

Prolific Water Carp Fishing by Alex Grice

Bait plays a vital role in today's carp fishing scene in particular on pressured, prolific day ticket waters. As of recent, I have been spending much time at the well known day ticket complex that is linear fisheries. This complex sees angler's day in day out all year round and using bait that is significantly more attractive and different from other anglers will guarantee better results and will no doubt up your catch rate. CC Moore's range of baits provide a wider aspect of quality and convenience for anglers who have little time and want the best results possible. The way in which you can tailor the baits that you buy ready made using liquids, powdered additives and flavours will significantly catch you more fish especially on very busy waters where the fish are regularly used to seeing all manner of baits on even an hourly basis.



A beautiful St. Johns sunset, prime bite time on these waters

Location and Spots

Location is a key element when fishing a pressured venue, a lot of anglers presume that with such a big stock of fish that location isn't important. This is not the case and fish will generally stay clear of angling pressure. Always look for quiet areas, small bays or bays that

receive sun or a warm wind throughout the day. No fishing banks also hold a lot of fish as they feel safe in these areas. Lily beds and reed lines are without doubt great fish attractors.

The most important thing when choosing a swim is finding the fish, if the fish are in the area and showing, they are most likely willing to feed and a small PVA bag of Betain Ultramix pellets and a Northern Special hookbait will get a bite. I see a lot of anglers on these types of water chucking a marker float about as soon as they're in a swim, this will instantly cause fish in your swim to be hesitant and shy away. A lot of my bites have come within the first half an hour or so of being in a swim, fishing light leads and a single Northern special a few rod lengths from the bank will get you a bite. Make sure when entering a swim to keep disturbance to a minimum, you may have fish feeding very close into your margin and raging down into a swim will just scare them off when you could have gently lowered a rod onto the spot and nicked an early bite.



A bite guaranteed

If nothing seems to be happening in a swim when I have tried small bags and single highly attractive hookbaits, I will then consider using the marker rod to find a nice area to apply some bait. Areas to generally look for are small hard patches, silt pockets and areas of topography on the lake bed where the depth changes. My favourite areas, if I can find them are small pockets of silt at the bottom of bars. These areas may only change in depth very slightly from the 'hard' gravel on top of the bars to the softer sediment at the bottom where a lot of the natural food and anglers baits collect. Holes in weed beds are also a great place to present a bait in the daytime,



This mirror couldn't resist a White Northern Special Hookbait

but I have found these areas not to be so good during the night as the oxygen levels decline. The new Weedbeater mixes are perfect for these spots and ensure baits are presented perfectly over areas of light weed and debris that may be on the bottom.



You will regularly find fish on the end of a 'new' or warm wind.

Bait

A favourite method for me on these types of venues with a large head of fish present is fishing lots of small items of feed, by this I mean a combination of particles, hempseed, pellets and liquid foods. This combination really draws fish into the swim and holds them there for prolonged periods competing for food and making the chances of getting a bite much higher. For this I make small batches of bait a little at a time before I need to bait up, I have found on these waters a fresh mix will get a lot more bites than a mix that has been sitting in a bucket for a few hours out in the sun. Boilies are also a great way of singling out the bigger fish I have found, introducing bait over a larger area is a good bet and avoid throwing sticks at all costs because the seagulls will know when you're baiting up.

The majority of my fishing on these waters is done with a spod when I come to bait up, I try to keep disturbance in the swim to a minimum by applying small amounts of bait (10-15) spods and then topping up after every fish. You will find using small amounts of bait will get you a bite a lot quicker and fish in these waters are used to seeing big beads of bait which I generally think they shy off for a few days after being introduced. Big beds of bait can also

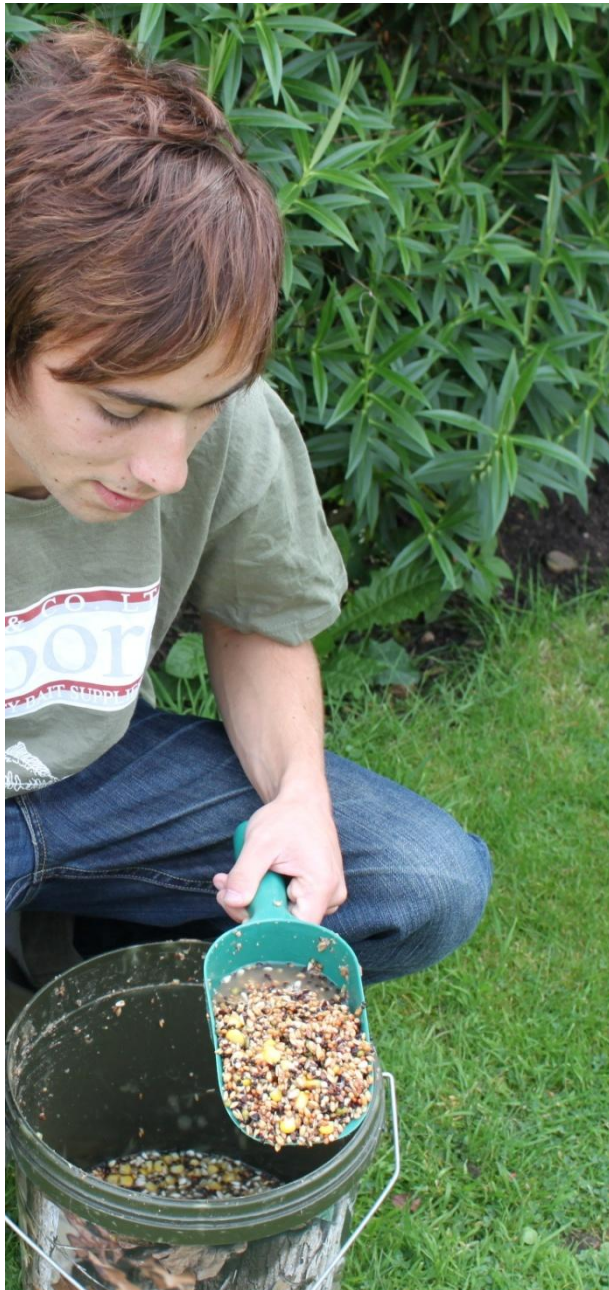
be quite alarming to fish when they come across and I think less is Moore when you have an attractive small bed of bait out in the lake.



Two fish of a recent Hardwick haul using my prolific spod mix and small Odyssey XXX sticks

My spod mix consists of lots of small items, with high amounts of attraction and different break down times leaking food signals throughout all levels of the water. This is the mix I make up before re-baiting my swim, just after a fish or when I feel I should have had a bite and more bait may need to be introduced to attract the fish back into the area.

- ¼ Tub of Particles In Talin
- ½ Tub Intense Hempseed
- ½ Kg Mixed Pellets (Betain Ultramix, Mini Ultramix and Amino Green 365)
- 1 capful of the following liquids (Marine amino compound, Shellfish concentrate, Liquid Mussel extract, Pure Salmon Oil and Feedstim XP)



This is a great mix and provides a lot of attraction with varying sized pellets, particles and liquids that work on all different levels. CC Moore's Mini Ultramix and Betain Ultramix are a mix of lots of different sizes of pellets in one readymade bag, an easy way to ensure there is lots of different break down times of all different sized pellets.

Hookbait wise I like to keep everything very simple. As long as your baits are presented accurately over your free offerings, when the fish are feeding and competing over your bait you will definitely get bites. I mainly use small sticks on my rigs to cover the hookpoint when casting out, this makes sure the hookpoint is not masked when the stick has melted and the hookbait is left with the attraction of a small amount of bait around it. The Odyssey XXX stick mix is a firm favourite of mine since its release and before that the Boosted Mussel stick mix, both mixes full of attraction which I slightly dampen with Feedstim XP before making up the sticks. Hookbait wise, a highly attractive bait will get you quick bites. I use my special NS Boosted Hellraisers so I can change colours to see what are working best. I have also done well on the Boosted natural dumbbells, in particular the Bloodworm and Mussel ones tipped with half a 12mm white or pink Northern Special.

I hope some of the tips and information have been useful for tackling these pressured day ticket waters

and with consistent, attractive bait and the right spot I'm sure you'll enjoy good sport.

Until next time, be lucky.

Alex Grice