

Meeting "The Mother" - By Ray Gong

At the beginning of this year I decided to give the CC Moore range of freezer baits a go, specifically the new N-Gage that had been doing so well since its recent release.

I have used other products from CC Moores for a number of years now with great success, so I was confident that the new freezer baits would be equally as effective.

My first few sessions on the bait were nothing short of amazing, with the bait working straight from the off, resulting in a number of 30's and 20's, and catching everywhere I took it.

However where I really wanted to put the bait through its paces was my syndicate lake in pursuit of its largest resident, known as "The Mother". The lake itself is a notoriously hard clay pit and being around 35 acres of 30 feet + plus deep water, surrounded by snag riddled flooded shallows and coupled with a very low stocking density, would be a true test of the bait's effectiveness!

My plans to start my campaign earlier in the year had to be put on hold due to the birth of our first son, so it wasn't until the last weekend in June that I managed to get away for what would be my first session of the year on the water, and even though it was only an overnigher it would be good to get back down there and more importantly get some of the bait going in.

Well, I arrived at the lake early Sunday morning and the first thing I noticed was the lack of other anglers on the water. Only one angler fishing the Saturday night could mean only one thing...the lake was fishing hard!

A quick chat with the other member confirmed my suspicions; the lake was fishing even harder than usual with only a handful of fish out so far, these being mainly the stockies and only two of the originals, not good news!

After watching the water for an hour or so I still hadn't seen any signs of fish, so with limited angling time available I decided to set up in a swim known as "the headland" which commands a good view of the rest of the lake, and one which would allow me to get angling while still being able to keep an eye on anything happening in other areas.

Due to the nature of the water I decided to fish all 3 rods on different spots at varying depths in an attempt to intercept any fish moving through the area. Even though it was to be a short session I had already decided that I would bait fairly heavily so put out 2 kilos of N-gage soaked in the awesome feedstim XP liquid over each rod. Now up until this point I had still not seen any signs of fish in the area, however within an hour or so of introducing the bait a fish crashed out over my left hand rod which was being fished in 20 feet of water, quickly followed by another, and what's more I was sure they were on the bait!

Later that evening the left hand rod burst into life and I was into my first fish, but then disaster struck as the hook pulled and I was left feeling more than a little miffed! All was not lost though as around 4am the next morning the middle rod was away, this time all went well and I was soon smiling for the camera with one of the lake's prized original at 29lbs 1oz. Two takes in a night is a major result from this lake, so to get two when it's fishing even harder than usual was fantastic and I was understandably over the moon.



I had to be away soon after for work, but prior to leaving I baited the spots and a few other likely looking other areas with a couple more kilos of bait in the hope that I could get back in when I returned.

When I arrived at the lake the following weekend there were a few more anglers present, however reportedly, the fishing hadn't improved any and everyone seemed very surprised that I had managed to get two takes in such a short session last week!

The weather conditions were pretty much the same as the last session with bright sunshine and a nice strong southerly pushing down into an area know as "the back bay swim". As the rest of the pit was fairly busy I figured this had to be worth a shot, so after battling with the overgrown paths and hawthorn bushes I was soon set up and angling. This area being part of the flooded shallows is significantly shallower than the main body of the lake so all rods were fished over to the left of the swim in 8ft of water using cork ball pop ups. As per the previous session each was baited with around 2 kilos of the N-gage again pre-soaked with the feedstim XP liquid, or carp crack as I now like to refer to it!!



Later that evening just as I was making some food I heard a fish crash out to my right over what is really shallow water. Peering round the side of the bivvy it was obvious that the fish had turned up as they now began to show regularly. A quick change of attack was needed, however not wanting to spook them out of the area I decided to move just one rod over to cover them. A quick test cast showed the water was so shallow the lead touched down before you could even feel a drop. So prior to casting again I increased the length of the hook link to ensure I was fishing as cleanly as possible over the heavy bottom weed.

Now came the dilemma over whether to introduce some bait and risk spooking the fish or just stick with the single, which to be honest I wasn't happy to do.

So as there was now a decent wind hacking into the area, I figured I could get away with introducing some bait without disturbing them too much, so over the course of the next hour or so I slowly introduced a couple of kilos of bait to the area on a little an often basis.

The aerial display tailed off but I knew the fish were still in the area as I intermittently received rod knocks through the night. At around 4pm the rod signalled a couple of bleeps and as I peered out the bag I could see the tip locked round at a very alarming angle as a hooked fished kited round against my locked up clutch.

What proceeded was then was the most intense fight I have ever experience from a carp as it powered out of the shallows, over the marginal drop off and into the abyss. Due to the shallowness of the water directly in front of the swim I had no choice but to wade out to the edge of the deep water in order to have enough depth to sink the net under the fish, which is when it finally sunk in that this was one big carp due to the fact that net wouldn't go under her, even with me up to my knees!!

Eventually however I managed to bundle it into the net and without even needing to check I just knew which one it had to be!

Once back on dry land my instincts were confirmed as there in the net lay the fish of my dreams "The Mother", I was ecstatic!

I quickly called my mate Ash who was fishing on the other side of the pit to come and do the pics for me, and what a fantastic job he made of them.



A week later im still buzzing from the capture and still cant believe my luck. Without doubt the decision to go in with the combination of N-gage and the feedstim XP liquid definitely stacked the odds in my favour of bagging my target fish so quickly!

Thanks CC Moore!