

Nine

by Thomas Ringhofer

I still can't believe it, nine fish in only nine nights! Me and most of the other anglers fishing this 70 hectare gravel pit in Austria would be quiet happy to catch nine fish a season, but let's start from the beginning.

I'm driving through the fog and can hardly see anything, but it's no problem for me as I could drive this track with my eyes closed. I've been here quite often during the last two weeks, prebaiting several spots every second day with a couple of kilos of Meteor freezer baits.

But sadly when I arrived on Friday at 8am the spot I planned to fish wasn't free, another angler had just arrived. I was not happy at all but that's fishing so I had to find another spot. This wasn't difficult because there was no other angler on the lake. Building my camp took a fair time because I had a whole lot of tackle and didn't plan to move for the nine days - so everything had to be perfect.

The first night, as expected, I didn't have a single beep but fortunately the angler who was sitting on the other spot had gone so I packed up all my tackle and moved. Saturday evening was spent with everything on the new spot and all the traps were in the water and ready to catch.

The first take came surprisingly early 9pm; a screaming take that turned out to be a 19lb common carp. Not a bad start I thought and returned the rod to the spot.



The next take came at 1am. It was just a few single beeps and I was quite sure that just one of the monster bream had taken my bait. 35 minutes later the monster Bream turned out to be a monster carp in the shape of a 42 pound common carp and a new p.b. for me.

Not a bream at all but a new pb common!

I sacked the fish up boated out the rod again and went to bed. But not for long...

At 7am a screaming almost pulled the rod off the rest and a few minutes later a beautiful 22+ common lay on my mat.

I took the pictures of both of my captures before I recast my rod.



Nothing except a few bream showed until Monday 10am when I had a funny take which turned out to be a 21 pound common.

I felt the fish hadn't fed with as much confidence as those on the first day so I saved all my spots on the G.P.S. and took all my markers out. Rigwise I didn't change anything because all my fish were hooked perfectly. Two common carp, both around 20 pounds, confirmed my theory the next morning.



Despite the low water temperatures (9.8 degrees celsius) I had the feeling that the fish were really having it so I baited up each spot with another 5 kg of Meteor boilies. Before this I had only fed two or three handfuls spreaded evenly over the rods.

On Wednesday at around 5am I caught a 35 pound common with a big scar on his flank; a real peach of a carp - I was really happy with this catch. The evening before me and a few other anglers talked about how great it would be to catch one of the few mirrors in the lake because 95% of the carps in the lake are commons.

One of my favourite captures of all times, and a really special fish.

My wish came true only a few hours after the big common with the scar . A fat mirror with a few beautiful scales on it's flank.



What a beauty!

The next morning it was really, really foggy...you couldn't see further than 10 meters.

I had a take around 8am that morning so I picked up the rod, jumped into my boat and started pumping myself towards the fish. When I was half way to the fish the sun came out; it was like boating through walls of gold and felt like really special moment - for me one of those that makes carp fishing so special.

The fish turned out to be another long common with 26 pounds.



The one that came out of the fog.

It's not about catching carp it's about memories!

After this fish I baited up each spot again with roughly 5 kilos of Meteor boilies soaked in feedstim xp but unfortunately didn't catch any more fish.



To make a perfect bait even better simply soak it in Feedstim XP!

Tactic-wise I fished quite simple with my trusted blowback rig with a size 6 Mika Sha-kira hook and either a single 18mm Meteor hardened hookbait soaked in the Meteor dip or Feedstim XP for a few months or the same set up fished snowman style with a white cream pop up and a three boilie stringer.

I fished this rig over a bed of 14& 18mm Meteor freezer baits spread over a wide area.

It's the first season I have used the Meteor range and so far it's the best one I ever had. I'm looking forward with great excitement to the rest of the 2010 season, hoping it will continue like it has started.

So all the best and get the big one!

Thomas (Austria)