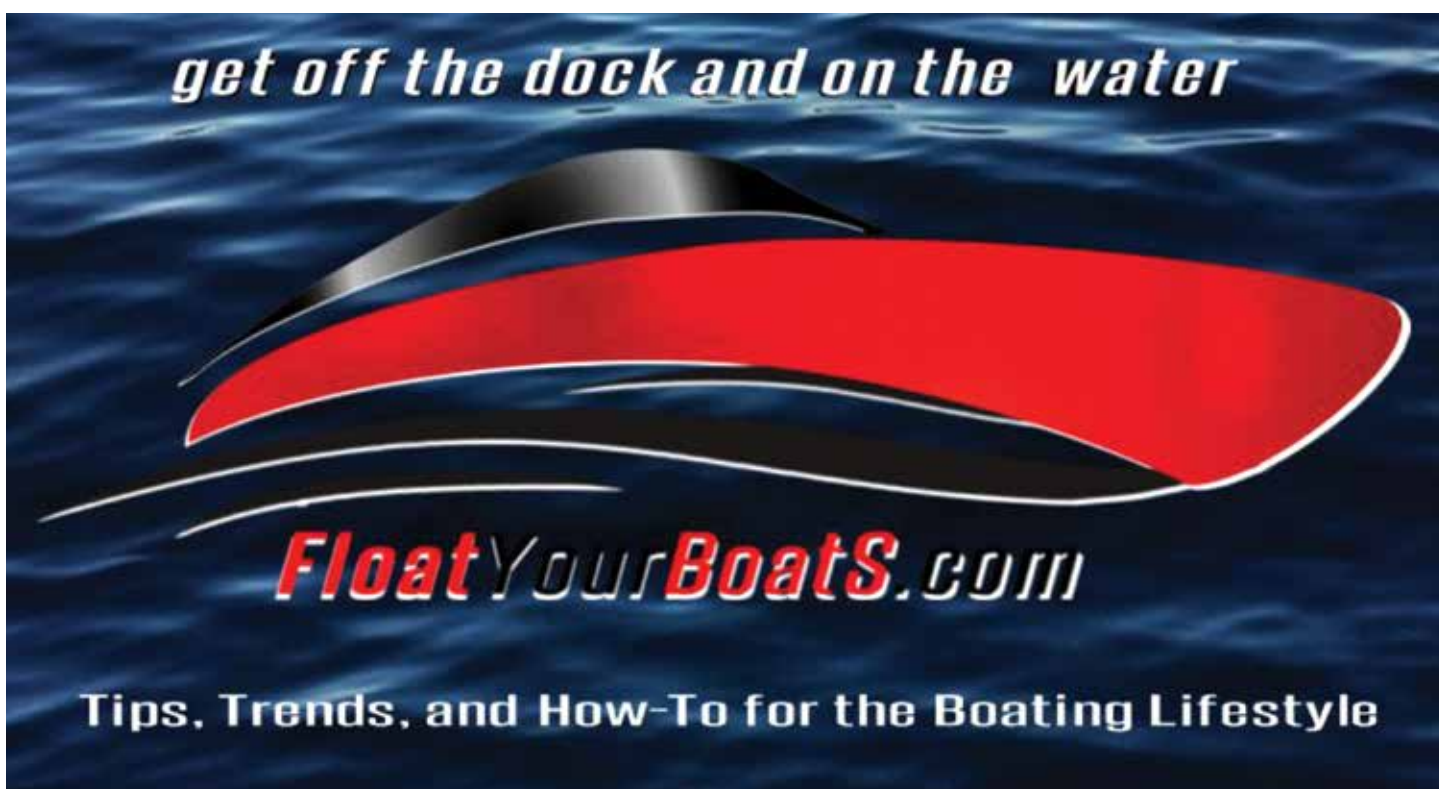


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