

# Applying a new bait by Spencer Wright

Further to receiving the latest batch of bait from CC Moore my mind was a whirl with excitement as to what it was going to be like and how I was going to get the best from it.

The first and most important thing in my mind was getting some bait into the lake at the earliest possible opportunity. To be able to do this in any form of fishing will give you a massive edge as you are encouraging the fish to feed freely on a bait in a spot or area that is initially devoid of lines. By doing this fish gain a massive amount of confidence and will tend to feed in a natural way as the presence of lines in the water will significantly reduce the fish's willingness to feed without caution. Preferably we would like to always be conspicuous by our absence; remember the fish are in there domain and know when they are being targeted!

In order to know the lake you are targeting I would then start to plan on how I was going to bait the lake in order to unlock its secrets. This would depend on a multitude of factors that I will detail below.



## Venue Size

The size of the lake is something that would make a huge impact on the amount of bait that I would need at my disposal. This could alter drastically from a 3 acre lake to a 100 acre lake. Albeit, the principles are the same but the volumes required or areas targeted would have to be considered more carefully if dealing with a venue of a significantly larger scale.



## Venue Stock

If the lake in question had a big head of carp, then I would use the bait to wean them onto my food source in order to gain their confidence. Does the water in question have any nuisance fish swimming in its depths? You wouldn't want to put in all this hard work only to have it ruined by a big head of bream or tench. Would you need to increase your baiting levels or times to combat this?

Spending time on a lake gives you a massive edge. You can see what is going on. Hopefully the fish will show you their whereabouts and where they are spending the majority of their time. Even if you're only able to arrive during darkness it will still be worth a trip if you can -fish often show in the night and early in the morning. Just being there will tell you this and will of course reduce the likelihood of being spotted by other anglers who may try to capitalise on your efforts.

Pin-pointing an area or spots in the lake that fish favour is always going to stand you in good stead regardless of whether they are established feeding areas or just holding areas..... they are always there for a reason. If you are on the bank gathering information when others aren't then you are gaining an edge that will put you in the driving seat when it comes to getting the rods out.

Weed bed's, bars, bays and pads are all areas fish love to use. Is there a predominant wind? (Normally a south westerly that fish love to feed on the end of.)

Islands are always fish magnets, as are the margins; they are a natural patrol route around the lake and lead fish into and out of the favoured areas they will always visit. By being quiet, watching and learning you will be surprised just how close fish come in to feed. Snags are another hotspot on many lakes as the fish take advantage of the safe environment they provide where more often than not they cannot be angled for and can feed in the assumption of not being caught.



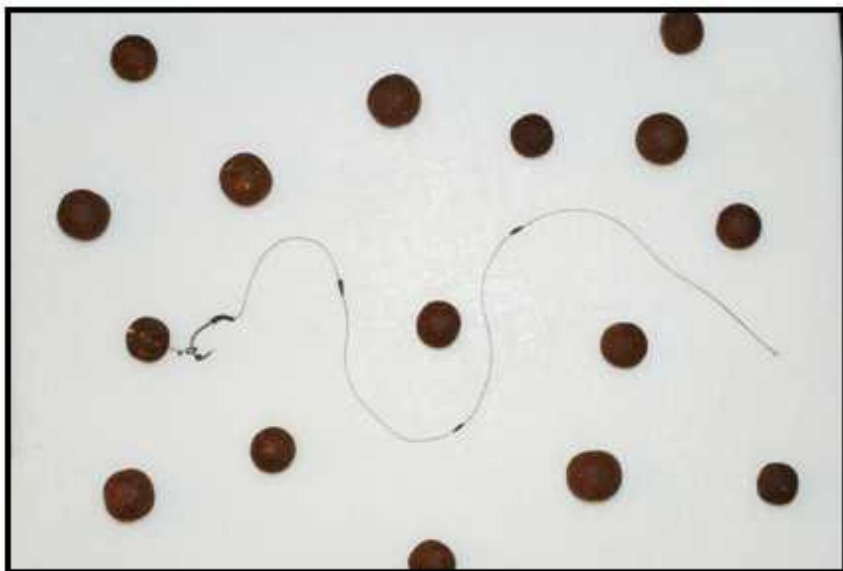
After finding your target areas the next step is to try and identify the specific spots that the fish are confident in using. This can be done in a variety of ways. You can use a marker float to pinpoint the area but can also use 2 marker rods at the same time in some instances.

By doing this you can find the spot then be able to plumb around the specific spot. The area you are trying to find might only be tiny so using 2 rods will give you a detailed idea of what is in front of you and the best way to fish it.

On some lakes the weed is such that the only way to be able to plumb the area is with just a lead on. This flicked about may give you an insight of what the lake topography (profile of the lakebed) is in front of you. Sometimes on weedy lakes you may get a drop on the lead but not be able to get a pull afterwards. On areas like this it may be worth persevering with clearing an area with a lead or a specific weed rake that is available. Sometimes spots can be so small that it is so easy to miss so it is worth the extra effort to find that special spot. Using two marker rods with aids like margin markers (trees, telegraph poles etc) or your own maps can help to record these vital details.

Once I have started to identify areas in the lake that hold fish I would then start my baiting campaign. Boilies are my preferred form of baiting so I would focus on using these first. I have had success in using both particles and pellets to bait areas but have had two problems that occurred from this. Small and nuisance fish love pellets and particles and by doing this it encouraged them to feed on my free bait. Firstly it was eating the bait I had laid on for the carp and secondly it would ruin my presentation as I would get pestered by the nuisance fish (which would sometimes push the carp from the area). With this in mind, and the fact that by using only boilies the fish I tended to pick up were more often that not the better fish in the lake, I have continued using this successful tactic.

The next thing in my plans that I would have to think about was how I was going to apply my bait? By this I mean whether I was able to bait up by hand, catapult, with a throwing stick, a boat or even using a baiting pole.



Whilst I bait up using boilies I also pay attention to how I throw them in.

When throwing bait into a margin I normally take my time and throw one bait in at a time. By doing this you are spreading baits around whereas if you throw in a handful of boilies they will land in a tight group. Let me explain further: By baiting with individual boilies you are spreading the bait around, which means the fish have to move around to feed.

If fish are moving and feeding they are easier to hook as they move to a spot, feed and quickly move off without 'feeling' for the hook and rig. This way the baiting situation is doing the job for you.

In some instances it might not be viable to bait in large quantities on small spots. If this is the case then I would limit the amount of bait I introduce onto the spot to still make fish visit in order to feed.

The same applies if I am using a catapult to introduce bait; by feeding 1 or 2 baits at a time you are spreading bait over an area. A throwing stick is an ideal baiting tool although it takes some practise to get the action right, the baiting pattern achieved by this is ideal for creating a decent 'spread'.

You may also have access to a boat for your baiting, just be aware of how the bait will fall onto the bottom, as carp are creatures of habit and learn from association. If they continue to find bait in a similar pattern around the lake they may learn to avoid it or at least be cautious as they approach it.



Also relatively new to my armoury is a baiting spoon. This is normally attached to a long pole meaning you can introduce chopped boilies, loose feeds, slops or even liquids onto your spot as required.

My pre-baiting would generally be done as often as I could, but I normally like to leave at least 2 days before I give them another batch. As I have said, the amount of bait I would introduce would depend on the spot I was baiting. This could be anything from a handful of bait to a kilo or more.

I try, if possible, not to bait up with huge amounts of bait but keep to the old motto of 'little and often'. By doing this you are keeping the fish interested on the spots and making sure they are being visited.

If conditions are such that fish are feeding then they will be checking the spots and the bait will be getting eaten; and every time this happens the fish's confidence will be increasing with each mouthful.

The longer I can keep this bait going in the better and even if I am not fishing for 2 weeks I will continue to bait up as I know it's 'money in the bank' for when I can get the rods out. I wouldn't want to waste all the hard work that I had put in by letting the effect fizzle out. By baiting with a few kilos of bait every week you will only increase your chances. In my experience, the more bait and the longer the period over which I can introduce the bait, the better the results that follow as the fish become accustomed to it and actually start looking for it as a everyday food item - your catch results will undoubtedly show this.

The bait range that CC Moore has to offer is a huge benefit to my baiting strategies. All the boilies in the range are made from high quality ingredients and create a decent food source that will become even more effective in catching consistently once the bait has been applied correctly. I have found that once fish get a taste for these baits they just want more!

Over the last few months I have been lucky enough to be able to test CC Moore's new creation, N-Gage XP. It was, as expected, fireworks from the start. I was lucky enough to bag the lake's big common on my first trip at over 40lb - it was a wonderful start, similar to those that other anglers on other lakes were experiencing on their first trips using N-Gage XP.

From that point on, it seemed as I had hoped, the more bait that I introduced into the lake, the more the fish wanted it.

Although the lake was fishing very hard, I continued to introduce the bait and saw that the spots were being cleared.

In 4 months fishing with the methods stated, it continued to produce decent specimens from different lakes with 5 of these being 35+ including two 40+ specimens.



By using the baits and methods detailed above then almost anything is possible. Your hopes and dreams are all there, waiting for you to grab them.

With a bit of hard work, anything is possible.

**Good luck**  
**Spencer Wright**